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# Guide to the Adella Fowler Larkin Correspondence

GEN MSS 921



by Sandra Markham

2013

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
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**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 921

**CREATOR:** Larkin, Adella Fowler, 1850-1917

**TITLE:** Adella Fowler Larkin correspondence

**DATES:** 1859-1895

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.46 linear feet (4 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection consists of letters sent to New England resident Adella Fowler Larkin by her family and friends during the second half of the nineteenth century. The letters are personal in nature and discuss people, fashion, news, events, health, and activities of the correspondents. Prominent in the collection are letters from her sister Myra Fowler McFarland, a teacher with the American Missionary Association working in Florida, South Carolina, and Georgia before, during, and immediately after the Civil War, and letters from her stepbrother George B. Pratt, a newspaperman writing from Ohio and Wisconsin. Also present are nine installments of the "Milwaukee bad boy" stories by George W. Peck clipped from an unidentified newspaper, a valentine published by T. W. Strong, New York, and an advertising circular from Lucy Guild of Rupert, Vermont, promoting her Crystal Palace Chart for dressmaking.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.larkin>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.larkin>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Edward J. Cohen on the Edith and Richard French Fund, 2004. Gift of Edward J. Cohen, 2004.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

The Adella Fowler Larkin Correspondence is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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### Preferred Citation

Adella Fowler Larkin Correspondence. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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### Processing Information

Former call numbers: Uncat MSS 690, Uncat MSS 691, and Uncat MSS 853

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## Fowler Family Tree

Family members whose letters are prominent in the collection are underlined.

See also *The Twining Family*, by Thomas Jefferson Twining (Fort Wayne, Indiana: 1905)

TITUS FOWLER (1738-1827) m. Hannah Burritt (d. 1865)  
-- -1 CHAUNCEY BURRITT FOWLER (1771-1855) m. 1788 Apphia Twining (1774-1843)  
-- -2 Almira Fowler (1798-1865) m. 1823 John Hastings Allen (1794-1854)  
-- -2 Hannah Fowler (1800-1850) m. 1835 Percival Davison (1801-1876)  
-- -3 Maria Louise Davison (b. 1836) m. 1862 Norton W. Millard (1825-1904)  
-- -3 Edmund Davison (1839-1905) m. 1870 Olive J. Chapman (b. 1837)  
-- -2 Alanson Fowler (1802-1894) m. Sarah Eliza Miller (1811-1901)  
-- -3 Milton Alanson Fowler (1835-1911) m. 1859 Catherine (Kate) Putnam Sikes (1838-1905)  
-- -4 Clarence Alanson Fowler (1864-1926)  
-- -4 Henry Thatcher Fowler (1867-1948) m. 1897 Harriet N. Nesmith  
-- -2 Chauncey B. Fowler (1804-1850)  
-- -2 PEREZ MARSHALL FOWLER (1806-1904) m 1. 1839 Lois Elvira Miller (1818-1855)  
-- -3 Chauncey B. Fowler (1842-1850)  
-- -3 ADELLA HANNAH FOWLER (1850-1917) m. 1871 James E. Larkin (1844-1936)  
-- -4 Anna May Larkin (b. 1877)  
-- -4 Harold Fowler Larkin (1884-1966)  
-- -4 Edna Winfield Larkin (b. 1885)  
-- -3 Ella L. Fowler (1854-1926) raised by Alanson Fowler; m. 1874 Oscar Shann (d. 1935)  
-- -4 Mabel Shann

