

This is an annotated bibliography of the Harriet Lowndes Aiken papers.

Beginning June 2, 2003 and ending August 13, 2003, I researched the archives at the Charleston Museum, the Waring Library, and the South Caroliniana Library. I conducted a thorough search of the Aiken-Rhett papers housed at the Charleston Museum and the Singleton papers at the South Caroliniana Library for any information relevant to Harriet Lowndes Aiken. Both resources were exhausted and the following bibliography contains all that was pertinent regarding Harriet Lowndes Aiken. The search at the Waring Library was brief and related simply to the subject's funeral.

During the first stages of research, I made complete transcriptions of every document that related to Harriet Lowndes Aiken. Due, however, to time constraints I began transcribing only sections of letters that were directly related to Harriet Lowndes Aiken. While I did read the full content of each document, I and my supervisor, Jill Koverman believed that Historic Charleston Foundation would be better served if I went through every box related to the subject rather than fully transcribe a limited number of letters. The information that was transcribed directly relates to Harriet Lowndes Aiken and that which was simply summarized did not have a direct correlation to her. The details were specific to the writer rather than Harriet Lowndes Aiken.

There is enough information, however, to give insight into the letter's content and guide future investigators in their research endeavors.

Amy Gregg
Summer 2003
Historic Charleston Foundation

During our meeting on August 5th, Jill Koverman informed me that she had just recently discovered that Harriet Aiken Rhett's corresponding letters to Mattie Singleton are at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. It is, however, too late in the summer term for me to travel to UNC. Also due to time constraints, I did not review the Lowndes papers at the South Carolina Historical Society. I did, however, speak with the institution's research historian, Carey Lucas and she thought that the papers may hold valuable information regarding Harriet Lowndes Aiken. Thus, they too warrant investigation. The resources at both the Charleston Museum and the South Caroliniana library at the University of South Carolina have been examined for information regarding Harriet Lowndes Aiken. What follows is a report of the material discovered at both institutions.

Through the numerous letters read it appears that Harriet Lowndes Aiken suffered from poor health for much of her adult life. Many of her correspondents wrote inquiring about her health and made mention of her traveling to Saratoga, New York to convalesce in the waters. Hydrotherapy was a common medical treatment which began in the 1820's and lasted well into the twentieth-century. Wealthy people traveled to resorts with natural springs which were thought to cleanse the body of impurities.¹

Harriet made several trips to Saratoga, as her health often improved while there. Although none of the letters indicated from what Harriet suffered, they did consistently refer to her overall poor health, weak eyesight and a debilitated leg. She was confined to a wheel chair at some point following the Civil War, but none of the correspondence detailed what was wrong with her leg or if the condition was permanent. Details do not indicate that it was a paralysis problem, but rather a wound or swelling issue.²

Many of Harriet's correspondents expressed anxiety regarding her health and her failure to write. Several writers instructed Harriet that she should not expend too much of her energy by writing they did, however, request a brief note just to let them how she was feeling.³

¹For further information see John Duffy. *From Humors to Medical Science*, (Chicago: University of Illinois press, 1993.)

²See letters from Henrietta Aiken Rhett dated September 15th and from Z.L. Leehees dated April 20th.

³See letters from J. Moses dated August 13th and December 19th, 1870, A.L. Chesham

Another common theme among the communications was one of regret that Harriet was unable follow through with travel plans. Again, her limitations were due to her enfeebled health. Her brothers lectured her for not traveling North to visit them and thus due to Charleston's hot summer climate further compromised her health.⁴

September 18th, Henrietta Aiken Rhett August 3 and Cal September 4, 1873.

⁴See letters from R.W. Lowndes dated August 20th, 1867 and William Lowndes dated July 28th, 1865.

It is quite clear that Harriet was loved by her family and friends. Most everyone referred to her as "Aunt Heart" or "Heart" and expressed concern and appreciation for her and Governor Aiken. In all of the letters written to Henrietta concern and well wishes were extended to Harriet. Emily Lowndes wrote the only letter which criticized Harriet's behavior.⁵

It is not clear from the letter about what Emily was so distraught and yet in another letter Emily wrote Harriet that she was relieved that Harriet's health had improved while in Saratoga.

The Aiken family may have experienced financial difficulties following the Civil War, as Harriet instructed two of her nieces to sell the family silver and a one of her rings.⁶ Unless the collections at UNC or the SCHS have much untapped information, it is not possible to write a biographical sketch of Harriet Lowndes Aiken. Her health seemed to impair her ability to write, travel, and socialize and thus very little can be determined about Harriet's life.

The Aiken-Rhett collection at the Charleston Museum had a significant amount of material related to Henrietta Aiken Rhett, Claudine Rhett, and Francis Dill. A gendered interpretive tour would be better based upon one or a combination of the women rather than limited to Harriet Lowndes Aiken.

Harriet Lowndes Aiken (referred to in text as HLA) Married to Governor Aiken

DOB: January 18, 1812

DOD: March 24, 1892

dies at age 80 in Charleston, SC, leaving her daughter Henrietta Aiken Rhett as her sole heir. She is buried in Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston.

⁵See letter written to Henrietta Aiken Rhett from Emily Lowndes dated November 25th, 1887.

⁶See letter and inventory list dated September 29th, 1865 and one written by Marie Cottenet October 13th.

MARRIED: February 3, 1831 @ age 19
weds William Aiken, Jr. (age 25)

CHILDREN: Henrietta Aiken born July 17, 1836 (in Charleston)
Thomas Lowndes Aiken born June 25, 1841—dies August 17, 1841

SIGNIFICANT FAMILY HAPPENINGS: - William S. Aiken, Jr. was governor of SC from 1844-1846

- William S. Aiken, Jr. (husband) DOD September 16, 1887—leaving Harriet and only surviving child Henrietta Aiken Rhett sole heirs.
- When Harriet dies Henrietta becomes sole heir to Aiken estate.
- A.B. Rhett dies 1879

CHARLESTON MUSEUM BOXES

CIVIL WAR BOXES

BOX #2: contains no citations or any documents that pertain to HLA

Certification by Charles Spaulding (Commanding @ Darien) of orders to destroy various supplies & equipment including Plantation of R.B. Rhett (10,000 bushels of rice) 1862

Multiple folders of Poetry & Songs, but none indicate that HLA collected or wrote in longhand.

Letters to Claudine Rhett from various individuals.

