

McLean County Museum of History

Perkins-Martin Family Collection

Processed by
Rochelle Gridley
Fall 2017

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	2 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1817 - 1892
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	See also

Brief History

Catherine Anne Perkins Martin (1900-1885) was born in Stanstead, Canada October 15, 1800 and married Eleazar Martin in 1826. Eleazar Martin (1796 – 1874) was born in 1796 in Williamstown, Vermont. Stanstead is a city in Canada on the border of Vermont which shares a library with the town of Derby Line, Vermont. Catherine and Eleazar Martin moved to Bloomingburgh, Fayette County, Ohio the same year they married. Catherine's letter describing the trip over river and canal is included in this collection. They immigrated to McLean County in 1852, residing in Bloomington, then Lexington and returning to Bloomington. While living in Ohio the Martins had nine children, only two of whom survived childhood. Their daughters were Charlotte (Mrs. Horace McCurdy) and Mary (Mrs. Dr. Charles S. Elder), both of Bloomington, IL. Martin Township was named for Eleazar Martin. Catherine and Eleazar are buried in the Evergreen Cemetery, Bloomington, IL.

Other letters are those to Clara Martin, a sister of Eleazar Martin, who lived in Bloomingburg, OH. His brothers who corresponded were Porter, Burnham, Nathaniel and Milton Martin.

Scope

The collection includes letters written by and to Catherine Anne Perkins between the years of 1817 and 1876. Other letters, written to Eleazar Martin by his brothers and his sister Clara Martin, are also included. Handwritten essays, miscellaneous legal papers, an 1892 *Good Roads* periodical, Catherine's journal of recollections, Martin family genealogy and a prayer book round out the collection.

Box and Folder Inventory

Box 1

Folder 1: Obituaries

- 1.1.1 Obituary, *Pantagraph*, Charles Martin, 11 Dec 1874.
- 1.1.2 Obituary, *Pantagraph*, Catherine Martin, 29 Sep 1885.

Folder 2: Correspondence by Catherine Perkins 1817 – 18 & Copy Book

- 1.2.1 A copybook of 9 letters written by Catherine Anne Perkins between August 8, 1817 and April 9, 1819. Written from Stanstead, Williamstown, Vermont and Claremont, New Hampshire to a friend, Elizabeth.
- 1.2.2 A transcript of the letters in the copy book.

Folder 3: Correspondence between Eleazar and Catherine Perkins Martin

- 1.3.1 Letter to Eleazar Martin, Stratford, VT, from Catherine Perkins April 12, 1823. Regarding delay of the mail, brother Nathaniel's move to New York, marriage of sister, Olivia, and her move to Middlesex, advice from a lady in Stratford to Eleazar, and a proposed visit.

