

**American Antiquarian Society  
Manuscript Collections**

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**NAME OF COLLECTION:**

Emerson, Ellen Tucker, Letters, 1863-1865

**LOCATION(S):**

Mss. boxes "E"

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**SIZE OF COLLECTION:**

one manuscript box [100 letters]

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**SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:**

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**SOURCE OF COLLECTION:**

Gift of Mary Ulbrich, 2003

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**COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:**

Ellen Tucker Emerson (1839-1909) was the eldest surviving child of Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) and Lidian Jackson Emerson (1802-1892).

This collection contains one hundred letters all written by Ellen Tucker Emerson to family and friends. The majority of the letters (45) were written to her sister Edith (1841-1928), who spent twelve months in New York undergoing the water-cure. Eleven letters were written to her brother Edward (1844-1930), who was often away at Harvard College, twelve to her cousin John Haven Emerson (1840- ), and seven to her father. The remainder were to friends and other relatives.

Most of the letters were written from Concord, Mass., and in lively prose detail Ellen's life in the Emerson household and in the wider Concord community. The family was firmly based in Concord from which town Ralph Waldo Emerson traveled widely lecturing and Ellen made occasional visits to friends and relatives in Boston, Canton, Naushon, and Plymouth, Mass., and Newport, R.I. Ellen writes of: her visits to "Aunt Ripley" [Sarah Alden Bradford Ripley (1793-1867)] at the Manse where Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Sanborn are boarding for part of 1864; her Dante studies with "Aunt Lizzie" [Elizabeth Hoar (1814-1878)]; and her labors with Sophia Amelia Peabody Hawthorne (1809-1871), Una Hawthorne (1844-1877), and Julian Hawthorne (1846-1934) in behalf of "Mrs. Mann's fair". She describes skating on Walden Pond [14 January 1863], visiting Edward's newly decorated room at Harvard [6 January 1863], attending Anna Ward's wedding at the Catholic Chapel [30 January 1863], listening to Mr. Alcott and her mother discuss education [8 January 1864], and monitoring the behavior of her "daughter", Edith Davidson, her ward for several years.

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY  
MANUSCRIPTS DEPARTMENT

ELLEN TUCKER EMERSON, LETTERS, 1863-1865  
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