Folder of articles, editorials, and advertisements from *Century Magazine* during CW
SHS papers from 1882 & Vol. XII (Aug.-Sept.)

Confederate Veteran Magazine from 1893, 1903 & 1927

Newspaper clippings regarding R Barnwell Rhett's death and an article he wrote for *Century* regarding the downfall of the CSA.

BOX #3 contains no citation or any documents regarding HLA

There is a folder with a letter and a party list for the officers at Fort Sumter. The letter is addressed to an "Elise" probably Elise Rhett Lewis and signed with two initials, but they do not appear to be HLA's. Rather they maybe a "J" and an "L"—representing her husband—John W. Lewis.

The letter makes no mention of HLA and does not indicate that she is the writer.

Everything in the box pertains to A.B. Rhett, R. Barnwell Rhett, Claudine Rhett, and CW memorabilia and CW memory articles.

BOX #4 contains two ledgers which have nothing pertaining to HLA

BOX #5 nothing pertaining to HLA

Does contain a file with applications and letters to the UDC for family members of

Aiken-Rhett. Also correspondence of Claudia Rhett

BOX#6 nothing pertaining to HLA

BOX #7 nothing pertaining to HLA

Contains correspondence mostly to, from, & between various children of Harriet Aiken-Rhett.

BOX #8

In folder titled "Personal Correspondence Letters to Henrietta A. Rhett from M.R. Singleton--not dated" Letters from MR Singleton to HR Aiken makes secondary references to HLA

Letter dated May 15th (no year) from Columbia (assume SC) from M.R. Singleton (MRS) to Henrietta Aiken Rhett(HRA.) Letter discusses social news, children etc. While it does not contain narration regarding HLA, following the letter's closure MRS wrote "Tell my dear aunt I will write very soon." The assumption is that she is referring to HLA, since HLA is HRA's mother.

Letter from MRS to HRA dated Monday 22 (no year) Letter discusses health of Cleman and behavior of a child named "Helen." "? line to Aunt-Heart & all the circle And God bless & keep & ? you in all your ways--"

Letter from MRS to HRA July 8 (no year). MRS is suffering from poor health, but since her stay in Rock Hill with Aiken she is feeling better. Wrote--"I cannot act really strong & well. Just after I had written to tell Aunt Heart that I could not make the engagements for joining her at the South" "Aunt Heart" is HLA.

Letter dated Saturday Aug. 9 (no year)MRS to HRA "My last from T.R. is from Claude --a card in which she says the Gov. & Aunt-Heart had postponed their return South, & I hope it was ? Aunt-Heart felt a little stronger &, Is able to have a little more engagement." Letter then proceeds to another topic.

Letter dated Tuesday- 30 [circa 1888] MRS to HRA "I had just finished a letter to Aunt Heart when yours was brought in & I added a line to day as letters seem more to me than ever & my power of writing them seems less and less--I feel older in the last year . . ." Letter continues in this vain and then switches topics, but never returns to HLA.

New Folder "Personal Correspondence Letters to Henrietta A. Rhett from various persons 1870's, 80's, & '90's"but still Box#8

A letter dated September 7th from Augusta written to HRA from Geraldine. The letter is in reference to the death of Gov. Aiken (HRA's father) "What can I say to your mother? Only that my heart goes out to her in her sorrow now that she has lost the staff on which she leaned. That God in His infinite goodness may give you both strength to bear the cross He has

seen fit to lay upon you is the best prayer I can offer."

Letter dated September 7th, 1887 from Washington, D.C. written to HRA from Mary G. Markie. "I will send you in a day or two some ? likeness of Sophie and want you to send them back (as they are the only ones I have of that kind) when you have shown them to your Mother and Father if you think they would care to see them." Letter makes no more references to HLA.

New Folder "Personal Correspondence Letters to Henrietta Aiken Rhett from her father William Aiken, Jr. 1877-1886" Still Box#8

Letter dated June 25th, 1877 to HRA from Gov. Aiken. "Your Mother still would ?- she is much disappointed on account of the intense heat and annoyance of the flies-I shall endeavour [sic] to keep her here until Saturday-by that time-there may be some improvement in health. Uifie (sp?) is quite lively and quite obedient to her grandmother-Catherine is given up to her entirely-she has gone to visit Dr. Rhett's children-his residence is only a few doors from hers-she now has quite a bright colour [sic]-she has just come in and says-you must send her some powders-slippers and ribbons."

New Folder "Personal Correspondence Letters to Henrietta A. Rhett from M.R. Singleton 1870's & 1880's, but still Box#8

Letter March 1, 1889 to HRA from MRS. "I do not think Aunt Heart can see this letter-but I will write to her soon."

Letter April 8, 1884 to HRA from MRS. "Dear love to Aunt Heart & all."

Letter November 1884 to HRA from MRS. "I hope Aunt Heart got my letter-I am anxious to hear how she is-You have never told me if Jehossee suffered from the gals this year."

New Folder letter from Emily Lowndes November 25th, 1887 to HRA Pendleton

" Dear Etta

I am going to take the liberty of writing to you to-day on a subject which has disheartened me, & which I hope that you will give your serious attention.

I would not write if I only had a friend or ? ? is for me but unfortunately I have no father from whom ? ? I ? claim it.

I would have written to your mother but find that utterly useless-she is so very forgetful & so contradictory. I suppose that it is ? to her bad memory which she has spoken much about.

During a fit of sickness, she made you write me a letter denying everything that she told me. You must remember dear Etta that you were not present at our ? ?, and you must know very well that ? had like me ? by ? would never have assembled it if your Mother did not volunteer herself to tell me. I feel quite innocent ? it quite ? to ask for an explanation of one who understands she dislikes position of being the bearer of a message to one who is some what of a stranger to her.

Her conversations with me with regard to one of Cousin (Chonbs?) Lowndes family giving to purchase a ? & she offering it to me in there name, (with the rest of his conversation which I cannot mention in a letter) strange. To say was sold to a relation of mine, by her years ago with regards to another lady & from whom I have heard it. How then can I be mistaken? Where can an untruth be detected in what I say? I am always very correct. A third party in

any business is a bad instrument any how unless they pay such attention.

I think it very hard of your mother & very unkind of her for neglecting to take my answer back in return of acceptance– it is like placing me in a very ugly position towards a family whose hospitality I enjoyed and whom I thought seemed like me. I can hardly feel that she ever had any regards or respect for my father, Mr. Ed Lowndes for doing so.

