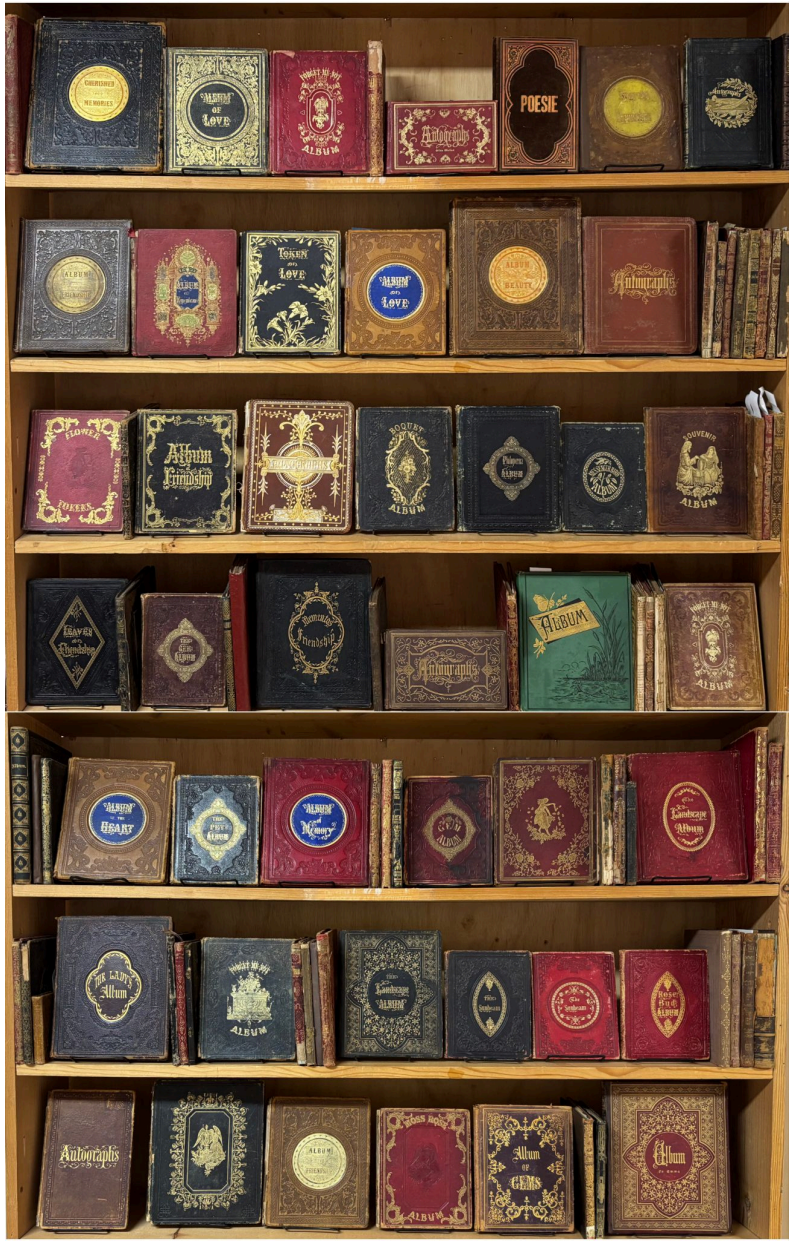
American Memory Book Collection, 1820s-1900

