

REGISTER MS T.1

S. Margaret Fuller Ossoli (1810-1850) Papers, ca 1836-1850 Size: 2 Linear inches

Acquisition: Materials were purchased from The Goodspeed Book Shop by Clara Endicott Sears

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

S. Margaret Fuller Ossoli (May 23, 1810-July 19, 1850) was a well known author, lecturer, and Transcendentalist in the Nineteenth Century. She is often called a "bluestocking", because of her feminist beliefs and unconventional life. She was born Sarah Margaret Fuller, the first of nine children of Timothy and Margaret Fuller of Cambridgeport, Massachusetts. Her father was determined to give her a masculine education according to the classical curriculum of the day. The exacting and regimental education began at a very young age and was to take a great toll on her health. But it also gave her abroad knowledge of literature and languages. Following the completion of her formal studies, Margaret gained entrance into the intellectual circles of Cambridge and Harvard. Here she formed lasting friendships with many New England intellectuals. In 1836, Margaret Fuller was hired to teach languages at Bronson Alcott's Temple School. She stayed only a year, but continued her teaching career in Providence Rhode Island at the Greene Street School.

In 1839, she returned to Massachusetts and began conducting "Conversations" for society women and others in Boston. At this time, Margaret Fuller also became an integral part of the Transcendentalist Movement. From 1840 to 1842 she edited and contributed to the Transcendentalist journal, *The Dial*.

In 1845, she published her feminist work, *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*. During this same time period, Horace Greeley hired her as the literary critic for the *New York Tribune*. In 1846, Margaret Fuller traveled to Europe. She continued to write for the *Tribune* as a foreign correspondent.

In 1847, she went to Rome. Here she met and married Marchese Ossoli and gave birth to a son. She and her husband took part in the 1848-49 Italian Revolution. When the revolution failed, the Ossoli's went to Florence. Shortly thereafter, they decided to sail for the United States. S. Margaret Fuller Ossoli, her husband, and son were drowned when their ship was wrecked off Fire Island.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The S. Margaret Fuller Ossoli Papers, 1836-1850, primarily concern her personal life. The papers document her day to day life, family relationships, and social arrangements. There is little information on her professional life. The material is arranged chronologically by type of document and includes letters, and journal fragments. All the material has been microfilmed, and most of the material is available in type- script form.

The bulk of the letters are addressed to Elizabeth Hoar, Charles Emerson's fiancée and a member of the Transcendentalists. This correspondence concerns primarily Margaret Fuller's family, her health, feelings, and social engagements. There is a letter addressed to George Curtis which describes her life in Florence after the Italian Revolution, and discusses her relationship with Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning. This collection also contains a letter written by her mother to the artist Thomas Hicks, thanking him for sending some remembrances of S. Margaret Fuller Ossoli after her death. There is also a letter to John Dwight concerning translations that Margaret had done. This is however, the only letter concerning her professional work. There is no further mention of her professional life in the correspondence.

The journal fragments include day to day observations, copies of letters and drafts of poems. The entries include information on her health, visitors, and impressions. There is mention of the proposal from Horace Greeley, and her writing. The journal fragments also contain a number of poems. Also included in this series is a listing of notes for the improvement of the second edition of *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*.

The journal fragments cover a relatively short span of time. The correspondence covers a period of fourteen years, but there are only nineteen letters in the collection. However, the S. Margaret Fuller Ossoli Papers do document her personal life and family obligations during the time period of 1836-1850.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I: S. Margaret Fuller Ossoli Letters, 1836-1850, n.d. Box T.1, Folder 1
Arranged Chronologically

The bulk of the correspondence is addressed to Elizabeth Hoar and describes S. Margaret Fuller's health, family, and visiting plans. The letters to other correspondents also cover these topics as well as her financial situation and her life in Florence. The collection contains letter fragments of three separate letters describing S. Margaret Fuller's inner emotional life, thoughts on women, and her sister Ellen. The collection also contains one letter written by Margaret Fuller Ossoli's mother after the death of her daughter.

Series II: S. Margaret Fuller Journal, ca 1844 Box T.1, Folder 2
Arranged chronologically

This series consists primarily of fragments from S. Margaret Fuller's journal, circa 1844. It includes day to day observations, copies of letters, and drafts of poems. There is also a listing of notes for the improvement of the second edition of her book *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*.

SERIES LISTING:

- I. S. Margaret Fuller Ossoli Letters, 1836-1850, n.d.
- II. S. Margaret Fuller Journal, ca 1844

ITEM LISTING: Series I

1. LETTER TO "MY DEAR MRS. COLBURN" May 8, 1836 Location of Original unknown, Typescript only
2. LETTER TO JOHN S. DWIGHT October 9, 1838 Typescript
3. LETTER TO MRS. S. H. WHITMAN January 21, 1840 Original owned by the Rhode Island Historical Society Photocopy only
4. LETTER TO "MY DEAR ELIZABETH" March 20, 1842 Typescript
5. LETTER TO "MY DEAR ELIZABETH" January 30, 1843 Typescript
6. LETTER TO "MY DEAR FRIEND MR. TRACY" August 7, 1843 Typescript
7. LETTER TO "DEAR FRIEND" (MR. TRACY) September 26, 1843
8. LETTER TO "DEAR MRS. CLARKE" October 23, 1843 Typescript
9. LETTER TO "MY DEAR MRS. CHILD" March 13, 1844 Typescript
10. LETTER TO "MY DEAR LIZZIE" July 6, 1845 Typescript
11. LETTER TO "DEAR REBECCA" February 12, 1846 Typescript
12. LETTER TO "MY DEAR LIZZIE" October 27, 1847 Typescript
13. LETTER TO "DEAR GEORGE" October 25, 1849 Typescript

14. LETTER TO "MY DEAR ELIZABETH" n.d. Typescript
15. LETTER TO "DEAR LIZZIE" June 12 Typescript
16. LETTER TO ELIZABETH HOAR -FRAGMENT n.d. Typescript
17. LETTER TO ? -FRAGMENT n.d. Typescript
18. LETTER TO ? -FRAGMENT n.d. Typescript
19. LETTER TO "DEAR FRIEND" September 9, 1850 . (Written by Margaret Fuller, S. Margaret Fuller Ossoli's mother.) Typescript

SERIES II:

- I. JOURNAL FRAGEMENTS CA 1844 Original; Typescript
2. WOMEN -NOTES FOR IMPROVEMENT OF SECOND EDITION (See typescript of No.1 above, page 34, 40)
3. JOURNAL FRAGMENT (See typescript of No.1 above, page 35)
4. JOURNAL FRAGMENT (See typescript of No.1 above, page 33)
5. JOURNAL FRAGMENT (See typescript of No.1 above, page 37)
6. HANDWRITTEN TRANSCRIPTION OF ONE OF MARGARET FULLER'S EARLY POEMS
7. JOURNAL FRAGMENTS (See typescript of No.1 above, page 35)

Register MS T.2

BROOK FARM PAPERS, 1834-1900 Size: 4 Linear Inches

Acquisition: These materials were originally collected by H.S. Borneman, and were purchased by Fruitlands Museums.

ASSOCIATION HISTORY:

Brook Farm Institute of Agriculture and Education (1841-1847) was founded in West Roxbury, Massachusetts by George and Sophia Ripley in 1841. The purpose of this intellectual and social experiment was to restore man's harmonious relations with nature and to reconcile intellectual creation with manual labor." Brook Farm was one of the first experiments in social living, built on the ideals of self reliance, egalitarianism, and progressive political action.

