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Guide to

**Alcott Family Papers
1814-1935**

FM.MS.T.1

by Jane E. Ward

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Box	Folder	Contents	Date
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Extent: 6 boxes
Linear feet: 3 lin. ft.

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

PROVENANCE

Transcendental manuscript materials were first acquired by Clara Endicott Sears beginning in 1918 for her Fruitlands Museum in Harvard, Massachusetts. Sears became interested the Transcendentalists after acquiring land in Harvard and restoring the Fruitlands Farmhouse.

Materials continued to be collected by the museum throughout the 20th century. In 2016, Fruitlands Museum became The Trustees' 116th reservation, and these manuscript materials were relocated to the Archives & Research Center in Sharon, Massachusetts.

In Harvard, the Fruitlands Museum site continues to display the objects that Sears collected. The museum features four separate collections of significant Shaker, Native American, Transcendentalist, and American art and artifacts. The property features a late 18th century farmhouse that was once home to the writer Louisa May Alcott and her family. Today it is a National Historic Landmark.

These papers were acquired by a combination of purchases and donations up through the 1980s.

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CITE AS

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RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESS

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ALCOTT FAMILY

CHRONOLOGY of the Alcott Family:

- 1799 Amos Bronson Alcox (Alcott) born 29 November near Wolcott, Conn.
- 1800 Abigail (Abba) May born 8 October in Boston, Mass.
- 1830 Amos Bronson Alcott and Abba May married at Kings Chapel in Boston, Mass. on 23 May.
- 1831 Anna Bronson Alcott born in Germantown, Penn.
- 1832 Louisa May Alcott born in Germantown, Penn.
- 1834 Amos Bronson Alcott opens the Temple School in Boston, Mass.
- 1835 Elizabeth Sewall [Peabody] Alcott born in Boston, Mass.
- 1838 Temple School closes.
- 1840 (Abigail) May Alcott born in Concord, Mass.
- 1843 (In June) Amos Bronson Alcott and Charles Lane found the Con-Sociate community of Fruitlands in Harvard, Mass.
- 1844 (In January) Fruitlands community disbands.
- 1858 Elizabeth Peabody Alcott dies in Concord, Mass.
- 1860 Anna Bronson Alcott marries John Bridge Pratt on 23 May.
- 1862 Louisa May Alcott's *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 22 March.
- 1879 Louisa May (Lulu) Nieriker born and May Alcott Nieriker dies soon after.
- 1880 Louisa May (Lulu) Nieriker sent to be raised by Louisa May Alcott.
- 1888 Amos Bronson Alcott and Louisa May Alcott die.
- 1889 Louisa May (Lulu) Nieriker returns to Europe to be raised by her father, Ernest Nieriker.

AMOS BRONSON ALCOTT

Amos Bronson Alcott was born 29 November 1799. The son of a flax farmer in Wolcott, Connecticut, he taught himself to read by forming letters in charcoal on a wooden floor. Through sheer willpower and dedication to the ideal, he educated himself and guided his genius to expression as a progressive educator and leader of the Transcendentalists.

"Transcendentalism" was a term coined for a movement of New England writers and thinkers in the 1830s. They believed that people are born good, that they possess a power called intuition, and that they can come closer to God through nature. Amos Bronson Alcott was unique in the way he embodied and lived out his Transcendentalist ideas.

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As an educator, he believed that all knowledge and moral guidance springs from inner sources and it is the teacher's role to help these unfold in a beneficial way. His daughter Louisa, one of his most faithful pupils, wrote, "My father taught in the wise way which unfolds what lies in the child's nature, as a flower blooms, rather than crammed it ... with more than it could digest." Alcott taught in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Boston. He introduced art, music, nature study, and physical education to his classes at a time when these subjects were not commonly taught. Many parents did not understand Alcott's innovative methods and withdrew their children from his schools. Because of this, the Alcott family moved over 20 times in 30 years.

Alcott believed that the key to social reform and spiritual growth lay in the home, and specifically within family life. Essential values instilled in his children from an early age were self-reliance and the ideals of duty, self-sacrifice, compassion, and charity. Self-expression was also highly valued and cultivated through the keeping of journals on the part of all family members. Journals were even shared on many occasions to foster an openness of thought and feeling.

In 1843, Alcott and Charles Lane founded a utopian community at Fruitlands in Harvard, Mass. Here they hoped to live out the ideals of Transcendentalism, surviving off the fruits of the land (hence the name "Fruitlands"). The experiment was doomed, due to the small number of members (Mr. and Mrs. Alcott and their four children, Charles Lane and his son, and only a few other people) and their lack of practical knowledge concerning farming. The founding members arrived on 1 June 1843; by the following January the experiment had broken up and the members disbanded.

From 1859 through 1864, Alcott served as Superintendent of Schools in Concord. In later years, he conducted lecture tours in the Midwest where his enthusiastic presentations on educational reform and Transcendentalism brought recognition to himself and fellow friends and Concordians Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau.

In 1879, primarily through the support of his Midwest admirers, his lifelong dream for a school of philosophy in Concord was fulfilled. One of the first summer schools for adults, the Concord School of Philosophy continued for nine summers. It closed in July of 1888 with a memorial service to Alcott, who had passed away on 4 March of that year.

[Source: from <http://www.louisamayalcott.org/bronsontext.html>]

ABIGAIL (ABBA) MAY ALCOTT

Abigail May Alcott was born on 8 October 1800. The youngest daughter of Colonel Joseph May and Dorothy Sewall, she was descended from the distinguished Quincy and Sewall families of New England. Her great-aunt was Dorothy Quincy, the Revolutionary War belle who married John Hancock, the first governor of Massachusetts and signer of the Declaration of Independence.

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Abigail, or "Abba" as she was called, had a passionate temperament, a fine mind, and a generous heart. She keenly felt the injustices of the world and worked energetically for various causes, especially those that helped the poor or furthered the causes of abolition, women's rights, and temperance. Her daughter Louisa said of her mother's time as a social worker in Boston that "...she always did what came to her in the way of duty and charity, and let pride, taste, and comfort suffer for love's sake."

Abba May met Amos Bronson Alcott in Brooklyn, Conn., at the home of her brother, Samuel Joseph May, the first Unitarian minister in the state. Throughout their long courtship, Alcott, "a shy lover," communicated his sentiments to Abba May by letting her read passages he wrote about her in his journal. They were married in King's Chapel in Boston on 23 May 1830.

Abba's love for her visionary husband was a mainstay in calm and storm. Although frequently frustrated by his inability to support his family, Abba May Alcott believed in her husband and his ideals -- even when it seemed that the rest of the world did not. She wrote in her journal that she could never live without him: "I think I can as easily learn to live without breath."

Abba May Alcott served as the beloved prototype for "Marmee" in her daughter's book *Little Women*. To her four daughters, both in fact and fiction, she was "the most splendid mother in world," who devoted herself to each one, encouraging their talents and giving them practical rules by which to live. One of her favorite inspirational quotes was: "Hope, and keep busy."

When Abba May Alcott died in November of 1877, Louisa wrote, "I never wish her back, but a great warmth seems gone out of life. ... She was so loyal, tender, and true" and led "such a lovely, unselfish life."

[Source: from <http://www.louisamayalcott.org/abigailtext.html>]

ANNA BRONSON ALCOTT PRATT

Anna Bronson Alcott, the first of Bronson and Abigail May Alcott's four daughters, was born in Germantown, Penn., on 16 March 1831.

Although part of a highly individualistic, non-conformist family, Anna fit more easily into the ideal of "Victorian Womanhood" than any of her other sisters. She was a dutiful daughter, good student, self-sacrificing governess, and eventually, a model wife and mother. Gentle and loving in temperament, she was often the one to give emotional shelter to the members of her family through life's many storms.

Anna was stage-struck from an early age and had secret longings "to shine before the world as a great actress or Prima Donna." In her youth, she and younger sister Louisa created romantic melodramas which they performed for friends. One visitor to the Alcott home commented on

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the talents of these amateur actresses: "If Louisa could make our sides ache with laughter, Anna could cause handkerchiefs to come out and much swallowing of lumps in the throat."

In 1858, the year the family moved to Orchard House, Louisa and Anna helped form the Concord Dramatic Union. Another member of the troupe was John Bridge Pratt; he and Anna fell in love while acting opposite each other in a play called "The Loan of a Lover."

Anna was the inspiration for "Meg March" in *Little Women*, with her real-life wedding to John Bridge Pratt ("John Brooke") in the parlor of Orchard House on 23 May 1860 forming the basis for the fictional marriage of Meg and John. Sadly, John Pratt died after only ten years of marriage, leaving Anna to care for their two young sons, Frederick and John Jr. In 1877, with Louisa's help, Anna purchased the Thoreau House on Main Street in Concord. Her last years were spent caring for those she loved, including her own sons, her sister Louisa, and May's daughter, Lulu.

[Source: from <http://www.louisamayalcott.org/abigailtext.html>]

LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

Louisa May Alcott was born in Germantown, Penn., on 29 November 1832. She and her sisters—Anna, Elizabeth, and (Abigail) May—were educated by their father, teacher/philosopher Amos Bronson Alcott, and raised on the practical Christianity of their mother, Abigail (Abba) May.

Louisa spent her childhood in Boston and in Concord, Mass., where her days were enlightened by visits to Ralph Waldo Emerson's library, excursions into nature with Henry David Thoreau, and theatricals in the barn at "Hillside" (now "The Wayside").

For Louisa, writing was an early passion. She had a rich imagination and her stories often became the basis of melodramas she and her sisters would act out for friends. Louisa preferred to play the "lurid" parts in these plays -- "the villains, ghosts, bandits, and disdainful queens," as she put it.

At age 15, troubled by the poverty plaguing her family, she vowed that she "will do something by and by. Don't care what, teach, sew, act, write, anything to help the family; and I'll be rich and famous and happy before I die, see if I won't!" Confronting a society that offered little opportunity to women seeking employment, Louisa nonetheless persisted. Whether as a teacher, seamstress, governess, or household servant, for many years Louisa did any work she could find.

Louisa's career as an author began with poetry and short stories that appeared in popular magazines. In 1854, when she was 22, her first book, *Flower Fables*, was published. A milestone along her literary path was *Hospital Sketches* (1863), a truthful and poignant account of her

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service as a Civil War nurse in Washington, DC, based on letters she wrote home to her family in Concord.

In 1868, when Louisa was 35 years old, her publisher, Thomas Niles, asked her to write "a girls' story." The 492 pages of *Little Women, Part I* were dashed off within three months at the desk Louisa's father built for her in her Orchard House bedchamber. The novel is largely based on the coming of age stories of Louisa and her sisters, with many of the domestic experiences inspired by events that actually took place at Orchard House.

Virtually overnight, *Little Women* was a phenomenal success, primarily due to its timeless storytelling about the first American juvenile heroine, "Jo March," who acted from her own individuality—a free-thinking, flawed person rather than the idealized stereotype of feminine perfection then prevalent in children's fiction. In all, Louisa published over 30 books and collections of short stories and poems.

During the last decade of her life, Louisa helped raise her niece, Louisa May (Lulu) Nieriker, after Lulu's mother, May Alcott Nieriker, died shortly after giving birth. Louisa May Alcott died on 6 March 1888, only two days after her father, and is buried in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Concord, Mass.