Catalog by Cynthia Gibson and David Hamilton

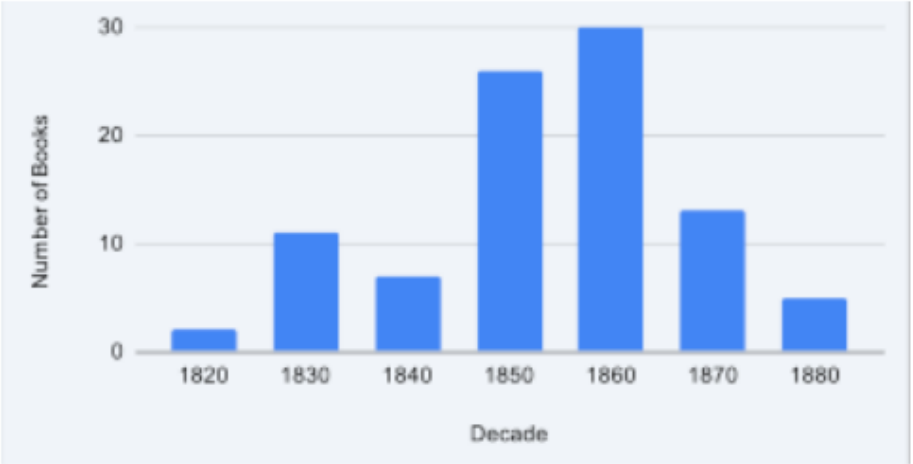


A collection of 94 albums, mostly kept by young women, containing inscriptions and autographs as well as, in many cases, laid-in ephemera ranging from pressed botanicals to newspaper clippings to miniature photographs to (in one case) a lock of hair.

The memory book evolved from the earlier commonplace book, an album filled with pasted-in printed material as well as elegant manuscript copies of published works. Memory books are distinguished from their precursor (and indeed from their cousin, the autograph book) by their original material, which, taken together with the name of the inscriber and the date and often location of the inscription, provides a glimpse into the quotidian world of young people, their social circles, relationships, families, and communities. And, while the content of some of these books is limited to the social (and temporal) environs of a school or a church, in many cases they continued in use over the course of a decade or more — even, in a few cases, throughout the owner's adult life. The sheer number of place-names sometimes found in a single album pays witness to the movement and vitality of a young America as it stretched and grew.

Several 19th century publishers/stationers (notably J.C. Riker, Leavitt & Allen, and D. Appleton & Co.) supplemented their trade in printed books by producing blank albums designed for use as memory books. These albums were usually bound in gift book bindings, with elaborate leather tooling and blindstamping, gilt titles and decoration, color block stamping, and (naturally) all edges gilt. They were illustrated with fine steel engravings and sometimes full-color lithographs, and often contained pages of varying colors, weights, and finishes, which were sometimes pre-printed with geometric shapes meant to mimic blank calling cards arranged in fanciful patterns. The covers sometimes boasted romantic titles, such as "Album of Love," "Forget-Me Not Album," "Leaves of Friendship," and "Album of Gems."

The collection here is heavily concentrated on the years prior to and encompassing the Civil War, as the following chart illustrates:



As the graph shows, of the 94 books in the collection…

- The earliest entries (in 2 books) are from the 1820s
- The latest entries (in 5 of the books) are from the 1880s (with an isolated few from even later, which we have noted in their descriptions)
- The 1860s represent the largest portion, with 30 books
- The 1850s are the next most dominant decade, with **26** books

Other notes of interest:

- 5 of the books (#5, 61, 62, 64, and 93), were created in (or have significant connection to) southern states in the years just prior to and/or during the Civil War. One of the books (#86) contains inscriptions from members of the Springfield, Massachusetts U.S.A. 10th Regiment Volunteers.
- Laid-in/tipped-in ephemera includes the aforementioned newspaper clippings, pressed flowers and leaves, and lock of hair (#32), but also fabric scraps, die cuts, miniature photographs (in one case, #74, an entire page of miniature oval photographs of Union Civil War Generals), a cyanotype (#14), a tintype (#74), a hand-colored bookmark (#87), genealogical tables, hand-drawn and colored illustrations, personal correspondence, and calligraphy samples, among much else.
- Two of the books (#28 and 84) which commence in the 1850s have references to “Philopena,” a parlor game between two friends in which the “loser” forfeits a token of friendship; the first-known usage of the word, according to the OED, was in 1839.
- The majority of the albums were kept by young women, but in a handful of instances the entries continue into middle and even old age. And, several of them (#17, 47, 54, 77, 79, and 81) appear to have been owned by young men, opening up new realm of speculation and perhaps illumination into the social practices of the period.

The linked spreadsheet provides an enumerated list of the albums in the collection, in more or less sequential order based upon the earliest entries we encountered in each. It should be noted, however, that our investigation of these albums has been fairly cursory: We leave it to others to investigate them page by page and to uncover their true worth.