The 192 acre farm was owned by a joint stock company consisting of twenty- four shares of stock costing five hundred dollars each. Each member was to share in the manual labor which was to make the group self-sufficient. Each member would also share in the intellectual and cultural advantages provided. The intellectual life provided at Brook Farm was stimulating. Members included Nathaniel Hawthorne, John S. Dwight, Charles Dana, and Isaac Hecker.

Many intellectuals of the time supported the association and though they did not become members they frequently visited the community. Visitors included Emerson, Margaret Fuller, W. H. Channing, and Orestes Brownson.

Economically, the community's excellent school was its most successful venture. The agricultural endeavors of the community showed little profit due to the sandy soil and inexperience of the farmers. Interest in Fourierism resulted in Brook Farm's conversion to a phalanx in 1844. This conversion further inspired the community into becoming a forum for social reformers. The group invested heavily in building a phalanstry, which is a community building for the phalanx. In 1846, the uninsured and uncompleted building was completely destroyed by fire. This contributed heavily to the financial problems of the group. The group slowly began to dissolve to these financial difficulties, and the poor crops. In 1847, the last members left, the experiment was closed, and the farm was sold.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

The Brook Farm Papers, 1834-1900 consist of letters, manuscripts and memorabilia created by the participants and supporters of the Brook Farm Institute of Agriculture and Education. The papers are arranged in three series according to the type of document, and arranged chronologically within each series. Most of the material is available in microfilm and typescript form, as well as original form.

The strength of this collection is that the majority of the collection was created between 1843 and 1849, during the years Brook Farm was operational and just following its demise. The fact that the materials are written by a number of participants provides a more objective view of the community. Of particular importance are materials created by George Ripley, the founder of the Institute, during this time period. There is a lack of materials from the first two years in the community existence. And it must be noted that the manuscripts in the collection were created fifty years after the closing of the farm.

The letters in the collection are written by both members and supporters of the Brook Farm community. Of particular interest is a letter written by George Ripley detailing life at Brook Farm in 1843. There are also several letters written which describe the speaking engagement tours which were used to gain new members and financial support for the experiment. Other topics covered are the literary activities of the community, and its members, financial contributions, and visiting plans.

The manuscripts in the collection consist primarily of memories of Brook Farm members. There is also a review written by Thomas Higginson of John Codman's Brook Farm: Historic & Personal Memoirs. The manuscripts of the aforementioned reminiscences were written for lectures given by the authors. They describe the history of Brook Farm, life in the community, and memories of the association's members. The collection also contains a handmade book of paintings of flowers. The book and paintings were created by Maryann Dwight Orvis for her friend Ellen Allen, "in memory of Brook Farm".

SERIES LISTING:

Series I: Brook Farm Letters, 1834-1900

Series II: Manuscripts about Brook Farm, 1900 Series III: Brook Farm Memorabilia, ca1850

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS:

Series I: Brook Farm Letters, 1834-1900 Arranged chronologically.

This series consists of letters written by both members and supporters of the Brook Farm community. The bulk of the material was written between 1843 and 1849. Of particular interest is a letter written by George Ripley the founder of the association describing the problems of living at Brook Farm and urging Minor Pratt to stay. Other topics covered in the letters are literary activities, financial contributions, visiting plans and the speaking tours that generated interest in the community and raised funds.

Series II: Manuscripts About Brook Farm, 1900 Arranged chronologically.

This series consists of three manuscripts. The first is the original typescript of a lecture given by Franklin Sanborn. The lecture describes the men and women involved in the Brook Farm Association, and a brief history of Brook Farm. The second manuscript is Frederick Pratt's account of Brook Farm. This was also a lecture given in 1900. It consists of Pratt's memories of his life at Brook Farm. The third manuscript is

the original longhand copy of a review written by Thomas Higginson of John Codman's Brook Farm: Historic & Personal Memoirs.

Series III: Brook Farm Memorabilia, ca1850

This series consists of one item. It is a handmade book of paintings of flowers. The paintings were done by Maryann Orvis. The inscription in the book reads "For Ellen Lazarus Allen, in memory of Brook Farm and her' friend".

NAME INDEX FOR BROOK FARM PAPERS (Borneman Collection)

FROM	TO	DATE	
ALLEN, John	Maryann Dwight	1846	
ALLEN, M. Catherine	H.S. Borneman	1921	(2 letters, 1 card)
BRISBANE, Albert	John Dwight	1849	
CALVERT, G. H.	John Dwight	1855	
CHANNING, William Henry	John Dwight	1847	(2)
CHANNING, William Francis	John Dwight	1858	
CLARKE, James F.	Mrs. Orvis	1885	
COOKE, Joseph	John Dwight	1848	
CRANCH, Christopher P.	John Dwight	1890	
CURTIS, George W.	John (Dwight)	1853, 1875, 1884	
DANA, Charles A.	Mrs. Orvis	1895	
FOSTER, Galen	John Dwight	1834	
GODWIN, Parke	John Dwight	1851	
HEDGE, Frederick H.	John Dwight	1837	
HIGGINSON, Thomas W.	--	1862	
	F. Sanborn	1875	(?)
IVES, E. Jr.	--	1846	
JAMES, Henry	John Dwight	1849	
JONES, George F. (?)	John Dwight	1858	
MULLER, William H.	John Dwight	1849	(2)
ORVIS, John	Maryann Dwight Orvis	1847	
ORVIS, John	John Dwight	1848	
PARKER, Theodore	Alfred Wilkinson	1854	
PARSONS, Anna Q.T.	--	1891	
PEABODY, Elizabeth	John Dwight	n.d.	
PRATT, Frederick	Lecture	1900	
RIPLEY, George	Minor Pratt	1843	
RIPLEY, George	John Dwight	1848, 1849	
ROBBINS, E.O.	John Dwight	1856	
ROBBINS, S.D.	John Dwight	1837	
RUSSELL, Amelia E.	Maryann Dwight	1845	
SANBORN, Franklin B.	Lecture on Brook Farm	1900	
SCHERB, Emmanuel V.	John Dwight	1849	
SELLERS, Jas. Jr.	--	1848	
SHAW, Frank George	John Orvis	1846	
STORY, W.W.	--	1893	
TWEEDY, Edmund	John Dwight	1847, 1896	
WILKINSON, J.	John Dwight	1849	

PREPARER'S NOTES:

The collection had been arranged by addressee files in order to aid in the microfilming of the collection. Notes in the control file indicated that H.S. Borneman had not kept the papers in any particular order. But they did indicate that while the papers were in his possession they were arranged in chronological order. Therefore the processor has arranged the papers chronologically.

The book of paintings was a gift to Miss Sears from M. Catherine Allen in 1921. M. Catherine Allen was the daughter of Ellen Lazarus Allen. The box top that has been saved indicating this information is located in mylar envelope in the control file for the collection M. Catherine Allen's letters to H.S. Borneman are also located in the control file.

REGISTER MS T.3

George Willis Cooke (1848-1923) Papers, 1838-1918, n.d. Size: 3 Linear Inches

Acquisition : These materials were purchased in 1939 from Goodspeed's Bookshop by Clara Endicott Sears.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE :

George Willis Cooke (April 23, 1848 - April 30, 1923) was a Unitarian minister, writer, and lecturer on religious, social, and literary subjects. In his day he was regarded as the best living authority on New England Transcendentalism.

Cooke was born in Comstock, Michigan. His scholastic training was unimpressive, in early life he attended district schools and worked on his father's farm. At nineteen, he briefly attended Olivet College, before studying for two years at the Liberal Institute in Jefferson, Wisconsin. After a brief career in teaching, Cooke entered the Theological School in Meadville, Pennsylvania. In 1872, he was ordained a Unitarian minister.

