

BEVERLY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

**LORING FAMILY PAPERS
(1833-1943)**

MSS: #002

Volume: 3 boxes (1.5 linear ft.)

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1. Abstract:

The Loring family papers include the correspondence of both Katharine Peabody Loring (1849-1943), and her younger sister, Louisa Putnam Loring (1854-1924). Both women were prominent members of Beverly society. Katharine served as the President Beverly Historical Society for twenty-three years (1918-1941), and helped to shape the organization as it exists today. Louisa was a musician, and poet, as well as a social reformer. Both women corresponded with many important writers, musicians, artists, and public figures of the period. Other notable material includes letters from their father, Caleb William Loring (1819-1897) that span his life from boyhood to old age; letters to their uncle, Charles Greeley Loring (1828-1907) that were sent to him when he served as an enlisted officer in the Union Army during the Civil War (1862-1865); and a large group of letters to their aunt, Jane Lathrop (Loring) Gray (1821-1909), who was married to the Harvard University botanist Asa Gray (1810-1888).

The Autograph collection includes letters and signatures of many prominent New Englanders plus other well-known writers, politicians, artists, actors, and celebrities of the period. The collection was compiled by Katharine and Louisa Loring, together with other active members of the Beverly Historical Society, such as Charles W. Galloupe, who also donated his library to the fledging organization.

2. Provenance: The collection was donated by Katharine Peabody Loring, Louisa Putnam Loring, and other members of the Loring family.

3. Conservation:

Material was re-housed in acid-free folders; all staples and metal paper clips were removed; material considered to be fragile or important to preserve, was placed either in an acid-free sleeve or encapsulated.

4. Copyright:

Request for permission to publish material from the collection must be submitted in writing to the Curator of Collections at the Cabot House of the Beverly Historical Society and Museum.

5. Biographical Sketch:

Katharine Peabody Loring (1849-1943), and Louisa Putnam Loring (1854-1924) were two of the four children born to Caleb William Loring (1819-1897), and his wife, Elizabeth Smith Peabody Loring (1822-1869; married 1845). There were also two sons, William Caleb Loring (1851-1930), and Augustus Peabody Loring, (1856-1938). Following the death of their much loved mother, Elizabeth, the four children developed a very strong, and loving relationship with their father, Caleb. This is evident in the numerous letters which Caleb wrote to his daughters, both individually and together, and in the multi-page letters he received from them in return. Much like his father Charles Greeley Loring (1794-1867), Caleb studied law at Harvard and became a lawyer. He was also involved in manufacturing, and served as the president of the Plymouth Cordage Company. The family lived in Boston, but in 1852 Caleb built one of the first summer homes at Pride's Crossing, Beverly, which he called Burn Side. His father had already built a summer residence there in 1846. After 1872, both Caleb, and his two daughters lived at the home in Beverly full-time. Caleb was also close to his sister, Jane (Jeannie) Lathrop Loring Gray (1821-1909), wife of the Harvard botanist Asa Gray (1810-1888), and to his brother Charles (Charlie) Greeley Loring (1828-1907), a decorated officer in the Union Army during the Civil War. Charles later became an Egyptologist, and served as the first director of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (1881-1902).

From a young age, Katharine was a prolific writer, and she also liked to sketch. Some of her sketches can be found among her letters. As an adult, she corresponded with a significant group of post-Civil War American women writers. The group includes: Edith Wharton (1862-1937), Constance Fenimore Woolson (1840-1894), Sarah Orne Jewett (1849-1909), Laura Elizabeth Howe Richards, (1850 -1943), and Eliza Orne White (1856-1947). Katharine also had a close relationship with the James family who were summer residents in Beverly. She corresponded with both brothers, the famous writer Henry James (1843-1916), and with the eminent psychologist, William James (1842-1910). Katharine was both a friend and a companion to their younger sister, Alice James (1848-1892) who seemed to have suffered from physical and/or mental illness during much of her life. Like many afflicted women of the period, Alice was treated for hysteria with a variety of experimental treatments. Together with Katharine, Alice relocated to London in 1884. The pair remained in England until Alice's death from breast cancer in 1892 at the age of forty-three. From Alice's biography it appears that their relationship was romantic, as well as a platonic.