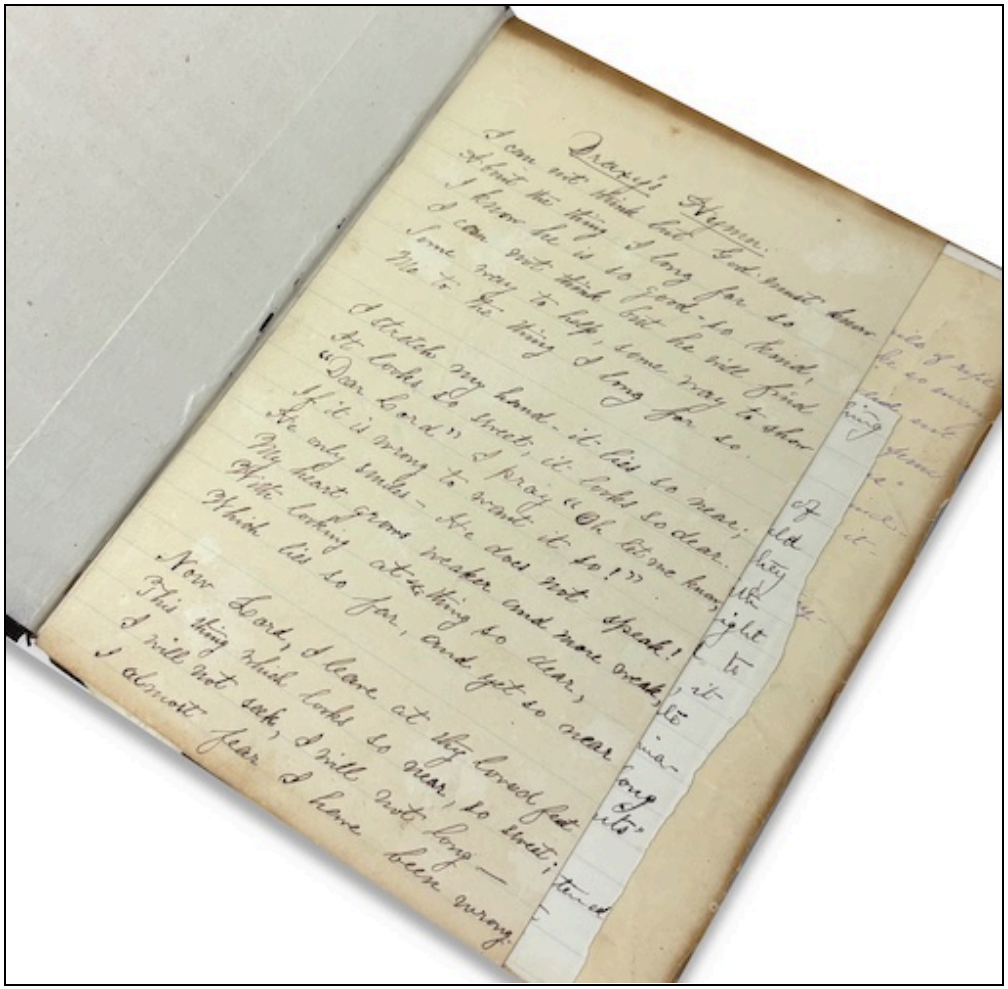
American Memory Book Collection, 1820s-1900: Sample Images









