

IHLC MS 062

**William and Hattie Lawrence
Correspondence, 1854-1880**

Manuscript Collection Inventory

Illinois History and Lincoln Collections
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Note: Unless otherwise specified, documents and other materials listed on the following pages are available for research at the Illinois Historical and Lincoln Collections, located in the Main Library of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Additional background information about the manuscript collection inventoried is recorded in the [Manuscript Collections Database \(http://www.library.illinois.edu/ihx/archon/index.php\)](http://www.library.illinois.edu/ihx/archon/index.php) under the collection title; search by the name listed at the top of the inventory to locate the corresponding collection record in the database.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Illinois History and Lincoln Collections
<http://www.library.illinois.edu/ihx/>
phone: (217) 333-1777
email: ihlc@library.illinois.edu

**William and Hattie Lawrence.
Correspondence, 1854-1880.**

1. Ben Lawrence to Hattie Lawrence, 1863-1864
 - May 3, 1863, Lake Springs, Missouri
 - He was just made a lieutenant and will be home on furlough.
 - 1864
 - January 22, Bloomington, Illinois
 - March 6, New Orleans
 - He sent Hattie a letter and a pair of birds with a man who was discharged. He talks about "bedfellows." He celebrated the inauguration of the new Louisiana governor and describes the festivities.
 - March 6, New Orleans
 - He sent Hattie a letter and a pair of birds with a man who was discharged. He talks about "bedfellows." He celebrated the inauguration of the new Louisiana governor and describes the festivities.
 - March 22, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
 - He left on an expedition.
2. Hattie Lawrence to Ben Lawrence, 1862-1863
 - 1862
 - December 26
 - She thought Ben was dead. She is afraid the war will be long.
 - December 29
 - Mentions death of Lieutenant Colonel William McCullough, 4th Illinois Cavalry.
 - 1863
 - January 3
 - January 12
 - Misses her husband and is "willing to walk half of the way" to see him.
 - January 16
 - Death of Captain Joseph P. Orme, Company H, 94th; misses' husband.
 - February 15
 - February 24
 - Sent Ben a "care package." She is happy that he will be a lieutenant.
 - March 9
 - Nightmares about husband being sick and dying.
 - March 23
 - Her mother is remarrying.
 - March 29
 - Home news.
 - March 30

- April 18
She wants him home.
- April 20
- April 22
- April 24
She is afraid her husband's marching orders signify his death.
- April 26
She has not given up hope of seeing him.
- May 1
- May 4
She heard a rumor that her husband was coming home.
- June 2
She just learned her husband hurt his foot. She also heard a rumor that if the Union captured Vicksburg her husband [would get to come home.] She is constantly afraid that her husband will get killed, but she realizes that he was "to [sic] good to be killed by rebels."
- June 13
She is lonely and misses her husband.
- June 19
She wishes the Copperheads, who were meeting in Springfield, would "get run off the track and kill[ed]." The 94th Illinois was eight miles outside of Vicksburg.
- June [29?]
She had heard that he will be in Vicksburg July 4th for dinner. She does not think she will leave the house on the fourth. She is sending him money and is worried about his foot.
- July 7
The fall of Vicksburg; describes the celebration; she hopes it is not "another Richmond."
- July [11?]
She wants to go to Vicksburg to take care of the sick and wounded.
- July 19
The opening of the Mississippi celebration.
- July 26
- October 24
- November 1
She met a spy (?) for the Union.
- November 15
Her husband is now in New Orleans.
- December 3
- December 8
She wishes he could come home for Christmas.
- December 17
She has been extremely "low-spirited," and wishes she could come and stay with him.

December 25

3. Hattie Lawrence to Ben Lawrence, 1864 and Incomplete Dates

1864

January 3

She is sick.

January 5

She is feeling better. She will get enough money to make the house payment.

January 13

She talks about her husband going after the cotton the rebels had stored.

January 25

She is glad her husband returned safely, although she thought he would be harmed. She notes that she has received 18 or 19 letters from Ben, while her sister-in-law has only received 4.

January 31

She spent the afternoon reading his letters, which she could do "day and night."

February 3

She was sick again, but she was sure that if her husband were there she would "get well right away." She hopes that when her husband's time is up, and the war is still going on, he will not re-enlist.