As an early advocate for women's education, Katharine was a founding member, and a teacher for more than twenty years for the Society to Encourage Studies at Home (SH). Developed by Anna Eliot Ticknor (1823-1896) and based on an English model, the SH (c. 1873-1897) was the first correspondence school in the United States. Katharine served as a trustee for the Beverly Public Library for forty years. Katharine and her sister Louisa donated the land on which the Beverly Farms branch of the Beverly public library was built. Katharine was also an officer in the Women's Education Association, and President of the Massachusetts Library Club. She held the office of President of the Beverly Historical Society for twenty-three years, from 1918-1941. It was during this period that the Society acquired its two additional properties, Balch House and Hale Farm, as well as many important collections related to the history of Beverly and environs. As a seemingly tireless volunteer, Katharine Loring was a Red Cross worker, and also assisted her sister with the Anti-Tuberculosis Society in Beverly. She was involved with the Beverly Improvement Society, the Beverly Farms Improvement Society, and served as an honorary chairman of the women's division of the Beverly Chamber of Commerce. She died in 1943 in Beverly, Mass.

Louisa Putnam Loring (1854-1924) was also involved in social reform and philanthropic causes. However, she differed from her older sister in that she also had a great interest in music and literature. Louisa was an accomplished pianist and harpist. She composed the lyrics to a hymn, "O Thou Who Turnest Into Morning," and compiled a book of hymns, *Hymns of the ages* (Cambridge, Mass.: University Press, 1904). Together with her friend, the poet, George Woodbury (1855-1930), she wrote a book of poetry, *At Burn Side: verses* (Boston: Privately printed, 1927) that was produced in a limited edition of 150. She also encouraged amateur writers, such as her friend, the lawyer, Henry Walton Swift (1849-1924), and the Reverend William David Morrice. Examples of their poetry appear in the Loring papers. One of Louisa's most significant humanitarian achievements was the founding of a sanitarium in Aiken, South Carolina, called Aiken Cottages, for people afflicted with tuberculosis. She was also the founder of the Anti-Tuberculosis Society in Beverly. Louisa served as the director of the Beverly Hospital for many years, and was the secretary for the Essex County chapter of the Red Cross. Her wide range of interests are apparent in her letters written to her father and others throughout her life. Louisa died in 1924.

6. Scope and Content Note:

The Loring Family Papers can be considered to consist of two sections. The first part consists of the family papers themselves. A large portion of the letters were written by Katharine and Louisa Loring, and their father Caleb William Loring. A number of letters were written by the Loring children, Katharine, Louisa, William and Augustus to their uncle, Charles Greeley Loring when he was an officer in the Union Army during the Civil War, c. 1862-1865. There are also some letters from their mother, Elizabeth, or Lizzie Peabody Loring written to her brother-in-law, Charles, during the same period. From a letter written to Katharine after Charles' death, it appears that Charles' wife returned the letters to the family. Another sizeable group of correspondence was written to Jane (Jeannie) Loring Gray both before and after her marriage to the botanist, Asa Gray. Both Grays were in contact with many famous scholars

and public figures of the period. The letters written by Caleb Loring seem to cover much of his life from his boyhood through his old age.

There is a group of poems sent to, or written for Louisa Peabody Loring by two friends, who may have been admirers, the Rev. Morrice, and Henry W. (Walton) Swift (1849-1924). There is also some print material from newspapers and other sources, including two copies of the memorial service held in honor of Katharine Peabody following her death in 1943.

The second part of the collection consists of a large autograph collection that was compiled by the Loring sisters, and other members of the Beverly Historical Society. This includes a few signed photographic portraits. There is also a collection of bookplates, mostly from various book funds established at the Boston Public Library. Finally there is a small group of seals that seem to be too few in number to constitute a "collection."

7. Processor's Note:

It appears that the collection had already been processed, or organized in some way. Numerous letters written by prominent figures had been removed from the family papers, and added to the Autograph Collection. In most cases letters were separated from the envelopes in which they had been sent. It therefore seemed logical to organize the material into a more accessible scheme. In most cases the letters are now organized according to the recipient(s). Letters and notes are kept together with their envelopes whenever possible. Many letters from the Autograph Collection have been moved and filed with the family papers.

