Guide to the Sean McNamara Rosemeyer Collection on Marjorie Lansing Porter and Related Families

2013.3

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By
Dr. Gordon Pollard
and
Debra Kimok
Last Revised July 2019

Title: Guide to the Rosemeyer Collection on Marjorie Lansing Porter and Related Families
Dates: 1860s-1960s
ID: Collection 2013.3
Creators: Members of Lansing, Porter, and Millington Families
Extent: 5.5 linear feet
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Processed by: Debra Kimok, Michael Burgess, Gordon Pollard
Acquisition Information: Materials donated by Sean Elizabeth McNamara Rosemeyer
Subject Headings: Porter, Marjorie Lansing; Family records; Family names; World War I, remembering the Great War; World War I Collection

See Also: Collection 73.2, The Marjorie L. Porter Collection of Ballads and Lore
Guides to the Porter Collection are available online at
plattsburgh.edu/academics/library/special-collections/collection-guides.html
Biographical Note

This collection of photographs and family papers is associated with the prominent writer, historian, editor, and folklore/folk music researcher Helen Margarette Lansing Porter, who is better known by the name she commonly used through most her life, Marjorie Lansing Porter. Marjorie was born in Port Henry, New York, on August 21, 1891, and died in Elizabethtown, New York, April 14, 1973, at the age of 82. Her parents were Charles Wendell Lansing (1869-1944) and Helen Margarett (“Danna”) Prescott (1870-1941), who were married in Ticonderoga, NY, in 1890. Marjorie completed a two year course of study at the Plattsburgh Normal School in 1912, and an additional set of courses there in 1932-33.

Marjorie Lansing was married and divorced twice. Her first husband was Howard Guy Millington (1885-1965), whom she married in 1912. They had three children, Helen (1913), John (“Jack” 1915), and Mary Elizabeth (“Bette” 1918). Marjorie’s second marriage was to Homer Porter in 1922, with whom she had two additional children, David (1922), and Philip (1924).

The materials of this collection were donated by one of Marjorie’s grandchildren, Sean Elizabeth McNamara Rosemeyer.

Scope of the Collection

The major portion of the collection is comprised of more than 1100 photographs and negatives pertaining to the interrelated families of the Lansings, Prescotts, Millingtons, and Porters. Several early family albums and numerous snapshot photographs highlight family members and activities, and span almost one hundred years, from the 1860s to the 1960s. Depictions of Marjorie Lansing Porter (1891-1973) range from her early childhood to the later years of her life.

Other materials offer additional insight into Marjorie Lansing Porter’s professional and personal life. These include letters to her when she served as editor of the Essex County Republican in Keeseville, as well as wide ranging correspondence to her in connection with her services to the public as Essex County Historian, Clinton County Historian, and City of Plattsburgh Historian. These and other papers in the collection provide a unique demonstration of the deep dedication Marjorie had to documentation, preservation, and dissemination of North Country history, both written and oral. As well, ephemera in the collection give an interesting glimpse of her daily life and activities over many decades.

Another significant part of the collection pertains to Marjorie Lansing’s father, Charles Wendell Lansing, who served as a Captain in the U.S. Army during World War I from 1917 to 1919. Capt. Lansing compiled an impressive scrapbook of photographs, memoranda, letters, and war time ephemera that uniquely embodied his personal experiences and perspectives on what he titled “The Great Adventure.” In addition to this important work, the collection includes a number of manuscripts written by Charles Lansing concerning issues of international law, peace, and justice, as well as numerous newspaper articles that highlight his post-WWI work in civic and industrial planning and development.
# Container List

## Box 1  Photographs 1-194

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<td>Commercial photographs and stereoviews</td>
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<td>1/2</td>
<td>Family “Floral Album” of studio photographs, 1860s-1890s</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/3</td>
<td>Family album of snapshots and postcards, 1910s-1920s</td>
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## Box 2  Photographs 195-275

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/1</td>
<td>Porter Family album of studio photographs, 1880s-1890s</td>
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## Box 3  Photographs 276-541