In the same year he was ordained, George W. Cooke married Lucy Nash of Chester, Wisconsin. At this time, Cooke pursued a career as a minister. He held pastorates at Sharon, Wisconsin; Grandhaven, Michigan; Indianapolis, Indiana; Lexington, Massachusetts; and Dublin and Frankestown, New Hampshire.

In 1899, Cooke began to devote all his time to writing, lecturing, and teaching courses at the Rand School of Social Science in New York, and the Boston School of Social Science. Cooke was an apostle of liberalism in religion and social reform. He promoted the idea of collectivism: democracy in politics, cooperation in industry, and motherhood in religion .

Cooke was a keen, appreciative and widely informed literary critic. His books e marked by "careful scholarship, keen discernment and good spirit." His "writings are mainly expository and interpretive. Works published by Cooke include: Ralph Waldo Emerson, His Life. Writings, and Philosophy (1887) ; Early

Letters of George William Curtis to John Dwight (1898); John Sullivan Dwight (1898) ; A Historical and Biographical Introduction to Accompany the Dial (1902).

Gorge Willis Cooke married the Unitarian minister Rev. Mary Leggett on his seventy fifth birthday. He died at their home in Revere, Massachusetts one week after the marriage.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

The George Willis Cooke Papers, 1838-1938 n.d., were purchased for the Fruitlands Museums Manuscript Collection in 1939 by Clara Endicott Sears. The papers were considered an appropriate acquisition to the collection of Transcendental manuscripts because of Cooke's reputation as a Transcendentalist scholar.

George Willis Cooke was a prolific writer and lecturer on both the Transcendentalist movement and its participants. He was considered the authority on New England Transcendentalism during his lifetime. The bulk of the papers in this collection relate to Cooke's writings and lectures on Transcendental topics. There is very little information contained in the papers concerning Cooke's personal life or his work as a Unitarian minister.

The Cooke Paper's consist primarily of correspondence resulting from G. W. Cooke's quests for information on the topics he was researching. As an author Cooke also sent his manuscripts to the subject of the biography or his relations for fact checking and corrections. Therefore the correspondence also consists of letters from Emerson's children concerning his Emerson biography and letters from G.W. Curtis and C.P. Cranch concerning the Dial manuscript. Other topics covered briefly in the correspondence are John S. Dwight, poetry, women ministers, and Unitarianism.

Conducting lectures and recruiting lecturers also occupied much of Cooke's time. This, the papers contain some correspondence discussing lecture appointments, fees, and travel arrangements. Of particular interest in this series are letters from Clara Barton, Horace Greeley and Julia Ward Howe.

The George Willis Cooke Papers also contain a group of letters written to and by John S. Dwight. These were collected by Cooke during his research for a biography on Dwight. These letters compliment the Dwight letters contained in Fruitlands' Brook Farm Papers.

Also contained in this collection are a very small group of general correspondence, copyright contracts from three of Cooke's books, a pamphlet advertising one of Cooke's lectures, and an obituary notice.

SERIES LISTING:

Series I: Correspondence relating to Emerson and Cooke's work on Emerson.

Series II: Correspondence relating to John S. Dwight and Cooke's biography of Dwight.

 subseries 1: Letters of John S. Dwight

 subseries 2: Responses of letters of inquiry about John S. Dwight

 subseries 3: Commentary on Cooke's biography of Dwight

Series III: Correspondence relating to The Dial.

Series IV: Correspondence relating to Cooke's other writings. Copyright Contracts and letters from publishers.

Series VI: Correspondence relating to lectures.

Series VII: General Correspondence.

Series VIII: Ephemera

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS:

Series I: Correspondence relating to Emerson and Cooke's work on Emerson 1880-1906, n.d.
Box T.3A Arranged Chronologically

The bulk of the material consists of letters written in response to Cooke's inquiries for information on Emerson for his book. Types of information included in these responses include requests from overseas for books by Emerson, letters of invitation to lectures about Emerson. Of particular interest are letters from Emerson's children. Included in these is a request that Cooke attend Emerson's funeral and the arrangements and a long letter from Ellen Emerson with corrections to Cooke's manuscript.

Series II: Correspondence relating to John S. Dwight and Cooke's biography of Dwight 1855-1899, n.d. Box T.3A Arranged by subseries and chronologically within subseries.

The bulk of this series consists of letters written to John S. Dwight by a variety of correspondents. These were acquired by Cooke during his research. Topics covered in these include George W. Curtis' engagement, visiting plans, musical meetings, and lectures. Also included is a poem by Dwight. A smaller amount of material consists of responses to inquiries made by Cooke about Dwight. Some letters are included which comment on Cooke's biography of Dwight.

Series III: Correspondence relating to *The Dial*, 1881-1906. Box T.3A
Arranged chronologically

Cooke published several works on *The Dial* and the bulk of this material consists of responses to his requests for information. Correspondents include F. H. Hedge, James Freeman Clarke, Charles A. Dana, George W. Curtis, and C. P. Cranch. Most of these correspondents discuss their contributions to the *Dial*. Also included in this series are several requests for information, and some comments on Cooke's manuscript about the *Dial*.

Series IV: Correspondence relating to Cooke's other writings 1865-1909 n.d. Box T.3A
Arranged chronologically

This series covers a variety of topics. Topics covered in this correspondence include poetry, woman ministers, and Unitarianism. Most of the correspondence is in response to Cooke's requests for information. Also included are letters of recommendation and letters discussing ideas for new books.

Series V: Copyright Contracts and letters from publishers 1881-1886. Box T.3A
Arranged chronologically

This series consists of three copyright contracts from two different publishers.

Series VI: Correspondence relating to lectures, 1867-1905, n.d. Box T.3A Arranged chronologically

Cooke spent much of his time conducting lecture courses and recruiting lecturers for various organizations. This series consists of correspondence discussing speaking appointments, and responses to Cooke's lectures. Also included are responses from invited lecturers, discussing topics, fees and travel arrangements. Correspondents include Clara Barton, Horace Greeley, Julia Ward Howe, and others.

Series VII: General Correspondence, 1875-1910. Box T.3A Arranged chronologically

This series includes general correspondence addressed to Cooke. Types of information contained in this series are discussions, Unitarianism, libraries, and the Ticknors of Boston. The bulk of the letters are from Edward G. Hale.

Series VIII: Ephemera, 1887; 1923 Box T.3A Arranged chronologically

This series consists of a pamphlet advertising a lecture series conducted by Cooke on "Representative American Authors". It also includes an obituary notice for Cooke clipped from and unknown paper.

REGISTER MS T.4

ALCOTT FAMILY PAPERS 1814-1910. n.d. 2 linear feet

Acquisition: The Papers were acquired through a combination of purchases and donations prior to 1970.

CHRONOLOGY:

- 1799 Amos Bronson Alcox (Alcott) born November 29 near Wolcott, Conn.
- 1800 Abigail May born October 8 in Boston, Mass.
- 1830 Bronson Alcott and Abba May married at Kings Chapel in Boston, Mass. on May 23.
- 1831 Anna Bronson Alcott born in Germantown, Penn.
- 1832 Louisa May Alcott born in Germantown, Penn.
- 1834 Bronson Alcott opens the Temple School in Boston, Mass.
- 1835 Elizabeth Peabody Alcott born in Boston, Mass.
- 1838 Temple School closes.
- 1840 (Abigail) May Alcott born in Concord, Mass.
- 1843 Bronson Alcott and Charles Lane found the Con-sociate community of Fruitlands in Harvard, Mass.
- 1844 Fruitlands community disbands.
- 1858 Elizabeth Peabody Alcott dies in Concord, Mass.
- 1860 Anna Bronson Alcott marries John Bridge Pratt on May 23.
- 1862 Little Women published in two volumes.
- 1863 Frederick Pratt born.
- 1866 John Sewall Pratt born.
- 1870 John Bridge Pratt dies.
- 1877 Abba May Alcott dies.
- 1878 May Alcott marries Ernest Nieriker in London on March 22.
- 1879 Louisa May Nieriker born and May Alcott Nieriker dies soon after.
- 1880 Louisa May Nieriker sent to be raised by Louisa May Alcott.
- 1888 Bronson Alcott and Louisa May Alcott die.
- 1889 Louisa May Nieriker returns to Europe to be raised by her father.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

Amos Bronson Alcott and his family were among the founders and participants of the Fruitlands Con-Sociate Community for which the Museums are named. Therefore, the Alcott Family Papers occupy an important position in the Museum's manuscript collections. The bulk of these papers consist of materials created by Bronson Alcott.