“The position of awkwardness that I have been placed in requires an explanation and I think it is fair to me that she send one.”(quotation marks used within original letter)

I hope that you will not be angry with me for writing so plainly & making a clean break of it. I really think that some thing is due to me– I think your mother may say that she has forgotten it again & again. Yet I ? what I received from her is a correct ?.

I have been living with Dr. Thomas Garth here in Pendelton. To ? for some time, but expect to move soon as they are going to leave this place. I hope that you are all well since your father’s death. With love

	I am
Pendelton	Your affectionate Cousin
S.C.	Emily Lowndes

[Written perpendicularly on the letters edge] How would you like to be in a like position by my mother?”

This letter clearly indicates family tension between HLA and her niece Emily Lowndes, HLA’s brother Ed.

New Folder: Personal Correspondence: Letters to Henrietta A. Rhett from Marie H. Cottenet (a cousin) 1840-1877

In a letter dated July 11th from Marie H. Cottenet (Mary _____ married) written to ‘Etta

“We have all been to Long Branch, where your letter was forwarded me. They call it sea-shore, but it does not compare to Sullivan’s Island. I travelled [sic] back to our old childish days, dear Etta, which are so indelibly impressed upon my memory. It seemed to me that I could hear you reciting the multiplication table to “Aunt Sabina” (to Charles Lowndes 1829) & that I could see Aunt Heart coming down to see us laden with nice things to eat. Do you remember the closet where the sugar plums were locked up; & counted out to us every day at 12 noon? Oh my! h[sic]ow old & wretched it makes me feel.”

In a letter date September 22nd, 1887.

“Dear Etta

My thoughts are constantly with you, in these heartbreaking nights & days. I know what a powerful motive you have in your children, for exertion and this will give you the strength for standing alone, for the first time. I well know the desolation of this double loss, and wish I could be near you, and my dear Aunt, just now. Know how fortunate you are to have Mattie, and how much comfort there must be in her strong devotion. With love, dear Ettat,

Yours as ever

Marie”

New Folder: Personal Correspondence: Letters to Mrs. Henrietta A. Rhett from R. Winthrop

In a letter dated 3 April, 1892, Boston Massachusetts, 90 Marlborough Street from R. Winthrop to Henrietta Aiken Rhett

“ My dear Mrs. Rhett,

I thank you for your most kind note of the 30th ?. Among all the friendships which Uncle Peabody Trust part me in the way of forming, none were more valued & cherished than that with your dear father. And when he brought your lamented mother to our Annual Meetings, she added greatly to our satisfaction & pleasure.

I sympathize sincerely with you in your recent bereavement. The loss if such parents must indeed be sad indeed for you, but their memory will be precious to you. My own hold upon life has been very precarious of late, & as I am just at the close of 83? ?, I cannot look forward far into the future. But a (better ?) than my (sa__th ?) is before us all, & you will find your best consolation in thinking of your good father & mother—enjoying it together after no (__ay?) Long separation.

Pardon the intrue [sic] si__ ? Of these Sunday Evening thoughts, & behavior ? with kindest regards & renounced sympathy, in which ? ? ? ? with me,

Yours, very truly,

R.F(?). Wint hrop”

BOX#9: No information related to HLA

BOX#10:

In Folder: letter to Mrs. William Aiken, Jr. (Aunt Heart) from Marie H. Cottenet (her niece) (Harriet Lowndes Aiken)

Letter dated September 9th from Marie H. Cottenet to HLA

“My own dear Aunt,

What can I say to you in this dark hour, except that I wish I could put my own arms around you and sit by your side. My dear Uncle is associated with all the pleasant happy hours of my life from earliest childhood and I loved him truly. And you, dear Aunt Heart, take my love and deep tenderness.

Yours ever,

Marie”

Letter dated October 3rd from MHC to HLA

“I have just remembered, dear Aunt Heart that Mr. Larren(?) sails tomorrow & has offered to take anything for me. I sent you two books which are both very good in their way & may amuse Etta & yourself for a few hours. The “Marquis” is so good that I would like Mattie to read it when you have finished up it could be good to her. I see ? the N.Y. papers that Uncle

Aiken has at last purchased his pardon & hope that the ?(looks like why) of mind will act upon his health. I have heard nothing of Mary, has she left Charleston yet? Why have you not sent the measure from your consuls? I am very happy in the society of my little Wilkinson cousins, who are now staying with me. Papa has promised to send me ?, but I fear the promise will never be redeemed. I hope to be in Charleston by the end of November, dear Aunt Heart & the pleasure of seeing Etta & yourself constantly presents itself to my imagination. My best love to Uncle Aiken & Etta & believe me

Your attached niece

Marie H. Cottenet"

Letter dated October 13th

"I know, dear Aunt Heart, that you must be feeling very very sad just now. Cousin Alfred Huger brought me the intelligence of my poor Aunt's death. Was Mattie alone with her Mother & the children? & was it sudden! Sadness seems to be the eternal portion of all whom I love now. I received your package & letter brought by Mr. Rhett, but unfortunately missed seeing the barer. We are still in the country but generally go into New York once a week. It pains me, dear Aunt Heart, to dispose of your ring, but of course you have thought it over well & made up your mind. I will take it down with me on Monday, ascertain the value & write you about it before taking the final steps. The watch & glasses I will return as they are repaired. I am glad however that there is a prospect of Etta using her fine voice again & hope that next winter you will invite me to some of the musical venues you are contemplating. Dugan Ferguson paid me the compliment, when here of ?__ging me the music he had selected for Huntsville, to try overpretending however that it was from his sister Fanny. I will write again early next week. Give my love to Etta & Uncle Aiken & believe me dear Aunt Heart

Your attached niece

Marie H Cottenet

P.S. Mrs. Cottenet's experience & knowledge of pianos will be of very great advantage to me in selecting yours."