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<tr>
<td>3/1</td>
<td>Bluefields Camp and Country Club near Nyack, N.Y., 1920s</td>
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<td>3/2</td>
<td>Snapshot photos formerly from the collection of Helen Margarette (Danna) Prescott</td>
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<td>3/3</td>
<td>Snapshots of Marjorie Lansing Porter</td>
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<td>3/4</td>
<td>Snapshots of the log house on Rugar St., Plattsburgh</td>
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<td>3/5</td>
<td>Snapshots of a trip to Pharaoh Lake, 1914</td>
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<td>3/6</td>
<td>Snapshots of Philip Stephen Porter as a baby and toddler</td>
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<td>3/7</td>
<td>Snapshots of Claribel Putnam Millington</td>
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<td>3/8</td>
<td>Snapshots of Crawford Notch, Lake Winnepesauke trip</td>
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<td>3/9</td>
<td>Snapshots of David Homer Porter and Philip Stephen Porter as toddlers</td>
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<td>3/10</td>
<td>Snapshots of Helen Margarette Prescott, Annie Rickey, Edwin Claude Prescott, Marjorie Lansing Porter, Kathryn Prescott Lansing, and others</td>
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<td>3/11</td>
<td>Snapshots of unidentified people</td>
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<td>3/12</td>
<td>Snapshots of Helen Margarette Prescott, Helen Margarette Millington, and David Homer Porter at Port Kent, 1940</td>
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<td>3/13</td>
<td>School photographs of Sherry Porter, Steve Porter, and Sylvia Porter, 1950s</td>
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## Box 4  Photographs and Negatives 542-657

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<tr>
<td>4/1</td>
<td>Snapshots of Marjorie Lansing Porter, David Homer Porter, Sherry Porter, Stephanie Porter, Steve Porter</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/2</td>
<td>David Homer Porter (negative for 485), Yankee John Galusha (2 negatives), Rugar St. log cabin (2 negatives), Kathryn Prescott Lansing Beall with Helen Margarette Millington, Port Kent Ferry Dock</td>
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## Box 5  Glass Plate Negatives of Helen Prescott, and an Ambrotype of Unidentified Man and Woman

<table>
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<th>Box</th>
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Box 6  Photographs 662-829

6/1  Snapshots and studio photographs that include members of the following families: Lansing, Porter, Millington, Prescott, Downs, Beall, McNamara. Also two Seneca Ray Stoddard photographs of Raquette Lake, and the Stevens House Hotel in Lake Placid  662-732
6/2  Snapshots and studio photographs that include members of the following families: Lansing, Millington, Prescott, Peabody, Downs  733-784
6/3  Snapshots and studio photographs, including some tintypes, that include members of the following families: Lansing, Porter, Prescott, Millington, Downs  785-828
6/4  Glass plate negative (broken) of Edwin Adriel Prescott, Sarah Jane Hatch Prescott and Mary Louise Prescott  829

Box 7  Negatives of Photographs Taken by Marjorie Lansing Porter of People and Places  830-1005

Box 8  Photographs 1006-1172

8/1  Marjorie Lansing Porter, Philip Stephen Porter, John Howard Millington, and Helen Margarett Millington  1006-1032
8/2  Charles Wendell Lansing World War I, small photograph album pages, France 1918  1033-1065
8/3  David Homer Porter; photograph of a ca. 1841 painting of Wendell Lansing; Charles, Michael & Sean McNamara; Normal School Kindergarten class of 1897 with Marjorie Lansing; Keeseville Grammar School class ca. 1902-1903 with Marjorie Lansing  1066-1073
8/4  Snapshot photos removed from a small album, ca. 1916-1918, of Northern New York scenes and places, including Ausable Chasm, Fort Ticonderoga, Lake George, and unidentified women  1074-1090
8/5  Snapshots and postcards related to Charles Wendell Lansing and wife Mabel White Lansing while they lived in Canaveral, Florida, 1920s-1940s  1091-1148
8/6  Keene House, Marjorie Lansing Porter at Hotel Champlain, Hotel Champlain, Porter and Millington family members, the Old Mill Shop, Turner’s Drug Store  1149-1171


