

Guide to the Sophronia E. Bucklin Papers (1828-1902)

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COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Biographical information about Sophronia E. Bucklin can be found in the letters from her family and from the Civil War soldiers she nursed in military hospitals, and in the published account of her war experiences entitled *In Hospital and Camp: A Woman's Record of Thrilling Incidents Among the Wounded in the Late War*, 1869. (A copy of her book is in the THC library). A partial manuscript of this book is part of this collection. One soldier, Philip Hare, wrote to her: "I am glad to hear that you have written out your war life experience, as I am sure it must be very interesting to every soldier, and especially to those whos(e) lot it was to be under your kind treatment during their stay in the hospital."

Family letters from her sister, Almira Chase and from cousins, nieces and nephews relate family news. The family letters only incidentally reveal information about Sophronia herself. However, letters from Almira do reveal that both aunt and nephew served side-by-side in the Civil War. In the letters dated 1862 Almira wrote of her concern that her son Charles, who re-enlisted in the army, serve off the battle field and asked for Sophronia's help. When Charles returned to the army he served in the same hospital with his aunt.

She received letters from the wounded soldiers she nursed who wrote addressing her as "friend." The letters, sometimes hastily written, mention events of the war, living conditions and occasionally the hospital gossip. Some of the letters were written on Union stationery. Lewis Hawkins, a soldier from Tompkins County, began his correspondence from the time he was in a training camp on Staten Island until his discharge from the army. His letters are more descriptive of a soldier's experiences than most.

Other letters and papers concern her effort to obtain an army nurse's pension, and bills, receipts and promissory notes.

CONTAINER LIST

Content	<i>Folders</i>
Family letters (Albright-Norton) Letters from Julia Albright of East Newfield; Almira Chase of West Alexander, PA. (?) and her son Charles D. Chase who also wrote as a soldier; Joseph Chase (possibly Charles' brother); William Hoyt (?) of Webster, Iowa; L.E. Jones of Bucyrus, Ohio; and Mary Norton of Bucyrus, Ohio.	<i>Folder 1</i>
Family letters (Root-West) Letters from L.A. Root of South English; Grace Root of Grinnell and Webster, Iowa; Catherine Shull Stuart of Bucyrus, Ohio; C.E. Smith at World's Fair in Chicago; Erva M. Smith of Chicago and Rockford, IL, Emma Smith of Beloit, Wisconsin; Perry West of Dansville, NY; and Blanche (?) of Steele, Ohio.	<i>Folder 2</i>
Soldiers' letters (Bacon-George)	<i>Folder 3</i>
Soldiers' letters (Hare-Hawkins)	<i>Folder 4</i>
Soldiers' letters (Lawrence-Tarlton)	<i>Folder 5</i>
Official letters and papers	<i>Folder 6</i>
Women's Relief Corps papers (1871-92) Includes correspondence concerning army nurses' pensions; a recommendation to the corps by Sydney Post, No 41; Corps rules and regulations pamphlet; and a certificate awarding a pension to Sophronia.	<i>Folder 7</i>
Correspondence concerning her published book (1869-70)	<i>Folder 8</i>
Misc. personal papers: Personal letters including wedding announcements, a poem and envelopes	<i>Folder 9</i>
Religious tracts	<i>Folder 10</i>
Account books (1895-1902) In account with Bentley & Eaton 1895-98; E.J. Bentley & Co. 1898-1902;	<i>Folder 11</i>

Bentley & Brooks, 1902	
Financial papers (1870-92)	<i>Folder 12</i>
Financial papers (1893-95)	<i>Folder 13</i>
Financial papers (1896-98)	<i>Folder 14</i>
Financial papers (1899)	<i>Folder 15</i>
Financial papers (1900)	<i>Folder 16</i>
Financial papers (1901)	<i>Folder 17</i>
Financial papers (1902)	<i>Folder 18</i>
Misc. financial papers	<i>Folder 19</i>
Fire insurance policies 1896 and 1899	<i>Folder 20</i>
Partial manuscript of her published book <i>In Hospital and Camp</i>	<i>Folder 21</i>
Letters of Ella Wolcott referring to Bucklin University of Connecticut (1862-63)	<i>Folder 22</i>
Copies of pension records from National Archives (1863-92)	<i>Folder 23</i>
Copy of Sophronia Bucklin's Will (1903)	<i>Folder 24</i>
Bucklin Family Research –Mary L. White	<i>Folder 25</i>