-----4 John Shann  
-----4 Oscar Shann  
-----4 Catherine Shann  
-----4 Elsie Shann  
-----m 2. (by 1865) Ann R. Pratt (1815-1881); widow of Austin G. Pratt (1815-1854)  
-----3 George B. Pratt (1846-1890 m. 1872 Lolla Davis (1851-1890)  
-----4 Stephen Austin Pratt (1875-1956)  
-----4 Clarence Davis Pratt (1881-1964)  
--- -2 Apphia Fowler (1808-1898) m. 1838 Alonzo J. Maltbie (1814-1900)  
-----3 Anna F. Maltbie (1847-1866)  
-----3 Louise H. Maltbie (b. 1849) m. 1867 William C. Pasco (1847-1900)  
-----4 Harry A. Pasco (b. 1868)  
-----4 Alva C. Pasco (1869-1869)  
-----4 Minnie L. Pasco (b. 1871)  
-----4 Herbert W. Pasco (b. 1876)  
-----4 Jule C. Pasco (b. 1890)  
--- -2 Ann Twining Fowler (1810-1842) m. 1836 Pliny S. Mills  
-----3 Josephine Mills (b. 1838) adopted by Alanson Fowler; m. 1861 Henry Tyler Phillips (d. 1901)  
-----4 Anna Cecilia Phillips (b. 1864)  
-----4 Harry F. Phillips (b. 1865)  
-----4 Eugenia Tyler Phillips (b. 1869)  
-----4 Estella Josephine Phillips (b. 1876)  
-----3 Almira (Myra) Mills (1840-1925) adopted by Perez Fowler; m. 1878 William D. McFarland (1851-1932)  
-----3 Theodore Mills (1842-1915) adopted by Apphia Fowler Maltbie; m. 1867 Louise A. Jewett (b. 1842)  
-----4 Annie Louise Maltbie (b. 1875)  
-----4 William Mills Maltbie (b. 1880)

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## Adella Fowler Larkin (1850-1917)

Adella Hannah Fowler, known to her family as Della, was born in Tolland Center, Massachusetts, on July 6, 1850, the daughter of Perez Marshall Fowler (1806-1904) and his first wife Lois Elvira Miller Fowler (1818-1855). She attended the Hudson River Institute in Claverack, New York, nearby the home of her maternal aunt and uncle Sarah and Alanson Fowler, in the mid-1860s, and settled in Winsted, Connecticut, after marrying merchant James Edwin Larkin (1844-1936) on November 22, 1871. Adella Fowler Larkin was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution through her great-grandfather Titus Fowler; she died in Winsted on June 22, 1917.

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## Myra Fowler McFarland (1840-1925)

Almira Mills Fowler was born on February 16, 1840, one of three children of Ann Twining Fowler (1810-1842) and her husband Pliny S. Mills of New York. Upon the death of their mother, the Mills children were adopted by their maternal uncles and aunt; Almira was raised by Perez Fowler and his first and second wives Lois and Ann. She was also known as Almyra, Mira, and Myra, the latter the forename she used most of her adult life. She was teaching in Newport, Wakulla County, Florida, in 1860-1861, and then was among the first teachers sent by the American Missionary Association to the Port Royal Experiment, a pre-Reconstruction effort to support freed slaves in working and managing the cotton plantations on the South Carolina Sea Islands which had been abandoned by owners fleeing the Union troops. Myra Fowler was assigned to Ashdale plantation on Ladys Island near Beaufort, where she taught school from December 1862 to April 1864, afterward teaching at The Oaks plantation, and then in Augusta, Georgia, from November 1866 through May 1867. In 1878 she married the Reverend William D. McFarland, pastor of Congregationalist churches in Simsbury, East Granby, and Shelburne Falls, Connecticut, moving with him to Baltimore in 1884. Through the American Missionary Association Myra McFarland also taught at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, from the mid-1880s to the early 1890s, and at the Illinois State Training School in Geneva, where

she was working in 1910. By 1912 she had returned to live in Tennessee, and had been spending the summer of 1925 with a niece in Granby, Connecticut, when she died there on August 1, 1925.

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## **George B. Pratt (1846-1890)**

George B. Pratt was born in New Boston, Massachusetts, on February 24, 1848, the son of Austin G. Pratt (1815-1854) and his wife Ann R. Pratt (1815-1881), who became the second wife of Perez M. Fowler. Pratt graduated from the Westfield Normal School, Westfield, Massachusetts, and in 1866 went west to Fremont, Ohio, where he became connected with the *Fremont Journal*. He continued in the business, eventually editing and owning papers in Milan, Oberlin, and Norwalk, Ohio. In 1877 Pratt purchased the *Menasha Press*, in Menasha, Wisconsin; in 1881 he sold the paper to become a general publisher, and founded the Art Publishing Company in 1883.

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## **Scope and Contents**

The collection consists of letters sent to New England resident Adella Fowler Larkin by her family and friends during the second half of the nineteenth century. The letters are personal in nature and discuss people, fashion, news, events, health, and activities of the correspondents. Prominent in the collection are letters from her sister Myra Fowler McFarland, a teacher working with African American freedmen under the auspices of the American Missionary Association in Florida, South Carolina, and Georgia before, during, and immediately after the Civil War. Also prominent are letters from her stepbrother George B. Pratt, a newspaperman writing from Ohio and Wisconsin.