In Folder: Personal Correspondence Letter to Mrs. Wm. Aiken, Jr. (Harriet L.) From her Nephew Luther Lowndes

Letter dated October 23rd

It is very long, dearest Aunt Heart, since I have written to you & I have felt particularly sorry to put it off, because I wanted to tell you how much I sympathize with you in ? Aunt Mary's health. I know how truly you loved one another. I think of it has one of the strongest feelings Aunt Mary had ever in her most unhappy moods, she seemed to have a particular tenderness for you. Her last will be great to others tho' at times a great source of anxiety. She had such a fine interest in Mother's concerns, & must have been in ? ? an ? companion. I do not think we shall ever meet with her equal in conversation when she was in spirits. When had, we would well justify, remembering the black shadow that had fallen on her youth. I hope Mother will consent to pay you a visit this ? it will cheer & distract her—her life for Mother's part must have been very wearing. All the refugees here are on the move. In about 3 weeks now we shall be almost alone. Mrs. Huger, Mrs. ?, Mrs. Johnston, the Mills family of

Davis; who are very nice people will be from the society. Fortunately one has so much occupation that there is not much time to dwell on our privations. I have seldom an idle moment for 6 weeks. I am in school & then bread-making, & other little household drudgeries, the time passes only too quickly. Sometimes I wonder what is the use of ? confinement & ? we have had. I paid a sad visit yesterday to Mary Read. Her is on her way to Charleston & has just heard of her Mother's death. She was much distressed it has indeed been a painful dispensation—one can dearly understand how a person of Mrs. Middletons' gentle ?— could have been so violent. ? ? ? this down—his little boy is almost well & goes down with him. We had a ? ? of ? —for 14 nights? & I just ? ? it has told on us, as you may imagine much. Charles now looks of leaving on the 10th, but I do not think it very positive both ? & ? are very important—Aunt Gertrude's just arrived some days ago. It has really ...

The rest of this letter is too illegible to transcribe.

Your affectionate nephew,

Luther Lowndes

In folder: Personal Correspondence letter to Mrs. William Aiken from ZSL, Sept. 25th (Tiffany Jewelry swap)

Dear Heart,

I enclosed to August 30th an order from Tiffany for \$330 (in gold) the price paid for Mr. Parker's ring that you might draw the money, or write to me to do so, as might be most convenient to you = Please let me know, if the letter has reached you; if not lest it should have fallen into other hands, I will set Tiffany upon his guard = A later note contained the receipt from the Carafe ? for a bon, for Allen, directed to the care of Mr. Aiken. I shall be glad to know if box and receipt have reached you. Poor little Nate Donovan, who sailed for Carafe in the steamer ? the 20th was anxious respecting the fate of a box containing some things Etta had written for, & a variety of other things she thought would be useful to Etta & yourself during the very bad weather. It was shipped I understand here in August. If it has not been received the Rail Road [sic] ? are responsible—and she has left authority with a ? ? in New York to which the damages or hunt up the box; if it has not reached its destination.

I am writing very hurridly [sic] dear Heart, not to loose the mail ? to day. We are all well, the ? suffering severely from a protracted drought, spring & wells failing every where. Water almost a ? Price and his family have left New York, all now in ?. Maggie I am told ? ? than she has been at anytime. Dear Heart it is long since we have heard from you, how have you been in the heat of the last month. ? must give cool weather. Affect, ZSL

In folder: Personal Correspondence: Letter to Mrs. Harriet Aiken (Heart) from various people
Letter dated Dec. 23

Dear Aunt Heart,

We reached home safely yesterday about one o'clock after a very comfortable journey. The train was very full and it was very fortunate that I went early to the station as I was able to secure seats for Adele and her party who came late—Anna stood the journey

unmarkably [sic] well. Mr. Allston met us in Georgetown and had an easy chair in the wagon for Anna so that the drive did not fatigue her and this morning she seems quite bright and says she feels better already for being in the country. I found the children all well and in bright spirits at the prospect of Christmas and a weeks holiday. I hope this bright weather will last through the holidays. I hope your cold is better. ? and I think over our visit with much pleasure. She joins me in love to you, cousin Etta & Claude. Ever affec'ly [sic] yours—E.R. Allston.

Dated letter January 28th

Dear Aunt Heart,

I send you a ? ? day offering, which I hope you will enjoy with the Grand-children [sic] ? ? it. Much love from your affec'ate [sic] niece T.I. Lowndes.

Letter dated Monday 28

My dearest Aunt Heart, your letter has just reached me, & I cannot tell you how touched I am at your writing me these fine lines. Not that I ? them for I esteem it one of my privileges to write you, & me of yours to write ?, as you feel able & ?. I cannot tell you how troubled I have been to hear from Etta of your ? cough. I know how exhausting it must be. I have not fixed any particular time for my visit to Charleston, because I wanted to include my stay with my sons—and not return here after I left. Etta has been kind enough to invite me to spend the next summer at Flat Rock & I am looking forward to it as to be a very happy time. I had the pleasure last Friday of seeing Bishop Horne. He preached me of his excellent sermons—a little over the heads of his audience perhaps—but still with much ? could understand. I could not help thinking how important physical advantages are. He looked grand in his Episcopal robes—like ? authority impersonated. After service I spoke to him & he enquired most affectionately after you, regretted so much to hear of your sickness, & said he would (five illegible words) he returned to Charleston. I had a pleasant letter from Mrs. ? yesterday. She too asks much about. She said I must ? tell you that Mrs. ? had entirely recovered her health & I am sure this will be good news to you. Marie & her family she says are getting on nicely & very ? “all round” I am. Fan has grown up to be a charming girl & pretty enough whatever that means, but dies not quite ? thru [sic] winter. Helen is established in her (letter becomes illegible for several lines.) Dear Aunt Heart, I am looking forward to seeing you at no distant day & sitting in a ? of yours. Knitting in hand to talk & be silent just as sisters. Yours ?, M.?.T. (This letter is in a deteriorated state and therefore between the taxing handwriting and the missing pieces of paper the letter was difficult to transcribe.