[Source: from <http://www.louisamayalcott.org/louisamaytext.html>]

ABIGAIL MAY ALCOTT NIERIKER

Abigail May Alcott, the youngest of the Alcott daughters, was born in Concord, Mass., on 26 July 1840.

Like "Amy March" in *Little Women*, May was a blue-eyed golden girl who possessed from childhood an intense love of beauty and all things artistic and elegant. "She is so graceful and pretty and loves beauty so much, it is hard for her to be poor and wear other people's ugly things," wrote Louisa to Anna in 1854.

May had also long exhibited a talent for drawing, painting, and artistic experimentation. She studied art in Boston, where her teachers were the highly influential Dr. William Rimmer and William Morris Hunt. She did dream of going to Europe, and it was Louisa's success with *Little Women* in 1868 that provided that opportunity. She took three trips abroad to study art in London, Paris, and Rome.

Although unlike each other in many respects, May and Louisa shared an artistic temperament that expressed itself in ambition, willfulness, and a certain competitive spirit. When the 1877 Paris Salon accepted her still life, May wrote, "Who would have imagined such good fortune and so strong proof that Lu does not monopolize the Alcott talent. Ha! Ha!, sister, this is the first feather plucked from your cap!"

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In 1878, May married a young Swiss businessman and musician, Ernest Nieriker. The couple settled in Meudon, a Parisian suburb, leading what May called "an ideal life -- painting, music, and love ..." In November 1879, May gave birth to a daughter she named Louisa May, in honor of her sister (and later nicknamed "Lulu"). Tragically, May died seven weeks after the baby was born, leaving her family utterly distraught. May had earlier stipulated that in the event of her death after childbirth, she desired Lulu to be raised by her sister Louisa in Concord. May keenly felt that Louisa would love the child as if she were her own; providing her spinster sister with a child was also the greatest gift May could think to give in gratitude for all the love and support Louisa had given her.

[Source: from <http://www.louisamayalcott.org/maytext.html>]

DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS

Amos Bronson Alcott and his family were among the founders and participants of the Fruitlands Con-Sociate Community for which the Fruitlands Museum is named. The Alcott Family Papers (1814-1935) are divided into five series, with several series being further subdivided. The bulk of these papers consist of materials created by Amos Bronson Alcott. An earlier version of this finding aid was found within "The Guide to the Transcendentalist Manuscript Collection," and was shared with The Trustees at the time of the Fruitlands Museum acquisition. It was used as a resource.

Despite being primarily self-educated, Amos Bronson Alcott established himself as a progressive educator, and a famous author and philosopher. **Series I, the Amos Bronson Alcott Papers,** reflects the breadth of Alcott's interests. The materials are divided into six subseries: Journal Excerpts, Correspondence, Manuscripts, Writings about Alcott, Ephemera, and Images.

The bulk of the series is the first subseries, **Journal Excerpts,** which primarily covers the period 1836-1839. 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 that 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 Alcott'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. Beginning with 1835, these journal excerpts are not in Amos Bronson Alcott's handwriting. While it is unclear when the 1835 excerpts were copied, the excerpts from 1836 on appear to have been done in the 1880s. It is possible these copies were made by Franklin B. Sanborn. (Sanborn knew all the Alcotts; he

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published, along with William Torrey Harris, a biography of Amos Bronson Alcott after his death. There are letters by Amos Bronson and Louisa May to Sanborn in the collection. For photographs of Sanborn, see the Transcendentalist Circle Papers.)

The second subseries, **Correspondence**, consists of letters written by Amos Bronson Alcott between 1814 and 1885, although there are a few written to Alcott as well. Some of Alcott's early letters have handwritten transcriptions; virtually all of the rest have typed transcriptions. The earlier letters written by Alcott (prior to 1851) are in his handwriting but bear no postal indications of any kind, suggesting that Alcott copied these letters for his own personal records. A few of the earliest letters from other correspondents are also copies made by Alcott in his hand for his personal records. Correspondents include Ralph Waldo Emerson, Mary Preston Stearns, Ednah D. Littlehale, Oliver Wendell Holmes, 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. Much of the correspondence in 1865 is to Mary Preston Stearns regarding *Emerson*, a book privately published by Alcott as a gift to Emerson and friends. Stearns seems to have provided support (possibly financial?) for this project. Information on Alcott's speaking tour of Iowa in 1881 is also included in the correspondence.

The third subseries, **Manuscripts**, 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 Emanuel Swedenborg, Eckerd, Emerson, and others, some prose writings, and a number of verses.

The prose writings include comments on Margaret Fuller, a crayon portrait done of Alcott (with excerpts from Abba Alcott's journal on her impression of it), Orchard House in Concord, mysticism, and other topics.

A small amount of material related to Alcott's career in education exists in this series, including 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. Also included in the education material is ephemera such as the quarter cards of discipline Alcott used in the Temple School, which lay out a seven-day schedule of lessons. Ephemera relating to his Concord Summer School of Philosophy is here as well, including a broadside promoting the summer school, a copy of the deed selling the land and buildings, single tickets, and full course tickets.

The poems or verses by Alcott are numerous. Most are one page; some are no more than two lines. The longest is "New Connecticut" at 121 pages. Since most of the poems are undated, and for ease of reference, the poems/verses have been filed alphabetically. Not all have titles; for those without an obvious title, the first few words in the first line have been used as a title. About 80% of them have handwritten transcripts. There is a small book of sayings and verse copied out and titled "Sentiments to M. B – 1821." Although signed A. B. Alcott, it is not in his handwriting. The series ends with a small group of unidentified manuscripts.

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The fourth subseries, **Writings about Amos Bronson Alcott**, includes material about Alcott written by other people—which Alcott copied—and comments on him after his death. Here are extracts from diaries kept by his brother and his cousin, William Alcott, during the trip to Virginia in 1820-21; letters by William Alcott to J. S. May discussing Alcott; a copy of the entry about Alcott from a cyclopedia; and other similar material. Also here are manuscripts of speeches given at a commemoration of Alcott's birth, and Franklin B. Sanborn's "Alcott the Idealist." Here also is the original typescript of William Harland's "Bronson Alcott and his English Friends." Changes marked on this copy have been incorporated into a clean copy of the manuscript, which can be found in the Charles Lane Papers.

The fifth subseries, **Ephemera**, includes a map showing the routes taken during Alcott's trip to Virginia, and newspaper articles on the reopening of the Alcott house at Fruitlands and on a school in Wolcott, Conn., named after Alcott. The copy of *The Regenerator* with Alcott's signature on it is also here. A bound manuscript copy of "Notes of Sentiments expressed by James Pierrepont Greaves" is filed here. Greaves founded Alcott House (named after Amos Bronson Alcott) but died before Alcott reached England in 1842. R. H. Derby had these copied and presented to Alcott during his trip to England.

The last subseries, **Images**, includes photographs and images of Amos Bronson Alcott and locations associated with him, such as Hosmer Cottage and Orchard House in Concord, and the Masonic Temple in Boston (where he held his school).

Series II, the Abba May Alcott Papers, consists of correspondence written by Abba May Alcott to her cousin Sarah May (Adams) Holland and to Mary Preston 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 Stearns discuss her support of the book published by Amos Bronson Alcott in 1865 on Emerson and the state of the family following the death of Anna Alcott Pratt's husband, John. Also in this series is a small account book with scattered accounts from 1844 to 1846. The account book has sustained both fire and water damage. There are two images of Abba May Alcott in this series as well.

Series III, the Anna Bronson Alcott Pratt Papers, consists chiefly of outgoing correspondence. The bulk of the correspondence is to Evelyn Cogshall, a friend of Louisa May Nieriker, discussing Lulu and her life with Anna, and her return to her father in Europe. Included in this series is a letter to Abba May Alcott that was sent through the Fruitlands Post Office. An excerpt of Anna's Fruitlands diary, which was sent to Franklin B. Sanborn along with some notes, is included here. Also in this series is the notice signed by all three sisters that 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.

Series IV, the Louisa May Alcott Papers, is organized into six subseries: Correspondence, Writings by Louisa May Alcott, Writings about Louisa May Alcott, Legal Documents, Images, and Ephemera. The bulk of the series will be found in the first subseries, **Correspondence**, written

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		by Louisa May Alcott. Topics covered in the correspondence are the proofs of <i>Little Women</i> ; recollection of her childhood in Still River, Mass., after the disbanding of the Fruitlands community; her professional life as an author; and her father's stroke and his health. A number of the letters concerning her father's health are to Mary Preston Stearns, who supported the publication of Bronson's book on Emerson in 1865. The arrival and care of Lulu Nieriker are also mentioned.	
		The second subseries, Writings by Louisa May Alcott , includes some brief excerpts from her Fruitlands diary, some verses written to her father, a short story in <i>The Bright Side</i> , and "Transcendental Wild Oats," an account of the experiment at Fruitlands disguised as fiction (Fruitlands is mentioned but all the names have been changed).	
		The third subseries, Writings about Louisa May Alcott , includes a poem in memoriam by Louise Chandler Moulton and an article about Louisa by Maria Porter in <i>New England Magazine</i> .	
		The fourth subseries, Legal Documents , consists of a copy of Louisa's will.	
		The fifth subseries, Images , includes a cabinet card photograph of Louisa and a photograph of Louisa with James E. Murdock, said to be the last photograph of Alcott.	
		The final subseries, Ephemera , contains numerous items but the connection to Louisa May Alcott is unclear; more research needs to be done on these items. Many are fire-damaged and in poor physical condition.	
		Series V, May Alcott Nieriker Papers , is divided into three subseries: May Alcott Nieriker Papers, Louisa May (Lulu) Nieriker Papers, and Elizabeth Peabody Alcott Papers.	
		The first subseries, May Alcott Nieriker Papers , consists primarily of correspondence, a series of short notes written by her to Mr. [William] Niles during her solo stay in London in 1871. These notes discuss social engagements and painting. (It is unclear if William Niles was related to Thomas Niles, a member of the Roberts Brothers publishing firm and the publisher of Louisa May Alcott's books.) A newspaper obituary and news clippings of Louisa's and Amos Bronson's poetic tributes to May are here as well. (A transcription of Louisa's poem can be found in the Louisa May Alcott Papers). A plate taken from May's <i>Concord Sketches</i> depicts May's pencil sketch of Henry David Thoreau's cabin at Walden Pond.	
		The second subseries, Louisa May (Lulu) Nieriker Papers , includes two letters written by May's daughter, Lulu, to her friend Evelyn Cogshall, and a cabinet card photograph of Lulu, taken in Boston ca. 1885.	
		The last subseries, Elizabeth Peabody Alcott Papers , consists of copies of a sketch of Elizabeth Alcott. They are the only items pertaining to Elizabeth in this collection. The Alcott Family Papers do not contain material by Elizabeth Peabody Alcott.	