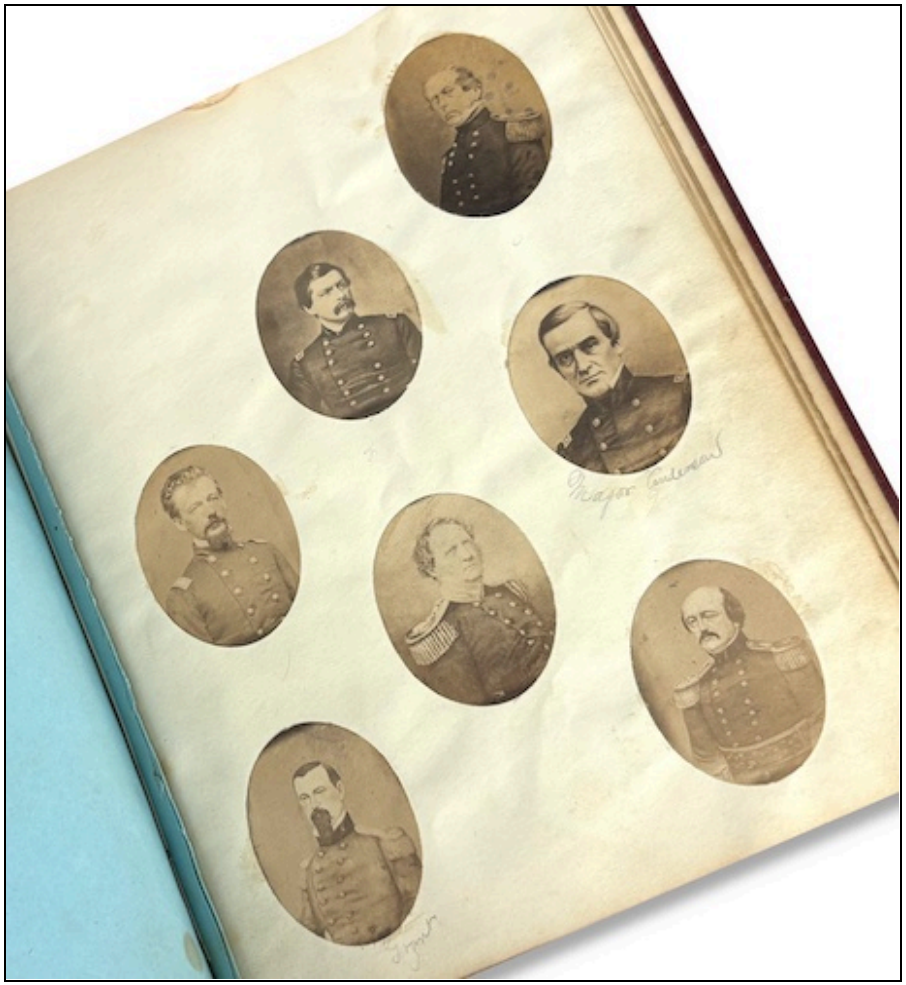


Prayer Hymn.

I can not think but God must hear
A trust like this I long for so
I know he is so great to send
A trust like this I long for so
I can not think but he will find
Some way to help, some way to show
His to this thing I long for so.

I stretch my hand - it lies so near;
It looks so small, it looks so clear.
"Dear Lord" I pray "Oh let me know
If it is wrong to want it so!"
He only smiles - He does not speak!
My heart grows weaker and more weak
While looking at a thing so dear,
Which lies so far, and yet so near.

Now Lord, I leave at thy loved feet
This thing which looks so dear, so sweet;
I will not ask, I will wait long —
I almost fear I have been wrong.




