

The Anna E. Wilcox Collection  
Scope and Content  
Randall Miles  
2001

The Anna E. Wilcox Collection of Civil War Letters consists of forty-five letters on forty-four separate sheets, eight photographs, four envelopes which could not be matched to any letters, and ancillary materials. Eleven of the letters are without envelopes, though one was likely enclosed in the same envelope as one of the others. Forty-two of the forty-five letters were definitely written to Anna Wilcox, of Smyrna, Chenango County, New York. Thirty-eight, possibly thirty-nine, of the letters to Miss Wilcox were written by four of her male cousins who were serving in the Union Army. The remaining letters were written by other relatives of Miss Wilcox. Two of the letters were written to persons other than Miss Wilcox.

The letters are grouped by author and there under arranged chronologically. The authors are arranged by the date of their earliest letter in the collection. Each letter has been unfolded and placed in a mylar sleeve, such that all four pages may be read without removing the letter from the sleeve. There is one exception to this system: Letter 44 and Letter 45 were written on the same sheet, which is too large to completely unfold. This item must be removed from the mylar sleeve to read pages two and three of Letter 44. Each letter, in its mylar sleeve, was then placed in an acid-free folder. The envelopes have also been placed in mylar sleeves. Where a letter and an envelope were matched the mylar sleeves containing the items are both in the same acid-free folder. Also included in the folder with each letter is a description of the physical condition of the letter at the time of transcription and a copy of the transcription. The letters are followed in the collection by one acid-free folder containing all the photographs, each in a separate mylar sleeve. A single acid-free folder holds the empty envelopes, each in a separate mylar sleeve. A single acid-free folder holds the 'scope and content note,' the 'finding aid,' and the 'transcription note.' Photocopies from the National Archives and Records Administration of the Military Service Records and Military Pension Records for William Pike, B. Leroy Pike, and Emory Wilcox (Service Record only) are in separate

acid-free folders. The collection is in fifty-two folders in two archival boxes totaling 1040 cubic inches.

### The Letters

Most of the letters in the Anna Wilcox Collection were written during, or within months of the end of, the Civil War. Specifically Letter 1 through Letter 38, and Letter 42, were written between October 16, 1862, and August 10, 1865. Letter 1 through Letter 38 comprise the war group of the collection. Letter 39 through Letter 45 are from correspondents who were not in military service and were, with one exception, written after the war, these comprise the post-war group.

William S. Pike is the first letter-writer as his earliest letter is dated October 16, 1862. William was also the most prolific letter writer in the collection: twenty-four, Letter 1 through Letter 24, of the forty-five letters were written by him. The last of his letters is dated January 24, 1865. William's letters are generally in fair condition. Only two of these letters lack envelopes. Ten appear to have faded, and half of those only slightly. All but one letter display some foxing, though with eighteen of the letters that foxing is slight, or very slight. Of the eight stained letters three have ink stains which likely occurred as William wrote the letter; six have non-ink stains of some other origin. Half, twelve, of these letters show some signs of wear in the form of tears along the creases, or holes where the creases cross.

The five letters by Emory Wilcox, Letter 25 through Letter 29, come next since the earliest letter of his in the collection is dated February 18, 1863. The last Emory Wilcox letter is dated August 09, 1863. Emory's letters are generally in good condition. Only one of these five letters has an envelope associated with it. All of Emory's letters have some foxing and all but one are faded. There is no staining evident on any of the letters. Three show signs of wear: two only slightly, in the form of holes where the creases cross; one separated into two pieces along the vertical crease.

Miss Wilcox saved seven letters, Letter 30 through Letter 36, written by Leroy B. Pike and his letters comprise the third group in the collection. Leroy's earliest letter is dated February 22, 1864. The last of his letters is dated August 10, 1865. It is possible

that there was another letter from Leroy: there is an envelope with no letter associated with it postmarked December 14, and someone had penciled "Mr. Leroy B Benjamin Pike" on the envelope. The Leroy Pike letters are generally in good condition. Only one of these letters lack an envelope. All the these letters have slight foxing, but only two are faded. Of the four stained letters three have ink stains which likely occurred as Leroy wrote the letter; two have non-ink stains of some other origin. Two of the Leroy Pike letters show some signs of wear in the form of tears along the creases, or holes where the creases cross.