- 1.3.2 Letter to Eleazar Martin, Stratford VT, from Catherine Perkins, May 13, 1823. Very atmospheric letter, compares young woman at her home to one where Eleazar lives and her wedding, quotes from Byron, coyly teases about being escorted home by another man. Mentions a promised visit from Eleazar.
- 1.3.3 Letter to Catherine Perkins from Eleazar Martin, undated, incomplete letter. Gossip, regards to Catherine's mother and stepfather, Mr. and Mrs. Myrick. Mailing letter via Derby VT to assure speed of delivery.
- 1.3.4 Letter to Catherine Perkins from Eleazar Martin, Stratford, 16 Mar 1824. Regarding inability to visit as planned, business unsuccessfully completed for Mr. Myrick, work at a school, a lame horse, responds to complaints of infrequent letters.
- 1.3.5 Letter to Catherine Perkins from Eleazar Martin, Williamstown, 15 May 1824. "To the dearest of earthly objects."
- 1.3.6 Letter to Eleazar Martin, Madison, Fayette Co., OH, from Catherine Perkins, 15 Feb 1826. Questions whether Eleazar still considers her to be his betrothed due to long silence. His last letter was dated July 1825. Reports her own illness. Relates her apprehension that he was dead, but learned he was writing to other friends.
- 1.3.7 Letter to Catherine Perkins from Eleazar Martin, 17 May 1826. Reiterates a proposal of marriage and life in Ohio.
- 1.3.8 Letter to Catherine Perkins from Eleazar Martin, Duffs Ford, Fayette Co., OH, 19 Sep 1826. Reveals that at least part of the Martin family lived near Catherine and attended the same meetings that Catherine did. Martin family unaware of the engagement.
- 1.3.9 Letter to Catherine Perkins from Eleazar Martin, Nov 25 1826. Anticipates his arrival in Hatley and her departure for Ohio with him.
- 1.3.10 Letter to Catherine Perkins from Eleazar Martin, Jan 10 1827. Excuses failure to leave for "England" and announces his removal to Bloomingburg, Ohio. Asks her to expect him in February.
- 1.3.11 Letter to parents of Catherine Perkins from Catherine Perkins, May 23, 1827 on the Cincinnati Packet. Reports travel by stage for 2 days and stops to visit the Martin family in Troy, N.Y. They travelled on the canal with a private room and maid to attend Catherine. Describes being raised 60 feet by the locks at Lockport, and the views at Fort Niagara where "brother rose against brother & gave the deadly thrust." Also travelled by steamboat after reaching Buffalo.
- 1.3.12 Letter to Catherine Martin, Bloomington, McLean County, IL, from Eleazar Martin, Bloomingburg, OH, 29 Dec 1834. (Is this year correct?) Reporting on his travels and acquaintances in Bloomington.
- 1.3.13 Letter to Catherine Martin, Bloomingburg, Fayette Co, OH, from Eleazar Martin, Walpole, NH, 16 May 1842. Eleazar is travelling with Catherine's brother and visiting another of her brothers before going on to Williamstown. Reported travelling 40 miles a day by land and then taking a steamer. Inquires after the children and their health. Discusses the investigation of a counterfeit note paid to him and refused at a bank.

Folder 4 Correspondence to Catherine Perkins before her marriage

- 1.4.1 From Malvinia, St. Johnsbury, to Catherine Perkins, Charlestown, undated. Regarding marriage of acquaintance, beaux for Catherine, news of her studies. (They were school mates together.)

- 1.4.2 From Miss H. Voorhees to Catherine Perkins 14 Feb 1823 writing after the death of Charlotte, Catherine's aunt. Postscript from I. Voorhees, Charlotte's widower.
- 1.4.3 From Sally Wright to Catherine Perkins on 10 Jun 1823. Regarding friendship and Catherine's expected marriage.
- 1.4.4 From Mr. I Voorhees to Catherine Perkins on 21 Jun 1823. Thanking Catherine for a letter of condolence regarding death of Charlotte (his wife). Reunion with young son Augustus.
- 1.4.5 From Mr. I Voorhees to Catherine Perkins on 30 Sep 1823. Regarding their friendship and correspondence. Reports the ill health of a friend who lost the use of her leg due to a long walk in the snow.
- 1.4.6 From Mr. Voorhees to Catherine Perkins 29 Oct 1823. Regarding his dissatisfaction with living in Tennessee.
- 1.4.7 From Mr. Voorhees to Catherine Perkins, 2 Apr 1824. Regarding illness of Augustus from which he is not expected to recover. Also discusses looking at a collection of drawings of presidents.
- 1.4.8 From Sarah Wright to Catherine Perkins, 8 Apr 1824. Regarding friendship and religion.
- 1.4.9 From Uncle Cossitt to Catherine Perkins, 21 April 1824. In fragments. Writing from Charlotte while visiting the Voorhees family. He wrote to ask for a translation of what she had written in a letter to Mr. Voorhees. Questioned whether she was engaged. Indignant that she has not realized Mr. Voorhees has been writing to her to court her. Augustus is recovering.
- 1.4.10 From F. R. Cossitt, Eldon, to Catherine Perkins, Stanstead, Lower Canada via Derby, VT, 8 Jun 1824. Regarding pleasure of her news (Eleazar Martin) and apology for previous letter, suggests that he saw serious faults in I. Voorhees after greater acquaintance, confirms Voorhees' engagement to a fifteen year old girl.
- 1.4.11 From Miss Voorhees to Catherine Perkins, 19 Jun 1824. Relates the death of a child.
- 1.4.12 From Mr. I M Voorhees to Catherine Perkins, 27 Jul 1824. Bitter letter regarding Catherine's failure to write to him.
- 1.4.13 From I. Voorhees to Catherine Perkins, 17 Feb 1825. In response to a letter from Catherine. Notes that she is still unmarried, reports a boring night at a dance, suggests there is a young woman in his life, flirtatiously suggests he will come visit her.
- 1.4.14 From M. Carleton, St. Johnsbury, to Catherine Perkins, Charlestown Village, Lower Canada, 19 April 1825. Regarding her intended arrival in Derby to teach school and requesting Catherine to let others know of the school term beginning.
- 1.4.15 From M. A. Stevens, Glynnville, to Catherine Anne Martin, Bloomingburg, Fayette Co. OH, May 28 1827. Regarding marriage, hers and Catherine's & gossip.
- 1.4.16 From Catherine Perkins Martin in Duffs Fork, Ohio to her uncle 18 Jun 1827.