Letter dated April 20th

Dear Heart,

The long winter which must have been so weary a one to you, is passed & we were rejoiced to hear of you again downstairs, & allowed to drive out, although forbidden to put your foot to the ground. Warm weather will soon be after us, & is now full time for you to begin to think of & preface for, your journey North; & to leave Charleston, before the

debilitating climate begins to tell when you. Your rooms are quite ready & I have been hard at work out of doors, raking leaves & arranging flower beds, that the place may look bright & pretty to welcome you; if your leg will not allow long walks, you shall have a garden chair, be wheeled to the river bank, for fresh air & shade. You will have no ? to go upstairs & when the weather is wet or too hot, with your chair up on the piazza you can have exercise & air. I do not know what William's plans are, but if he should be turning his face homeward, why not come with him, & not wait until the ? May for Mr. Aiken, but let him find you comfortably established in your summer home when he comes; our springs are not as beautiful as those of a more Southern latitude, but it is always a lovely season and one to be enjoyed in the open air, you can be out for hours, not find the sun too bad, the winds too cool, or a fly or mosquito to annoy. Do come & assist me in my garden with advice in my garden, whilst I weed, hoe, & rake among beds of vegetables. Emily writes that little Aiken, with his Grandfather & Mr. Rhett are at Jehossee, what a delight it must be to the little fellow & how many wonderful things he will have to tell you when he returns. All accounts agree—describing the baby as lovely & Etta looking quite strong & well. I have had Charlie ? with me the greater part of the winter, his eyes so painful, he is forbidden to use them in any way—but ? ? every ? & study, always obliged to wear blue glasses, & when he leaves the house, a shade and thick veil, it is hard when the little ?, gives him many hours of ? (letter becomes illegible from this point. Appears to be from Z.L. Leehdes—name really difficult to decipher.)

Letter dated March 17th
to HLA from Susie

Context of letter makes reference to HLA's poor health of the past winter and advises her to "mind the Doctor's, & you will get better again but do not be too frisky at our age we must try & be still." Rest of letter discusses relevant information regarding those people that Susie & HLA have in common.

Letter dated January 2nd, 1889
to HLA from Clem (a niece)

Context of letter makes details "family news" regarding those individuals that are associated to the portion of the family that lives in Washington Square.

Letter dated September 29th
to HLA from niece Emmie L.

Context of letter discusses family news and a trip to Niagra. Etta was going to visit Aunt Mary, but that HLA was not to accompany her. Emmie expressed that "Uncle Major hopes spend half of her time with him. It will be so pleasant for us to have her here, and wish that you were with her, a change would have done you so much good dear Aunt Heart, and when we heard that you could not be persuaded to come North, we were in hopes that you would have taken compassion on Papa, and paid him a visit."

Letter dated November 14th
to HLA from M. S. Foster

Context of letter details family news and thanks HLA for a ring and message: "I shall value the ring more than I can tell you, dear Aunt Hear, and can not sufficiently thank you for it . . . and I wish I could tell you in person."

Letter dated September 8th
to HLA from nephew E.H. Stewart

Context of letter expresses sympathy for loss of Gov. Aiken: "accept my deepest sympathy, in the loss of one who was dear to both of us, Uncle Aiken was the dearest & sweetly Uncle I had & I shall be very much missed by me."

Letter dated March 11th
to HLA from Mary (niece living at Washington Square)

Context of letter details Lowndes family news and sorrow: "Mr. Hamilton's sudden death cast a gloom over the whole family, he is a terrible loss he was so good to us all."

Letter dated December 12th
to HLA from M.S. Foster (niece)

Context of letter details family news: "Aunt Gitty gave me the vase you sent the baby, & I thank you so much for thinking of him."

IN FOLDER LABELED : PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE: LETTER TO HARRIET LOWNDES AIKEN FROM HER DAUGHTER HENRIETTA AIKEN RHETT

Many of the dates on these letters are prefaced with the word "Lohtude" or "Lobtude" it is unclear what the second, third, and forth letters are in the word, but it is clear that the last four are "t", "u", "d", & "e." Also by comparing the first letter to other letters and words written by Etta the first letter does distinctly appear to be "L." It is not indicated what the word represents; in every letter, however, Etta is geographically separated from her Mother and Father.

Letter dated October 3rd from White Sulphur

Context of letter speaks of bad weather at White Sulphur Springs and that due to the rain she & Rhett cannot rest in the springs. While he suffers from headaches, Etta is well.

Letter dated Sept. 1879

Context of letter discusses specific information that appears unrelated and therefore is not clear to what they pertain. "Sis says Grandma must take the card receiver which she bought expressly with a view to her. The cakes look lovely."

Letter dated Sept. 15th

Context of letter expresses Etta's disappointment that HLA is not coming to visit

Etta at Union Square, NY. Etta details how she had pertained a special chair and “a soft thick cushion for your leg to rest on and had pictured you more than once seated in this chair before a bright fire your foot placed on this bench and a novel in your hand.”

Letter dated Aug. 19th

Written to HLA from Etta while HLA is in Saratoga, NY. “I was glad to receive your letter of the 11th And to hear you felt . . . better. I certainly think that ? must agree with your state of health. Don’t hurry to leave Saratoga but stay and use the water as long as you feel it does you good.” Etta is NC but does not indicate if at Flatrock. She wrote that Emmie and Elisa had just returned for their trip to Black Mountain “positively enchanted with the view.”

Letter dated Aug. 13th to HLA while at Saratoga, NY

Relates family news regarding Emmie and Elisa and that “Alice looks a great deal better and ? has finished teething so she will have no excuse to come visit next summer.” Etta ia anxious about HLA’s health and closes the letter by writing “ Goodbye dear Mama try and write to me regularly once a week. It saves me from feeling anxious. Love to Papa.”

Letter dated July 29th

Letter’s content is news relating to social news. “ I forget whether I wrote that John Simms is with us as well as Elise. As he had nothing to keep in the low country I thought it seemed more friendly to invite him to join his ?. The delightful plan they had of going to the Virginia Springs from here and then to New York is given up.”

Letter dated Friday

Letter discusses a train trip Etta and the children make while traveling South. “We had a nice cool journey. The train was full of delegates to the Baptist Convention.” Etta spoke with an English gentleman: “I made bold to say–It is unfortunate you should see the Southern Country at this time. You can form no opinion of why it was, etc.” Etta does not indicate at that time why it is a bad time to witness the South. She goes on to tell her mother that “The weather is pleasant here but the sandflies are quite annoying. Children are quite well.

Due to subsequent letter in the file, it appears they were traveling to Jehossee

Letter addresses Jehossee Monday

Letter informs HLA that Etta feels better since “coming here. I go out a great deal into the air and I sleep now.” The letter related the relationship that existed between the African-Americans and the plantation overseer. “The negroes look more satisfied and gay than they have been for years and I think and hope that the present manager will prove satisfactory.

Letter dated September 4th

Details the devastation caused by disease. “Do you see by the papers how fatal Dyphtheria is among the children of Charleston? Mr. ? has lost four or five children and

Mrs. Charlie Pickney has lost one. I am so thankful we have this place to escape to during the summer months where the children are particularly safe from these terrible diseases."