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The collection does contain 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 Amos Bronson Alcott Papers, the collection contains information created by the family members during or after the Fruitlands experiment. There is little information regarding the working life of Abba May or 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, 1814-1935
 - Journal Excerpts, 1820-1881
 - Correspondence, 1814-1885
 - Manuscripts, 1821-1884
 - Writings about Bronson Alcott, 1821-1907
 - Ephemera, 1820-1935
 - Images, 1860-1910
- II. Abba May Alcott Papers, 1844-1877
- III. Anna Bronson Alcott Pratt Papers, 1843-1889
- IV. Louisa May Alcott Papers, 1843-1892
 - Correspondence, 1843-1887
 - Writings by Louisa May Alcott, 1843-1887
 - Writings about Louisa May Alcott, 1892
 - Legal Documents, 1877
 - Images, 1863-1887
 - Ephemera
- V. May Alcott Nieriker Papers, 1871-1894
 - May Alcott Nieriker papers, 1871-1880
 - Louisa May (Lulu) Nieriker Papers, 1885-1894
 - Elizabeth Peabody Alcott Papers

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Series I. Amos Bronson Alcott Papers

Extent: 4 boxes (2 lin. ft.), 2 Flat File Folders

Dates: 1814-1935

Series I, Amos Bronson Alcott Papers, is organized into six subseries: Journal Excerpts, Correspondence, Manuscripts, Writings about Bronson Alcott, Ephemera, and Images. Most of the subseries (but not all) are arranged chronologically.

Journal Excerpts

Extent: 1 box + 7 folders (.6 lin. ft.)

Dates: 1820-1881

1	1	Journal excerpts. Original and handwritten transcript.	1820
1	2	Journal excerpts. Original.	1826-1827
1	3	Journal excerpts. Original and partial handwritten transcript.	1828-1830
1	4	Journal excerpts, pp. 297, 299. Handwritten transcript.	1835 Oct 8-10
1	5	Journal excerpts, pp. 1-199 (with gaps). Handwritten transcript.	1836 Jan 1-Sep 10 (with gaps)
1	6	Journal excerpts, pp. 205-295 (with gaps). Handwritten transcript.	1836 Sep 11-Dec 31
1	7	Journal excerpts, pp. 2-98 (with gaps). Handwritten transcript.	1837 Jan-Feb
1	8	Journal excerpts, pp. 102-155. Handwritten transcript.	1837 Feb.-Mar
1	9	Journal excerpts, pp. 156-232 (with gaps). Handwritten transcript.	1837 Mar-Apr
1	10	Journal excerpts, pp. 241-408 (with gaps). Handwritten transcript.	1837 Apr-Jun, n.d.
1	11	Journal excerpts, pp. 411-564 (with gaps). Handwritten transcript.	1837 Sep-Dec
1	12	Journal excerpts, pp. 1-131 (with gaps). Handwritten transcript.	1838 Jan-Feb

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Series I. Amos Bronson Alcott Papers			
Journal Excerpts (cont.)			
1	13	Journal excerpts, pp. 132-203 (with gaps). Handwritten transcript.	1838 Feb-Apr
2	1	Journal excerpts, pp. 204-353 (with gaps). Handwritten transcript.	1838 Apr-Oct
2	2	Journal excerpts, pp. 354-427. Handwritten transcript.	1838 Oct-Dec
2	3	Journal excerpts, pp. 31-491 (with many gaps). Handwritten transcript.	1839 Jul-Dec, n.d.
2	4	Journal excerpts, pp. 189, 198-203. Handwritten transcript.	1848 Mar
2	5	Journal excerpts, pp. 17-33. Handwritten transcript.	1854 Sep-Oct
2	6	Journal excerpts. Handwritten transcript.	1857 Apr
2	7	Journal excerpts, pp. 18-24 (with gaps). Handwritten transcript.	1881 Dec

CORRESPONDENCE

Extent: 7 folders (3 in.)

Dates: 1814-1885

2	8	Letter to William Andrus Alcott. 2 pp. Original and handwritten transcript. A different, complete text is published in Frederick Wagner, "Eighty-Six Letters (1814-1882) of A. Bronson Alcott (Part One)," <i>Studies in the American Renaissance</i> 1979, p. 242.	1814 Sep 8
2	8	Letter to William Andrus Alcott. 2 pp. Original. Published in <i>Studies in the American Renaissance</i> 1979, p. 244.	1817 May 27

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Series I. Amos Bronson Alcott Papers			
Correspondence (cont.)			
2	8	Letter to Mr. & Mrs. Alcott [parents]. 3 pp. Original and handwritten transcript. Partially published in F. B. Sanborn and William T. Harris, <i>A. Bronson Alcott: His Life and Philosophy</i> , 2 vols. (Boston: Roberts Brothers, 1893), 1:31-33. A different, complete text is published in <i>The Letters of A. Bronson Alcott</i> , ed. Richard L. Hermstadt (Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1969), pp. 1-2.	1820 Jan 24
2	8	Letter to William Andrus Alcott. 4 pp. Original and handwritten transcript. Printed fragment attached to reverse of original. Published in <i>Studies in the American Renaissance</i> 1979, pp. 1248-49.	1820 Mar 19
2	8	Letter to Mr. & Mrs. Alcott. 2 pp. Original and handwritten transcript. Published in <i>Studies in the American Renaissance</i> 1979, p. 250.	1820 Nov 2
2	8	Letter to Mr. & Mrs. Alcott. 2 pp. Original and handwritten transcript. Published in <i>Studies in the American Renaissance</i> 1979, p. 251.	1820 Dec 5
2	8	Letter to [Chatfield Alcott]. 2 pp. Original and handwritten transcript. Chatfield Alcott was Amos's brother. Published in <i>Studies in the American Renaissance</i> 1979, p. 252.	1822 Apr 13
2	8	Letter to William Andrus Alcott. 3 pp. Original and handwritten transcript. Published in <i>Studies in the American Renaissance</i> 1979, p. 253.	1823 Mar 30
2	8	Letter to Chatfield Alcott. 2 pp. Original (which appears to be unfinished) and handwritten transcript. A different, complete text is published in <i>Letters</i> , pp. 6-8.	1825 Jun 15

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series I. Amos Bronson Alcott Papers			
Correspondence (cont.)			
2	8	Letter to Mr. & Mrs. Alcott. 2 pp. Original (which appears to be unfinished) and handwritten transcript. A different, complete text is published in <i>Studies in the American Renaissance</i> 1979, pp. 256-57.	1825 Nov 1
2	8	Letter to William Andrus Alcott. 1 p. Original (first page only) and handwritten transcript. Published in <i>Studies in the American Renaissance</i> 1979, p. 258.	1826 Jan 13
2	9	Letter from Samuel J. May to Bronson Alcott. 3 pp. Original and typed transcript. May writes to Alcott, a fellow teacher, as “a laborer in your most interesting and important vocation.”	1827 Sep 4
2	9	Letter to Samuel J. May. 4 pp. Original. Published in <i>Studies in the American Renaissance</i> 1979, pp. 260-61.	1827 Dec 19
2	9	Letter from Samuel J. May to Bronson Alcott. 3 pp. Original and typed transcript. May asks about Alcott forming an Infant School in Boston.	1828 Apr 14
2	9	Letter to Mr. & Mrs. Alcott. 2 pp. Original. Published in <i>Studies in the American Renaissance</i> 1979, p. 262.	1828 Jun 12
2	9	Letter to Samuel J. May. 2 pp. Original. Published in <i>Studies in the American Renaissance</i> 1979, p. 263.	1829 Jan 7
2	9	Letter to Emma Savage. 2 pp. Original (not in ABA’s handwriting) and typed transcript. Mentions his school. [In 1849 Emma Savage would marry William Barton Rogers, who would found MIT in 1861.] Published in <i>Letters</i> , pp. 23-24.	1835 Aug 5

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series I. Amos Bronson Alcott Papers			
Correspondence (cont.)			
2	9	Letters to Chief Justice Shaw. 1 p. Originals on same sheet of paper (not in ABA's handwriting) and typed transcript. About Shaw's bill for his son's schooling. Published in <i>Letters</i> , pp. 26-27.	[1836?] Jun 26-27
2	9	Letter to Ralph Waldo Emerson. 3 pp. Original (not in ABA's handwriting) and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , pp. 31-32.	1837 May 9
2	9	Receipts for the schooling of Judge Lemuel Shaw's son at the Temple School. Each 1 p. Original and typed transcripts.	1837 Feb 18, Jun 27, Nov 25; 1838 Feb
2	9	Letter to Emma Savage. 2 pp. Original with typed transcript glued to letter. Published in <i>Letters</i> , p. 39.	1838 Apr 4
2	9	Letter to Mrs. Savage. 2 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , p. 39.	[1838] Jun 24
2	10	Receipt for Susan Robinson's schooling. 1 p. Original and typed transcript.	1839 Jun
2	10	Letter to "Brother" (Junius Alcott). Typed transcript. For original letter, see the reverse of Charles Lane's letter to Junius Alcott of the same date in the Charles Lane Papers. Published in <i>Letters</i> , pp. 94-95.	1842 Dec 26
2	10	Manuscript "Fruitlands," written with Charles Lane in Lane's handwriting to Ralph Waldo Emerson. 1 p. Photocopy only. Published in <i>The Dial</i> , 3 (July 1843): 135-36. A duplicate photocopy can be found in the Charles Lane Papers.	1843 Jun 10
2	10	Letter to Junius Alcott. 4pp. Written from Fruitlands. Original (not in ABA's handwriting). Published in <i>Letters</i> , pp. 102-103.	1843 Jun 18

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series I. Amos Bronson Alcott Papers			
Correspondence (cont.)			
2	10	Letter to Junius Alcott. 4 pp. Written from Still River, Mass. Original (not in ABA's handwriting). Published in <i>Letters</i> , pp. 111-12.	1844 Jun 15
2	10	Letter from Ednah D. Littlehale. 4 pp. Original and two typed transcripts. Thinks about Bronson during her walks in the woods at Harvard. Remembers the Fruitlands experience. Discusses the Shakers.	1849 July 19
2	10	Letter to Ednah D. Littlehale. 3 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , pp. 161-62.	1851 Sep 11
2	10	Letter to Mary Preston Stearns. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , pp. 309-10.	1860 Jan 13
2	10	Letter to [George L. & Mary Preston] Stearns. 3 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , p. 354.	1864 Apr 15
2	10	Letter to Mary Preston Stearns. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , pp. 359-60.	1864 Nov 27
2	10	Letter to Mary Preston Stearns. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , p. 361.	1864 Dec 17
2	11	Letter to E. L. Hammond. 3 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , p. 364.	1865 Mar 1
2	11	Letter to Mary Preston Stearns. 3 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , pp. 364-65.	1865 Mar 17
2	11	Letter to Mary Preston Stearns. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , pp. 365-66.	1865 Mar 22

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series I. Amos Bronson Alcott Papers			
Correspondence (cont.)			
2	11	Letter to Mary Preston Stearns. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , pp. 366-67.	1865 Apr 3
2	11	Letter to Mary Preston Stearns. 3 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , p. 368.	1865 Apr 27
2	11	Letter to Mary Preston Stearns. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , p. 369.	1865 May 30
2	11	Letter to [Mary Preston Stearns]. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , p. 370.	[1865] May 31
2	11	Letter to Mary Preston Stearns. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , pp. 371-72.	1865 Jun 12
2	11	Letter to Mary Preston Stearns. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , pp. 372-73.	1865 Jul 21
2	11	Letter to George L. Stearns. 3 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , pp. 373-74.	1865 Aug 4
2	11	Letter from Oliver Wendell Holmes to Bronson Alcott. Typed transcript only. Holmes writes about Alcott's book <i>Emerson</i> .	1865 Aug 6
2	12	Letter to Mary Preston Stearns. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , p. 374.	1865 Aug 23
2	12	Letter to Mary Preston Stearns. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , pp. 374-75.	1865 Sep 8