Folder 5: Miscellaneous letters to Martin family members – 1829 - 1850

- 1.5.1 Letter to Clara Martin from Harriett, Chelsea, 9 Dec 1829. Harriett was a school teacher and wrote of her work, social groups and corrects Clara's spelling.
- 1.5.2 Letter to Anna Mirick (mother of Catherine Martin) from her sister, Mary A. Hewett 29 Dec 1829. Discusses family members, servants, orphan boarder.
- 1.5.3 Letter to A.H. Mirick, Bloomingburg, OH from H. B. Perkins, Stanstead, 9th July 1842. Announcing the death of his wife and new born baby. (H.B. is son of Anne Mirick)

- 1.5.4 Letter to Clarissa J. Martin from S. A. Tully, 28 Apr 1846, Frankfort. Regarding a fire, a wedding and the chivaree.
- 1.5.5 Letter to Clara Martin from Harriet, Maple Hall, Williamstown, Aug 1847. Regarding trip to springs, travel by canal boat, dancing and dancing dresses, visiting Native Americans, etc.
- 1.5.6 Letter to Clara Martin from Harriett, Harmony Vale, Walpole, N.H., 1 Sep 1848. Regarding school teaching, descriptions of the scenery and family members.
- 1.5.7 Letter to Clara and Mary Martin from Harriett, Chelsea, 12 May 1850. Description of wedding.
- 1.5.8 Letter to Clara & Mary Martin from A.D. Kinnear, Adelphi, 21 Jun 1850. To: "My Dear Schoolmate." Regarding her diagnosis of consumption with poems for each sister.
- 1.5.9 Letter to Clara Martin from Louisa L. Ludden, Circleville, 11 Aug 1850. Regarding cholera in Circleville.
- 1.5.10 Letter to Clara Martin from Martha, Bloomingburg, OH, 26 Apr 1850. Regarding Clara's absence, Wesleyan Methodists vs Presbyterians, news of old acquaintances.
- 1.5.11 Letter to Clara Martin from A. D. Kinnear, Adelphi, 25 Aug 1850. Reports 31 deaths from cholera in Circleville in four weeks.
- 1.5.12 Letter to "My Dear Cousin Henry" from Annette, Chelsea, 30 Dec 1850. Young girl's letter.
- 1.5.13 Letter to Henry Martin from Annette, Chelsea, 9 Feb 1851. Received a piano for her tenth birthday.
- 1.5.14 Letter to "Uncle and Aunt" from James P. Martin, Waukegan, 25 Nov 1852. Consoling the parents after the death of their only son.
- 1.5.15 Letter to Clara Martin from Bell, Bloomingburg, 16 May unknown year. Gossip and complaints about school work.
- 1.5.16 Incomplete letter from B. Martin. No date. Regarding his career and family matters.
- 1.5.17 Letter to Catherine Perkins from disappointed suitor in Hadley, undated.
- 1.5.18 Letter to unknown person from Ann Martin, no date. Sends this letter with Annette, who is visiting the recipient.
- 1.5.19 Letter to Father from unidentified Civil War soldier at Crab Orchard, 16 Oct 1862. Persons mentioned: Ferguson, Ben Shane, E.C. Ingersoll, Charley Weedman.