Letter headed Thursday

Gives social news and asks HLA "to bring me a cap suitable for my mourning. Something suitable to put on my head when we have a friend to dinner. There is nothing in that way here." The letter was written following the ??Governor's?? or A.B. Rhett's death, but does not indicate where "here" is. (more likely A.B.'s death - jk comment)

NEW FOLDER: PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE--LETTER TO Mrs. Wm. AIKEN from L.T.B. Wetmore.

Letter dated Sept. 12th from Newport, R.I.

Expresses sympathy to HLA and Etta regarding the Governor's death. "The sad tidings contained in Mrs. Singleton's letter have grieved me than words can tell, for your dear husband was one of my dearest friends & was dearly loved in our home.

NEW FOLDER: PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE--LETTER IN HARRIET L. AIKEN FROM W. PORCHER MILES

Letter dated June 24th

Letter is a response to a letter that HLA had sent to W.P. Miles. Discusses his social isolation in Columbia and how much he will miss Mrs. Singleton following her departure from Columbia. Also indicates that he "would have liked to hear "Little Heart" recite her French piece. My compliments to dear Little Heart."

NEW FOLDER: PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE--LETTER to Harriet L. Aiken from Helen (her niece)

Letter titled Acton Wednesday

Letter is from Helen Alston to HLA

Letter relates family information and it appears that Helen have some ailment to her face while traveling via the railroad. "At first I felt badly for my face was quite painful, but I kept quiet & when we reached Kingsville I was as spry as possible.

NEW FOLDER: LETTER to Mrs. Harriet Aiken from her niece, A.L. Chesham

Letter dated Tuesday Sept. 18th; was written to HLA from her niece A.L Chesham

The niece indicates that she had not heard from HLA in some time and was "anxious to write and inquire how you are feeling." The niece had been delayed, as she had been thrown from her mare and suffered from a broken arm. The horse was fine and other than her broken forearm A. L. Chesham was fine.

PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE: Letter to Mrs. Harriet Aiken from her niece, Mary L. March

Letter date estimated by a curator as 1890?

Mary inquires about HLA's health and hopes that she is "feeling strong again." The letter's main goals were to inquire if HLA had received a photograph that Mary had sent HLA. Mary also wanted to know if HLA had a good photograph of "Major" and that she had "found among Charlie's things that came from Harvard, one that I think Mother gave him, it is quite large, framed and I think a good likeness. I should like to send it to you if you care to have it."

PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to Mrs. Harriet L. Aiken R.H.L. (?) (Possibly her nephew Laudes)

Letter dated April 11, 1858

Letter discusses family news and informs HLA that R.H.L. had suffered a fall. The injury restricted his mobility to the house and therefore he was despondent due to the isolation. In his depression R.H.L. "Revolved to Build a House, in the expectations of always having some one to occupy it."

Letter dated Hopeland March 19, 1871

Letter discusses family member's trips to (Emmie) Boston and New York. Also makes reference to the "Governors cough has been hounding him again, and that" he will improve once Spring arrives. R.H.L. notes that the recent New Hampshire election "must have done it good, and if that Election is an indication of how things are going generally, He will have a refractive dose of the same soothing medicine."

PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE: Letter to Mrs. Harriet Aiken (Aunt Heart) from her niece, Ellen D. Aiken

Letter dated Winsboro Sept. 29th, 1865

Ellen is writing in response to HLA's inquiry regarding the family silver which had been sent to Winsboro during the Civil War. "I will enclose a list, and the prices which Mr. Daly has put upon them. I think Mr. Daly is a reliable man and if you wish to dispose of any, or all, of the silver he would send it . . . To the "fulton dealers" and only charge you a small commission." Ellen wants to know if HLA wants the silver sent to NY as the selling price would be better, but that she needs an answer immediately as the railroad was currently in town. The rest of letter discusses the social news of Winsboro and closes with "I am glad to see from the papers today that the lands are to be restored to their owners and trust that now "our honorable cousin" will be permitted to take possession, and all thing go right." It appears that "our honorable cousin" was the Governor.

PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE: Letter to Harriet L. Aiken (Aunt Heart) from her nephew, Cal (?)

Letter dated Sept. 4th, 1873

The nephew was thrilled to receive HLA's letter as he realized that it was "an effort for you [HLA] to write, on account of your . . . sight." Rest of letter discusses family news and that he was "very glad dear Heart you have come up to Saratoga."

Letter dated Sept. 25th, 1865

Contents of letter describes Cal's weakened health, but that he is now as well as he ever will be. He does not indicate from what his ailing. Cal informed HLA that his sons are well and that James is fine: "It is as if he had returned from the dead." Cal also talked of the apprehension he felt due to the "new system [political] will even work in our time."

PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE: Letter to Harriet L. Aiken from George B. Chase (Husband of Anne L. Chase—Mrs. Aiken's niece)

Letter dated Boston, Oct. 27th, 1868

Letter was written to inform HLA that "Annie has had a little girl, whom we intend to call Gertrude Lowndes, after, of course, Annie's mother." The baby and mother were healthy.

PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE: Letter to Mrs. Harriet Aiken (Aunt Heart) from her nephew C. K. Singleton

Letter dated Kinsington, January 7th, 1868

Letter was a thank you note to HLA for a book she had sent to C.K. Singleton for his 23rd birthday.

PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to Mrs. H. Aiken from J. Moses 1869-1879

Letter dated Dublin, Nov. 11th, 1878

Letter is an apology for not writing sooner. J. Moses did not have HLA's address. He promises to write her a longer letter later, but that he hopes Etta and the children are well "& that you are well are pretty strong & able to go about with pleasure."

Letter dated Dublin, August 30th, 1870

J. Moses opens the letter by appealing to HLA to write him: "It is a long time since I have had any tidings of you & I am very, very, anxious to have news—do . . . write & gratify me by giving a long account of yourselves & your doings. God grant you may be able to give a cheering account." The rest of the letter informs HLA of his extended family's European

travels and discusses the politics of France and Germany. "What a fearful state France is in! I hope Paris-that beautiful city is spared. What loss of life! I am sure you all feel much for those who are suffering by the rashness of the Emperor."

Letter dated Dublin, Dec. 19th, 1870

Letter again indicated that J. Moses had not heard from HLA in some time: "I shall be delighted to get even a few lines, I want to hear if things have begun . . .to look up—God grant it." The rest of the letter informed HLA of family and social town news and the happenings in Paris.