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series I. Amos Bronson Alcott Papers			
Correspondence (cont.)			
2	12	Letter to [George L. Stearns]. 2 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , pp. 375-76.	1865 Sep 11
2	12	Letter to [Mary Preston Stearns]. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , pp. 376-77.	1865 Oct 22
2	12	Letter to Mary Preston Stearns. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , p. 407.	1867 May 21
2	12	Letter to Mary Preston Stearns. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , p. 408.	1867 Jul 14
2	12	Letter to [Cyrus A.] Bartol. 2 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , p. 413.	1867 Oct 11
2	12	[Letter] to Mary Preston Stearns. 3 pp. Original and typed transcript. Although signed as if a letter, this reads more like a journal entry on both Mr. & Mrs. Stearns (George Stearns had died 9 April 1867), perhaps copied and sent to Mrs. Stearns.	[1867] Monday Oct 14
2	12	Letter to Mary Preston Stearns. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Includes Alcott's copy of his journal entry on the death of Mary's husband, George. Published (letter only) in <i>Letters</i> , pp. 413-14.	1867 Oct 23
2	12	Letter to Mary Preston Stearns. 3 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , p. 415.	1867 Nov 6
2	12	Letter to Prof. [William B.] Rogers. 2 pp. Original and typed transcript. [William Barton Rogers founded MIT in 1861; he married Emma Savage, a pupil in the Temple School, in 1849.] Published in <i>Letters</i> , pp. 415-16.	1867 Nov 6

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series I. Amos Bronson Alcott Papers			
Correspondence (cont.)			
2	13	Letter to Dr. [Cyrus A.] Bartol. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , p. 423.	1868 Jan 9
2	13	Letter to Mary Preston Stearns. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , p. 475.	1869 May 19
2	13	Letter to Mary Preston Stearns. 4 pp. Original and typed typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , p. 480.	1869 Jun 27
2	13	Letter to Paulina W[right] Davis. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , p. 497.	1869 Oct 13
2	13	Letter to B[enjamin] B. Wiley. 3 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , p. 505.	1870 Jan 7
2	13	Letter to Prof. Thomas Davidson. 8 pp. Original, envelope (postmarked Jan. 10 in Concord), and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , pp. 547-48.	1872 Jan 6
2	13	Letter to F[ranklin] B. Sanborn. 3 pp. Original and typed transcript. Although clearly dated 1870, the reference to the impending death of Madame Thoreau (Henry David Thoreau's mother, Cynthia Dunbar Thoreau, who died in 1872) actually dates this to 1872. Published in <i>Letters</i> , p. 551, as 1872.	187[2] Mar 5
2	13	Letter to F[ranklin] B. Sanborn. 2 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , p. 619.	1873 Dec 30
2	13	Letter to [Keningale Cook]. Typed transcript only. Published in <i>Letters</i> , pp. 693-94.	1877 Jul 6

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series I. Amos Bronson Alcott Papers			
Correspondence (cont.)			
2	13	Letter to [Keningale Cook]. Typed transcript only. Published in <i>Letters</i> , p. 754.	1879 Apr 6
2	13	Letter to unknown male correspondent. 3 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , p. 778.	1879 Sep 30
2	14	Letter to [Prof. William Torrey Harris]. Typed transcript only. Published in <i>Letters</i> , p. 806.	1880 May 11
2	14	Letter to [Franklin B. Sanborn?]. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , pp. 819-20.	1881 Mar 18
2	14	Letter to [Franklin B. Sanborn]. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , p. 820.	1881 Apr 8
2	14	Letter to [George Willis Cooke]. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. A different, less complete text is published in <i>Letters</i> , p. 826.	1881 Nov 30
2	14	Letter to [Franklin B. Sanborn?]. 2 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , pp. 826-27.	1881 Nov 30
2	14	Letter to A. H. Dooley, Esq. 2 pp. Original with envelope attached and typed transcript. Published in <i>Letters</i> , pp. 831-32.	1882 Oct 12
2	14	Letter to Mr. Bassett. 2 pp. Original with envelope attached and typed transcript. Bassett was the librarian of the Bronson Library in Waterbury, Conn. Published in <i>Letters</i> , pp. 832-33.	1882 Oct 13

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series I. Amos Bronson Alcott Papers			
Correspondence (cont.)			
2	14	Letter to [George Willis Cooke?]. 1 p. Original and typed transcript. Published in Frederick Wagner, "Eighty-Six Letters (1814-1882) of A. Bronson Alcott (Part Two)," <i>Studies in the American Renaissance</i> 1980, p. 227.	1882 Oct 20
2	14	Letter from Oliver Wendell Holmes to Bronson Alcott. 2 pp. Original and typed transcript. Holmes was preparing a short biography of Emerson and praises Alcott's work on Emerson.	1883 Nov 15
2	14	Letter to [George Willis] Cooke. 1 p. Original and typed transcript. Manuscript in Anna Alcott's handwriting. Published in <i>Studies in the American Renaissance</i> 1980, p. 227.	[1885?]

Manuscripts

Extent: 1 box + 8 folders (8 in.)

Dates: 1821-1884

As most of the manuscripts are not dated, they are not in chronological order. To a certain extent, they are grouped together by type: quotations; biographical sketches; the Radical Club; material for an autobiography; Alcott's "Conversations"; prose writings; material on education, the Temple School, and the Concord Summer School of Philosophy; and poems and verses, which are arranged alphabetically.

2	15	Quotations from Cowper, Bunyan's <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i> , Carlyle (on Burke), Herrick, Plato, Wordsworth, Pymn, etc. 13 pp. Originals and some handwritten transcripts. Biographical sketches (all undated):	n.d.
2	16	Jacob Behmen [Jakob Bohme], German philosopher, mystic, and theologian. 20 pp. Original.	
2	16	Eckert [Meister Eckhart], German theologian and mystic. 2 pp. Original.	

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series I. Amos Bronson Alcott Papers			
Manuscripts (cont.) – Biographical Sketches			
2	16	Landor. 1 p. Original.	
2	16	Plotinus, Greek philosopher. 7 pp. Original.	
2	16	Emanuel Swedenborg, Lutheran theologian and mystic. 19 pp. Original.	
2	16	John [Johannes] Tauler, German mystic. 2 pp. Original.	
2	16	Adams & Webster. 2 pp. Original.	
2	16	Ralph Waldo Emerson. 3 pp. Original.	
2	16	Parker [probably Theodore Parker]. 3 pp. Original.	
2	16	Father Taylor [possibly Edward Thompson Taylor?]. 1 p. Original.	
2	16	Nathaniel Hawthorne. 2 pp. Original (not in ABA's handwriting).	
2	16	Saad [Saadi Shirazi, Persian poet?]. 1 p. Original.	
2	17	Radical Club. 18 pp. Original. The Radical Club was an informal association of New England ministers and laymen "who desired to embody in a free religion the spiritual intuitions of humanity at large..." [Oxford Reference]	n.d.
3	1	[Chronology of my life, 1802-1828]. 31 pp. Originals; most with handwritten transcripts. Pages with titles and dates, no other text. Could be considered chapter headings.	n.d.
3	2	Genealogy of immediate Alcott family. 1 p. Original with handwritten transcript.	n.d.
3	2	Material for an Autobiography. 27 pp. Originals, with some handwritten transcripts.	n.d.

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series I. Amos Bronson Alcott Papers			
Manuscripts (cont.) – “Conversations”			
		Accounts of Alcott’s “Conversations.” The first four items were copied by Amos Bronson Alcott from published accounts of his conversations. The last three items appear to have been written from notes taken at the actual conversation, as other participants in the conversation are quoted.	
3	3	“Miss Sedgwick” [the author?]. 3 pp. Original and handwritten transcript. By the New York correspondent to the Boston newspapers, 1856.	1856
3	3	“Mr. Alcott’s Conversations.” 4 pp. Original. By Daniel Ricketson, in the <i>New Bedford Mercury</i> of 21 April 1857.	1857 Apr 21
3	3	“A. Bronson Alcott’s Conversation.” 5 pp. Original. From the <i>Cincinnati Daily Enquirer</i> , 7(?) Jan 1858.	1858 Jan 7(?)
3	3	“Mr. Alcott’s Conversations.” 2 pp. Original. From an unnamed Cincinnati newspaper, Jan. 1858.	1858 Jan
3	3	[William Lloyd] “Garrison.” 6 pp. Original and handwritten transcript. There are two copies of p. 2 of the transcript.	n.d.
3	3	“Margaret Fuller.” 6 pp. Original and handwritten transcript. The original lacks the explanatory paragraph found at the beginning of the transcript.	n.d.
3	3	“Theodore Parker.” 8 pp. Original and handwritten transcript.	n.d.
3	4	Printed broadside advertising Alcott’s Conversations, a series of lectures on “Mysteries of Human Life.” In Boston. Gives ticket information and dates.	1852 Jan
3	4	Newspaper clipping, on conversation given by Alcott in the rooms of Mr. Cook, Hotel Bellevue, on “Immortality.” The Bellevue was located at 21 Beacon St., Boston.	n.d.

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series I. Amos Bronson Alcott Papers			
Manuscripts (cont.) – Prose Writings			
		Prose writings, most undated:	
3	5	Margaret Fuller. 1 p. Original.	n.d.
3	5	Margaret Fuller. 2 pp. Original. Part of a letter from Fuller to Harriet Martineau, copied out by Alcott.	n.d.
3	5	Portrait. 4 pp. Original and handwritten transcript. Primarily on Abba May's reaction to this portrait.	n.d.
3	5	The Orchard House. 1 p. Original.	n.d.
3	5	Garrisonians. 2 pp. Original.	n.d.
3	5	Adam. 1 p. Original.	n.d.
3	5	Lapse. 1 p. Original.	n.d.
3	5	Mysticism. 6 pp. Original.	n.d.
3	5	Desire. 2 pp. Original.	n.d.
3	5	Doctrine of form. 2 pp. Original.	n.d.
3	5	The Signature of things. 1 p. Original.	n.d.
3	5	Classes of men. 2 pp. Original.	n.d.
3	5	Descent of souls (?). 1 p. Original.	n.d.
3	5	The good, is the... 1 p. Original.	n.d.
3	5	Channing. 2 pp. Original.	n.d.