Despite being primarily self-educated, Bronson Alcott established himself as a progressive educator, and a famous author and philosopher. The papers of Bronson Alcott in the Museum's collections reflect the breadth of Alcott's interests. The materials consist of journal excerpts, correspondence, notes and manuscripts, and a small amount of ephemera. Of primary importance are the journal excerpts which detail the years 1836 to 1839. From 1834 to 1838, Alcott founded and operated the Temple School in Boston. Here Alcott put his progressive educational ideas into action. He instituted studying from nature, equal education for females, physical education, and learning from children through conversation. It was his attempt to introduce interracial education which finally forced the school to close.

The journal excerpts were primarily written during the Temple School's final years and detail some school activities, and Bronson's personal reactions to the furor surrounding his educational ideas and the closing of the school. The journals also discuss social activities, family life, and Alcott's participation in the emergence of New England Transcendental thought. The correspondence included in the Bronson Alcott Papers span the years 1814 to 1884 and covers a broad range of topics and correspondents. Details of Bronson Alcott's early experiences as a peddler and teacher, the founding and existence of the Fruitlands community and some of his lecture tours can be found here. The Bronson Alcott materials also include a number of Alcott's verses, notes for his autobiography, biographical sketches, diaries of students at the Temple School, and lists of educational materials.

Bronson Alcott and his wife Abba May believed in "practicing what they preached". Thus, they raised their four daughters according to their educational ideas. Bronson believed women to be equal to men, and this idea was firmly planted in his offspring. The three surviving girls were hardworking, independent thinkers, and successful. Louisa May became a popular author and May had a successful career as a professional artist. In the Anna Bronson Alcott Papers there is a notice signed by all three sisters which was sent to the Town of Concord stating that since women pay a significant amount of the town taxes they should have the right to vote. Also among the Anna Alcott materials are an excerpt and notes from her Fruitlands diary and letters discussing Lulu Nieriker's life following the death of her guardian Louisa May Alcott.

Journal excerpts from Louisa May's Fruitlands journal are also of particular note. Much of Louisa May's correspondence is devoted to discussing her father's health following a stroke and her professional work as an author. There is some information pertaining to the family's life in Still River following the disbanding of the Fruitlands community. The ephemera found in Louisa May's papers is in poor condition. Some of it relates to her years as a nurse during the Civil War.

The Alcott Family Papers contain few materials created by May Alcott and her mother Abba May. The Abba May materials consist solely of a few letters written to a cousin and a family friend. These discuss books, excerpts from Emerson's letters from Europe, and the state of the Alcott family following the death of Anna's husband John Bridge Pratt. The May Alcott Papers also consist solely of correspondence. There is a series of short notes written during her stay in London discussing social engagements and painting. There are no materials in the collection created by Elizabeth Peabody Alcott. The collection also contains a few carte-de-viste photographs and a series of glass plate negatives. The glass plate negatives are in delicate condition and there are few copy prints available.

Except for some materials in the Bronson Alcott Papers, the Alcott Family Papers contain information created by the family members during or after the Fruitlands experiment. There is little information regarding the working life of Abba May, the teaching careers of her daughters. However, the amount of the material available in the Alcott Family Papers is significant and provides much information on the family members.

SERIES LISTING:

- I. Amos Bronson Alcott Papers, 1814-1907, n.d. (15 linear inches)
 - A. Journal Excerpts, 1820-1857
 - B. Correspondence, 1814-1884
 - 1. Copies, 1814-1829
 - 2. Originals, 1835-1884
 - C. Manuscripts and Notes, n.d.
 - D. Ephemera, n.d.
 - E. Writings about Alcott.

- II. Abba May Alcott Papers, 1848-1879 (1 linear inch)
- III. Anna Bronson Alcott (Pratt) Papers, 1844-1889, n.d. (1 linear inch)
- IV. Louisa May Alcott Papers, 1843-1888, n.d. (2 linear inches)
 - A. Journal Excerpts, 1843-44
 - B. Correspondence, 1862-1888, n.d.
 - C. Manuscripts, n.d.
 - D. Ephemera, n.d.
- V. May Alcott (Nieriker) Papers, ca1867, 1888-1889 (! linear inch)
 - A. May Alcott
 - B. Louisa May (Lulu) Nieriker
- VI. Alcott Family Photographs, n.d. (8 linear inches)

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS:

Series I: (Amos) Bronson Alcott Papers. 1814-1907. n.d. .1. Box A.2. Box A.3
Arranged by format and chronologically within each format.

This series consists of journal excerpts, correspondence, manuscripts and notes, and ephemera. The bulk of the series is journal excerpts covering the period of 1836-1839. These describe the Temple School, social activities, and family life. The correspondence consists of letters written by Bronson Alcott between 1814 and 1888. The earlier letters are copies made by Alcott for his personal records. Correspondents include Emerson. Mary Stearns, and former pupils. These letters describe such topics as school tuitions. Boston and Cheshire district schools, life as a peddler in the South, and the Fruitlands community. Information on Bronson Alcott's speaking tour of Iowa in 1881 is also included. The series also contains a group of undated manuscripts and notes. These cover a wide variety of topics. The manuscripts include quotations compiled by Alcott, notes for his autobiography, biographical sketches of Luther, Eckerd, Emerson and others, and a number of verses. The verses include works entitled "To My Wife", "Infancy", and "Masks". There is a small book of verse made by Alcott entitled "Sentiments to M. B - 1821". A small amount of material related to Alcott's career in education exists in this series. There are lists and notes on salary, and school teaching, lists of books for teachers and Pupils, and diagrams. Of note are two journals kept by pupils at the Temple School in 1836 and 1837. The ephemeron includes tickets to the Concord School of Philosophy, and quarter cards of discipline. This series also includes a group of materials written about Alcott and his activities by his contemporaries. These include manuscripts of speeches given at a commemoration of Alcott's birth. F. B. Sanborn's "Alcott the Idealist" and William Harland's "Bronson Alcott and his English Friends." Also included are newspaper clippings and hand copied notes on some of Alcott's "Conversations". These notes were made by a participant at the gathering and transcribed from the short hand.

Series II: Abba May Alcott Papers. 1848-1879. Box A.3 Arranged chronologically.

This series consists of correspondence written by Abba May Alcott to her cousin Sarah May Holland and to Mrs. Mary Stearns. The letters to Sarah contain excerpts of Emerson's letters home from Europe. Other topics covered include books. and thoughts on introspection and circumspection. The letters to Mrs. Stearns discuss the state of the family following the death of Anna Alcott Pratt's husband John.