Letter dated Dublin, Oct. 17th, 1879

Again letter implored HLA to write: "I wrote to you last January & I have looked anxiously for a letter even a few lines from you saying how you, Mr. Aiken, Etta, & all near & dear to you are." He wished her good health and happiness and discussed the economic conditions of Dublin as being "much depressed."

Letter dated, Dublin, Oct. 26th, 1869

Letter opened with thanking HLA for her letter and continued in the same vein as the previous letters regarding social news and the political climate in Europe.

PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to Harriet Aiken (Mrs. Wm. Aiken, Jr.) From her brother R.W. Lowndes.

Letter dated July 10th, 1867

Was a brief note sent to HLA from her brother informing her that he had "delivered your present to Mrs. Cuthbert, she seemed much pleased."

Letter dated Flatrock, August 20, 1867

HLA's brother wrote trying to persuade HLA to come visit him and his family in Flatrock. It seems as though she was suppose to and for some reasons unknown has yet to arrive. He made several references to her health needing the environment change. "Do my dear Heart come up . . . your health requires it, you know this climate has done a great deal for you."

Letter dated Hopeland, August 25

R.W.Lowndes wrote to inform HLA of James Lowndes poor state of health. He does indicate what the disorder is, although he does mention that James is racked with coughing and that he "has been very ill and a very great sufferer and though better now, he is yet very low and a painful condition." Lowndes also informed HLA that Annie was traveling in Ireland and having a great time in Dublin and at the Earl of Meath. He does question whether she will make it to "Paris in the present condition of affairs."

PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to Harriet L. Aiken from her brother William

Lowndes, 1871

Letter dated Newort, R.I., July 28th, 1865

William wrote to persuade HLA to reconsider her decision to not travel to Newport. He lectured regarding her health and the severe toil Charleston's hot summer will have on her. "Suppose your health gave way under the long residence without any change in a hot climate and with all the trying circumstances adding so much to the . . . long hot summers how much would the anxiety not add to what Mr. Aiken suffer from any impairment of your health."

FILE FOLDER: Letters to Harriet L. Aiken from her niece Emily Lowndes 1870's (?)

Letter dated Cottage, Sept. 18th.

Context of letter gave family news and indicated that Emily was disappointed that HLA did travel to Flatrock. She was also "glad to hear from Etta that your health is so much improved. Saratoga always seems to agree with you."

FILE FOLDER: Letters to Mrs. William Aiken from Mary L., Staatsburg, Oct. 25th Circa 1820's ? 1871

Letter dated January 20th, 1871 to HLA from Mary Lowndes "Enclosed, I send the key to the trunk which borrowed."

Letter dated New York January 18th, 1871

Family and social news of Mary's circle and glad that Etta and the her new son are well.

Letter dated October 25th (circa 1820's)

Mary informed HLA that she needs to travel soon if HLA intended to arrive in time for Mary's wedding. Mary hoped she would "still see her in time [HLA.] Apparently the Governor was in Philadelphia on business and thus they were delayed.

FILE FOLDER: Personal Correspondence: Letters to Harriet L. Aiken (Aunt Heart) from his niece, Sallie Lowndes 1870's

Letter dated Greenville, April 2nd

Social news and regret regarding HLA's "contracted illness and confinement from your leg." No mention of cause of leg's impairment

Letter dated Charleston, Aug. 24th

Family social newsof Charleston in August. Also Sallie was 'sorry to hear that the waters had done for you all that we hoped."

Letter dated Charleston, July 22nd

Social news of Charleston and routine “of the usual summer.” “I hope by this time the you are drinking in health and strength at Saratoga.”

FILE FOLDER: Personal Correspondence: Letters to Mrs. Aiken (Harriet L.) From her niece M.R. Singleton 1870's & 1880's

Letter dated Kinsington Sept. 26th

Social news and M.R. Singleton's travels between Greenville & Columbia

Letter dated March 19

Singleton wrote “ I often wonder why I am so persistent in writing letters. I find myself constantly at my desk writing.” Rest of letter is social and family news.

Letter dated Sumter 23, Jan 27

Wrote to wish HLA happy birthday and to thank her for her “faithful persistent friendship during my whole life.”

Letter dated Acton Aug. 23rd, 1874

Family and social news and “glad . . . to receive your letter from Saratoga today.”

Letter dated Sunday Sept. 7, 1874

Family and social news.

Letter dated Kinsnington July 19 circa 1870's

Social and family news. Also very grieved to hear that HLA was suffering and “hope[d] and pray[ed] Saratoga will be of as much use to this year as the last.”

Letter dated Kinsington Nov. 20, 1884

MLS “feeling quite anxious to hear of or from you. I want to be assured that all the sorrow and distress you have had, have not made you feel badly.” Rest is family & social news.

Letter dated Acton Feb. 16, 1879

Family & social news and was “anxious to hear from you how you again & to know where you all are.”

Letter dated January 29, 1887

Family and social news. Also mentioned HLA's birthday: “I drank to your health.”

IN FILE FOLDER: Personal Correspondence: Letter to Harriet L. Aiken from James Lowndes

Letter dated Jan 31, 1875

Inform HLA that "Julia Jaine died very suddenly on Tuesday last at Mr. Houk (?) In New York. She complained of afslifting (sp?) & began to sob." Then "Julia gave a gasp, vomited a quality of blood & fell over dead. Not more than ten minutes elapsed between her first complaint and death. The doctors say that the cause of death was an aneurism of the heart." The rest of the letter discusses the shock of the death and the funeral.

FILE FOLDER: Personal Correspondence: Letter to Harriet Aiken from her husband William Aiken

Letter dated Charleston, Sept. 17th, 1879

Discusses a funeral for which the Governor returned to Charleston, but he did not indicate who died.

Letter dated Jehossee, March 27th, 1879

The letter is written to someone named Siyard (?) And refers to wanting the boys to come down.

FILE FOLDER: Personal Correspondence: Letter to Mrs. Wm. Aiken (Harriet Lowndes) from her nephew Francis L. Lowndes 1880's

Letter dated Jan. 24th, 1887

He wrote to tell HLA that he had been taken care of "the old gentleman" and that the man was still ill. The doctors had diagnosed him with a "rare & excessively painful case of neuralgia." Francis plans to take the man to Saratoga, but doubts that it will help his condition.