Box 10  Captain Charles Lansing Manuscripts and Newspaper Items

10/1/1  “Under the Old Camp Tree.”  19 pp., typed ms., undated
10/1/2a  “The Submarine Front.”  7 pp., typed ms., undated
10/1/2b  “The Submarine Front” (photocopy)
10/1/3  “On the Way to the Peace.”  7 pp., carbon copy of typed ms., undated
10/1/4  “Law First.”  17 pp., typed ms., undated
10/1/5a  “Law and Law Alone.”  9 pp., typed ms., undated
10/1/5b  “Law and Law Alone” (carbon copy)
10/1/6  “A World Bill of Rights.”  8 pp., carbon copy of typed ms., undated


 Typed notes on “The Truth about Florida”  2 items

10/6  Photocopies of newspaper items related to the deaths of Capt. Charles Lansing and Mabel W. Lansing, and numerous articles related to Charles Lansing’s post-WWI work on civic and industrial development surveys, planning and implementation  12 sheets

10/7  Sketch on cardboard of an unidentified house unknown artist  1 item

Box 11  Marjorie Lansing Porter Correspondence

11/1  Photocopies of letters (& envelopes) from Rockwell Kent at Ausable Forks, concerning WWII censorship, political matters, folklore/folksongs, displaced persons, and efforts to arrange a visit of singer Burl Ives to come learn about Marjorie Lansing Porter’s collection of local ballads and possibly include some in his repertoire; 1946--1951  14 items

11/2  Correspondence to Marjorie Lansing Porter regarding her work as editor of the Essex County Republican, her involvements with historical associations, public presentations, and projects with North County Life; 1945--1959  27 items

11/3  Correspondence to Marjorie Lansing Porter concerning various research projects, as well as requests for local history information when she served as historian for Essex County, Clinton County, and the City of Plattsburgh, 1939--1961  66 items

11/4  Documents and letters to Marjorie Lansing Porter related to her service as City of Plattsburgh Historian and Clinton County Historian,1951-1961. Also two letters from the New York State Historical Association which voted an Award of Merit to MLP in recognition of her long service to local history and the folklore of the Adirondack area, 1972 [see Collection 73.2f 1/10 for the actual certificate]  15 items
Correspondence and receipts to Marjorie Lansing Porter concerning production, distribution, and sales of her publications; 1939--1974

Box 12 Marjorie Lansing Porter Papers, Household Receipts, Ephemera, Remains Disposition, Family History and Genealogies

12/1 State of New York Land Patent to Uriah D. Mihills and Wendell Lansing (Great Grandfather of Marjorie Lansing), Lot 29 of the Jay Tract, Essex County, March 16, 1847, signed by Governor John Young


12/4 M.L. Porter Household Documents and Receipts, including two WWII ration booklets and construction correspondence  1937-1986 29 items

12/4/1 May 23, 1937
From: Charles Harrington, Attorney and Counsellor at Law, Surrogate’s Office, Plattsburgh, NY
To: Mrs. Marjorie Porter, 9 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, NY
Thank you for payment for services and disbursements from August to November 1935,

12/4/2 May 28, 1937
To: Mrs. Marjory L. Porter, 9 Margaret Street, Plattsburg, NY
From: John B. Burnham, Essex, NY
Did not find time to get a price estimate for the excavation of a cellar at her house

12/4/3 12/4/3/a War Ration Book, 1942
12/4/3/b War Ration Book, 1944
12/4/3/c War Ration Application, 1943 (photocopy)
12/4/3/d Mileage Ration Identification, 1945 (photocopy)

12/4/4 Vehicle Operator’s License, 1946 (photocopy)
July 26, 1938
From: Clinton County Dept. of Public Welfare
To: Charles Lansing, Canaveral, Florida
States that they enclosed a questionnaire that he needed to complete because Marjorie had requested assistance for the care of her two sons. Asking whether he can assist her in securing employment so that she doesn't need the assistance.