Folder 6: Correspondence to Eleazar or Catherine from 1852 to 1875

- 1.6.1 Letter to "My Dear Mother Martin" C.A. Martin from L. A. Putnam, Roanoke 1 Jan 1852 regarding Putnam's marriage to a widower, asking after Catherine's school, about the loss of Clara.
- 1.6.2 Letter to Catherine Perkins Martin from Ann Martin, Chelsea, 19 Feb 1852. To: "Dear Sister Catherine." Acknowledging news of Clara's death, news of other friends.
- 1.6.3 Letter to Eleazar Martin (?) from B. Martin, Chelsea, 26 Oct 1852. Regarding death of Henry (son of Eleazar and Catherine) and retirement of Eleazar. *Transcription included.*
- 1.6.4 Letter to Eleazar Martin from Nathaniel Martin, Waukegan, 5 Dec 1852. Regarding death of Eleazar's son Henry.
- 1.6.5 Letter to "Friends" from T. R. Cossett, Lebanon, TN, 10 Mar 1856. Contents addressed to "Dr. Martin." Regarding criticism of the South by Abolitionists, compares slaves to poor Northerners, factory workers, comments on Kansas Nebraska Bill, advocates for emancipation and colonization of Africa, addresses "my dear sister" and points to order

of the six siblings. (T.R. Cossett is the brother of Catherine Perkins Martin's mother.) Includes typed transcription, 2 sheets. *Transcription included.*

- 1.6.6 Letter to "Dear Brother" from Nathaniel Martin, Hampton, Dakota Co., MN, 25 Aug 1866. Regarding Eleazar's difficult economic situation. *Transcription included.*
- 1.6.7 Letter to Eleazar Martin from A. Martin, Hampton, MN 10 May 1868. Announcing death of daughter, Martha. On his religious convictions.
- 1.6.8 Letter to Eleazar Martin from H. C. Stewart, Bloomingburgh, OH, 30 Jul 1868. Acknowledging death of daughter of Eleazar and Catherine Martin.
- 1.6.9 Letter to Eleazar Martin from Nathaniel Martin, Hampton, MN, 20 Nov 1868. Regarding death of youngest daughter, dissolution of partnership with son in law.
- 1.6.10 Note by Catherine Martin regarding a disk of a maple tree, 21 Jun 1869.
- 1.6.11 Letter to Eleazar Martin from Nathaniel Martin, Hampton, MN, 24 Jul 1869. Written after Eleazar's visit to his brother, farming.
- 1.6.12 Letter to Eleazar Martin from Nathaniel Martin, Hampton, MN, 24 November 1869. Regarding notice received of death of Porter Martin's son's death. *Transcription included.*
- 1.6.13 Letter to Eleazar Martin (?) from Nathaniel Martin, Hampton, MN, 12 Jun 1870. Regarding traveling to Vermont and suggesting a reunion.
- 1.6.14 Letter to Eleazar Martin from B. Martin, Chelsea, VT, Sunday, 15 Oct 1871. Family news. With envelope.
- 1.6.15 Letter to Eleazar Martin from Nathaniel Martin, Hampton, MN, 3 Jan 1871. Regarding health and visit to Vermont.
- 1.6.16 Letter to Eleazar Martin from Nathaniel Martin, Hampton, Dakota Co., MN, 14 Nov 1871. Regarding his health, marriage of Leonora (sister) to a lawyer named Young and farming transactions of son.
- 1.6.17 Letter to Eleazar Martin from Milton Martin, Williamstown, 12 May 1872. Responding to a request for particulars on the death of their sister.
- 1.6.18 Letter to Eleazar Martin from Nathaniel Martin, Hampton, MN, 9 Sep 1872. Discusses politics, including H(orace) Greeley and U.S. Grant, post war relations. With envelope.
- 1.6.19 Letter to Eleazar Martin from Nathaniel Martin, Hampton, MN, 27 Nov 1872. Regarding death of Mary.
- 1.6.20 Letter to Eleazar Martin from B. Martin, Chelsea, VT, 10 Nov 1874. Regarding family, health and journal sent on an unidentified religion.
- 1.6.21 Letter to Eleazar and Catherine Martin from Mary, Northfield, VT, 20 Nov 1875. Regarding health of Lester (husband?), *Religio* journal received from Eleazar Martin (spiritualism journal) and prospect of meeting loved ones in séances.
- 1.6.22 Letter to Catherine Martin from John E. Dalton, Onalaska, Lacrosse Co., WI, 8 Mar 1875. Acknowledging death of Dr. Martin. With envelope.
- 1.6.23 Letter to Catherine Martin from Mrs. M.A. Yancey, Osborn, 22 Mar 1875. Acknowledging death of Dr. Martin. With envelope.