ALBUM
of
Memory



#	AMB #	Dates / Date range	Place(s) mentioned	Ownership / Name(s) mentioned	Notes	Condition
1		Early 1850s	West Liberty, OH		A few entries, but mostly blank	Good
2		1860s	Boston area	Lizzie? Fowler?	A dozen or more inscriptions, and a nice drawing	Upper board detached
3		1870s	Portland, OR, St. Helen's Hall (school?)	Alma	Mostly full	Front endpaper removed, else good.
4		1850s	New England	Mary	Mostly full	A few pages loose from the binding
5		1850s-1880s	Virginia, Ohio, East Coast generally	Lizzie	Some Civil War, mostly Virginia and Ohio	Chipped, upper board attached but loose, fair only
6		1860s	Providence, RI	Lizzie	Mostly full	Good
7		1880s	Chicago	Donna	In German and English, a few entries, with die cuts laid in	Very good, very nice gilt-embossed, suede-covered boards, all edges gilt
8		1850s	Pennsylvania	FNM	Roughly a dozen or more inscriptions	Spine has been repaired, fair condition
9		1868 range	New Hampshire (school)	Marilla	"Autograph book," but roughly a dozen or more inscriptions, some nice calligraphy, almost entirely full	Good
10		Late 1860s	Kingston, NJ	Various	Mostly autographs	Very good, lightly shaken
11		1860s-1900	New England, Kansas, others	Mrs./Mother/Mary Kennedy	Mostly 1860s-70s, mostly full	Good
12		1861, one later	Rockford, IL; Sycamore, IL	Unknown	Newspaper clipping pinned to FFEP	Fair, dampstaining to the frontispiece
13		Early 1860s	Pittsford, NY	Miss Anna Tibbitts	Presbyterian church mentioned? Handul of entries	Spine chipped, worn, fair
14		1870s	Massachusetts	Unknown	Die cuts, cyanotype, odds and ends laid in	Spine taped, else good
15		1861	N.p.	Mary	Just a couple of inscriptions	A bit worn, generally good
16		1877	N.J.?	Augusta Binder (stamped on FFEP)	Autograph album, a few inscriptions, mostly tipped-in, color lithograph frontis, a lot of very nice die cuts, foil illustrations, etc.	Nice condition, some pages torn out (missing)
17		April 11,1863 to ?	Pleasant Ridge, ?	Albert P. Hart	Handful of inscriptions	Binding chipped, else good
18		August 14, 1876 to ?	Haddenfield, NJ	Lily C. Wood	Some calligraphy, a handful of inscriptions	Mother of pearl and color litho binding, very nice, but upper board detached
19		1860s	Greenwich	Mary	Roughly a dozen or more inscriptions, some calligraphy, some die cuts, completely filled	Binding chipped at top, a bit worn, else good
20		1858	Indiana, incl. Noblesville, IN; Ellen County, IN	Mary A. Hasty (on final inscription page)	With inscriptions, some MS genealogy, clippings, notes laid in	Front hinge torn, binding tight, else good
21A		1830s to ??	Jefferson	Ann Eliza Keller (gilt-stamped on upper board), married name: Basar	With C.d.V laid in, and a 2-cent Washington stamp, Young Ladies Remembrancer, advert tipped in, mostly manuscript	Front hinge glued, missing FFEP, rear cover detached
21B		1839 (dedication page), but 1830s to 1840s	Columbus, OH; Mt. Vernon	Ann Eliza Keller (gilt-stamped on upper board), married name: Basar	Young Ladies Remembrancer	Front hinge cracked, front board split at top, signatures loose, fair only
22		1863	New York ?	Minerva M. Fish	One inscription, a few hand-colored floral designs/illustrations, mostly blank	Binding in VG condition
23		1840s-50s	N.p.	Bell	Many die cuts, a few hand-colored illustrations, laid-in cards	Fair
24		1850-53	? County; Oakland Female Institute; Clarksville, TN	Frances Valeman	Roughly a dozen or more inscriptions	Little wear, generally good
25		1847/48	Albion, IL	Ann/Annie/Anna	"A present to Miss Ann Henshaw by a friend"	Some loose signatures, binding worn, fair
26		1883	Danbury, NH	Miss Leona Hard	Bookseller ticket from Manchester, NH; mostly empty	Loose signatures, little wear, fair
27		1840s	New Haven, CT; Madison, CT?	Elizabeth	First dedication is New Haven, 1846; some calligraphy	Loose pages, chipped spine, fair only
28		1859 to ?	Amherst	Miss Lyrrell	Color floral illustrations, "Philopena"	Chipped spine, good condition

