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## Florence Porter Lyman Papers

1894-1931

10 boxes (5 linear feet)

Call no.: MS 946



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Florence Porter Lyman (1870-1960) was born into the Chapin Moodey family in the late 19th century. She married Charles Wendell Porter, a Northampton lawyer who spent his summers in Northern Maine, in 1894. After her first husband's death in 1899 she continued to spend her summers in Maine. She then married Frank Lyman of the prominent Lyman family in 1903. They had three children together and lived in both Northampton and Brooklyn. During her summers in Northern Maine, Florence Porter Lyman stayed in touch with her many family and friends who lived in Massachusetts and New York.

This collection contains almost forty years of Florence Porter Lyman's in-coming correspondence. Letters refer primarily to

domestic matters including: her first husband's train accident and death, her engagement and re-marriage to Frank Lyman, and the birth of her three children.

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Maine

Massachusetts (West)

Women

## Background on Florence Porter Lyman

Florence Porter Lyman (1870-1960) was the daughter of Moses Kerr Moodey and Hannah Maria Chapin. She was born Florence Chapin Moodey and grew up in Northampton, Massachusetts with her siblings Herbert Lyman Moodey and Cornelia Chapin Moodey. She married Charles Wendell Porter (1866-1899) on June 7th 1894 in Northampton. Although he grew up in Massachusetts, Porter's family summered near the border of Canada in the town of North Perry, Maine. Porter was a graduate of Northampton High School, Amherst College, and Columbia University. He passed the bar in 1892 and started his law practice in Northampton. In 1896 he was struck by a train; the accident left him injured and unable to practice law. Three years later, in 1899, he was killed by an accidental discharge of his gun while in Northern Maine.

After four years of widowhood, Florence married widower Frank Lyman, Sr. (1852-1938) on August 25th, 1903 in North Perry. Frank Lyman had previously been married to Mary Sanger (1859-1890). Frank Lyman, Sr. was a member of the prominent Northampton Lyman family. His brother was Joseph Lyman (1851-1883) and his cousin was Benjamin Smith Lyman (1835-1920). Frank Lyman attended Harvard University, Columbia School of Mines, and the Ecole des Mines in Paris. Lyman worked in various fields before becoming the president of the Brooklyn Gas Light Co. Florence Porter Lyman spent most of her time in Northampton, Massachusetts or Brooklyn, and summered in Northern Maine. Florence and Frank had three children together: Joseph Lyman (1906-1979), Frank Lyman, Jr. (1908-1992), and Hannah C. Lyman (b. 1910).



Florence Porter Lyman with her dog, Lyman Family Papers

## Scope of collection

This collection contains the personal correspondence of Florence Porter Lyman during the years of 1894 to 1931. The letters were primarily sent to Florence Porter Lyman by family and friends during her summers in Northern Maine. The letters refer primarily to domestic matters. The nearly forty year span of letters coincide with a variety of changes in Florence's life including her marriage to her first husband Charles Wendell Porter, Porter's train accident and death, her years as a widow, her engagement and marriage to her second husband Frank Lyman, and the births of her children. These topics are often referred to by friends and family. The correspondence is organized chronologically.

## Inventory

Postcards

ca. 1894

Box 1: 1

Correspondence

1895 Feb

Box 1: 2

Correspondence

1896 April

Box 1: 3

Correspondence  
1898 Feb  
Box 1: 4  
Correspondence  
1898 Dec  
Box 1: 5  
Correspondence  
1899 Jan  
Box 1: 6  
Correspondence  
1899 May  
Box 1: 7  
Correspondence  
1899 June  
Box 1: 8  
Correspondence  
1899 July  
Box 1: 9  
Correspondence  
1899 Aug  
Box 1: 10  
Correspondence  
1899 Sept  
Box 1: 11  
Correspondence  
1900 June  
Box 1: 12  
Correspondence  
1900 July  
Box 1: 13  
Correspondence  
1900 Aug  
Box 1: 14  
Correspondence  
1900 Sept  
Box 1: 15  
Architectural Drawings  
ca. 1900  
Box 1: 16  
Correspondence  
1901 April  
Box 1: 17  
Correspondence  
1901 June  
Box 1: 18  
Correspondence  
1901 July  
Box 1: 19  
Correspondence  
1901 Aug 2-14  
Box 1: 20  
Correspondence  
1901 Aug 17-30  
Box 1: 21  
Correspondence  
1901 Sept  
Box 1: 22  
Correspondence  
1901