October 20, 1943
From: City of Plattsburgh, NY Municipal Lighting Department
To: Mrs. Marjorie Porter, 88 Rugar Street, Plattsburgh, NY
Meter reading

November 4, 1943
From: Marjorie L. Porter, 100 Rugar Street, Plattsburgh, NY
To: Mr. R. C. Booth, Plattsburgh, NY
Sets out terms concerning stove coal, wood pile, fire insurance, three gas stoves, furniture, and tenant notice condition for when "Mr. Stoughton takes the house."

November 5, 1943
From: John C. Stoughton, Plattsburgh, NY
To: Robert C. Booth, Attorney at Law, Plattsburgh, NY
Agrees to the terms of Porter's November 4, 1943 letter to Mr. Booth

July 1, 1944
From: Rosebud Creamery, Plattsburgh, NY
To: Mrs. Porter
Receipt for quart of milk

September 27, 1944
From: US Office of Price Administration
To: Mrs. Marjorie Porter, 100 Rugar Street, Plattsburgh, NY
Sugar purchase certificate

November 1943—July 1944
From: Plattsburg National Bank and Trust Company
To: Marjorie Lansing Porter
Bank Statement
12/4/12
October 6, 1945
From: W. G., Wilcox & Son, Plattsburgh, NY
To: Mrs. M. L. Porter
Invoice

12/4/13
March 24, 1947
From: Harry Coonrad, Elizabethtown, NY
To: Marjorie L. Porter, 100 Rugar Street, Plattsburgh
A poem about the Rugar Street log cabin. Ends with “For the song in my heart is for you!”

12/4/14
March 28, 1947
From: Harry Coonrad, Elizabethtown, NY
To: Marjorie Lansing Porter, 100 Rugar Street, Plattsburgh
Mentions some new stories he is writing, including “I Rode with Rondeau.”

12/4/15
July 25, 1950
From: Plattsburg Coal Co., Inc., Plattsburg, NY
To: Mrs. M. Porter, 100 Rugar Street, Plattsburg, NY
Invoice

12/4/16
September 8, 1950
From: W. E. Petty, District Forester, State of NY Conservation Department, Albany, NY
To: Mrs. Marjorie Porter, Keene, NY
Says that he or Herb Macasland will make sure that she gets the seedlings she requested for the Keene House and recommends that she plant them in the spring.

12/4/17
December 29, 1951
From: City of Plattsburgh, NY: Office of the Building Inspector, R. H. Ladue
To: Marjorie Porter, 110 Rugar Street, Plattsburgh, NY
Building permit for the construction of a garage at her home

12/4/18
July 5, 1952
From: Ratigan Motors, Plattsburgh, NY
To: Marjorie Porter, 9 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh
Receipt for plate
12/4/19
November 20, 1952
From: David Merkel Jr., Merkel’s Dept. Store, Plattsburg, NY
To: Mrs. Marjorie L. Porter, 100 Rugar Street, Plattsburg, NY
Concerning the repair of faulty tile installation at her home

12/4/20
January 14, 1959
From: Gordon C. Wilson, Keene, NY
To: Marjorie Porter, Keene, NY
Receipt for purchase of goods and postage to send them to Phillip S. Porter at the Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska

12/4/21
January 20, 1959
From: Robert M. Garno, Keene Garage, Keene, NY
To: Mrs. Porter
Invoice for plowing her driveway

12/4/22
April 15, 1959
From: Evergreen Cemetery, Keeseville, NY
To: M. L. Porter
Receipt for payment for care of lot 48

12/4/23
May 11, 1959
From: Concrete Building Supply Company, Inc., Plattsburgh, NY
To: Mrs. M. Porter, Keene, NY
Invoice for cinder blocks ($35.70)—a note on it instructs her not to pay it—that she will be billed later and will receive a discount