The last of the soldier letter-writers is John Pike. John's letters provide a bridge between the war and post-war groups of letters. Two of his letters, Letter 37 and Letter 38, are from April 1865 and are followed in the collection by one letter from J. E. Pike, dated April 02, 1866. These two letters are in generally fair condition. Although neither letter is stained both are faded and have some foxing. One of the letters shows slight signs of wear in the form of a small piece torn from one corner.

The first post-war letter, Letter 39, was written by J. E. Pike. From its text and the text of Letter 40 and Letter 41 J. E. Pike is almost certainly John Pike. This letter has no envelope associated with it. Letter 39 is in generally fair condition. It is unstained, but moderately faded with moderate foxing. It shows no signs of wear.

The next two of the post-war letters were written by Ruth Pike, Letter 40, and her daughter Corintha, Letter 41, on November 29, 1866. There is one envelope, associated with Letter 41. These two letters were written on the same day by a mother and daughter, and were written on the two halves of a single sheet of stationery torn along the center fold. Both letters were likely mailed in the same envelope. The letters are in generally fair condition. They are unstained, but moderately faded with slight foxing. They show no signs of wear.

The fourth letter post-war group, Letter 42, was actually written on January 20, 1863. It was placed at this point in the collection for two reasons: First this letter and the next, Letter 43, were both written by Jeanette T. Pike. Second, because on the first read-through Letter 42 was thought to be dated January 02, 1868. Letter 43 is dated June 06, 1868. Letter 42 has no envelope associated with it. These letters are in generally good condition. Neither is faded. Letter 42 is unstained, but has moderate foxing and a

moderate amount of wear in the form of holes where the creases cross. Letter 43 shows no fading, foxing, or wear, but has ink stains which likely occurred as Jeanette Pike wrote the letter.

The last two post-war letters, Letter 44 and Letter 45, were written by Benjamin Stover on January 03, 1868. These two letters were written on the same sheet of stationery. Letter 44 takes up pages one through three, while Letter 45 is on page four. These letters are in generally fair condition. Although unstained they are faded and show moderate foxing. There is also a moderate amount of wear in the form of holes where the creases cross.

### The Photographs

There are eight photographs in the Anna Wilcox Collection. All are small portraits, none larger than 2½” by 4”. One is on a metal plate, with the other seven on cardstock.

The first two photographs are of Anna E. Wilcox. Photograph 1 is full figure. Photograph 2 is head and shoulders only.

Photograph 3 is a head and shoulders picture of William S. Pike.

Photograph 4 is a full figure picture of Emory Wilcox.

Photograph 5 and Photograph 6 are head and shoulders pictures of Leroy B. Pike. In Photograph 5 he is wearing his army uniform.

Photograph 7 is a head and shoulders picture of John Pike.

Photograph 8 is a group portrait of Anna E. Wilcox and John Pike seated in the foreground with Mrs. J. [Emma Rose] Pike and Mrs. W. S. [Sarah E.] Pike standing behind.

### The Envelopes

There are four envelopes in the Anna Wilcox Collection which could not be positively matched to any letter. Only two of the envelopes have legible postmarks,

though on neither is the year legible. One was mailed from Alexandria, Virginia, on December 14. The other was mailed from Waverly, Iowa, on June 24. All four are addressed to Miss Annie Wilcox; one includes her middle initial, 'E.'