Series III: Anna Bronson Alcott {Pratt} Papers; 1848-1879. Box A.3 Arranged chronologically

This series consists chiefly of outgoing correspondence. Included is a letter' to Abba May Alcott which was sent through the Fruitlands Post Office. The bulk of the correspondence is with Evelyn Cogshall, a friend of Louisa May Nieriker, discussing Lulu and her life with Anna, and her return to her father in

Europe. Also contained in this series is an excerpt of Anna's Fruitlands diary which was sent to F. B. Sanborn along with some notes.

Series IV: Louisa May Alcott Papers; 1843-1888, n.d. Box A.3 Arranged by format and chronologically within format.

The majority of the series consists of correspondence written by Louisa May Alcott. Topics covered in the correspondence are the proofs of *Little Women*, recollection of her childhood in Still River, Massachusetts, her professional life writing serials, and her father's stroke and his health. The arrival and care of Lulu Nieriker are also mentioned. Of note in this series are excerpts from Louisa's Fruitlands diary and some verses written to her father. Some ephemera, such as pamphlets, and a printed play cover, is also included.

Series V: May Alcott (Nieriker) Papers; ca1869, 1887-1889. Box A.3 Arranged chronologically.

This series contains correspondence written by May Alcott to a Mr. Niles during her first trip to London in 1869. Topics covered in these notes are social life and painting. This series also contains obituary notices for May. Also included are two letters written by May's daughter Lulu to her friend Evelyn Cogshall.

Series VI: Photographs, n .d . Photograph Files.

This series consists of photographs, carte-de-visites, and glass plate negatives. Subjects covered in these photographs include Bronson Alcott, Abba May Alcott, Louisa May and Alcott House in England. The majority of this series consists of glass plate negatives for which there are few copy prints.

[Register MS T.5](#)

[RALPH WALDO EMERSON Papers; 1837-1864, ca 1880 1 Linear inch; 1 folder](#)

Acquisition: These Papers were acquired by Fruitlands Museums through purchases and donations prior to 1929.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Ralph Waldo Emerson was born May 25, 1803 in Boston, Massachusetts. His father was a minister of the First Unitarian Church in Boston and his mother was Ruth Haskins, the daughter of a Boston merchant. (Prior to becoming the minister of the First Church, William Emerson preached at Harvard, Mass.) Emerson's education began early, and his childhood and youth were filled with books and study. Emerson attended Harvard University from 1817 to 1821, and here began recording his thoughts in the journals he would continue to keep throughout his life. Like his father and forefathers before him, Emerson looked toward a career as a clergyman. He attended Harvard Divinity School in 1825, and was sanctioned to preach in 1826.

In 1829, Ralph Waldo Emerson took his first and only pastorate at the Old North Church in Boston. In the same year, he married his first wife Ellen Tucker. His wife died in 1831 of consumption. Following her death, he gave up his pastorate and broke with the Church in 1832. Emerson's religious beliefs and particularly a conflict over the Lord's Supper caused the break.

Following this break with the Church, Emerson sailed to Europe. Here he met Carlyle , Coleridge, and Wordsworth and his interest in Transcendental thought flourished. In 1834, he returned to Concord and

began to make new friends, such as Margaret Fuller, Bronson Alcott, Thoreau, and Nathaniel Hawthorne. He remarried in 1835, to Lydia Jackson, and embarked on his career as a lecturer and writer.

In 1836, Emerson published *Nature* based on his early lectures. It was in this essay that he set forth the basic principles of Transcendentalism. He also attracted attention through his orations at Harvard in 1837, and at the Harvard Divinity School in 1838. This last oration caused such uproar that he was not invited back to Harvard for thirty years.

In 1840, Emerson and his circle of Transcendentalists began publication of the *Dial*, a journal to promote Transcendental thought. Emerson took over the editorship of the journal from Margaret Fuller in 1842 until its demise in 1844.

Between 1841 and 1844, Emerson published two volumes of *Essays* based on his lectures. These publications enhanced and spread his reputation to Europe. In 1847, he went to London to lecture, and also traveled to Paris where he met many of his contemporaries. Upon his return to the United States he continued his career as a lecturer and writer.

During the 1850s and 1860s, Emerson's chief occupation of the mind was politics. He turned his attention to abolitionism, and sided heavily with the North in the Civil War. During this time period, he also helped form the literary association called the Saturday Club. In the following decade, Emerson went into mental decline, and his intellectual contributions dwindled as he settled into a quiet life in Concord. In 1882, Ralph Waldo Emerson died of pneumonia in Concord.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) was a renowned essayist, lecturer, and one of the principal creators of Transcendental thought. He was a close friend of the Alcott family and though he did not participate as a member in the Fruitlands experiment, he did maintain a strong interest in the experiment and its members.

The Ralph Waldo Emerson Papers, were acquired by Fruitlands Museum through both purchase and donation. The papers are of interest to the Museum due to Emerson's connection with Transcendentalism, and the Fruitlands Con-Sociate community.

The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence written by Emerson during the years 1837 to 1864. Correspondents include John S. Dwight, William H. Furness, and James R. Lowell. Subjects detailed in the letters include Bronson Alcott, the literary club known as the Saturday Club, and the Congressional Bill for the National Academy of Literature and Art. Chiefly the correspondence pertains to Emerson's trusteeship of the Fruitlands farm following the disbanding of the members. Following the demise of the community, he took charge as Charles Lane's trustee and attempted to collect mortgage payments and interest payments. The majority of the correspondence details the collection of these payments from Joseph Palmer. There are some receipts and deeds in these materials.

The papers also include a manuscript page from a sermon that Emerson preached on the life of Dr. Ripley. The collection is small in size, and contains very little information beyond these aforementioned topics. There is no information pertaining to Emerson's work as an author, or his early life.

The Ralph Waldo Emerson Papers do provide information pertaining to Emerson's involvement in the Fruitlands' experiment and details on the land after the demise of the community. More information on Ralph Waldo Emerson is available in the George Willis Cooke Papers, as these contain correspondence from the Emerson children discussing their father.

ITEM LISTING

1. Letter to Nathan Hale (March 23, 1837), Editor, The Daily Advertiser -Concord
Emerson's attempt through publication in the Boston Daily Advertiser to defend Amos Bronson Alcott and his first two volumes of "Conversations with Children on the Gospels". "I read in your paper of Tuesday last some criticisms upon Mr. Alcott's 'Conversations on the Gospels', in which very unfavorable opinions are expressed as to the tendency of these exercises. As I have put a child under Mr. Alcott's care and am satisfied with the good effects of his culture & have seen other children benefited by him, I am unwilling to let those remarks pass without comment which coming from your quarter, will I know have weight with many who have no opportunity to examine for themselves. ..."
2. Letter to Nathan Hale 24 March 1837 Concord
Another attempt by Emerson to have his defense of Alcott's "Conversations with Children on the Gospels" published in a Boston paper. "Common justice seems to require that his friends should express what they know of his school, or the school will receive no patronage. (He (Alcott) is, also, a man of singular intellectual power & born to teach men, if not to teach children."
3. Letter to John S. Dwight February 19, 1838 Boston Concord
"I was at East Lexington yesterday and explained my wish to relinquish the charge of the pulpit to Mr. Morrill, and he talked with the Committee. They are very glad to know that you are disposed to come -the Committee for themselves - and they think it agreeable to all."
4. Letter to Abel Adams 19 April, 1842 Boston Concord
"Messenger" is delayed. Alcott is ready to sail to England. "is not advantaged by waiting perhaps 25 days" -Wishes to book him on an earlier voyage -"he would rather go sooner, with inferior accommodations, than wait for better..."
5. Letter to Elizabeth Peabody 1 Dec. , 1842
"I am sorry to say that Mr. Alcott who received for me the Vienna Jahrbuch did not succeed in bringing it home, but left it as he thinks at Monroe's shop, where he wrote an advertisement..." Desires her' father to forward the book and possibly another for him or Thoreau to Concord. Requests the Boston Miscellany and Cambridge Magazine for the Dial. Will reply on sheets recently sent.
6. Letter to John S. Dwight April 20, 1845 Concord
Will not contribute to a journal committed to one man or patron (Fourier) "we shall never do anything, if we begin with being somebody else...As far as your journal is sectarian, I shall respect it at a distance; if it should become catholic, I shall be found suing for a place in it."
7. To Charles Lane 17 August, 1846 Concord
Receipt from Joseph Palmer of one dollar for all demands for rent, crops, stock, tools or other claims in respect to farm of Charles Lane in Harvard, held in trust by me for Charles Lane.
8. August 18, 1846 Quitclaim deed for sale of Fruitlands property to Joseph Palmer for \$1700- at request and with signed consent of Charles Lane, for whom he is agent.
9. Letter to Dr. Thomas Palmer 14 June, 1847 Fitchburg, Mass. Concord