12/4/24
June 1, 1959
From: Concrete Building Supply Company, Inc., Plattsburgh, NY
To: Mrs. M. Porter, Keene, NY
Receipt for payment for cinder blocks ($28.00)

12/4/25
October 1, 1959
From: Almon Ward & Son, Wilmington, NY
To: M. Porter
Receipt for payment for labor, supplies, and furniture transport from Port Kent to Keene and Keene to Port Kent

12/4/26
October 29, 1959
From: Plattsburgh Press-Republican, Plattsburgh, NY
To: Mrs. Marjorie L. Porter, Port Kent, NY
Receipt for payment for a classified ad
12/4/27
September 15, 1959
From: Merkel’s, Plattsburgh, NY
To: Marjorie L. Porter, Port Kent, NY
Receipt for a monthly payment

12/4/28
November 30, 1986
From: Hotel Commodore, New York, NY
To: Mrs. M. L. Porter
Receipt for payment for room and telephone calls

12/4/29
June 25—July 25, year unknown
From: New York Telephone Company
Statement

12/5
M.L. Porter State Normal School Grade Cards 1932-33 for courses in an Elementary Teachers program, and photocopy of PSTC Extension Course Grade card 1952 6 items

12/6
Home Economics examinations prepared by Marjorie L. Porter’s mother, Helen Margarettte Prescott Lansing, who taught Home Economics at Plattsburgh High School

12/6/1 Final Exam, June 1934 (2 copies)
12/6/2 Home Economics, January 1935
12/6/3 Ten Weeks Test, March 1935
12/6/4 Certification Exam, Home Economics 2, June 1935 (2 copies)
12/6/5 Cooking Test, November 1935
12/6/6 Test, January 1936
12/6/7 Certification Exam, Cooking, June 1936 (2 copies)
12/6/8 Test, undated (9 pp.)

12/7
Ephemera

12/7/1 “Favorite Candies,” recipe booklet compiled by Mrs. Helen Lansing, Published by the A.A.A. Class of the Presbyterian Church, Plattsburgh, New York. Printed at the Normal School Shop, undated 1 item

12/7/2 “Good Things to Eat at Marjorie’s Kitchen.” Advertisement for M.L. Porter’s Tea Room at 60 U.S. Avenue, Plattsburgh, ca. 1925-1929. With handwritten notes by Sean M. Rosemeyer, Sept. 13, 2013 1 item

12/7/3 M. L. Porter organizational membership cards 1947, 1950 (see 73.2f 1/9 for other such items) 4 items
12/7/4 Dixie Style Eggs Recipe card from the Associated Gas & Electric System Home Service Department, April 1930, probably given out to customers by Marjorie Lansing when she worked as a home demonstrator of appliances for the company, 1928-1930  1 item

12/7/5 Telegrams from Betty [Millington] to M.L. Porter, 1938  2 items

12/7/6 Letter to “Grandma Margie” [M.L. Porter] from her granddaughter Jean Millington [a daughter of John Howard Millington] in the Philippines, Dec. 6, 1957  1 item

12/7/7 University of Vermont course registration slip for Mary E. Millington [M.L. Porter’s mother], for the half year ending Jan. 1938  1 item

12/7/8 Undated telephone message card from Midshipman Millington [John Howard] to Miss Albers at the Sherwood Forest Co.  1 item

12/7/9 Findlay stove appliance brochures, possibly used by Marjorie Lansing Porter when she was a home demonstrator, 1940s  2 items

12/7/10 Photocopy of a 1959 tourism brochure created by Marjorie Lansing Porter and artist Sid Couchey, titled “Historic Sites…Natural Wonders of the Lake Champlain Basin.” Marjorie was Chairperson of the Historic Sites Committee  2 pages

12/7/11 “Designed for Living,” photocopy of an account by Marjorie Lansing Porter of the planning and erection of her dream-house log cabin in Plattsburgh, which as of 2017, still stood at 148 Rugar Street. The log cabin was designed by John Bird Burnham.  3 pages