# *Anna E. Wilcox Collection of Civil War Letters*

<i>Box #</i>	<i>Folder #</i>	<i>Item #</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Date</i>
<b>AW01</b>					
	<i>AW01</i>	Letter AWL01	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	16 October 1862
	<i>AW02</i>	Envelope AWE01	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	19 January 1864
		Letter AWL02	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	18 January 1864
	<i>AW03</i>	Envelope AWE02	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	27 February [1864]
		Letter AWL03	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	26 February 1864
	<i>AW04</i>	Letter AWL04	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	10 March 1864
	<i>AW05</i>	Envelope AWE03	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	14 April [1864]
		Letter AWL05	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	17 April 1864
	<i>AW06</i>	Envelope AWE04	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	2 [May 1864]
		Letter AWL06	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	1 May 1864
	<i>AW07</i>	Envelope AWE05	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	14 May 1864
		Letter AWL07	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	12 May 1864
	<i>AW08</i>	Envelope AWE06	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	5 August 1864
		Letter AWL08	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	5 August 1864
	<i>AW09</i>	Envelope AWE07	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	13 August 1864
		Letter AWL09	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	13 August 1864
	<i>AW10</i>	Envelope AWE08	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	28 August 1864
		Letter AWL10	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	27 August 1864

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<b>AW01</b>					
	<i>AW11</i>	Envelope AWE09	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	6 September 1864
		Letter AWL11	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	5 September 1864
	<i>AW12</i>	Envelope AWE10	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	14 September 1864
		Letter AWL12	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	14 September 1864
	<i>AW13</i>	Envelope AWE11	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	23 Septmber 1864
		Letter AWL13	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	23 September 1864
	<i>AW14</i>	Envelope AWE12	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	6 October 1864
		Letter AWL14	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	6 October 1864
	<i>AW15</i>	Envelope AWE13	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	14 October 1864
		Letter AWL15	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	14 October 1864
	<i>AW16</i>	Envelope AWE14	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	7 November 1864
		Letter AWL16	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	7 November 1864
	<i>AW17</i>	Envelope AWE15	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	16 November 1864
		Letter AWL17	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	16 November 1864
	<i>AW18</i>	Envelope AWE16	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	7 December 1864
		Letter AWL18	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	7 December 1864
	<i>AW19</i>	Envelope AWE17	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	22 December 1864
		Letter AWL19	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	14 December 1864
	<i>AW20</i>	Envelope AWE18	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	[26 December 1864]
		Letter AWL20	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	23 December 1864

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<b>AW01</b>					
	<i>AW21</i>	Envelope AWE19	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	29 December 1864
		Letter AWL21	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	28 December 1864
	<i>AW22</i>	Letter AWL22	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	6 January 1865
	<i>AW23</i>	Envelope AWE20	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	17 January [1865]
		Letter AWL23	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	17 January 1865
	<i>AW24</i>	Envelope AWE21	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	24 January [1865]
		Letter AWL24	William S. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	24 January 1865
	<i>AW25</i>	Letter AWL25	Emory Wilcox	Anna E. Wilcox	18 February 1863
	<i>AW26</i>	Envelope AWE22	Emory Wilcox	Anna E. Wilcox	4 May [1863]
		Letter AWL26	Emory Wilcox	Anna E. Wilcox	3 May 1863
	<i>AW27</i>	Letter AWL27	Emory Wilcox	Anna E. Wilcox	3 June 1863
	<i>AW28</i>	Letter AWL28	Emory Wilcox	Anna E. Wilcox	17 June 1863
	<i>AW29</i>	Letter AWL29	Emory Wilcox	Anna E. Wilcox	9 August 1863
	<i>AW30</i>	Envelope AWE23	Benjamin Leroy Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	24 February [1864]
		Letter AWL30	Benjamin Leroy Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	22 February 1864
	<i>AW31</i>	Envelope AWE24	Benjamin Leroy Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	5 April 1864
		Letter AWL31	Benjamin Leroy Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	4 April 1864
	<i>AW32</i>	Envelope AWE25	Benjamin Leroy Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	6 May 1864
		Letter AWL32	Benjamin Leroy Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	6 May 1864
	<i>AW33</i>	Letter AWL33	Benjamin Leroy Pike	Anna E. Wilcox	12 November 1864