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series I. Amos Bronson Alcott Papers			
Manuscripts (cont.) – Education			
3	6	<p>Writings on schools and education. 35 pp. Originals and some handwritten transcripts. Notes on “Writing School,” the increase in fees at the Temple School (1837), a list of books to be used, etc. Includes six pages of diagrams. Also includes “Education,” copied by Alcott from Elizabeth Palmer Peabody, Sept. 1834, for submission to <i>The Western Messenger</i> (a Unitarian periodical), but it does not appear to have been published.</p> <p>Journals of students at the Temple School. Both are bound together in a red slipcase labeled “Alcott’s School Journals”:</p>	1824-1837, n.d.
3	7	<p>Journal of George Kuhn. 1 vol. Original. Quarter cards of discipline and image of school interior pasted in. Includes sketches and maps drawn by Kuhn, lists of word definitions, multiplication tables, Latin exercises.</p>	1836 Mar 5-Jun 16
3	7	<p>Journal of Martha A. Kuhn. 1 vol. Original. Includes spelling and “defining” lessons.</p> <p>Temple School Ephemera:</p>	1837 Jun 7-Sep 30
3	8	<p>Quarter Card of Discipline and Studies in Mr. Alcott’s School for the Summer Term Current 1836.</p>	1836 May
3	8	<p>Quarter Card of Discipline and Studies in Mr. Alcott’s School for the Winter Term Current 1837.</p>	1837 Jan
3	8	<p>Reproduction of the card for the winter term of 1837. 13 copies.</p> <p>Concord Summer School of Philosophy:</p>	
3	9	<p>Flyer advertising the Concord Summer School of Philosophy. 3 pp. Lists the details of fees, the lecturers and subjects, and the dates.</p>	1882 Jul 10

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series I. Amos Bronson Alcott Papers			
Manuscripts (cont.) – Education			
Concord Summer School of Philosophy (cont.):			
3	9	Legal document concerning the Concord Summer School of Philosophy. Original unlocated; typed transcript and photocopy of typed transcript only. This document, signed by Alcott and witnessed by Louisa Alcott, requests Samuel Sewall sell the land and buildings for the School (subject to a lease for part of the premises to Alcott and the trustees of the Concord Summer School of Philosophy) to William Torrey Harris for \$3,000.	1884 Jun 11
3	10	Single Ticket – admitting the bearer to any session of the Concord Summer School. 9 copies.	1879 Jul 1
3	10	Full Course Ticket – admitting the bearer to all classes and lectures. All signed by Amos Bronson Alcott. 16 copies.	1879-1882
Poems and Verses – arranged alphabetically as most are undated:			
3	11	“Advent” – 5 pp. Original.	1831
3	11	“Atonement” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
3	11	“Birthday Ode” – 6 pp. Original. Written for Elizabeth Peabody Alcott’s birthday at Fruitlands. Published in Clara Endicott Sears, <i>Bronson Alcott’s Fruitlands</i> (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1915): 94-97.	1843 June
3	11	“Channing” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
3	11	“Chaste Loves a Maid” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
3	11	“The Cup of Life” – 2 pp. Original.	n.d.
3	11	“Days and Works at Fruitlands” – 4 pp. Original and color photocopies. Contains brief extracts from Euripedes and Henry More, and poems “Georgics” and “Harvest.” Not in ABA’s handwriting. [Item no. F.0095.42]	1843
3	11	“Enthusiasm” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series I. Amos Bronson Alcott Papers			
Manuscripts (cont.) – Poems and Verses			
3	11	“Fellowship” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
3	11	“First Know Thyself” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
3	11	“Follow Your Ideal” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
3	11	“For Resignation” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
3	11	“Friendship” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
3	11	“The Fugitive” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
3	11	“The Gracious Faith” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
3	12	“The Heart Its Lineaments” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
3	12	“His Foolish Heart” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
3	12	“His Noblest Aim” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
3	12	“Hope” – 1 p. Original.	1839
3	12	“How Eagerly Goodmen” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
3	12	“Humor” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
3	12	“Immortal” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
3	12	“Infancy” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
3	12	“Ion: a Monody” - 11 pp. Original, with notes by F. B. Sanborn. Penciled at top: “Read before Concord School of Philosophy July 22, 1882 on the death of Emerson.” Published in <i>Journal of Speculative Philosophy</i> , 19 (April 1885): 315-318.	1882
3	12	“John Brown” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series I. Amos Bronson Alcott Papers			
Manuscripts (cont.) – Poems and Verses			
3	12	“Love’s Morrow” – 3 pp. Printed. 2 copies. A tribute to May Alcott Nieriker.	1880 Jan 4
3	12	“Man’s Soul” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
3	12	“Masks” – 1 p. Original. Dated at Fruitlands.	1844
3	12	“Melancholy” – 1 p. Original.	1839
3	12	“Mob Rule” – 1 p. Original. Same poem as “Where Sleep the Gods.”	n.d.
4	1	“New Connecticut” – 121 pp. Original.	1880 Jun
4	2	“No Tares Permit to Grow” – 1 p. Original. Dated at Fruitlands. [Tares were weeds that resembled wheat]	1843 Jun
4	2	“Not His Decree” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
4	2	“Oft I Recall Those Hours” – 3 pp. Original.	n.d.
4	2	“The Person” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
4	2	“The Poet’s Plesuance” – 2 pp. Original.	n.d.
4	2	“Providence” – 1 p. Original. Dated at Philadelphia.	1834
4	2	“Round the Wide Globe” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
4	2	“The Sailor” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
4	2	“Sighs for Paradise” – 5 pp. Original. Dated Still River, near Fruitlands.	1844 Jul
4	2	“Sighs for Paradise” – 5 pp. Original, on smaller blue paper than the above version. Photocopy of first page only. Dated Still River, near Fruitlands.	1844 Jul

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series I. Amos Bronson Alcott Papers			
Manuscripts (cont.) – Poems and Verses			
4	2	“Success, Success” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
4	3	“The Three He Saw” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
4	3	“Tis Noble Minds” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
4	3	“To L.M.A.” – 1 p. Original. Published in <i>Sonnets and Canzonets</i> (Boston: Roberts Brothers, 1882): p. 73.	1882
4	3	“To My Wife” – 2 pp. Original. Dated at Boston.	1839
4	3	“Unseen Our Spirits” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
4	3	“The Voyager” – 1 p. Original. Written about Louisa May Alcott.	1880 Sep
4	3	“Wake, Wake” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
4	3	“The Wanderer” – 5 pp. Original.	n.d.
4	3	“Were God Not God” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
4	3	“Where Sleep the Gods” – 1 p. Original. Same poem as “Mob Rule.”	n.d.
4	3	“Wist Ye Not” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
4	3	“Wolcott” – 4 pp. Original.	n.d.
4	3	“Written In An Album” – 1 p. Original.	n.d.
4	4	“Sentiments to M. B. 1821.” Book of sayings and verse copied out. Signed A. B. Alcott, but not in his handwriting.	1821
4	5	Unidentified manuscripts. 12 pp. total. Originals.	n.d.

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Writings about Amos Bronson Alcott			
Extent: 5 folders (2 in.)			
Dates: 1821-1907			
This subseries contains material about Amos Bronson Alcott that was copied by him, and material written about him after his death.			
4	6	“Extract from the Diary of my Friend Wm. A. Alcott...concerning my sickness in Norfolk, Feb. 10-Mar. 12, 1821. 4 pp. Original (not in Bronson Alcott’s handwriting) and handwritten transcript.	1821
4	6	“Extracts from my brother’s journal on our journey by land to Virginia,” 7 Nov 1821-18 Jan 1822. 7 pp. Original (copied by A. B. Alcott).	1821-1822
4	6	Letter from Dr. Alcott [William Andrus Alcott] to J. S. May, on Bronson Alcott. 2 pp. Original (copied by A. B. Alcott).	1829 Mar 4
4	6	Letter from Dr. Alcott [William Andrus Alcott] to J. S. May, on Alcott’s school. 2 pp. Original (copied by A. B. Alcott).	1830 May 15
4	6	Letter from W. H. Furness to an unknown correspondent. 2 pp. Original and typed transcript. Primarily about Amos Bronson Alcott’s book and the reaction to it.	1837 Apr 7
4	6	Nathaniel Hawthorne on Bronson Alcott, from Hawthorne’s short story “The Hall of Fantasy” originally published in 1843. 2 pp. Original (copied by A. B. Alcott). Connection to Alcott is not clear, as he is not mentioned in the actual story.	[1843?]
4	6	Section on Alcott from James Russell Lowell’s <i>A Fable for Critics</i> , first published in 1848. 1 p. Original (copied by A. B. Alcott?).	[1848]
4	6	Dr. Osgood in <i>North American Review</i> , “The Real and the Ideal in New England.” 4 pp. Original (copied by A. B. Alcott). Describes Alcott’s and Emerson’s poetry.	1857 Apr

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series I. Amos Bronson Alcott Papers			
Writings about Amos Bronson Alcott (cont.)			
4	6	“Alcott, Amos Bronson,” by R. W. Emerson in <i>New American Cyclopaedia</i> , ed. George Ripley and C. A. Dana, Vol. I (1870?) p. 301. Original (copied by A. B. Alcott) with an additional note on his lectures and the books he authored (the latest being 1877). With typed transcript.	[1877?]
4	7	F[ranklin] B. Sanborn, “Alcott the Idealist, a biographical address read before the Concord School of Philosophy.” 68 pp. Original, although not all pages appear to be in Sanborn’s handwriting.	1888 Jun 16
4	8	F[ranklin] B. Sanborn, “Alcott the Idealist, a biographical address read before the Concord School of Philosophy.” Two typescript copies, one 16 pp. and one 28 pp., but identical in content.	1888 Jun 16
4	9	Typescript copy of William Harry Harland’s “Bronson Alcott’s English Friends.” 44 pp. Original typescript with corrections. Discusses James Pierrepont Greaves, William Oldham, and Henry Gardiner Wright, but the bulk of this essay concerns Charles Lane. See the Charles Lane Papers for a clean copy of this essay incorporating the changes made on this typescript. Published in Joel Myerson’s “William Harry Harland’s ‘Bronson Alcott’s English Friends,’ “ <i>Resources for American Literary Study</i> , 8 (Spring 1978): 24-60.	[1907]
4	9	Typescript copy of William Harry Harland’s “Bronson Alcott’s English Friends.” 44 pp. Photocopy of above item.	[1907]
4	9	Letter from Franklin B. Sanborn to William Harry Harland. 1 p. Photocopy. Sees Harland’s manuscript (above) valuable as a source of information but little value as a magazine article.	1907 Sep 13
4	10	Franklin B. Sanborn, “Alcott.” 2 pp. Original. Two pages from Chapter II (pp. 61-62) of Sanborn’s [and Harris’s] biography of Alcott.	1893

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series I. Amos Bronson Alcott Papers			
Writings about Amos Bronson Alcott (cont.)			
4	10	“Notes on Emerson and Alcott,” Salem [Mass.?]. Possibly by Franklin B. Sanborn. 3 pp. Typescript. With clean typed transcript and carbon copy of clean transcript.	1894 Jan 20
4	10	“The Alcotts” by F. P. Stearns of Arlington Heights. 5 pp. Original with typed transcript and carbon copy of transcript. About Bronson and Louisa.	1899 Nov 27
4	10	“Remarks” [on Alcott] by Mrs. Ednah D. Cheney. 2 pp. Original typescript with corrections, clean typed transcript and carbon copy of clean transcript.	[1899?]
4	10	[Remarks on Bronson Alcott] by Davidson. 1 p. Typescript. With clean typed transcript and carbon copy of clean typed transcript.	[1899?]
4	10	Letter to Franklin B. Sanborn from John Albee. 4 pp. Typed, signed letter, with clean typed transcript and carbon copy of transcript. Regrets he cannot attend the commemoration of Alcott’s birthday; discusses Alcott in great detail in letter.	[1899?]
4	10	“Alcott’s Relation to Pythagoras and Plato,” by T. M. Johnson of Missouri. 2 pp. Typescript, signed, with corrections. With clean typed transcript and carbon copy of clean transcript.	1899 Nov 25

Ephemera

Extent: 2 folders, 2 oversize flat folders

Dates: 1820-1935

4	11	“Account of a Tour South with Wm. A. Alcott 1820.” A map of Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina, with routes outlined in red ink.	1820
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Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series I. Amos Bronson Alcott Papers			
Ephemera (cont.)			
4	12	“Notes of Sentiments expressed by James Pierrepont Greaves Esq. in Conversations with R. W. Birch, of Derby in 1834 together with Extracts from three of his Letters. Copied for A. Bronson Alcott Esq. of Concord U.S. 1842.” 1 bound vol. Original. With an inscription “To A. Bronson Alcott Esq. with compliments & sincere regards R. W. Birch Derby, 18 th September 1842.” Alcott’s signature is also on the title page.	1842 Sep 18
	Oversize fldr.	“Alcott, New England’s Oracle, at Fruitlands.” Newspaper article from the <i>Boston Evening Transcript</i> . Reprints Franklin B. Sanborn’s speech at the opening of the Alcott home (Fruitlands) in Harvard, Mass., recently restored.	1914 Jun 24
	Oversize fldr.	“Old Wolcott School Made Shrine in Honor of Bronson Alcott.” Newspaper article from the <i>New Haven Sunday Register</i> .	1935 Mar 30
	Oversize fldr.	<i>The Regenerator</i> , newspaper, New York, Vol. 1, No. 2. Alcott’s signature on the front page.	1844 Jan 8

Images

Extent: 3 folders
 Dates: 1860-1910

This subseries contains images, both photographs and illustrations, of Amos Bronson Alcott and locations associated with him.