An assumption was made that in most instances, letters that were addressed to "Miss Loring" are assumed to be for Katharine Loring unless the subject or content seemed to indicate that the letter was intended for Louisa Loring. Letters written to both Katharine and Louisa Loring from their family and friends have been kept together. Metal paper clips and staples have been removed; all letters have been placed in archival folders within archival storage boxes. Very fragile material has been placed in archival sleeves, or encapsulated. Acidic material has been isolated from other material whenever possible.

8. Series List:

Series I: Correspondence to Katharine Peabody Loring (1849-1943)

Series II: Correspondence to Louisa Putnam Loring (1854-1923)

Series III: Poems for Louisa Putnam Loring

Series IV: Correspondence to Katharine Peabody Loring and Louisa Putnam Loring

Series V: Correspondence related to other members of the Loring family (i.e., Caleb William Loring, Elizabeth Peabody Loring, and Charles Greeley Loring)

Series VI: Correspondence to Asa Gray (1810-1888) and Jane Loring Gray (1821-1909)

Series VII: Other Loring Family material (includes documents and printed material)

Series VIII: Autograph collection: compiled by Katharine Peabody Loring, Louisa Putnam Loring, and others

Series IX: Other collections: book plates and seals

9. Container List:

Box 1

Series I: Letters to Katharine Peabody Loring (1849-1943)

Folder 1. Undated Letters, A-Z

Folder 2. Letters, 1879-1895

Folder 3. Letters, 1890-1910

Folder 4. Letters, 1911-1917

Folder 5. Letters, 1918-1929

Folder 6. Letters, 1930-1943

Series II: Letters to Louisa Putnam Loring (1854-1923)

Folder 7. Undated Letters, A-Z

Folder 8. Letters, 187_-1884

Folder 9. Letters, 1885-1887

Folder 10. Letters, 1888-1897

Folder 11. Letters, 1902-1923

Series III: Poems collected by Louisa Putnam Loring (1854-1923)

Folder 12. Poems written by Rev. William David Morrice, written, c. 1884-1886, and George Edward Woodberry (1855-1930), Undated

Folder 13. Poems written by Henry Walton Swift (1849-1924), c. 1896

Series IV. Letters to Katharine Peabody Loring, and Louisa Putnam Loring

Folder 14. Letters, 1880-1886

Folder 15. Letters, 1887-1916

Box 2

Series V. Letters of other members of the Loring family: Caleb William Loring (1819-1897), Elizabeth Peabody Loring (1822-1869), and Charles Greeley Loring (1828-1907)

Folder 1. Letters by Caleb William Loring to his family, 1833-1890s

Folder 2. Letters to Caleb William Loring, Undated -1884

Folder 3. Notebook and letter (notebook dates 1833) by Elizabeth Peabody Loring

Folder 4. Letters to Charles Greeley Loring from Katharine Peabody Loring, Undated-1865

Folder 5. Letters to Charles Greeley Loring from Augustus Peabody Loring (1856-1938), Louisa Putnam Loring, and William Caleb Loring (1851-1930), Undated-c. 1865

Folder 6. Other letters to Charles Greeley Loring, Undated-1864

Series VI. Letters to Asa Gray (1810-1888) and Jane Loring Gray (1821-1909)

Folder 7. Letters to Asa Gray, Undated-1855

Folder 8. Letters to Asa Gray, 1857-1886 (one letter written by Asa Gray, 1860)

Folder 9. Letters to Jane Loring Gray (1821-1909), Undated-1844

Folder 10. Letters to Jane Loring Gray, 1845-1850

Folder 11. Letters to Jane Loring Gray, 1867-1888

Folder 12. Letters to Jane Loring Gray, 1890-1905

Series VII. Miscellaneous letters, documents, and printed material related to the Loring family

Folder 13. Letters related to other members of the Loring family, Undated-1937

Folder 14. Loring family documents (includes passports), 1827-1943

Folder 15. Newspapers and other printed material, c. 1870-1880

Folder 16. Empty envelopes, 1839-1900

Box 3

Series VIII. Autograph collection compiled by Katharine Peabody Loring, and others