February 14

Family gossip.

February 29

She had a dream he was home.

March 6

Her husband finally made up his mind to resign. She wants to see him and is afraid he cannot survive in such a warm climate.

Incomplete dates

April 2

She was afraid her husband would not like her letters. She tells how she spent her day.

February [?]

Cousin Peter is leaving for the army, so she gave him a letter and some cigars to give to Ben. She reports that there is going to be a draft so the fighting will end. She was sick with a headache and misses her parents.

April 4

She went to the country with her parents.

December 25

She had almost given up in despair that her husband would never write her again. She was afraid he had been killed. She sometimes imagines him dead on the battlefield.

Monday morning

She wrote to her husband to ask what kind of dress she should wear to have her picture taken. She wants to dress to "suite" him.

March 11

Her husband has not been receiving her letters. If he cannot come home, she will go to him. There were five cases of smallpox in Bloomington.

Fragment

She would give anything to be with him.

March 5

Home news. Her relatives are going to a concert. She took Pete to a masquerade ball.

June 8

Ben just left and she had a good cry over his first letter. She feels better after her cry. When he left, she watched him until he was out of sight. She is moving in with Bre--e and Emmanuel.

April 24

She heard his unit is marching.

March 3

She misses him.

Fragment

She hopes they will both be spared to spend many days together. She warns him to stay out of the sun and not get sick.

2 Fragments

Labeled 2 and 3.

4. Family and Relatives to Ben Lawrence

1860

February 26

From his father, James N. Lawrence, Trenton, N.J. He describes a new railroad.

July 11

From his father. They talk about making a hotel a political headquarters because every house was "locafoco." They are all for Lincoln. Buchanan said the democrats could not be united, and he would rather see Lincoln president.

September 20

From father. "This state [New Jersey] is good for Lincoln by 5 or 6000. We shall carry the legislature "pretty easy." He wants an appointment as U. S. Marshal.

December 17

From uncle, Richard Potts. He is trying to get "along through the Union-Saving times." He talks about paying a teacher \$30 a month. He suggests Ben might want this position.

1863

January 1

From parents (mainly father), New Egypt, New Jersey. Someone they knew was in the Battle of Fredericksburg and moved up

from captain to first lieutenant. They want to get together after the "infernal war" is over.

April 1

From parents (mainly father). Milton is with the Potomac. He talks about an impending battle for him. He suggests that Ben and Milton should go into hog and corn farming on land in the Wabash Valley.

September 7

From father. He knows someone obtaining a commission in a black regiment. He talks about returning to the west.

1864

February 11

From cousin, Peter J. Rowes, Brownsville, Texas. He wants Ben to send him all the men in his charge who are fit.

November 23

From cousin, Brownsville, Texas. He had a hard journey to Brownsville with his unit. There were not enough provisions. Once they arrived there were rations, but no cooking utensils. He went to trade flour for bread and was arrested for not having a pass. He was court martialed. The troops are disheartened.

Incomplete dates

April 9

From sister, Em, Bordentown, [New Jersey]. She does not want to cause any trouble between Ben and his wife.

Fragment, no date.

From aunt.

December [12?]

From sister. Home news.

September 23

From aunt. There is a continuous cry for more troops. Aunt Sarah and her family have scarlet fever. Milton is in the 14th Indiana regiment. Almost every day Milton has sight of the enemy and has a "brush with them in some way." They have killed between 30 and 40, while 5 or 6 have been killed on their side. Tells of a soldier bayoneting a rebel soldier in revenge. He tells Ben not to sign up to fight; there were plenty waiting to go because they had no other way to support themselves.

September

From cousin Christina L. Potts. Family news.

5. Friends to Ben Lawrence

July 16, 1862

From G. E. Hutchinson, Cairo, Illinois. He wants Ben to send lard because it is hard to get. Ben shipped him lard, ham, and butter. He wants Ben to send as much as possible and it will be sold at a profit. A friend was killed from flagship Hartford. He feels that "we will come out all

right in the end without trusting to Providence. I don't think he has assisted us any yet."

1863

January 4

From Imon White, Towanda, Illinois. His division started up the Mississippi River and landed in Sulphur Springs. 22 were taken to the hospital; he was among them. He got an honorable discharge.

