

BARTLETT FAMILY PAPERS  
PVMA LIBRARY

The Bartlett Family Papers have been received over a period of years as a gift to the Pocumtuck Memorial Association from Mrs. Edward Bartlett Wirt of Boylston, Mass. Certain penciled annotations on the manuscripts are in the writing of the donor.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The material consists of papers of Adoniram Bartlett (1735-1805), a fourth-generation descendant of Joseph Bartlett who came from England in 1650, and a number of Adoniram Bartlett's descendants. There are also papers of members of families related to the Bartletts by marriage: Dexter Pierce, his wife and three of their daughters; Verney Fiske and Samuel Pierce Fiske; and Caleb Sherman. Extensive genealogical notes on the following interrelated families are included: Arms, Field, Newhall, Nims, and Sherman. The material as a whole numbers approximately 1,000 items, dated from 1757 to 1927, with certain later notes relating to the families.

**Biographical Notes and Description of Series:**

**Adoniram Bartlett** was born in 1735, the ninth child of Thomas and Mary Bartlett of Brookfield, Mass. He married Miriam Marsh in 1761 and about ten years later moved with his family to a farm in Conway, where he died in 1805. He and his wife had thirteen children, only two of whom are named below.

His papers consist mainly of legal papers: deeds to land, promissory notes and receipts. One document provides for Fanny Gill as apprentice to Adoniram and his wife until she reached the age of fourteen; another is a power of attorney given by Adoniram to his brother, Aaron. Two account books contain many entries covering carting and lumber; few covering farm products.

**Adroniram Bartlett, Jr.**, the twelfth child of Adroniram and Miriam, was born in Conway, Mass., in 1785. In 1806 he married Anna Russell. The couple had seven children.

His papers consist of an 1810 summons to answer to his brother-in-law, Moses Nims, on a plea of trespass; and Bartlett's claim for expenses the following year due to Nims' failure to appear.

**Luther Bartlett**, the youngest child of Adroniram and Miriam, was born in Conway, Mass., in 1786 and became a farmer near that town. He married Anna Nims in 1806, and the couple had nine children, several of whom are listed below.

His papers include letters from his sons Luther Jr., Lyman, and Dares; his brother-in-law Asa Nims; and his son-in-law, the Reverend William Wilcox. The earliest letters from Lyman were written during the time he studied medicine in Europe. There are papers relating to Luther's service as surveyor in Conway, receipts for money he distributed as executor of his father's estate, and papers relating to the building of his house in the mid-1840s. The remainder of his papers form an extensive body of business papers, consisting mainly of promissory notes and receipts.

**Lyman Bartlett**, the eldest child of Luther and Anna, was born in Conway in 1807. He became a physician who practiced in New Bedford, Massachusetts, and who later studied surgery in Europe for two years. He died in 1865.

Only one of his papers is in the collection, a will he made in 1839 which he signed at the time he was preparing to go to Europe to study.

**Julia Elma (Bartlett) Wilcox**, a sister of Lyman's, was born in Conway, Mass., in 1814. She and her husband, the Rev. William Wilcox, had one son, Lyman, and one daughter, Julia. Rev. Wilcox died in 1854; his widow in 1879.

There are two of her papers in the collection: a letter from her brother, Lyman, when he was studying surgery in Europe in 1840, and a letter from her brother, Luther, Jr., when he was living in Elgin, Illinois. With these are two items concerning her daughter Julia, one a printed leaflet referring to the private school in Philadelphia of which she was co-owner, the other an obituary after her untimely death from drowning in 1894.

**Edwin Bartlett**, a second son of Luther and Anna, was born in 1812. Like his father and several brothers, he apparently was a farmer.

He is represented by one paper, a deed to land in Deerfield, Mass.

**Luther Bartlett, Jr.**, a third son of Luther and Anna, was born in Conway, Mass., in 1817. He may have helped his father on the family farm for a time, but in 1842 went to Illinois where he lived in Elgin, then settled in a nearby town which was subsequently named for him, Bartlett.

He is represented by two papers, both letters from his brother Lyman in 1840, the first written in Rome, the second in Paris.

**Dares Bartlett**, a fourth son of Luther and Anna, taught school for a time and then attended Harvard College. He went to California via ship in 1849 to sell goods bought by his brother Lyman to the Gold Rush immigrants. He was there only a brief time when he sickened and died.