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	29	1860s, 1882	Lima, OH	Sister Gordon, Mother Gordon, Miss Gordon	"To my dear friend Miss Gordon"; "To my teacher"	Light wear, good condition
	30	1852	N.p.	Marie	Inscription on FFEP, "From St. Nicholas to Marie, Dec. 25, 1852'; mostly blank	Light wear, good condition
	31	Late 1850s-1860s	Rochester, VT	Allie, Alma	FFEP pencil note: "Alivia Thatcher, Roch."	Light wear, good condition
	32	1838	Randolph, VT	Emily	"Mrs. Emily A. Lancaster Album, Randolph, Vt."; mostly filled; with a lock of hair (marked)	A tornout page, slightly loose signatures, covers and spine worn; fair
	33	1861-1863-1868	Jersey Shore	Mary, Cousin Mary	Dedication page: March 2, 1861, "My friend Mary asked me to write in her album"; handful of inscriptions	Good
	34	1861	----field Center, NY; Gennesee; Lima, OH	Jennie	Civil War inscription and a few others; news clippings (stained); miniature oval portrait of a young lady	Very good
	35	1870s-1880s	N.p.	Maggie L. Briggs	Page of calligraphy, handful of inscriptions; bookplate on front pastedown of S. Weir Newmayer, M.D., "The Trail of Education Collection and Library," Philadelphia, PA	Hinges/spine repaired
	36	1838-1839	Enfield, Hardwick	Sarah	Calligraphy on the title page, roughly a dozen or more inscriptions	Front cover detached, rear endsheet removed, fair only
	37	1861	Casanova?	Emma Steadman	January 1, 1861 on front flyleaf, includes an obituary of a deceased US officer, October, 1861; some die cuts	Light wear, good condition
	38	1860-1870s, 1883-1885	Manchester, VT	Clement?	"Class of '66" — ?	Light wear, very good condition
	39	1844	Buffalo	Miss Daman's ?	July 5, 1844; mostly blank	Fair, repaired spine and loose signatures
	40	1867	Baltimore	Cousin Sallie	Few inscriptions, mostly blank	Spine and hinges repaired
	41	1855-1859	Gloucester	Mary	Roughly a dozen or more inscriptions	Couple loose signatures, cracked hinge, fair
	42	1877-1880s	Villisca, Iowa; Tecumseh, Nebraska; Johnson County; Nebraska City	Clara; J. Carrington?	Oblong autograph album, but with inscriptions	Chipped/torn spine, contents slightly loose
	43	1870	Bedford Seminary, New York	Stella [Van Cortlandt]	Mostly full	Loose pages, upper spine split, fair
	44	1880s	Gloversville, NY	Manilah	Parsonage First Baptist Church, mostly full	Good
	45	1860-1893	Millford, CT	Anna E. Clark	Roughly a dozen or more inscriptions	Covers worn, spine missing, fair
	46	1861	Boston, IN; Richmond, IN; Indianapolis; Cincinnatti; Centreville; Wayne County; and various	Miss Martha Druley	Mostly full, with a couple of tiny picture portraits	Chipped spine, edgewear, good
	47	1858	Rochester, NH; Providence	James J. Meader	Approx. 20 inscriptions	Spine perished, a few loose pages, fair
	48	1830s	Donaldsville; New Lisbon; Otego County; Remington; Rome	Miss ? Cole	Roughly a dozen or more inscriptions	Poor, covers detached, spine missing, loose pages
	49	1878	Milford, CT	Momma (from W. D. Mi--?)	"Ethel B. Lane, 1964" on title page; one inscriptions, steel engraving	Good condition, very nice binding
	50	1834, 1835, 1845, 1846,	Johnsville, Frederick County; Baltimore; York County, PA; New London	Elizabeth Burgess	Unidentified cabinet cards; some calligraphy	Shaken signatures, some dampstaining, repaired spine; fair only
	51	1830s-1850s	Wellsville, Columbiana County, Ohio; Salineville, Ohio; Carrollton, Ohio; and various	Lizzie Christie / Lizzie Holley / Lib / Eliza, etc.	Laid-in floral border in pencil on blue tracing paper; hand-colored title-p. and plates and drawings, calligraphy; entirely full, including one entry, painting of a bluebell with the note, "this was the first gift to me from my husband long before our happy married life began"	Minor edgewear, very good
	52	1870s	Girls High School, Boston; Exeter; and various	Belle Levett	Autograph album with some inscriptions and drawings; laid-in notes	Nice binding (both boards with gilt-and-blue center medallion within elaborate debossed dentelles and vine pattern); edges rubbed, else good`