Enclose receipt from Joseph Palmer of \$100 in trust for Charles Lane, on note of \$400. Will write to Lane. Recommends payment of balance by 18 August.

10. Letter to Joseph Palmer 7 August, 1847 Still River, Harvard, Mass. Concord

Instructed by Lane to demand payment of balance of note (\$300) and interest by the 14th September. "About the 1 October, I shall probably sail for England, & in the course of the month expect to meet Mr. Lane at London...It will give me great pleasure to carry any good news of yourself or of your good hopes for mankind to Mr. Lane. .." Will give power of attorney to Mr. Hoar in his absence.

11. Oct. 25, 1848 "Received one year's interest of the within For value received pay the within to Thomas Palmer on order without recourse to me."

12. Letter to Dr. Thomas Palmer 18 August, 1849 Fitchburg, Mass. Concord

I'll remind you that I hold a note signed by Joseph Palmer for the amount of nine hundred dollars, with interest, payable this day, to me, for the benefit of Charles Lane. As you have heretofore paid me sums on this account, I write to you instead of your father, & beg you will have the goodness to take up the note forthwith."

13. Letter to James R. Lowell March 24, 1850 New York

"I wrote you a note, quite a fortnight ago, conveying to you a request I had been charged with from our Concord Committee of Arrangements, that you would bring us a poem or ode, on the approaching celebration of the Nineteenth of April..." Mr. Choate will speak -but will not present oration.

14. Letter to Samuel E. Sewall 19 October, 1850 Boston Concord

"I fear from the (tenor) of your note...that you have not received any very accurate report of the conversation that took place between Mr. Alcott and me, when he was last in Concord. I made no such proffer as the one you recite, but a different one..." Will call on Sewall to correct his misinterpretations."

15. Letter to Dr. Thomas Palmer 21 Aug. 1851 Concord

Receipt for \$54 interest on account of Charles Lane's mortgage.

16. Letter to William H. Furness 9 January 1852 American House, Boston

"Here am I, just escaped from a task that has absorbed near six months, a labor of love, but of very questionable judgment, - Margaret Fuller's memoirs..." Will accept, with great reluctance and grave reservation the committee's request to speak for liberty in "Philistia" (Boston).

17. Letter to Dr. Thomas Palmer 31 March, 1852 Concord

Will leave Charles Lane's note and mortgage at Mr. Hoar's office. "I am much gratified to learn that this business is in a way to be closed so well."

18. Letter to James R. Lowell 12 Dec. Monday (1864) Concord

Has asked Longfellow to add his advice to Sumner re. bill for National Academy of Literature & Art. Proposes meeting with Dana, Holmes, and Curtis -"I think we might easily agree to advise him to push it or to drop it. ..I have never thanked you for 'Fireside Travels', which I have read with delight; nor have I offered you a poor word of honor to the costly sacrifices of your family."

19. Letter to George S. Hillard, Esq. April 13, 1864

"The 'Saturday Club' in Boston propose to hold their monthly meeting for April on the 23d instant, and to invite a few friends of Shakespeare to dine with them. ..." Invitation for Hillard to attend the festivities. Also signed J. R. Lowell and O. W. Holmes. ,

20. (1880) Holograph manuscript

A part of a sermon delivered on the life of George Ripley, following his death. Was sent to Mr. Reynolds along with other manuscripts when Emerson edited the life of Dr. Ripley. "He was a man very easy to read, for his whole life and conversation were consistent and transparent ... in college he was called 'Holy Ripley' ..."

21. To Ralph Waldo Emerson August 11th (1845)

1. From fence viewers, notification of proposed settlement of dispute with Silas Dudley, on south side of farm, August 15.

2. On Reverse -overwritten, apparently from agent, re. farms for sale in neighborhood and offer to show them.

[Register MS T.6](#)

[NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE Papers; 1843-1883](#)

Size: 7 items

Acquisition: These Papers were acquired through purchase prior to 1936.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Nathaniel Hawthorne was born July 4, 1804. He was the second of three children born to Captain Nathaniel Hawthorne and Elizabeth Clarke Manning. Captain Hawthorne died in 1808 and the family went to live with relatives of Elizabeth Clarke Manning .

Nathaniel Hawthorne attended Bowdoin College, graduating in 1825. He immediately set out upon his career as an author. In 1828, Hawthorne paid for the publication of his first book Fanshawe. The book was a failure, and the author turned toward the writing of short tales. These were published in various periodicals. These tales were brought together and published as a volume in 1837, Twice Told Tales. The short stories were a success, but Hawthorne still could not support himself solely as an author. In 1839, he took a job as a measurer in the Boston Custom House. He continued this work until 1841. At this time Hawthorne joined the community at Brook Farm for a short period.

In 1842, Nathaniel Hawthorne married Sophia Peabody and they settled in Concord Massachusetts. He continued to write and publish works. In 1846, Mosses from an Old Manse was published. But the family was expanding. A daughter, Una was born in 1844 and a son Julian was on the way in 1846. Hawthorne needed a steady income. So he accepted the post of Surveyor for the District of Salem. Hawthorne remained in this post until 1849. During this time he also acted as secretary of the Salem Lyceum, using his influence with friends to obtain lecturers such as Thoreau. In 1849 the change to a Whig administration caused Hawthorne to be removed from his post and he resumed writing full-time; publishing *The Scarlet Letter*, and *The House of Seven Gables* in the next three years.

In 1852, Hawthorn's college classmate, Franklin Pierce was nominated for the presidency. Hawthorne wrote a campaign biography which was published in the fall of 1852. In 1853, Hawthorne was appointed to the post of Consul of Liverpool. He remained in this post until 1857 when a return to a Whig administration initiated his resignation. Hawthorne traveled the Continent following his resignation. He returned to the United States in 1860 and began writing articles for the *Atlantic Monthly*. But Hawthorne was beginning to find it more difficult to create new works. Nathaniel Hawthorne died on May 18, 1864.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

The Nathaniel Hawthorne Papers were acquired by Clara Endicott Sears for the Museum manuscript collections in 1936. The collection is small consisting of only seven items and none of these are dated earlier than 1843. Therefore, there is no information pertaining to Hawthorne's life prior to his marriage.

The bulk of the materials consists of correspondence written by Nathaniel Hawthorne. Although the collection is small it contains materials which well represent his working life. There is a letter dated 1843 which discusses an article he has written and a proposed payment plan. The letter sets forth Hawthorne's practices and beliefs as a professional writer. The collection also contains a receipt signed by Hawthorne when he was Surveyor of the district of Salem. And there is a letter dated 1860 which refers to Hawthorne's years of residence as Consul in Liverpool.