Folder 1. Letters, writings by last name, A-B

Folder 2. Letters, writings by last name, C-E

Folder 3. Letters, writings by last name, G-H

- Folder 4. Letters, writings by last name, I-L
- Folder 5. Letters, writings by last name, M-R
- Folder 6. Letters, writings by last name, S-Z
- Folder 7. Autographs from letters, alphabetical, and unidentified
- Folder 8. Autographs from letters, alphabetical, and unidentified
- Folder 9. Signed photographs, alphabetical by subject

Series IX. Other collections

- Folder 10. Bookplates (alphabetical) and seals
- Folder 11. Page from The whole book of Psalmes, c.1594-1606 (issued in 1935)

10. Personal Names in the Loring Family Papers

Loring Family:

1. **Charles Greely Loring**, 1794-1867
2. **Anna Brace Loring** (wife of Charles), 1798-1836
3. **Caleb William Loring**, (son of Charles, father of Katharine & Louisa), 1819-1897
4. **Elizabeth Smith Peabody Loring** (wife of Caleb), 1822-1869
5. **Katharine Peabody Loring**, (daughter of Caleb), 1849-1943
6. **Louisa Putnam Loring** (daughter of Caleb), 1854-1923
7. **William Caleb Loring**, (son of Caleb), 1851-1930
8. **Augustus Peabody Loring**, (son of Caleb), 1856-1938 - Married Ellen Gardner, June 3, 1884
9. **Jane Lathrop (Loring) Gray** (daughter of Charles), 1821-1909
10. **Asa Gray** (husband of Jane, m. 1848), 1810-1888
11. **Susan Mary (Loring) Jackson** (daughter of Charles), 1823-1895
12. **Patrick Tracy Jackson** (husband of Susan, m. 1843), 1818-1891
13. **Patrick Tracy Jackson, Jr.** (son of Susan), 1844-
14. **Charles Loring Jackson** (son of Susan), 1847-1935; graduated Harvard in 1867; professor of organic chemistry at Harvard for more than 40 years; spent summers at Beverly Farm.
15. **Ernest Jackson** (son of Susan), 1857-1913
16. **Anna Pierce Jackson** (daughter of Susan), 1855-
17. **Charles Greely Loring**, (son of Charles), 1828-1907; served during Civil War and discharged with rank of General; first director of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.
18. **George Bailey Loring**, 1817-1891 - Harvard, 1838; doctor 1842; Mass. House of Representatives, 1866; President Mass. Senate, 1873-1875; U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, 1877-1881

Non-Family Personal Names

1. **John Israel Baker**, 1812-1897 – born in Beverly where lived at One Monument Square for much of his long life; father of Bessie Baker (1859-1934); Town Clerk of Beverly, 1836-1856; County Commissioner, 1847-1855; State Senator, 1863-1864; harbor and land commissioner for the Commonwealth, from 1883; 1st mayor of Beverly, 1894-1895, briefly President of the Beverly Historical Society when it was founded in 1897.
2. **William Edward Byerly**, 1849-1935 – Harvard and Radcliffe Professor of Mathematics
3. **Charles Dickens**, 1812-1870 – famous English author visited Boston in 1842 and 1867 as part of his American publicity tours.
4. **Dorothea Lynde Dix**, 1802-1887 – An early advocate for the education of girls, she then turned her attention to the treatment of the mentally ill in the U.S. during the mid-late 19th century; she has been called, “the most effective advocate of humanitarian reform in American mental institutions during the nineteenth century.”
5. **George Barrell Emerson**, 1797-1881 - Founded Boston Society of Natural History (1831), and founding member of the Boston Board of Education.
6. **Edward Everett**, 1822-1909 - Unitarian minister of the South Congregational Church, Boston, 1856-1899.
7. **W.G. Farlow (William Gibson)**, 1844-1919 – Botanist and professor.
8. **James Thomas Fields**, 1817-81 - American author and publisher, b. Portsmouth, N.H. He was the junior partner of Ticknor and Fields, noted Boston publishing house in the mid-19th cent. He edited the *Atlantic Monthly*, 1861-1870 and wrote poetry.