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	53	1865-1867	Lebanon, NH; Woodstock, VT, etc.	Ada A. Jewitt	Mostly autographs with some inscriptions and laid-in notes, entirely full	Gilt- and blind-stamped binding, edges quite rubbed, else very good
	54	1859-1867	Braintree, MA	Joseph H. Hobart, Sarah S.S. Thayer	A few autographs, a couple inscriptions, including 12-line poem; mostly unused	Gilt-, blind-, and color-stamped red morocco binding, a.e.g., edges rubbed, else very good
	55	1850s-'60s, 1880	Glendale, NJ; Germantown, PA; Leed's Point, NJ	Hannah; various Morgan family members	Numerous inscriptions, a few laid-in/tipped-in items	Gilt foil embossed title-p., color-litho frontis, color lithos/hand-colored plates; hinges sprung, joints chipped, edgeworn; fair
	56	1850s-1873	Smithfield, NJ	Mathilda Ann Gracy (?)	"her book a birthday present", a few inscriptions, laid-in items	Covers worn, else good
	57	1840-1841	Johnstown [NY], Fulton [County, NY]	Miss Sarah English	Entirely full, with numerous tipped-in/laid-in plates, calling cards, etc.	Spine chipped, hinges cracked, else very good
	58	1860s	N.p.	Lizzie	Mostly empty but for a gift dedication, some autographs, a few laid-in botanicals, and a 4-page MS letter laid-in at the rear from Philadelphia, 1856.	Edgeworn, chipped, fair
	59	1840s-1850s-1860s-1899	Chester Co., PA; East and West Nantmeal, PA; Philadelphia; and various	Eliza; various Warwick family members; et al.	Entirely full, with additional tipped-in materials including die-cut foil-embossed stamps; plates; etc. Multi-generational dedications/inscriptions	Well-used, with spine perished, both boards detached, pages loose
	60	1832	Glenville, Schenectady, Ballston, Burnt Hills, Saratoga, NY; and various	Charlotte	Charlotte Vanvorst's Remembrancer. Glenville, June 20th, 1832 (calligraphic title page). Charlotte was married to James Madison Bouck, son of New York Governor William Christian Bouck, on October 8, 1839; the Governor died in 1859 — there is a laid-in obituary regarding his death midway through the album.	Poor, rear board detached, all quite worn
	61	1859-1860-1861	Lafayette, GA	Lizzie	Roughly a dozen or more inscriptions, the remainder empty	Front cover nearly detached, contents in good condition
	62	1861/1864	Austin, TX	Miss Hallie	A few inscriptions	Binding in good condition
	63	1858/1859/1862	Millersburg	Julana	Roughly a dozen or more inscriptions, roughly a dozen or more empty pages.	Spine chipped, edgewear, good
	64	1860-1890	Locust Level — VA? Bourbon County, KY / Independence, MO	Sarah / Sister Nichols / Mrs. Nichols / Sally R. Garrard	Numerous inscriptions and newsclippings regarding the Garrard family dating from a period of more than 30 years, possibly used by more than one family member; some entries upside down	Edgewear to the corners and spine, contents good
	65	1856	Union Vale [NY]	Rebecca	Some die cuts, color floral illustrations, roughly a dozen or more inscriptions, including a 1936 MS family note	Chipped at spine head, light edgewear to covers, contents good
	66	1860s-'70s	Maine, Massachusetts	Helen	Mostly autographs, a few inscriptions, newspaper clipping regarding domestic drama	Light wear, very good
	67	1820s-1870s	Concord ? Cayuga ? Mch ?	Harriet Brown	Many inscriptions, mostly full	A few loose pages, light wear, fair
	68	1836-'37	Charlestown	Martha Tufts	Color floral illustrations;	Small square album; light wear, good
	69	1880-1883	Troy High School	Lizzie	"Class of '83" — roughly a dozen or more inscriptions	Front cover mostly detached, fair
	70	1884	Cheltenham	Emma Maude Sadler	St. Mary's Hall; mostly full; pasted in botanicals	Wear to binding, good
	71	1840s-1860s	Philadelphia	Letitia S. Huseman	Entirely filled; 1855 broadside poem or song, "Children's Welcome" laid in	Contents shaken, rear hinge cracked, good
	72	1836, 1838	Acworth; Alstead (NH?)	Nancy G? Brown	Mostly full	Shaken, generally good
	73	1855-1856-1873	Lowell [MA]	?	Handful of inscriptions	Binding worn, spine chipped, good
	74	N.d. (ca. 1860s)	N.p.	Mary E. F? Vincent?	Includes one tintype tipped in, oval pictures, color illustrations; numerous miniature photographs of Civil War (Union) generals	Spine chipped, fair
	75	1854-55	Tamaqua [PA?}	Libbie, Lizzie	Mostly full	Loose pages, edgeworn binding, fair
	76	1866, 1881, 1883	Brooklyn? and others	Mardie McClintock	"On her 20th birthday" (1866); hand-colored illustrations, roughly a dozen or more inscriptions	Restored, new spine, interior contents good