His papers include certificates deriving from his school teaching in Ashfield, Mass., (1843), relating to his subsequent attendance at Harvard, and a number of exercises written for courses there (1844). There are also a few letters written by his brother, Lyman.

**Alfred Bartlett**, fifth son of Luther and Anna, was born in Conway, Mass., in 1827. He helped his father on the family farm and inherited the farm after his father's death. In 1850, he married Lydia Sherman; the couple had four children, all of whom are listed below. About 1891 he and his wife moved to Holyoke, Mass., where he died in 1914.

His papers include letters from his brothers Edwin, Luther, Jr., and, especially, Lyman; from his sons Dares and Edwin; from Lyman's widow Lizzie during her travels in Europe, from his brother-in-law William Wilcox, and from a friend, Frank W. Wing, who was engaged in the building of a railroad in the Winnsboro area of South Carolina. The papers in 1883 are concerned with the settlement of the estate of his father-in-law, Emery Sherman. There are certificates of membership in the Franklin County Agricultural Soc. and several mortgages for land in Deerfield. The last item is a eulogy of Alfred Bartlett by the Rev. Arthur Coar of Holyoke. In addition are six volumes largely concerned with farming; an 1853 volume containing butter accounts, followed by various recipes and miscellaneous material; a volume in which a number of homonyms are recorded followed by butter accounts of 1863; farm accounts, 1853-1870; accounts covering work

on the Conway farm, 1875-1878; accounts as executor of Emery Sherman's estate, 1883-1905, and niece Julia E. Wilcox's estate, 1898-1904; and a gathering of miscellaneous memoranda.

**Lydia (Sherman) Bartlett**, born in 1830, was a daughter of Emery Sherman and a granddaughter of Caleb Sherman who served in the Revolutionary War. She married Alfred Bartlett in 1850, and was the mother of four children, listed below. After leaving the farm in Conway she and her husband lived on Walnut Street in Holyoke for many years. She died there in 1915.

The earliest item among her papers is an 1849 letter from Dares Bartlett, brother of her fiancé, Alfred. The second item is from her fellow tailor-shop workers (1850) which accompanied two quilted cases as wedding presents. The remaining material dates from 1861 on, and includes letters from her sister, Mary Sherman Tabor, her brother, Emery Sherman, and his wife Eva, her brother-in-law, Edwin Bartlett, her son, Dares, and her cousins Carrie Bigelow of Stowe, Vermont, and Abbie S. Crocker of Cambridge, Mass.

**Dares Bartlett and Harriet (Field) Bartlett**. Dares Bartlett, the eldest of Alfred and Lydia Bartlett's four children was born in Conway, Mass., in 1852. He studied dentistry, practiced first in the West then opened an office in Holyoke, Mass., about 1883. In 1876 he had married Harriet Jane Field, who, after the deaths of her parents, had been raised in Conway by a great uncle, Franklin Arms, and his wife, the former Mary Williams of Deerfield. Dares and Harriet had one daughter, Emily Gladys, who is listed below.

Letters addressed to one or both members of the couple were received from Dares' brother, Edwin, and his sister, Emily, and from Harriet's great-uncle, Stephen Tabor. Several legal papers and a number of Dares' membership cards are included.

**Emily Gladys (Bartlett) Wirt**, the daughter of Dares and Harriet Bartlett, was born in Holyoke, Mass., in 1891. She married Edward Roswell Wirt, a native of Lowell, Mass., and the couple had two sons, Dares, and Edward Bartlett Wirt. For a time, Emily and Edward lived in Wollaston, but later lived in Holyoke in the house formerly occupied by Emily's parents. Sometime after the death of Edward Wirt, Emily married F. Scott Carpenter. She died in Lexington, Mass., in 1968.

She is represented by a letter written by her mother on Emily's 18th birthday. About 90 additional WWI letters from her future husband, Edward Roswell Wirt, are housed in Box 5.

**Edwin L. Bartlett**, the third child and second son of Alfred and Lydia Bartlett, was born in Conway, Mass., in 1856. He studied dentistry in Baltimore, and joined his brother, Dares, in the dentistry office the latter had established. Never robust in health, he died in 1896 at the age of 39.