Letter dated N.Y. Dec. 12th, 1887

Informed HLA of family news from New York and closes with telling her "do not trouble yourself dear aunt heart to answer this letter. It would cost you an effort."

File Folder: Personal Correspondence: Letter to Mrs. Wm. Aiken (Harriet Lowndes) from G. I. Crafts 1884

Letter dated Wednesday June 18th, 1884

Letter forwarded information from Mrs. Carson via Crafts to HLA. Context tells of remembrances from the past when HLA was the "splendid Miss Lowndes." Carson met a an "Englishman, Mr. Castle who was in Charleston" prior to HLA's marriage to the Governor. They talked of Charleston and old acquaintances but "chiefly of Miss Lowndes." The remaining context wishes HLA well and that Craft hoped she had "a very pleasant sojourn at Flatrock."

FILE FOLDER: Personal Correspondence: Letter to Harriet L. Aiken from Emma Izard

Parker 1885

Letter dated October 29th by writer and then by a past curator 1885, but based upon research it appears to be dated incorrectly. The letter was addressed to "My dear Heart" and discusses the fact that Frank is sorry that he could not attend her wedding. HLA & the Governor were married in 1831 and thus the letter should be dated circa 1831. The context of the letter detailed two gifts that Emma was forwarding to HLA– from "May . . . a piece of Mexican drawn needlework, which she sent for you hoping you would sometimes give it a place on your diner table." Frank sent a box too and "Arthur sends his love & says he would have liked very much to have been present at you wedding but he had just received his government appointment & has to leave soon to be detailed in the U.S. weather Bureau at Wilmington N.C. with love & wishes for all happiness in the new life opening so auspiciously before you."

Librarian, Julia Logan @ Charleston Museum did not find Emma in Charleston historical index.

FILE FOLDER: Personal Correspondence: Letters to Mrs. Harriet Aiken from her niece, Anne L. Chase 1870's or 1880's

Letter dated Wednesday Dec. 24th

Paper heading 234 Beacon Street

Gave social and family news and asked HLA to have Henrietta write to her regarding "little Heart."

Letter dated August 22nd, 1870's

Paper headed Chesham, N.H.

Family & social news, but focused mainly on "Poor Willy [who] is very much distressed . . . I wrote him when I heard of the child's death." Context of letter indicated that the child was Willy's son.

Letter dated September 10th, 1887

Paper headed Chesham, N.H.

Letter extended sympathy and shock over the Governor's death. "The last news of Uncle Aiken spoke of him as better . . . and I was not prepared to hear of his death."

Letter dated January 3, 1887

Paper headed 234 Beacon Street

Discusses the cold winds and weather of New York and that it is harsh on health. Anne also hoped that HLA and the Governor had an enjoyable and healthy Christmas and New Year. Letter indicated that the Governor had been ill some time prior to Christmas. Anne discussed an "Uncle Price" and informed HLA that he was feeling better. Wished the Governor and Etta well.

Letter Dated January 17th, 1888

Paper headed 234 Beacon Street

Social and family news from up North, but mainly to inform HLA of "Charley's death."

Letter is difficult to read, as there is writing in both directions. "They think from the position he was lying in that he died in his sleep. The English Dr. [sic] . . . say it was congestion of the brain in other words apoplexy."

Box #11: No material relevant to HLA

BOX 13

FILE FOLDER: Letter to Mr. Edward Lowndes to "My dear Cousin" November 26th, 1829 unsigned

Letter is not signed, but it is a female cousin rejecting his affections. "I feel not any of the attachment for you which you feel for me." Not clear who the woman is and therefore cannot identify as HLA. Also in comparing the handwriting of the 1829 letter to a letter dated by a curator as 1857 which was signed by HLA the handwriting does not appear the same. Although given the twenty-eight year time span, the script is similar enough to warrant further handwriting analysis.

FILE FOLDER: "Vanderbilt Benevolent Society In Memoriam--William Aiken, Nov. 1887"

A letter and a handwritten booklet which extended sympathy and honor to HLA for the loss of the Governor. The president of the society offered to "add a word to the eulogies."

FILE FOLDER: Personal Correspondence--Letters to J.C. Heyward from Harriet L. Aiken

File actually contains several letters to Etta from A.B. Rhett and one from E.B. Rhett to Dr. Burnett Rhett. There are two copies of the same letter (one was a draft) from HLA to Mr. Heyward.

Letter dated Charleston June 15th

circa 1857. Letter was to thank Heyward for some books that he had sent to the Aikens. To Etta the poem "Evangeline" . . . Mr. Aiken & my daughter were delighted with it. We also received the volume itself containing the whole of Longfellow's, works as well as Evangeline." Letter apologizes for not writing sooner despite the gifts and several more correspondence from Heyward.

FILE FOLDER: Personal Correspondence: Letters of sympathy--Re: Death of WM. Aiken

Letter dated Charleston June 20th, 1888

Content of letter to HLA from Casper A. Chisolm expressed sympathy for Governor's death. Also included a copy of the "minute book of the Resolutions in memory of the late Hon. William Aiken."

Letter dated Glencoe Sept. 19th

To HLA from Irvine Hatch. Sympathy for Governor's death. "Mrs. Aiken I don't think the Governor knew how much I loved him and you may think it strange that one as young as I could form such an attachment, but who I ask could help loving him."

Letter dated Charleston Sept. 16, 1887

To Etta from Henry ?(last name illegible) extended sympathy.

Singleton Family Papers held in manuscript division at South Caroliniana Library

BOX P Singleton Family papers; MSS, 15 Nov. 1844- 1 FEB. 1928 & n.d.; Folders 26-54

Folder 44: Letter dated July 19th, 1878 written from Flat Rock by A.B. Rhett to "Cle" (Cleland K. Singleton) makes reference to "Etta" joining him in Flat Rock.

--After reading multiple letters from various correspondence (WF Turner, Mrs. B Johnston, Henry D. DeSaussure, Mrs. Simons, etc.) to M.R. Singleton I did not find one letter from Henrietta Aiken Rhett. Her corresponding letters to MRS seem to be missing. I do detect in MRS's letters to HRA that Etta does not write as often as MRS writes or as much as MRS would like her to write.

--I found several letters from A.B Rhett to Cleland R. Singleton, but only one made mention of Etta and none discussed Harriet L. Aiken. The letters were mostly about gamecocks, politics, weather, health, etc.