There are two letters in the collection addressed to George William Curtis. The first is dated July of 1852 and describes the Hawthorne residence in Concord, and discusses *Blithedale Romance*. The second letter addressed to Curtis is dated 1862 and briefly discusses a letter Hawthorne has written to Abraham Lincoln at Curtis request.

The Papers also contain a letter to W. C. Bennet thanking him for a volume of poems and describing the Hawthorne family. And there is a cabinet size photograph of Hawthorne which is kept in the photograph collections.

Although the Nathaniel Hawthorne Papers consist of a relatively small amount of material, this material consists of items created by Hawthorne during significant periods of his life. The Museum manuscript collections also contain further information relating to Hawthorne and his Brook Farm experience. This can be found in the Brook Farm Papers.

ITEM LISTING:

1. Letter to Robert Carter. Esq. Feb. 1st. 1843. Boston

Letter enclosing an article for the Pioneer. "I beg you to assure Mr. Lowell that I did not intend to make a demand for immediate payment for my last contribution. I merely mentioned a price per page. ...we get rid of an embarrassment by having such matters definitely fixed. It would be a great satisfaction to me to look over the proofs of this article I abhor errors of the press -and but seldom escape them.

2. Customs Receipt. Port of Salem. Massachusetts Nathaniel Hawthorne. Surveyor of the Port Custom House. Dec. 4. 1846

To the Storekeeper of the Port: M. Shepard having paid the duties chargeable by law. on two hundred & sixty two bags of cloves (from Zanzibar)

3. Letter to George William Curtis July 14. 1852 "My dear Howadji" Concord

Letter describing Hawthorne's residence "The Wayside" in Concord, Massachusetts for possible use in the Concord Sketches. He lists Mr. Alcott's improvements to the house and hillside. "Before Mr. Alcott took it in hand it was a mean looking affair with two peaked gables; no suggestiveness about it and no venerableness although from the style of its construction it seems to have survived beyond its first century. "He related Thoreau's tale on the history of the house. -It was inhabited a generation or two ago by a man who believed that he should never die. Hawthorne invites Curtis to Concord. He sends a copy of the *Blithedale Romance* through Tichnor. "Do not read it as if it had anything to do with Brook Farm (which essentially it has not) but merely for its own story and characters."

4. Letter to W.C. Bennet Dec 11. 1852 Concord

Letter expressing gratitude for volume of poems. "Those which have gone deeper into my heart are the pieces referring to childhood and domestic life. I have read them to my wife in our long winter evenings; and we have well nigh adopted little Bennett as a sister of our own Julian and Una, and another smaller one, whose name will be Rose when she grows up but whom for the present we call Rosebud ." He sends a volume called "The Wonder-Book" for little May Bennett.

5. Letter to Mr. Sturgis June 10, 1860 Liverpool

Letter requesting a desire to draw up to 200 pounds in Liverpool. Hawthorne thanks Sturgis for hospitality to him during his residence in England.

6. Letter to George William Curtis October 8. 1862 Concord

"I like Bayard Taylor and his books, and at your request, have painfully hammered out the enclosed letter to Uncle Abe. I have done such things under one or two former Presidents, but hardly expected to address the present administration in this way. He doesn't expect letter to have much affect since Lincoln did not seem to have heard of him before they were introduced a few months ago."

[Register MS T.7](#)

[HENRY DAVID THOREAU Papers; 1847-1852, n.d. Size: 9 items](#)

Acquisition: The Papers were acquired through purchase prior to 1936.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Henry David Thoreau was born July 12, 1817 in Concord Massachusetts. His father was John Thoreau, a storekeeper and pencil manufacturer. His mother was Cynthis Dunbar of Keene, New Hampshire. Thoreau spent most of his life in Concord. He attended Concord Academy and Harvard University. After graduating from Harvard in 1837, Thoreau attempted to teach school. He opened a private school with his brother John and here he instituted field trips for nature education. But Thoreau was not happy teaching school, and when his brother fell ill the school was closed in 1841. It was at this time that Thoreau went to live with Ralph Waldo Emerson.

At the Emersons', Thoreau performed some duties as a handy man but he also became a member of Emerson's Transcendental circle. Here he became acquainted with Bronson Alcott, Margaret Fuller, Charles Lane, and others. The Dial offered Thoreau the first opportunity to publish his writings. He even edited an issue in 1843.

In 1845, Thoreau went to live at Walden Pond. Here he created his own individual Transcendental experiment from 1845 to 1847. In 1854 he published Walden, which detailed his experiment and is considered one of the classics of American literature.

After leaving Walden, Thoreau managed to make a living as a surveyor, lecturer, and writer. His writings such as Walden, and "Civil Disobedience" established Thoreau as a naturalist and individualist. He was also an abolitionist who participated in the Underground Railroad which helped conduct slaves to freedom. Thoreau lived his life in accordance with his principles. He was a victim of tuberculosis, and died at the age of 44 in 1862.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

The Henry David Thoreau Papers were purchased by Clara Endicott Sears for the Museums' manuscript collection. It is a very small collection consisting of only nine items spanning only a short period of time, 1847 to 1852. There is no material pertaining to Thoreau's early life or his last years.

The collection does contain two leaves of Thoreau's journals dated in the summers of 1851 and 1852. One of these leaves describes an outing to look through Perez Blood's telescope. The other describes the early morning hours at Walden. One letter written by Thoreau to his publishers in regards to a manuscript he submitted is also included. Several short essays by Thoreau can be found in the collection. One is an original essay describing Autumn. There are four typescripts of manuscripts: on a Good Book, On Nature, on Nature Study, and on Religion. A cabinet size photograph of Thoreau is also included in the collection, as is a letter written by Edward Emerson to Francis H. Allen which comments on the photograph. This is the extent of the Thoreau Papers. The Museum does contain some other items pertaining to Thoreau. The Charles Lane Papers contain some information on Thoreau. Some objects of Thoreau's, including a desk, some minerals and Indian relics, books, and pencils from the Thoreau factory are also included in the Museum's collection .

ITEM LISTING

1. To Evert A. Duyckinck, Esq. Care of Wiley & Putnam, New York
July 27th 1847, Concord "Three weeks since returned my MSS."
2. Manuscript on Autumn "With the autumn begins in some measure a new spring."
3. A Leaf of Henry Thoreau's Journal July 7th (18)51
4. A Leaf of Henry Thoreau's Journal July 4th (18)52 3 A.M. To Conantum
5. From The American Men of Letters Edited by Charles Dudley Warner Boston 1895
Henry D. Thoreau by F. B. Sanborn Copyright 1882 Chapter V. The Transcendental Period ts. only
6. Essay on a Good Book ts. only
7. On Nature ts. only
8. On Nature Study ts. only
9. On Religion ts. only
10. Letter discussing Thoreau Papers
11. Original Manuscript "John Burrough's estimate of Thoreau's Character and Writings."

Register MS T.8

CHARLES LANE Papers; 1842-18511 n.d. 2 linear inches

Acquisition: The Papers were acquired through both purchase and donation prior to 1925.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Charles Lane was born on March 31, 1800 in England. Very little is known about the first thirty years of his life. During the 1830s he worked in London as a commercial journalist and as editor and manager of the London Mercantile Price Current. During this time Lane met John Pierpont Greaves and became part of the reform circle led by Greaves. The group was interested in spiritual affairs and communal education. In 1838, Greaves opened an experimental school at Ham Common in Surrey; he named the school Alcott House.