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## **Arrangement**

Organized into two series: I. Letters from Family, 1859-1895. II. Letters from Friends, 1862-1892.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Letters from Family, 1859-1895

1.04 linear feet (3 boxes)

The series holds letters sent to Adella Fowler Larkin by members of her family, including her sisters Almira and Ella, stepbrother George Pratt, aunt Sarah, and various cousins. Prominent among them are nine folders of letters sent by Myra Fowler McFarland from her teaching positions in Florida, South Carolina, and Georgia before, during, and immediately after the Civil War. Her last folder holds nine episodes of the "Milwaukee Bad Boy" stories by George W. Peck clipped from an unidentified newspaper. Also notable are Pratt's letters which encouraged James and Adella Larkin to join him in Wisconsin, as well as those of his visiting mother, Ann R. Fowler, which describe family matters and her views of life in Wisconsin.

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

b. 1, f. 1-3	Fowler, Ann R. Pratt	1864-1880, undated
b. 1, f. 4	Fowler, Milton and Catherine (Kate)	1880-1887
b. 1, f. 5-6	Fowler, Sarah Miller	1861-1882
b. 1, f. 7	Ham, Augusta and Emma	1860-1866
b. 1, f. 8	Irwin, Emergene (Genie) Twining	1862-1868
b. 2, f. 9	Larkin family members	1864-1877
b. 2, f. 10-18	<a href="#">McFarland, Myra Fowler</a>	1860-1895, undated
b. 2, f. 19	Maltbie, Anna Fowler	1860-1865
b. 2, f. 20	Maltbie, Theodore Mills	1866, 1869
b. 3, f. 21-24	Pratt, George B., Lolla, and Clarence Includes one letter from Adella Fowler to George Pratt, January 4, 1865	1862-1890, undated
b. 3, f. 25-26	Shann, Ella L. Fowler	1859-1882
b. 3, f. 27	Letters to other family members Includes letters to Perez and Ann R. Fowler from siblings and children, and to James E. Larkin	1868-1881

**Series II: Letters from Friends, 1862-1892***0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

The letters in this series are primarily from childhood friends from Massachusetts writing to Adella Fowler at school in Claverack, New York, covering topics including local activities, friends, and family.

b. 4, f. 28-30	Moeller, Elisabeth (Lizzie) Thatcher	1863-1868, undated
b. 4, f. 31	Pike, Susan M. Traver	1862-1869
b. 4, f. 32	Friends from Sandisfield, Massachusetts	1864-1868
b. 4, f. 33	Friends from Tolland, Massachusetts	1862-1866
b. 4, f. 34	Friends from Westfield, Massachusetts	1862-1864
b. 4, f. 35-36	Other friends	1863-1873
b. 4, f. 37	Printed ephemera Includes a valentine published by T. W. Strong, New York, and an advertising circular from Lucy Guild of Rupert, Vermont, promoting her Crystal Palace Chart for dressmaking	circa 1865, 1868



## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Subjects

African Americans -- Education -- 19th century  
Freedmen -- United States  
Port Royal (S.C.) Expedition, 1861  
Teachers -- Florida  
Teachers -- Georgia  
Teachers -- South Carolina

### Corporate Bodies

American Missionary Association  
Hudson River Institute and Claverack Academy

### Contributors

Larkin, Adella Fowler, 1850-1917  
Peck, George W. (George Wilbur), 1840-1916

### Geographic Names

Claverack (N.Y.) -- Social life and customs  
Ladies Island (S.C.) -- Social life and customs  
Menasha (Wis.) -- Social life and customs  
Sandisfield (Mass. : Town) -- Social life and customs  
Sea Islands -- Social life and customs  
Tolland (Mass. : Town) -- Social life and customs  
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865  
-- Personal narratives

### Genres / Formats

Valentines -- United States -- 19th century

### Occupations

Teachers -- United States -- 19th century

### Names

Fowler, Ann R. Pratt, 1815-1881  
Guild, Lucy  
Irwin, Emergene Twining, 1843-1931  
Larkin, Adella Fowler, 1850-1917  
McFarland, Myra Fowler, 1840-1925  
Moeller, Elisabeth Thatcher  
Peck, George W. (George Wilbur), 1840-1916  
Pratt, George B., 1846-1890  
Shann, Ella Fowler, 1854-1926  
Strong, Thomas W., 1817-1892

### Families

Fowler family