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	77	1856-1858-1861	Blair Hall, NJ; Haleytown	Thomas Johnson Jr.	Civil War era; scattered inscriptions, majority blank	Front joint cracked, worn, edgewear, good
	78	1858-1862	Steubenville, OH	Sally P. Means	Steubenville Female Seminary, 1858; roughly a dozen or more inscriptions	Restored, new spine
	79	1863	Rebofield et al., ME	Charles B. Howard	Mostly filled	Light edgewear, good condition
	80	1859-1863	Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine	Miss Emma Dodge	West Boscawen School, Elmwood Institute; mostly filled	Spine head split, light edgewear, good condition
	81	1857, 1863, 1866	Cambridge, Mass; New Alstead, NH; Paper HIll Village; New England	Brother Henry, My Son Henry [Partridge]	Mostly full	Light edgewear, good
	82	1878-1879	San Francisco	Lily [Lillian Eckers] [Daughter of George E., mother of Geraldine]	Roughly a dozen or more inscriptions, engravings	Very clean, light wear, very good condition
	83	1867-1868-1869	Philadelphia	Anna M. Fairlamb; Annie	"By her brother, Paschall, November 18, '67"; Mason Lodge embossed stamp; some laid-in paper	Flyleaf removed; spine head and tail split; good
	84	1857-1858-1859	Rock River Seminary; Massachusetts;	Lottie	"Presented to Lottie as a Philopena present by her friend" — n.d.; roughly a dozen or more inscriptions	Spine head chipped, light wear, good
	85	1832, 1834, 1835	Morris, Litchfield County, Connecticut	Juliette Ward? Weed?	Roughly a dozen or more inscriptions	Cracked joints, good
	86	1861-1864	Springfield, Mass.	None	"Respecfully yours, Roslin W. Bowles, U.S.A. 10th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers" and another 10th Reg. inscription; mostly autographs, a few inscriptions	Binding fair only, spine missing, upper cover loose but attached
	87	1861, 1863, 1895	Hamilton, Ontario; Montreal; Brooklyn, NY	Martha Van Allen (Mrs.)	"Presented to Miss M. Van Allen, January 10, 1854"; laid-in color bookmark	Engravings foxed, loose signature, spine largely perished, fair
	88	1870s-1880s	Colcester, Conn; Bristol, Conn; Waterbury, Conn.	Nellie	A dozen or more inscriptions	Front flyleaf removed, spine largely perished, contents fair to good
	89	1853	N.p.	Mary Tupman	"Presented to Mary Tupman by Lydia L. Hunt, January 1, 1853"; handful of inscriptions, roughly a dozen or more blank pages	Spine perished, fair condition
	90	1856, 1864	Connecticut; Spring Mills; New Haven; Nangatuck; Gale College	Louisa A. Bateman	Mostly filled	Small chip top of spine, good
	91	1870s	Justin, Emerson, MI; Michigan Asylum, Kalamazoo, MI	Sophie E. Emerson	"From Mother, December 25, 1869"; laid-in MS papers; handful of inscriptions, roughly a dozen or more blank pages	Bottom of spine chipped, generally good
	92	N.d. (ca. 1870s)	N.p.	None	Mostly blank, undated, "Album of Gems" (cover title), handful of copied MS pages	Light wear, good condition
	93	1859-1866	LaGrange, GA	Emma L. Bostwick	Student at LaGrange Female College, 1859-1860; includes an inscription by the president of the college, W. A. Harris.; laid-in postcard of the college; a dozen or more additional inscriptions	Light edgewear, front hinge repaired, cover reattached, good condition