By 1841, Lane had settled at Alcott House. Lane was in sympathy with Alcott's educational, spiritual, and abolitionist ideas. He wrote to Alcott in 1839 and the two met on Bronson Alcott's trip to England in 1842. By October of the same year, Lane was sailing back to the United States with Alcott. The two men were intent upon starting a community which would practice their ideals. But money was scarce at first and Lane settled down with the Alcott's in Concord to plan the venture and find an ideal site for the community. During this time, he became acquainted with Alcott's Transcendental friends. Lane was a libertarian, and an abolitionist. He held strong beliefs in voluntary government. As Thoreau and Alcott were being arrested for non-payment of poll taxes, Lane initiated a series of articles in *The Liberator* describing his ideas about voluntary government.

By May of 1843, Alcott and Lane discovered the farm in Harvard Massachusetts. Lane purchased Fruitlands and on June 1 the group took up residence there. As the summer passed Lane wrote his friends enthusiastically about the community. Fall and the approaching winter brought problems. At the end of November, Mrs. Alcott gave notice that she was removing herself and her daughters from the community. Bronson Alcott went with them and the Fruitlands community was thus disbanded.

After the dissolution of the Fruitlands experiment, Lane went to live with the Harvard Shaker community. In the summer of 1846, Lane and Joseph Palmer joined together to form the Leominster and Harvard Benevolent Association. On lands owned by the Association, individuals could be provided with room and board in exchange for their labor on the lands. Charles Lane quickly became disillusioned with his life in the Association and resolved to return to England and Alcott House where he intended to write a short history of the Fruitlands experiment. He mortgaged the Fruitlands farm to Joseph Palmer and returned to England. Alcott House was abandoned in 1849. In 1850, Charles Lane married Hannah Bond. He returned to a career in journalism. He died peacefully in 1870, leaving a wife and three children.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

The Charles Lane Papers are of particular importance to the Museum manuscript collections due to Lane's status as one of the founders of the Fruitlands community.

The Papers cover the years 1842 to 1851 and consist chiefly of correspondence. The collection is arranged in chronological order. Correspondents consist of such persons as Abba May Alcott, Junius Alcott, and Joseph Palmer, as well as Thoreau. There is also a significant amount of correspondence addressed to William Oldham at Alcott House which is available in typescript form only. These letters detail the planning for the Fruitlands community and its short existence very well. Lane discusses his acquaintance with Emerson, Margaret Fuller, and the daily routine at Fruitlands, as well as the experiment's participants.

The correspondence written after the demise of Fruitlands deals primarily with Joseph Palmer and Lane's attempts to collect mortgage payments. One letter to Abba May Alcott does discuss Lane's life with the Shakers and his personal philosophy.

The collection also contains some verses written to Beth Alcott on her birthday, and a photocopy of a description written by Lane and Alcott of the Fruitlands community which was written for the Dial.

There is no information pertaining to Lane's early life or to his life after 1851. The collection does include a copy of his death certificate and a photograph of his grave. No mention is made of his marriage to Hannah Bond. The papers of Charles Lane do, however, give a detailed view of the Fruitlands experience from one of the founder's points of view. Other information relating to Charles Lane can be found in the Ralph Waldo Emerson Papers, and the Joseph Palmer Papers.

ITEM LISTING:

1. Letter to Junius S. Alcott -Nov 28, 1842- Concord Typescript an original in frame
2. C. Lane to W. Oldham- Concord -30 Nov. 1842 See Harland Mss pg 18- original Typescript
3. Letter to Junius S. Alcott .December 26, 1842- Concord Typescript
4. C. Lane to w. Oldham -Concord -December 1842 See Harland Mss pg 12-13 and 18-19- original Typescript
5. C. Lane to W. Oldham -Concord -28-30 January 1843 See Harland Mss pg 18~19 January 1843 Typescript
6. C. Lane to W. Oldham -Concord -21 Feb, 1 March, 1843 See Harland Mss pg 20-22 original Typescript
7. C. Lane to H. Thoreau -Boston -December 3, 1843 Typescript and original in frame
8. C. Lane to W. Oldham -Concord -May 31, 1843 See Harland Mss pg 24-25 original Typescript
9. Alcott and Lane to Emerson for the Dial -June 10, 1843 "Fruitlands" -copy of only one part of original article For extracts from letter see the Dial, July, 1843, Vol. IV, No 1
10. C. Lane to W. Oldham -June 16, 1843 See Harland Mss pg 26~28 Original Typescript
11. Verses written by Charles Lane on the occasion of Beth's birthday at Fruitlands, 1843 Typescript and original in frame
12. C. Lane to w. Oldham -Fruitlands -June 28, 1843 See Harland Mss pg 28-30 original Typescript
13. C. Lane to W. Oldham -Fruitlands, July 30, 1843 See Harland Mss pg 31-34 original Typescript
14. C. Lane to W. Oldham -Fruitlands -September 29, 1843 See Harland Mss pg 35-39 original Typescript

15. C. Lane to W. Oldham - Fruitlands -September 29, 1843 See Harland Mss pg 31-34 original Typescript
16. C. Lane to W. Oldham -Harvard -November 26 & 29, 1843 See Harland Mss pg 42-44 original Typescript
17. Letter to Mr. A. B. Alcott -February 22, 1845- Harvard Typescript
18. Lane & Palmer re Leominster Association -August 18, 1846 Typescript
19. C. Lane (?)statement of compensation -1846? Typescript
20. Charles Lane to Joseph Palmer -September 10, 1846 Typescript (See also Mss no.25 this file)
21. Lane to Joseph Palmer -September 29, 1849- London Typescript
22. C. Lane to Dr. Thomas Palmer -September 16, 1851- London Typescript
23. Charles Lane -Copy of Certificate of Death, January 5, 1870 at Age 69 Photograph of Lane's grave - Hook Churchyard
24. C. Lane to H. Thoreau -June 7, 1843 Typescript only -location of original letter unknown
25. Letter of Transmittal from Holman to Sears Feb 9, 1914- Leominster, Mass. Original Explains association of people mentioned in 1.1ss No. 20, this file Typescript

Note: Also see "Bronson Alcotts English Friends" by William Harry Harland

Register MS T.11

WILLIAM ELLERY CHANNING Papers; 1849, 1 item.

Acquisition: The letter was acquired for the Fruitlands Museums by Clara Endicott Sears.

DESCRIPTION

The materials in this collection consist of a poem written "To Carrie" in 1849, (Caroline Sturgis Tappan). It was written to her as a child of friends Channing. There is a fragment of a letter which dates the poem. and sends it to Caroline's parents.

Register MS T.12

ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING Papers, 1856, 1 item

Acquisition: The letter was purchased by Fruitlands Museums prior to 1960.

DESCRIPTION

This collection consists of one letter written by Elizabeth Barrett Browning to George William Curtis on April 21, 1856. The letter is written from Paris and thanks Mr. Curtis for the books and letters he has sent in the past and sends regrets for not replying in the past. The letter also congratulates Curtis on his engagement to Miss Shaw.

There is also a letter in the Margaret Fuller Ossoli Papers describing the Brownings.

Register MS T.13

HENRY WADSWORTH LONG FELLOW Papers, 1857, 1 item

Acquisition: The letter was acquired by Fruitlands Museums through purchase.

DESCRIPTION

This collection consists of one letter which was written to Rev. John S. Dwight by Longfellow on May 11, 1857. It contains a reminder to Dwight about a subscription being taken up to enable a Mr. Thayer to complete his "Life of Beethoven". It contains a list of persons and their contributions. Among those who have contributed are Longfellow, J .R. Lowell, and Samuel G. Ward.

Note: There is some correspondence between Clara Endicott Sears and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Dana concerning the acquisition of copies of the Longfellow related material located in the control file. There are some indications that this letter relates to the John S. Dwight letters which can be found in the George Willis Cooke Papers.