His papers include material related to his training at the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery and to his dental practice in Holyoke. There are also letters from his parents, his brother Dares, and his cousin Elma Bartlett, of Illinois.

**Emily Bartlett and Anna Caroline Bartlett**, daughters of Alfred and Lydia Bartlett, were born in Conway, Mass., in 1854 and 1863, respectively. Both graduated from the Powers Institute in Bernardston, Mass., and the Westfield (Mass.) Normal School, and both became teachers. Emily first taught in Conway and later, for many years, in Northampton, Mass. She died in 1921. Anna Caroline taught in Conway and later joined her parents in Holyoke, where she established an office as public stenographer. She died in 1948.

Their papers include letters from their mother, brothers Dares and Edwin, cousins Eunice and Annie Tabor, Irving W. Bartlett, and various friends. One of the most recent items is Anna C. Bartlett's application for membership in the D.A.R., based on the military service of her grandfather, Caleb Sherman.

**Dexter Pierce**, born in 1806, was a carpenter living in Southbridge, Mass., in 1830. By 1835 he had moved to Montague, Mass., where he and his family lived. In 1829, he married Mary Ann Fiske; the couple had four daughters, three of whom are listed below. He died in 1860.

He is represented mainly by legal papers (deeds and insurance policies); a memorandum and journal with daily accounts, 1852-1855; a diary of a journey in 1855; letters from his son-in-law, Orson Morton; letters patent issued to Pierce for an improvement on the scythe handle (1838); promissory note and agreement between Pierce and Lamson Goodnow Co., of Shelburne Falls (1860); and a memorandum of Dexter Pierce's communication through a medium with his daughter Jane Pierce Morton's spirit. 31 items

**Mary Ann Fiske Pierce**, born in 1802, married Dexter Pierce in 1829, and moved with him from Southbridge to Montague, Mass., some six years later. She died in 1872.

Her papers include letters from her mother, her sister, her son-in-law, George Field, and Mary Williams Arms of Conway, Mass., who, with her husband Franklin Arms, raised Mrs. Pierce's orphaned granddaughter, Harriet.

**Pierce Family Miscellany** is composed of school exercises by Sarah Lyon Pierce and her sister, Jane Elizabeth Pierce, daughters of Dexter and Mary Ann Pierce; a certificate qualifying Sarah to teach in the Greenfield schools, and her certificate of marriage to George Field in 1855; a letter she wrote about the death of her sister, Jane (1855); an autograph album of Betsy Pierce of Grafton, Vermont; a small notebook containing recipes; and an envelope on which Pierce genealogical information is written.

**Martha Ann Pierce Austin**, the youngest of the four daughters of Dexter and Mary Ann Pierce, was born in 1839 in Montague, Mass. In 1882, she married Edmund Austin, a marriage of short duration. For many years she lived in Holyoke, Mass., with her niece, Harriet (Field) Bartlett, and her husband, Dares Bartlett. She died in 1925.

The earliest material in her papers concerns her appointment as administrator of her mother's estate in 1872. Her marriage certificate to Edmund Austin is also included. Most of the letters in the group she received from her cousin, Louis S. Fiske, and, after his sudden death in 1916, from his widow Katherine. The latest material related to a stained-glass window Mrs. Fiske had designed and installed in St. Mark's Church in Philadelphia as a memorial to her husband.

**Caleb Sherman**, born in Shrewsbury, Mass., in 1762, served in the Revolutionary War. He and his wife, Eunice (Bacon) Sherman, had eight children, one of whom was Emery, the father of Lydia (Sherman) Bartlett.

Caleb is represented by a deed to land in Conway, where he lived for much of his adult life, and receipts for money he paid to various persons.

**Verney Fiske and Samuel Fiske**, the sons of Samuel and Sally Lyon Fiske, were born in 1805 and 1815, respectively. They are represented by deeds to and other papers concerning land in Montague and Northfield, Mass., sold to one or both of them by their brother-in-law, Dexter Pierce. The last item is a business paper of Samuel Fiske.

The remainder of the collection consists of genealogical notes concerning the Bartlett family and families related to the Bartletts by marriage.