9. **Josef Hofmann**, 1876-1957 - pianist and composer, friend of Louisa Loring.
10. **Alice James**, 1848-1892 – diarist (published posthumously); suffered from physical and psychological problems during her life; in 1884 she and her companion, Katharine Loring, settled in England where she remained until her death at age 43 from breast cancer.
11. **Henry James**, 1843-1916 – writer – moved to Paris in 1871 and England in 1876; family spent summers in Beverly; friend of Edith Wharton.
12. **William James**, 1842-1910 – brother of Henry – psychologist & Harvard professor.
13. **Sarah Orne Jewett**, 1849-1909, novelist and short story writer, focused on Berwick, Maine.
14. **Lucy Larcom**, 1824 -1893 - poet, writer, advocate for women’s rights, worked in Boott Mills in Lowell as a young woman, b. Beverly, d. Boston.
15. **Richard Irvine Manning**, 1859-1931 – Governor of South Carolina, 1915-1919
16. **Henry Hart Milman**, 1791-1868 – Professor of Poetry at Oxford University (1821), and dean of Saint Paul’s Cathedral, London (1849).
17. **Reverend William David Morrice** – Between 1852–1874 served as vicar of Longbridge Deverill and Monkton Deverill; wrote poems to Louisa Peabody Loring (c. 1884-1886).
18. **William Phillips** , 1878 –1968 – b. Beverly, Mass; diplomat who twice served as Under-Secretary of State.
19. **Laura Elizabeth Howe Richards**, 1850 -1943 – writer - daughter of abolitionist Samuel Gridley Howe and Julia Ward Howe (who wrote *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*) .
20. **E.A. Sophocles** (Evangelinus Apostolides), 1807-1883 – Harvard Professor of Ancient, Medieval and Modern Greek.
21. **Peleg Sprague**, 1793-1880 – U.S. Senator from Maine, 1825-1835 – summer home in Beverly Farms, near the Loring family.
22. **Henry Walton Swift**, 1849-1924 – attorney and friend of Louisa Loring; wrote poetry including a poem dedicated to Caleb William Loring; served as Reporter for the decisions of the Supreme Judicial Court of Mass., 1901-1919; co-author of *Massachusetts digest: a digest of the reported decisions of the Supreme Judicial Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from 1804 to 1879, with references to earlier cases* by Edmund H. Bennett, Russell Gray and Henry W. Swift (Boston, 1881).
23. **Helen Louise Herron (Nellie) Taft**, 1861 –1943 - wife of William Howard Taft, served as First Lady from 1909-1913.
24. **William Howard Taft**, 1857-1930 – President of the U.S., 1909-1913 – summered in Beverly, 1909-1912; appointed Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, 1921-1930.
25. **Anna Eliot Ticknor**, 1823-1896 - founded the Society to Encourage Studies at Home (SH), c. 1873-1897, the first correspondence school in the U.S., it was dedicated to the education of women in the post-Civil War period.
26. **H.W. (Henry Warren) Torrey**, 1814-1893 – Harvard McLean Professor of Ancient and Modern History.
27. **Austin Warren**, 1899-1986 – writer and critic wrote a biography of Alice James.
28. **Booker T. Washington**, 1856-1915; a former slave who was educated at the Hampton Institute in Virginia; he founded the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama in 1881; recognized as the nation's foremost African-American educator.
29. **Edith Wharton**, 1862-1937 - writer and designer – designed her home, The Mount in Lenox, Mass, after 1901; moved to Europe permanently after her divorce in 1913 (settled in Paris).
30. **Eliza Orne White**, 1856-1947 – author of *A Browning courtship and other stories*, 1897 as well as forty-four other books of which twenty-nine were written for children; born in Keene, NH but spent much of her adult life in Brookline, Mass.

31. **George Edward Woodberry**, 1855-1930 - American poet, critic, and teacher, b. Beverly, Mass.; grad. Harvard, 1877; professor of English at the Univ. of Nebraska (1880-82) and at Columbia (1891-1904).
32. **Constance Fenimore Woolson** , 1840-1894 – writer – grew up in the mid-west, lived with mother in Florida in late 1870s, moved to Europe after her mother’s death in 1879; became friends with Henry James in 1880; died in Venice, unclear if her death was accidental, or suicide.