4	13	Photograph of Amos Bronson Alcott. Shows Alcott from the right side. He has long white hair, and wears a suit jacket, white shirt, and dark bow tie. 3 ¾" x 5"	[1860s?]
4	13	Carte-de-visite photograph of Amos Bronson Alcott. Shows him seated in a chair holding a newspaper in his lap. He has long white hair, wears a dark suit with darker lapels (velvet?). Photographer: S. Masury, Photographic Artist, 289 Washington St., Boston. 2 ¼" x 3 ¾" [Samuel Masury (d. 1874) operated a photographic studio on Washington St. beginning in 1858, but he is not listed in the 1870 or 1872 Boston directories.]	[1860s]

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series I. Amos Bronson Alcott Papers			
Images (cont.)			
4	13	Photograph of Bronson Alcott and William Torrey Harris in Concord, Mass. (at Orchard House). Both men are seated outside; there is a small child seated next to Harris. Photographer: James H. Tolman, 78 Plymouth Rd., Malden, Mass. 7" x 9 ¾" [James Tolman is not listed in the 1882 Malden directory; illustration in Box 4, Folder 15 of this image is dated 1880.]	[1880]
4	13	Photograph of bust of Amos Bronson Alcott. Bust sits on a pedestal, location unknown. 2 5/8" x 4 ¼"	n.d.
4	13	Cabinet card photograph of bust of Amos Bronson Alcott. Bust done by Walton Ricketson. Frontal view. 4 1/8" x 5 7/8", mounted on cardboard 4 ¼" x 6 ½"	n.d.
4	13	Cabinet card photograph of bust of Amos Bronson Alcott. Bust done by Walton Ricketson. Side view. 4" x 5 7/8", mounted on cardboard 4 ¼" x 6 ½"	n.d.
4	14	Pen and ink sketch of Amos Bronson Alcott. Shows him in his later years, wearing a top hat and cape, and carrying a cane under his left arm. Sketch pasted onto paper.	n.d.
4	14	Reproduction of above sketch.	
4	14	Illustration of A. Bronson Alcott. Similar to pen and ink sketch above, apparently printed in <i>A. Bronson Alcott's Life and Philosophy</i> (first published in 1893). This illustration torn from <i>The Book Buyer</i> , [1893?].	[1893?]
4	14	Woodcut of A. Bronson Alcott. Woodcut done by Grassly. Shows Alcott from the right side.	n.d.
4	14	Reproduction of sketch of A. Bronson Alcott. Shows Alcott from the neck up, with longish hair. 2 copies.	n.d.

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series I. Amos Bronson Alcott Papers			
Images (cont.)			
4	15	Photograph of sketch of Hosmer Cottage, Concord, Mass. Sketch done by Bronson Alcott in 1842; photograph probably made ca. 1900. Sketch shows one-story building with two gables and ells attached to the house on either side, tree in front. 4 ¼" x 3 1/8", mounted on cardboard 6 ¼" x 5 ¼"	[ca. 1900]
4	15	Photograph of sketch of Hillside, Concord, Mass. Sketch done by Bronson Alcott in 1845; photograph probably made ca. 1900. Sketch shows two-story house with one-story ells attached to either side. Picket fence in front; post-and-rail fence seen on side and in rear. Trees in front and in back of building. 4 3/8" x 2 ¾", mounted on cardboard 6 1/8" x 5 ¼"	[ca. 1900]
4	15	Glossy b&w reproduction photograph of the Masonic Temple, Tremont St., Boston, Mass. Image shows large stone edifice with two towers, tall windows on side (looking down side street). Men stand on the sidewalk in front; streetcar tracks visible in the foreground. Alcott held his Temple School here. Original photograph done by Josiah J. Hawes of Southworth & Hawes, Boston, in the 1860s. 7 ½" x 8 ¼", mounted on cardboard.	n.d.
4	15	Illustration of Masonic Temple, Boston, Mass. Image shows large stone edifice on street corner; horse-drawn trolley on side street. Caption reads: "The Old Masonic Temple About the year 1870. In this building was A. Bronson Alcott's famous School." Appears to be a plate from a book. 6" x 9"	[ca. 1870]
4	15	Illustration of interior of Alcott's school in Masonic Temple. Image shows interior of Alcott's school room in the Masonic Temple: pupils at desks around the sides of the room; one man standing in the rear center; another man sitting at a desk on the right. Appears to be a plate from a book. Very blurry reproduction; for a clearer view see the image pasted in George Kuhn's journal of the Temple School, Box 3, Folder 7.	n.d.

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series I. Amos Bronson Alcott Papers			
Images (cont.)			
4	15	Photograph of Amos Bronson Alcott House [Orchard House], Concord, Mass. Image shows house in shadow from trees and shrubbery. 4 7/8" x 3 7/8", mounted on cardboard 6 7/8" x 5 7/8"	1902
4	15	Postcard showing School of Philosophy in Concord, Mass. Image shows the chapel next to Orchard House, where Alcott held his Concord Summer School of Philosophy. On the reverse is pasted an undated newspaper clipping showing Alcott sitting on the steps of the "chapel" depicted on the postcard. The caption of the clipping reads "Bronson Alcott sits pensively on steps of little "chapel" of his Concord home. While this philosopher spun thoughts, his hard-working wife kept the family going." Postmark on postcard obscured but could be 1905. Clipping undated.	[1905?]
4	15	Illustration of School of Philosophy and Orchard House, Concord, Mass. Plate from a book? Image shows chapel to the left and Orchard House to the right. Seated in front of Orchard House are Amos Bronson Alcott and William Torrey Harris; this illustration is taken from the photograph in Box 4, Folder 13.	[1880]
4	15	Photograph of 2 Park Place, Ham, London. Image shows a brick building of two stories, topped with a third story that may be under a mansard roof. Iron fence in front; four young women stand on the steps in front of the open door. Alcott lodged here during his visit to Ham in 1842. 4 3/4" x 6 1/2"	[1900-1910?]

Series II. Abba May Alcott Papers

Extent: 2 folders

Dates: 1844-1877

The material in Series II is arranged chronologically.

5	1	Account book of Abba May Alcott. 1 vol.	1844-1846
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Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series II. Abba May Alcott Papers (cont.)			
5	2	Letter to Sarah May Adams. 8 pp. Original and typed transcript. Mrs. Alcott mentions Emerson's British trip and discusses Emerson.	[1848] Feb 24
5	2	Letter fragment, to Sarah May (Adams) Holland. 2 pp. Original and typed transcript.	n.d.
5	2	Letter to Sarah May (Adams) Holland. 4 pp. Original. Mrs. Alcott mentions her reading, especially Jane Eyre, and describes a "colored likeness" of Emerson.	1848 Mar 22
5	2	Letter to Mrs. Mary [Preston] Stearns. 3 pp. Original, envelope, and typed transcript. Mrs. Alcott thanks Mrs. Stearns for her support of Bronson's recently published book, <i>Emerson</i> . See the 1865 correspondence of Amos Bronson Alcott to Mary Stearns re: the publication of this book.	1865 Jun 12
5	2	Letter to Mrs. Mary [Preston] Stearns. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Concerning the death of Abba's son-in-law, John Pratt, and her own [Abba's] health.	1870 Dec 30
5	2	Letter (?) to A. B. Alcott (?). 4 pp. Original. Fragment, severely damaged. Mentions Fruitlands, but the context is unclear. Thought to be by Abba, but that is unconfirmed.	n.d.
5	2	Carte-de-visite photograph of Abba May Alcott, issued by [Corydon C.] Randall, 220 Woodward Ave., Detroit, Mich.	[1870-1877]
5	2	Glossy reproduction photograph of above carte-de-viste.	
5	2	Photograph of Abba May Alcott in the study at Orchard House, Concord, Mass. One-half of a stereo card.	[1870-1877]
5	2	Sketch of Abba May Alcott. Photocopy. 2 copies.	n.d.

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series III. Anna Bronson Alcott Pratt Papers			
Extent: 1 folder			
Dates: 1843-1889.			
The material in Series III is arranged chronologically.			
5	3	Letter to “Mother” (Abba May Alcott), from Fruitlands. 4 pp. Original, complete photocopy, partial photocopy, and two typed transcripts. Would like her mother to eat at the table with them. Speaks of her father.	[1843]
5	3	Document, “To the collector of the Town of Concord.” 2 pp. Original and typed transcript. Signed by Anna B. Pratt, Louisa M. Alcott, and May Alcott. The Alcott sisters protest the taxation of women who are not allowed to vote. Asked that their protest should be read at the next town meeting and recorded in the town records.	1876 Sep 8
5	3	Letter to Mr. [George Willis] Cooke. 1 p. Original. Anna writes that her father will be unable to meet his engagement at Dedham. “Mr. Alcott was attacked suddenly today with what proves to be apoplexy.”	[1882] Oct 24
5	3	Letter to Mrs. [Maria] Porter. 2 pp. Original and typed transcript. Anna invites Mrs. Porter to Louisa’s funeral.	1888 Mar 6
5	3	Letter to [Evelyn Cogshall], Monday. 2 pp. Original, envelope [postmarked May 7, 1888], and typed transcript. Lulu [Louisa May Nieriker] is awaiting her visit. A note in pencil has been added by Evelyn Coggeshall, 18 May [1889] “Lulu left for Zurich Saturday May 18.”	1888 [May 7?]
5	3	Letter to [Evelyn Cogshall]. 6 pp. Original, envelope [postmarked 22 Aug 1888 in Marblehead and 23 Aug in Melrose] and typed transcript. Describes Lulu’s activities while vacationing at Marblehead, Mass.	[1888] Aug 22
5	3	Letter to [Evelyn Cogshall], Sunday. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Instructions to Evy as to how to find the cottage in Marblehead.	1888 [Aug 26?]