**Arms**: notes supplied by L.B. Wells of Deerfield to Mrs. Edward Rowell Wirt of Holyoke in 1935.

**Bartlett**: notes by Mrs. Edward Bartlett Wirt (donor of the collection); a copy of her talk to the Boylston Historical Society in 1972, titled "Putting the Pieces Together"; and newspaper obituaries of various members of the Bartlett and Wirt Families.

**Field**: "Field Family Circle," vol. I, No. 2 (Dec. 1933) and vol. II, no. 4 (Dec. 1935), a mimeographed quarterly edited and published by Philip Field of Oakland, California.

**Newhall**: brief genealogical notes.

**Nims**: letters exchanged between E.L. Nims of Lexington, Michigan, and Alfred Bartlett of Conway and later of Holyoke, Mass., containing information about Nims family members, 1883-1903; also the military service record of Ariel Nims.

**Sherman**: manuscript and typed correspondence and genealogical notes. Included is a photograph of Emery Sherman, father of Lydia Sherman Bartlett.

A folder of miscellaneous material contains both manuscript and printed items received with the collection, but not identified with any specific family member.

### **Container List:**

Box 1	Folder 1: Papers of Adoniram Bartlett, 1757-1788	(62 items)
	Folder 2: Papers of Adoniram Bartlett, 1789-1800	(68 items)
	Folder 3: Papers of Adoniram Bartlett, 1766-1800	(2 items)
	Folder 4: Papers of Adoniram Bartlett, Jr., 1810-1811	(2 items)
	Folder 5: Papers of Luther Bartlett, 1805-1839	(49 items)
	Folder 6: Papers of Luther Bartlett, 1840-1851	(39 items)
	Folder 7: Papers of Luther Bartlett, 1800-1843	(128 items)
	Folder 8: Papers of Luther Bartlett, 1839	(1 item)
	Folder 9: Papers of Julia Elma Bartlett Wilcox, 1840-1894	(4 items)
	Folder 10: Papers of Edwin Bartlett, 1836-1837	(2 items)
	Folder 11: Papers of Luther Bartlett, Jr., 1840	(2 items)
Box 2	Folder 1: Papers of Dares Bartlett, 1828-1849	(52 items)
	Folder 2: Papers of Alfred Bartlett, 1845-1859	(51 items)
	Folder 3: Papers of Alfred Bartlett, 1860-1863	(41 items)
	Folder 4: Papers of Alfred Bartlett, 1865-1879	(47 items)
	Folder 5: Papers of Alfred Bartlett, 1880-1914	(55 items)
Box 3	Folder 1: Papers of Alfred Bartlett, 1853-1904	(6 vols.)
	Folder 2: Papers of Lydia Sherman Bartlett, 1849-1909	(22 items)
	Folder 3: Papers of Dares & Harriet Field Bartlett, 1883-1930	(49 items)
	Folder 4: Papers of Emily Gladys Bartlett, 1908	(1 item) [see also Box 5]
	Folder 5: Papers of Edwin Bartlett, 1887-1896	(19 items)

Folder 6: Papers of Emily & Anna Caroline Bartlett, 1866-1927 (39 items)  
Folder 7: Papers of Dexter Pierce, 1830-1860 (41 items)  
Folder 8: Papers of Mary Ann Pierce, 1860-1870 (11 items)

Box 4 Folder1: Pierce Family Miscellany, 1849, 1855 & undated (24 items)  
Folder 2: Papers of Martha A. Pierce Austin, 1872-1924 (71 items)  
Folder 3: Papers of Caleb Sherman, 1785-1819 (14 items)  
Folder 4: Papers of Verney & Samuel Fiske, 1848-1854, 1860 (11 items)  
Folder 5: Arms Genealogy  
Folder 6: Bartlett Genealogy  
Folder 7: Field Genealogy  
Folder 8: Newhall Genealogy  
Folder 9: Nims Genealogy  
Folder 10: Sherman Genealogy  
Folder 11: Miscellany

Box 5 Folder 1: Papers of Emily Gladys Bartlett, Apr.-May 1918 (27 items)  
Folder 2: Papers of Emily Gladys Bartlett, Jun-Dec. 1918 (30 items)  
Folder 3: Papers of Emily Gladys Bartlett, Jan-Jun. 1919 (27 items)  
Folder 4: Misc. papers of Emily Gladys Bartlett, 1918-1919(25 items)