January 18

From Mary Gould. Talks about a picture of Ben. She thinks he looks mad enough to kill someone.

July 12

From Clayton Herr, Bloomington, Illinois. The fall of Vicksburg. Describes the celebration. Report Meade and Lee were fighting in Antietam. Meade has one-third to one-half the men of Lee. Lee only has 50,000 left. News of the draft. Feels that everyone is in favor of the draft but the "mean dirty copperheads."

August 8

From Sarah Michael, Decatur, Illinois. Her husband is friends with Ben. She misses her husband but realizes that they are protecting their country. It is an honor to serve in the Union army.

1864

January 8

From Major A. L. Briscoe, Bloomington, Illinois. He visited Hattie and she is unhappy. She did not even laugh at his jokes.

May 2

From J. Howard Moon, 13th Illinois. Vols., Alexandria, Louisiana. He is camped in a yard about 2.5 miles south of town. At 9 a.m. the enemy appeared with the intention of attacking McClernand. McClernand wanted to attack, but Banks ordered a retreat. They withdrew and the Rebs now occupy the place. Trying to clear the river so they can get supplies down. There are speculators and cotton in the wharf.

July 27

From Stella. She describes her vacation in Vermont.

Missing Date

March 11

From Champaign. He (Brine?) wants to come home but he has not been able to.

6. Algernon S. Lawrence to wife

1862

August 31

From Camp Benton, Missouri. A. S. Lawrence [at this point, A. S. is 2nd lieutenant, Co A, 94th Illinois] is stationed with Ben. He has never felt better in his life. Two men are sick. He cannot leave without a pass.

September 17

He is travelling to Springfield, but they only made nine miles.
They camped without tents. They next day they confiscated
cattle and a wagon. He wants her to send him stamps.

7. Army Documents

1863

August 7

Sick list for the 94th Illinois Volunteers.

August 29

Colonel John McNulta's letter recommending W. B. Lawrence for
first lieutenant.

1864

May 25

Pass to Lieutenant [A. S.] Lawrence to go with the ambulance
through lines and return.

Missing date

Fragment. From Captain M. S. Lawrence(?), Commanding General, 11th
New Jersey Volunteer Infantry. His regiment has 266 people. He was
at Gettysburg. Talks about losing nearly all his men in Gettysburg and
Chancellorsville.

8. Non-War Correspondence

1854

April 1

Poem called "Parody on Byron's Waterloo."

June 25

Groton, Massachusetts. Ben's thoughts about his friends.

1855

August

A poem or acrostic. From "a friend."

July 17

Strip of paper. "John Stevens. Burnt one o'clock on the morning of
the 17th of July 1855."

February 7, 1857

From? To? Letter partially in code. Also insert.

January 30, 1860

Leroy, Illinois. From one of Ben's friends. Apologizes for not writing.
Talks about drinking and chasing women.

February 14, 1862

From Bramon Ingles, Crown Point, Indiana. She will arrive one week
from Wednesday.

February 16 (per envelope), 1864

Printed page, watercolor. Drawing of a man with a pig. Titled "the
Forager."

October 28, 1873

From Samuel Rhodes, Wichita, Kansas. Complains about the postal
service.

July 30, 1878

From James Lawrence (Ben's brother), Wellington, Kansas. A legal document about a land sale.

1880

[Undated] From W. C. Scovel, Grand Crossing, Chicago, Illinois. Teases Ben for supporting "Greenbacker Stevenson." Scovel used to live in Bloomington. He is very poor, with seven people in his family.

April 6

To "husband" from "wife." Talks about a farm.

Missing dates

August 9

To Miss Lawrence from Mrs. J. C. Moore, Leroy, Illinois. Informs Mrs. Lawrence that she is not jealous of her. She does, however, accuse her of drinking and travelling with a married man (her husband). She says that she was raised better than to do something like that.

Undated

From Ben's mother, Anna Lawrence. She assures him that she was not displeased with his marriage to Hattie. She advises him not to drink or hang around with "bad women." Father inserted a strip of paper urging his son to join a masonic lodge.

From Trenton. Letter partially in code.

Fragment of letter, partially in code.

From "Harry" to "Pa." Child's letter to his father.

9. Envelopes

10. Photograph of W. B. Lawrence