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series III. Anna Bronson Alcott Pratt Papers (cont.)			
5	3	Letter to [Evelyn Cogshall]. 4 pp. Original, envelope [postmarked Nov. 26, 1889], and typed transcript. Bringing a remembrance from Lulu in Zurich; Lulu is settling in very happily with her father.	[1889] Nov 26
5	3	Letter to Mr. [Franklin Benjamin] Sanborn. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Mentions some of the “inmates” at Fruitlands and includes a copy from her Fruitlands diary of the birthday celebration of Lizzy’s (see next item).	n.y. Sep 21
5	3	Excerpt “From Anna’s Journal” referenced in the letter above. 6 pp. Original. Describes the birthday celebration on 24 June [1843] for Lizzie (Elizabeth Peabody Alcott) who turned eight. Includes a poem written by Charles Lane and an ode by Amos Bronson Alcott. The “Birthday Ode” by Alcott can also be found in the Poems and Verses subseries of Amos Bronson Alcott’s papers. Published in Sears, <i>Bronson Alcott’s Fruitlands</i> , pp. 93-97.	1843 Jun 24
5	3	Poem, “Easter Carol.” 1 pg. Original and typed transcript.	n.d.
5	3	Fragment, not in Anna Alcott Pratt’s handwriting: “Mr. Alcott’s right hand is paralyzed & he cannot write. He has no autographs of Emerson or Longfellow to dispose of. F.(?) A. Pratt.” Probably by Frederick Pratt, Anna’s son.	n.d.
5	3	Sketch of Anna Bronson Alcott Pratt. Photocopy. 4 copies.	n.d.

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
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Series IV. Louisa May Alcott Papers

Extent: 8 folders + 1 Box

Dates: 1843-1892

Series IV, Louisa May Alcott Papers, is organized into six subseries: Correspondence, Writings by Louisa May Alcott, Writings about Louisa May Alcott, Legal Documents, Images, and Ephemera. Each subseries is arranged chronologically.

Correspondence

Extent: 2 folders

Dates: 1843-1887

5	4	Letter to Abigail (Abba) Alcott at Fruitlands. 2 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>The Selected Letters of Louisa May Alcott</i> , eds. Joel Myerson and Daniel Shealy (Boston: Little, Brown, 1987), p. 3.	[1843 Oct 8?]
5	4	Letter to Mr. [Samuel E.] Sewall. 1 p. Original and typed transcript. Louisa tells her lawyer that she has received payment from a publisher and can now pay her doctor.	[1863] Aug 21
5	4	Letter to Miss [Annie Maria] Lawrence. 3 pp. Original. Recollects the days at Still River, Mass. Published in <i>Selected Letters</i> , p. 107.	1865 Feb 3
5	4	Letter to [Thomas] Niles. 2 pp. Original and typed transcript. Sending the proof corrected and hopes the engraver won't "spoil the pictures & make Meg cross-eyed, Beth with no nose, or Jo with a double chin." Sends ten more chapters. (Thomas Niles was one of Alcott's publishers, a member of the firm Roberts Brothers.) Published in <i>Selected Letters</i> , p. 117.	[1868 mid-July?]
5	4	Letter to [Thomas] Niles. 1 p. Original and typed transcript. Leaving Gloucester on Saturday so send proof to Concord as usual after Friday.	[1868? summer?]
5	4	Letter to Mrs. [Ellen] Conway. 3 pp. Original and typed transcript. About Louisa's travel plans while in Europe.	[1871] May 1]

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series IV. Louisa May Alcott Papers			
Correspondence (cont.)			
5	4	Letter to Miss Holmes. 3 pp. Original. Tells her that “None of the characters in my books are drawn from life but the Marches. Never believe anything ‘they’ say, or anything you see in the papers. It’s never true.” Published in <i>Selected Letters</i> , pp. 167-68.	[ca. 1872] Aug 16
5	4	Letter to Mr. Wiley. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Answering for her father who “is deep in garden ploughing & orchard pruning.” Recommends Mr. Allen’s school in West Newton, Mass. “Any Western boy will <i>howl</i> at first at Eastern ways, but I have a firm belief in the calming & polishing effects of Eastern manners & morals.” Published in <i>Selected Letters</i> , pp. 175-76.	[1873] May 13
5	4	Letter to Mr. [Edwin Munroe] Bacon. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Can supply a serial in the style and length of <i>Little Women</i> but wants \$2,500. [Bacon was the editor of the <i>Boston Globe</i> .] Published in <i>Selected Letters</i> , pp. 182-83.	[1874] Jul 14
5	4	Letter to Mr. [Edwin Munroe] Bacon. 4 pp. Original. Having heard nothing further from Bacon once she declined his original offer, she has sold her story instead to <i>St. Nicholas Magazine</i> . Published in <i>Selected Letters</i> , pp. 183-84.	[1874] Aug 13
5	4	Letter to Mrs. Woods. 4 pp. Original. Declines all Mrs. Woods’s proposals [to bring company] for the sake of the health of her mother. Laments the number of guests who arrive, most of them total strangers. “I wish you’d write an article on the rights of authors, & try to make the public see that the books belong to them but not the peace, time, comfort and lives of the writers. It is a new kind of slavery & these horrid Paul Prys <i>must</i> be put down.” Published in <i>Selected Letters</i> , pp. 192-93.	[1875] Jul 20

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series IV. Louisa May Alcott Papers			
Correspondence (cont.)			
5	4	Letter to Mr. [Thomas] Niles. 4 pp. Original. Discusses a book Alcott has just read, set in Italy; she liked it very much. Asks if Miss Fletcher wrote it. [Julia Constance Fletcher's novels, <i>Kismet</i> and <i>Mirage</i> , were published as "no-name" novels by Roberts Brothers—Alcott's publishers—in Boston.]	[1879?] Jan 9
5	4	Letter to [Mary Preston Stearns]. 3 pp. Original and typed transcript. Thanks her for her kind words about May. [May Alcott Nieriker died on 29 Dec. 1879.] Published in <i>Selected Letters</i> , pp. 242-43.	[1880] Jan 4
5	4	Letter to Mr. [William Torrey] Harris. 1 p. Original and typed transcript. Says she will never write her father's biography; "Sanborn and yourself are the persons to do that." [William Torrey Harris had published Bronson's works in the <i>Journal of Speculative Philosophy</i> , of which Harris was the editor. He and Franklin Sanborn later wrote a two-volume life of Bronson.] Published in <i>Selected Letters</i> , p. 251.	[1881] Jan 7
5	4	Letter to Mrs. [Mary Preston] Stearns. 4 pp. Original but not in Louisa's handwriting; "Exactly copied M. E. S. (?)" Briefly mentions her mother's and May's deaths, but mostly describes Lulu (Louisa May Nieriker). Published in <i>Selected Letters</i> , pp. 253-54.	1881 Feb 21
5	4	Letter to "Cousin Lizzie." 4 pp. Original. Discusses the activities of "Lulu," May's daughter, who came to live with Louisa after May's death.	[1881?]
5	5	Letter to Mrs. [Mary Preston] Stearns. 4 pp. Original. Louisa writes of her father's condition after his stroke [on 24 Oct.]. Published in <i>Selected Letters</i> , pp. 261-62.	[1882] Nov 4
5	5	Letter to [Mary Preston Stearns]. 4 pp. Original. Mostly discusses Bronson's condition. Mentions "My little May is three tomorrow," a reference to Louisa May "Lulu" Nieriker, who was born 8 Nov 1879. Published in <i>Selected Letters</i> , p. 262.	[1882] Nov 7

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series IV. Louisa May Alcott Papers			
Correspondence (cont.)			
5	5	Letter to Mrs. [Mary Preston] Stearns. 4 pp. Original. Thanks Stearns for offering a letter (probably from Emerson) that will be added to the book. Comments on the friendship between Bronson and Emerson, and on Bronson's condition.	[1882] Nov 14
5	5	Letter to Mrs. [Mary Preston] Stearns. 4 pp. Original. The letter offered by Stearns (mentioned in Alcott's 14 Nov letter) has been received. Most of this letter is about Bronson's condition: "I dont feel that he will ever get up again or be himself." Published in <i>Selected Letters</i> , pp. 263-64.	[1882] Nov 26
5	5	Letter to Mrs. [Mary Preston] Stearns. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Bronson is better although it may be a temporary rally.	[1882] Dec 5
5	5	Letter to "Dear Neighbors" [the Misses Norcross]. 4 pp. Original and typed transcripts. Thanks them for the flowers they sent for Bronson's birthday [29 Nov] and describes Bronson's condition.	[1882] Dec 8
5	5	Letter to Dr. Brigham. 2 pp. Original and typed transcript. Louisa inquires about obtaining a nurse for "an old paralytic gentleman" [Bronson]; she was not happy with a prior nurse who came directly from a house "full of malignant diphtheria."	[1882?] Dec 16
5	5	Letter to Mrs. [Mary Preston] Stearns. 4 pp. Original. Thanks her for the wine and describes how Bronson spent Christmas. Published in <i>Selected Letters</i> , pp. 265-66.	[1882] Dec 30
5	5	Letter to Mrs. [Mary Preston] Stearns. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Thanks her for the offer of wine, which Bronson cannot have, but appreciates the bay rum. Would like to bring Lulu to see her. Published in <i>Selected Letters</i> , p. 270.	[1883?] May 31

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series IV. Louisa May Alcott Papers			
Correspondence (cont.)			
5	5	Letter to Mrs. [Mary Preston] Stearns. 3 pp. Original and typed transcript. Thanks her for the six bottles of bay rum for rubbing down Bronson. A bottle is going with Louisa to the seaside next week. "A whiff at night puts me to sleep." Published in <i>Selected Letters</i> , p. 270.	[1883?] Jun 7
5	5	Letter to Mrs. [Mary Preston] Stearns. 4 pp. Original. Thanks her for the offer of more bay rum. Discusses Bronson, who is improving in some ways, but his speech and memory are still imperfect. She and Lulu are at the seaside for a few weeks. Partially published in <i>Selected Letters</i> , p. 272 (n. 3).	[1883?] Aug 9
5	5	Letter to Mrs. [Mary Preston] Stearns. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. "You will be glad to know that father seems brighter in mind, though the body remains helpless and the lips dumb." Mentions him "looking placidly out at the river and the falling leaves." Published in <i>Selected Letters</i> , pp. 272-73.	[1883?] Sunday [Fall?]
Oversize Fldr.		Letter to Mr. Cosby. 2 pp. Original and typed transcript. Louisa has written a children's hymn and asks if he could use children's books and magazines.	1884 May 1
5	5	Letter to Mr. [Thomas] Niles. 3 pp. Original. Sends two more stories; can have four more if needed or stop at eight. Discusses her health. Published in <i>Selected Letters</i> , pp. 318-19.	[1887] Aug 7
5	5	Letter to [Rhoda Lawrence]. 2 pp. Original. Encloses some money and thanks her for "all your labors of love for me." [Dr. Rhoda Lawrence was a homeopathic practitioner who ran the rest home, Saint's Rest, in Roxbury, Mass., where Louisa Alcott spent her last years.]	[1887] Aug 29
5	5	Letter to Rhoda [Lawrence]. 2 pp. Original, with handwritten transcription on inside page of original, and envelope. "I send you \$64.90 with many thanks. Please hand the balance of the check to the very kind and faithful lady who reads to me so much, & tell her with my love that she adds much to my comfort & happiness."	[n.y.] Feb 1

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series IV. Louisa May Alcott Papers			
Correspondence (cont.)			
5	5	Letter to Mr. Dary. 4 pp. Original. Louisa writes about her investments “The safe investments pay so little, & the good ones so risky” and Mrs. Minot Pratt’s house in Hyde Park. Would it be unwise to sell the house and put the money into something else.	[n.y.] Feb 13
5	5	Postal card to Mrs. Minot Pratt. Original. “I will keep the article & would like to have the rest of it soon. I will try to come on Sunday & say good bye & arrange the affairs we spoke of.”	[n.y.] Jun 28
5	5	Letter to [Rhoda Lawrence]. 2 pp. Original. Louisa thanks her for her care.	[n.y.] Jul 31
5	5	Letter to Mrs. A. 4 pp. Original. Letter about mutual friends. Clara “is married & her husband knows nothing of her past career, & Mrs. H. thinks if Mary [?] Hawkins writes or goes to see her it will make trouble.”	[n.y.] Oct 16
5	5	Letter to Mary [Joy]. 3 pp. Original, envelope, and typed transcript. Sends some towels. The envelope is addressed: “For Miss Mary, the housemother at Saint’s Rest.”	n.d.