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<b>AW01</b>					
	<i>AW34</i>	Envelope AWE26 Benjamin Leroy Pike	Anna E. Wilcox		20 December [1864]
		Letter AWL34 Benjamin Leroy Pike	Anna E. Wilcox		17 December 1864
	<i>AW35</i>	Envelope AWE27 Benjamin Leroy Pike	Anna E. Wilcox		23 June [1865]
		Letter AWL35 Benjamin Leroy Pike	Anna E. Wilcox		19 June 1865
	<i>AW36</i>	Envelope AWE28 Benjamin Leroy Pike	Anna E. Wilcox		11 August [1865]
		Letter AWL36 Benjamin Leroy Pike	Anna E. Wilcox		10 August 1865
	<i>AW37</i>	Envelope AWE29 John Pike	Anna E. Wilcox		11 April 1865
		Letter AWL37 John Pike	Anna E. Wilcox		11 April 1865
	<i>AW38</i>	Envelope AWE30 John Pike	Anna E. Wilcox		22 April 1865
		Letter AWL38 John Pike	Anna E. Wilcox		22 April 1865
	<i>AW39</i>	Letter AWL39 J. E. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox		2 April 1866
	<i>AW40</i>	Letter AWL40 Ruth Pike	Brother [Unknown]		29 November 1866
	<i>AW41</i>	Envelope AWE31 Corintha Pike	Benjamin Stover		November [1866]
		Letter AWL41 Corintha Pike	Anna E. Wilcox		29 November 1866
	<i>AW42</i>	Letter AWL42 Mary J. Pike	[Unknown]		20 January 1863
	<i>AW43</i>	Envelope AWE32 Mary J. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox		9 June [1868]
		Letter AWL43 Mary J. Pike	Anna E. Wilcox		6 June 1868

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<b>AW01</b>					
	<i>AW44</i>	Envelope			
		AWE33 Benjamin Stover		Anna E. Wilcox	6 January [1868]
		Letter			
		AWL44 Benjamin Stover		Anna E. Wilcox	3 January 1868
		AWL45 Benjamin Stover		Alexander [Unknown]	3 January 1868
	<i>AW45</i>	Photograph			
		AWP01 Unknown		Anna E. Wilcox	No Date
		AWP02 Unknown		Anna E. Wilcox	No Date
		AWP03 F. R. Clench		William S. Pike	No Date
		AWP04 J. H. Young		Emory Wilcox	No Date
		AWP05 Unknown		Benjamin Leroy Pike	No Date
		AWP06 Unknown		John Pike	No Date
		AWP07 Unknown		John Pike	No Date
		AWP08 Unknown		Group	No Date
	<i>AW46</i>	Envelope			
		AWE34 Benjamin Leroy Pike		Anna E. Wilcox	14 December
		AWE35 Unknown		Anna E. Wilcox	24 June
		AWE36 Unknown		Anna E. Wilcox	No Date
		AWE37 Unknown		Anna E. Wilcox	No Date
<b>AW02</b>					
	<i>AW47</i>	Contextualization			
		AWC01 Randall Miles			2001
		Transcription Note			
		AWC02 Randall Miles			2001
	<i>AW48</i>	Military Service Record			
		AWM01 William S. Pike		NARA	14 September 2001
	<i>AW49</i>	Military Service Record			
		AWM02 Benjamin Leroy Pike		NARA	17 September 2001
	<i>AW50</i>	Military Service Record			
		AWM03 Emory Wilcox		NARA	14 September 2001
	<i>AW51</i>	Military Pension Record			
		AWR01 William S. Pike		NARA	4 December 2001
	<i>AW52</i>	Military Pension Record			
		AWR02 Benjamin Leroy Pike		NARA	28 November 2001