12/7/12 Photocopy of a picture of Plattsburgh High School, from the 1936 PHS diploma of Mary Elizabeth (Betty) Millington [M. L. Porter’s daughter]. The semi-circular sidewalk fronting the school was laid by brothers Howard and Lester Millington  1 item

12/7/13a Plattsburgh Sesquicentennial Celebration brochure  1 item

12/7/13b Commemorative Program Battle of Plattsburgh Day, Sept. 11, 1964  1 item

12/7/13c Battle of Plattsburgh 1814-1964 commemorative ribbon. M.L. Porter was a member of the historical staff for the musical play “Muskets to Missles” which was performed in Plattsburgh during the Sesquicentennial Celebration in July of 1964, and had published an article on the “Champlain Valley” and the Battle of Plattsburgh in the Sept. 10, 1964, issue of the North Countryman newspaper of Rouses Point, NY  1 item
Typed list (and photocopy) of the names and addresses of the Plattsburgh High School Class of 1910, of which Marjorie Lansing was a member. A class photograph for that year is in Clinton County, a Pictorial History, published in 1988 by the Bicentennial Celebrations Committee, p. 134

Hotel Champlain Floor Plan and Schedule of Tariffs (undated)

Photocopy of an undated original drawing by Pete Seeger, sent to Marjorie Lansing Porter, titled “from our house to yours Happy New Year.” Shows Marjorie’s log cabin in Plattsburgh (original is with George “Speedy” Arnold III)

Cassette tape recording and transcript of a telephone conversation between Pete Seeger and Sean McNamara Rosemeyer that Sean recorded on August 10, 1990, regarding Sean’s grandmother, Marjorie Lansing Porter. Transcription by Sean in March of 2014. [A digital copy of the recording is available in Special Collection’s General Audio Archive, SCGA-90 Pete Seeger-MKLP01]

Certification of Birth (1891), and Death Certificate (1973) of Marjorie Lansing Porter (photocopies), and letters related to the disposition of her remains and her grave marker for Evergreen Cemetery in Keeseville, 1973

Genealogy Charts and Documents related to the Lansing, Millington, Porter, Prescott, and McNamara families. Includes photocopies of notes, and letters by Marjorie Lansing Porter to her son Phil and others relating to family history. Includes a letter fragment describing David Porter’s marriage to Tonie.

A copy of the City of Plattsburgh Marriage Registration of Howard G. Millington and Marjorie Lansing; a newspaper obituary for Mabel White Lansing; a photocopy of a photograph of the headstones of Mary Elizabeth Millington McNamara and Marjorie Lansing Porter in Evergreen Cemetery, Keeseville, New York; and a “Genealogy of Marjorie Lansing Porter,” created by Sean McNamara Rosemeyer, “for the purpose of identifying photographs and showing relationships to Marjorie.”

School composition book of David Porter [son of M. L. Porter] containing short compositions, and copies of a few letters written by David in 1936 when he was 14 years old

Drafts of Oh Pioneer!—Marjorie Lansing Porter autobiography
Box 13 **News and Periodical Articles Related to or About Marjorie Lansing Porter**


Box 14 **Lorenzo Haglund Letters, Prescott Family Papers, Winans Family Letters and Deeds, and Hannah Lansing Letters**

14/1 Lorenzo Haglund letters to Marjorie Lansing Porter, 1845-1848 4 items

14/2 Prescott Family Letters and Deeds, 1837-1868 and undated 33 items

14/3 Samuel Peck Prescott Civil War Diary (1862-1864) Photocopy of original owned by Anne Lindsley White of Virginia; Notes on the diary written by Sean McNamara Rosemeyer (copyright Rosemeyer) 2 items

14/4 Winans Family Letters and Deeds, 1804-1909 (See also Oversize folder 14/4) 13 items

14/5 Hannah Lansing Letters to Della Trombly, 1915 2 items