Folder 7 Correspondence to Eleazar and Catherine from 1876 to 1879

- 1.7.1 Letter to Catherine Martin from C. B. Stebbins, Lansing, MI, 7 Mar 1876. Regarding his office, building of the Michigan state house.
- 1.7.2 Letter to Catherine Martin from Nathaniel Martin, Hampton, Dakota Co., MN, 14 April 1876. Regarding his children, their children and their lives.

- 1.7.3 Letter to Catherine Perkins Martin from Harriett Redfield, Montpelier, VT, 25 July 1876. Remembers a visit to Bloomington.
- 1.7.4 Letter to Catherine Martin from Helen W. Redfield, Montpelier, VT, 24 Mar 1877. Exchanging photographs and news of family members.
- 1.7.5 Letter to Catherine Martin from Nathaniel Martin, Hampton, MN, 28 May 1877. Regarding health, life without his wife and family members.
- 1.7.6 Letter to Catherine Martin from P. Martin, Hampton, MN 20 Jun 1877. Regarding the death of Nathaniel Martin.
- 1.7.7 Letter to Catherine Martin from Lee Golladay, Lebanon, TN, 6 Jul 1877. Regarding family members.
- 1.7.8 Letter to Catherine Martin from Mary (sister to Eleazar), Northfield, VT, 7 Oct 1877. Family news. With envelope.
- 1.7.9 Letter to Catherine Martin from Fannie, 19 Oct 1877. Regarding family news.
- 1.7.10 Letter to Catherine Martin from Mary Martyn, Northfield, 29 Jan 1878. Thanking Catherine for gift of money for imprudent debt. Described economies.
- 1.7.11 Letter to Charles Elder from C. L. Smith, Clyde, Wayne Co. NY, 18 Jun 1878. Regarding marriage of niece and family news.
- 1.7.12 Letter to Mary from Catherine Martin, Bloomington, IL, 5 Jun 1878. Regarding birth of baby to Lora, visit from Mary Steele, and trouble with her taxes.
- 1.7.13 Letter to "Dearest Auntie" from C.A. Sanderman, 16 Jun 1878. Regarding health of writer's mother.
- 1.7.14 Letter to Catherine Martin from M. Martin, Northfield, VT, 8 Dec 1878. Family news and health.
- 1.7.15 Letter to Catherine Martin from H. C. Stewart, Bloomingburgh, OH, 4 Aug 1879. Thanking her for post card advising of safe arrival and health of Mrs. Stewart.
- 1.7.16 Letter to Catherine martin from H. C. Stewart, Bloomingburgh, OH, 13 Aug 1879. Regarding repairs to headstone for Henry Martin.
- 1.7.17 Letter to Mrs. Dr. Martin from "Sister," Maple Hall, East Williamstown, 23 Aug unknown year. Family news.
- 1.7.18 Letter to Eleazar Martin from H. C. Stewart, Bloomingburgh, OH, 31 Oct --. Regarding the delivery of a stillborn child and a fatal case of pneumonia
- 1.7.19 Letter to "My Dear Cousin" from E. Dalton, Onalaska, 7 Mar --. Sympathy letter regarding death of husband.
- 1.7.20 Letter to "Dear Brother and Sister" from M A Martin, 5 Jul --. Regarding Frank who was home on furlough. Discusses present bloodshed (Civil War) and husband's estate.
- 1.7.21 Letter to "Dear Brother and Sister" from Ann Martin, Wilmington, 20 Sep --. Regarding Frank joining the army. Ann's husband had recently died and was buried far from home. Refers to "this war."(Civil War)