Box 1: 23  
Correspondence  
1902 Apr-May  
Box 1: 24  
Correspondence  
1902 June  
Box 1: 25  
Correspondence  
1902 July  
Box 2: 1  
Correspondence  
1902 Aug  
Box 2: 2  
Correspondence  
1902 Dec  
Box 2: 3  
Watercolor and Map  
ca. 1902  
Box 2: 4  
Correspondence  
1903 May  
Box 2: 5  
Correspondence  
1903 June  
Box 2: 6  
Correspondence  
1903 July  
Box 2: 7  
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1903 Aug  
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1905 Aug  
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Correspondence  
1905 Aug  
Box 3: 4  
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1905 Aug  
Box 3: 5  
Correspondence  
1905 Aug  
Box 3: 6  
Correspondence  
1907 July  
Box 3: 7  
Correspondence  
1909 Apr  
Box 3: 8  
Correspondence  
1909 June  
Box 3: 9  
Correspondence  
1909 June  
Box 3: 10  
Correspondence  
1909 June  
Box 3: 11  
Correspondence  
1909 July  
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Correspondence  
1909 Aug  
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Correspondence  
1909 Aug  
Box 3: 15  
Correspondence  
1909 Sept  
Box 3: 16  
Correspondence  
1909 Sept  
Box 3: 17  
Accounts and Receipts  
ca. 1909  
Box 4: 1  
Correspondence  
1910 Mar  
Box 4: 2

Correspondence  
1910 June  
Box 4: 3  
Correspondence  
1910 May  
Box 4: 4  
Correspondence  
1910 June  
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Correspondence  
1910 July  
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Correspondence  
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1910 Sept  
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Correspondence  
1910 Sept  
Box 4: 15  
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1910 Sept  
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Correspondence  
1911 Jan  
Box 4: 17  
Correspondence  
1911 June  
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1913 Aug 1-17  
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Correspondence  
1913 Sept  
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Drawings  
ca. 1913  
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Correspondence  
1914 June  
Box 6: 3  
Correspondence

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1914 Sept  
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1914 Dec  
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1915 Jan-May  
Box 6: 15  
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1915 June  
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1917 Dec  
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Correspondence  
1918 May  
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1927 June  
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Correspondence  
1927 July  
Box 10: 14  
Correspondence  
1927 Aug  
Box 10: 15  
Photographs  
Various Dates  
Box 10: 16  
Correspondence and Printed Material  
Undated  
Box 10: 17  
Correspondence  
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Box 10: 18  
Correspondence  
1931 July  
Box 10: 19  
Correspondence  
1931 Aug  
Box 10: 20  
Correspondence  
1931 Aug  
Box 10: 21  
Correspondence  
1931 Aug  
Box 10: 22  
Correspondence  
1931 Sept  
Box 10: 23

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## **Administrative information**

### **Access**

The collection is open for research.

### **Provenance**

Gift of the Pembroke Historical Society (Pembroke, Maine), 2016.

### **Processing Information**

Processed by Kyle Boyd and Michelle Sigiel, 2017.

### **Related Material**

The correspondence has been digitized and may be [viewed online through our digital repository, Credo](#).

## Related Material

SCUA holds two other collections featuring Florence Porter Lyman and her immediate family:

Lyman Family Papers (MS 634)

Frank Lyman, Jr. Papers (MS 735)

## Language:

English

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## Search terms

### Subjects

Lyman, Florence Porter, 1870-1960

Lyman, Fran, 1852-1938

Northampton (Mass.)--History

Northampton (Mass.)--Social life and customs

Perry (Me.)--History

Perry (Me.)--Social life and customs

Porter, Charles Wendell, 1866-1899

### Contributors

Florence Porter Lyman? [\[main entry\]](#)

### Genres and formats

Correspondence

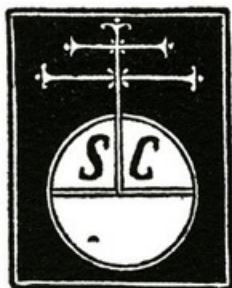
### Link to similar SCUA collections

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[Massachusetts \(West\)](#)

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