Writings by Louisa May Alcott

Extent: 4 folders

Dates: 1843-1887

The writings by Louisa May Alcott in this subseries—both manuscript and printed—include brief excerpts from her journal while at Fruitlands, some poems, and several short stories. The materials are arranged chronologically.

5	6	Eight pages from Louisa’s journal kept while at Fruitlands. Original and transcript (3 copies, one of which is incomplete). Because of the way the pages were originally bound, they do not follow in order but do include the following dates in 1843: Aug. 4-5, Aug. 8, Aug. 10, Aug. 27 (written incorrectly as Aug. 28), Aug. 28, Aug. 30, Aug. 31, Sept. 1, Dec. 24, Dec. 25. There are	1843 Aug-Dec
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Box	Folder	Contents	Date
		partial entries on some of these pages as well. Published in <i>The Journals of Louisa May Alcott</i> , eds. Joel Myerson and Daniel Shealy (Boston: Little, Brown, 1989), pp. 43-44 (Aug.-Sept. entries).	
5	7	Poem, "Our Madonna." 2 pp. Original unlocated; typed transcript only. Written after the death of her sister May Alcott Nieriker (died 29 Dec 1879). Copied from the <i>Woman's Journal</i> . See Box 5, Folder 12 for a newspaper clipping of this poem.	1880 Jan
5	7	Story, "Onawanda." 39 pp. Original. Published in <i>St. Nicholas Magazine</i> , 11 (April 1884): 442-48.	[1884]
5	7	Poem, "To Papa." 2 pp. Original and typed transcript. Published in <i>Three Unpublished Poems</i> (Boston: Thomas Todd Co., 1919), p. 10. ARC holds a copy of this pamphlet.	1887 Dec
5	7	Poem, "A.B.A." 2 pp. Original and transcription. Published in <i>Three Unpublished Poems</i> , pp. 8-9.	n.d.
5	7	Poem, "The Little Grey Curl." 2 pp. Original (with a lock of her father's hair) and typed transcript. The original does not appear to be in Louisa's handwriting. Published in <i>Three Unpublished Poems</i> , pp. 9-10.	n.d.
5	7	Poem, "My Prayer." 2 pp. Original. "By LMA" but does not appear to be in Louisa's handwriting.	n.d.
5	7	[Dramatic Scene]. 2 pp. Original. Not in Louisa's handwriting.	n.d.
5	8	"A Strange Island," by L. M. Alcott. Original. Published in <i>The Bright, A Paper for All Children</i> , Vol. 2, No. 19 (Chicago, July 28, 1870): 1-2.	1870 Jul 28
5	8	"Transcendental Wild Oats," by L. M. Alcott. Photocopy. Published in <i>The Independent</i> , Vol. 25, No. 1307 (New York, Dec. 18, 1873): 1569-1571.	1873 Dec 18

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Writings about Louisa May Alcott			
Extent: 1 folder			
Dates: 1892			
5	9	“Recollections of Louisa May Alcott,” by Maria S. Porter. Published in <i>New England Magazine</i> , new series, Vol. 6, No. 1 (March 1892): 3-19.	1892 Mar
5	9	Poem, “Louisa M. Alcott In Memoriam,” by Louise Chandler Moulton. Original and typed transcript.	n.d.

Legal Documents

Extent: 1 folder

Date: 1877

5	10	Will of Louisa May Alcott. Typed transcript and photocopy of original.	1887 Jul 10
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Images

Extent: 1 folder

Dates: 1863-1887

This series includes photographs and images of Louisa May Alcott and two locations associated with her: Orchard House in Concord, Mass., and the rest home where she died in Roxbury, Mass.

5	11	Cabinet card photograph of Louisa May Alcott. Image shows Alcott in profile, from the left. Photographer: Black, 163 Washington St., Boston. 2 ¼" x 3 ¾", mounted on cardboard 2 ½" x 4 1/8"	1863
5	11	Photograph of Louisa May Alcott with James E. Murdock. Written on reverse: “L.M.A.’s last photograph – taken by Frederic Alcott Pratt Mt. Wachusett – Aug. 1887.” Alcott and Murdock are seated outside on a bench; she wears a dark dress with a bustle and a white hat. He is dressed in a dark suitcoat and vest, with lighter pants. 4 ¼" x 7", mounted on cardboard 5" x 8"	1887 Aug

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series IV. Louisa May Alcott Papers			
Images (cont.)			
5	11	Illustration of Louisa May Alcott, removed from an unknown periodical. Image shows Alcott seated in a chair, wearing a dark dress with a print ribbon tied at the neck. 3 1/8" x 4 1/4"	n.d.
5	11	Sketch of Louisa May Alcott. Photocopy. 3 copies.	n.d.
5	11	Postcard of Orchard House, Concord, Mass. Color image shows Orchard House, with Amos Bronson Alcott's chapel on the left. Captioned: "Orchard, or Louise [sic] Alcott House, Concord, Mass." Postmarked May 16, 1910 in Concord Junction, Mass.	1910
5	11	Photograph of Saint's Rest, 2 Dunreath St., Roxbury, Mass. Image depicts a three-story house, the third story surrounded by a mansard roof. Louisa May Alcott spent the last years of her life in this house, run by the homeopathic practitioner Dr. Rhoda Lawrence. The house was taken by the city of Boston in 1905 and demolished by 1914. 3 1/2" x 3 1/2"	[ca. 1900?]

Ephemera

Extent: 1 Box

Dates:

- | | |
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| 6 | The material in this subseries needs more research in order to connect it to Louisa May Alcott. Much of it is fire and/or water damaged. |
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Box	Folder	Contents	Date
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Series V. May Alcott Nieriker Papers

Extent: 2 folders

Dates: 1871-1894

May Alcott Nieriker Papers

Extent: 1 folder

Dates: 1871-1894

5	12	Letter to Mr. [William] Niles. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Saw Mr. Niles last night but wonders why he sends “letters and papers instead of bringing them as you once did...”	1871 Jun 5
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5	12	Letter to Mr. [William] Niles. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. “Is Wales very lovely and do you wish I was there?” Also asks “What does it mean a book advertised by L. M. Alcott called ‘Little Wives’?”	1871 Sep 1
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5	12	Letter to Mr. [William] Niles. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Asks Mr. Niles to bring her 20 pounds. “Do come & see me & don’t mind if I sometimes seem cold & queer....Are you going home with me or shall you ask me to go to Capri for the winter?”	[1871] Oct
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The following six letters were clearly written during this period in London but are undated, so it is impossible to say in which order they should follow:

5	12	Letter to Mr. [William] Niles. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. After vowing never to write to him again, May writes to ask him to the Royalty Theatre.	[1871]
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5	12	Letter to Mr. [William] Niles. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. “I rather hoped to have seen a certain friend of mine this rainy afternoon...in a sign of forgiveness for the yawn of the night before...” She is “delighted that Alice’s article should be so favorably spoken of.”	[1871]
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5	12	Letter to Mr. [William] Niles. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. “Here I am in Mecklenburg Sq...a note from Mrs. Conway saying the rooms were horrid, the place full of disagreeable people and no chance for sketching, so...I told the man to drive me to Mecklenburg Sq...”	[1871]
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Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series V. May Alcott Nieriker Papers			
May Alcott Nieriker Papers (cont.)			
5	12	Letter to Mr. [William] Niles. 3 pp. Original and typed transcript. Wishes they could have a fine dry morning. Disappointed that the watch stand was too small. "I am so disappointed for honestly its the biggest in London, & the only left is for you to get a smaller watch, or wait till I go back to Switzerland where they are as plenty as blackberries."	[1871]
5	12	Letter to Mr. [William] Niles. 3 pp. Original and typed transcript. "Not ten minutes after you left my letters came, three of them & one long one from home & my blessed family. Thinking the enclosed note may do you more good than the arsenic & keep you from being lonely I send it immediately instead of waiting till I see you."	[1871]
5	12	Letter to Mr. [William] Niles. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Reminds him that she is to go to Sloane Sq. Saturday evening. "You wont believe me if I tell you how much I really have enjoyed our trip today, so please take me again to some boaty place where there are not too many trees—"	[1871]
5	12	Newspaper clipping, obituary of May Alcott Nieriker, from an unknown newspaper, undated, but shortly after her death (reported here as 30 Dec., but in actuality 29 Dec. 1879).	[1880 Jan?]
5	12	Newspaper clippings, "Our Madonna" by Louisa May Alcott, and "Love's Morrow" by A. Bronson Alcott, both tributes to May Alcott Nieriker. Undated, from unknown newspapers. A typescript of "Our Madonna" will be found in Box 5, Folder 7. Printed copies of "Love's Morrow" will be found in Box 3, Folder 12.	[1880?]
5	12	Newspaper clipping (incomplete), from unknown newspaper. Mentions that "Mr. Meriker [sic] of Germany, who married May Alcott, sister of Louise [sic] M. Alcott, is now visiting his sister in law, Mrs. R. M. Pratt, at her home in Louisburg square." Clipping also mentions Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, which places this no later than 1894.	[no later than 1894]

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
Series V. May Alcott Nieriker Papers			
May Alcott Nieriker Papers (cont.)			
5	12	Photograph of sketch of Thoreau's cabin at Walden Pond. Plate taken from May Alcott's book <i>Concord Sketches</i> . 6 5/8" x 8 5/8", mounted on cardboard 7 1/2" x 9 3/4"	n.d.
5	12	Sketch of May Alcott Nieriker. Photocopy. 2 copies.	n.d.

Louisa May (Lulu) Nieriker Papers

Extent: 1 folder

Dates: 1885-1887

5	13	Letter by Louisa May (Lulu) Nieriker to Effie [Evelyn] Cogshall. 4 pp. Original, envelope [postmarked 23 Nov 1887], and typed transcript. Thanks Effie for her birthday present; lists the "15 presents" she received. Lulu turned 8 on 8 Nov 1887. It is unlikely, given her age, that this letter is in Lulu's handwriting.	1887 Nov 24
5	13	Letter by Louisa May (Lulu) Nieriker to Effie [Evelyn] Cogshall, Sunday. 3 pp. Original, envelope [postmarked 13 Nov 1888], and typed transcript. Thanks Effie for "your pretty shoes" for Lulu's birthday. "I had a large cake with nine candles." Lulu turned 9 on 8 Nov 1888.	[1888 Nov 11]
5	13	Notes on Lulu Nieriker and the correspondence above. Original and typed transcript. One of the notes is by Mrs. R. M. Pratt.	n.d.
5	13	Cabinet card photograph of Louisa May (Lulu) Nieriker by C. F. Conly, Photographer, 465 Washington St., Boston. Lulu wears a white dress and appears to be about 7 or 8 years old.	[ca. 1885]

Elizabeth Peabody Alcott Papers

Extent: 1 folder

5	14	Sketch of Elizabeth Peabody Alcott. Photocopy. 2 copies.	n.d.
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