Folder 8: Miscellaneous Legal Papers

- 1.8.1 Affidavit by Ambrose Cosset, dated 28 Jun 1800, stating his intention to deed a piece of land in Stanstead, Canada to his daughter, Anne K. Perkins.
- 1.8.2 Mortgage note between Mary and William Reeves to George L. Parker, 14 Apr 1869. Assigned to Eleazar Martin, 1 May 1869 by George L. Parker.
- 1.8.3 Quit claim deed from Newton Reeves and Mary Reeves to Eleazar Martin 17 Dec 1858.

- 1.8.4 Letters of guardianship to Charles Elder for Lottie, Grace and Charles Elder Jr. as heirs of Eleazar Martin.
- 1.8.5 Subdivision plan Sec 17 Township 24.
- 1.8.6 List of sewing supplies written on back of fragment of letter.

Folder 9: Miscellaneous Personal Writings

- 1.9.1 Miscellaneous poems, unattributed.
- 1.9.2 Lock of hair.
- 1.9.3 Lesson book with exercises.
- 1.9.4 "A Lost Day" C. Martin
- 1.9.5 Student's paper (?) Two signatures, M.E. Cook and R.I. Dickey
- 1.9.6 Handwritten newspaper, "To the Contributors of the Offering."
- 1.9.7 Handwritten newspaper, fragments.
- 1.9.8 Essay, "Spring."
- 1.9.9 Essay, "The Seasons."
- 1.9.10 Essay, against women's rights, T. B.

Folder 10: Publications

- 1.10.1 "Good Roads," July 1892, Vol. 2, No.1. Bicycling magazine. Cover missing.

Folder 11: Journal Transcript

- 1.11.1 Transcript of Journal (see original journal in Box 2). July 1876-July 1878. Recollections of her lifetime. 49 pp.

Folder 12: Envelopes

- 1.12.1 Unassociated envelopes

Folder 13: Other Correspondence

- 1.13.1 Letter to "Dear Folk" from "Hap" concerning mother's health issues including her teeth, etc. Mentioned that "the Martin girls are moving their things to Chi & Loveridge is taking their house," undated, but written in the age of radio on a sleeting day.
- 1.13.2 Letter to Grace from Mother concerning writer's health, ladies' missionary meeting, DAR tea, etc., 3 March 1934.

Box 2

Loose Family Genealogy: George Martin of Salisbury, Massachusetts.

Loose Prayer Book

Loose Journal – Catherine Anne Perkins Martin: July 1876-July 1878. 287 pages. See Folder 11 for typed transcript. Recollections of her lifetime.