

## **Box 27-B Emilie Cohen Letters: To AA Cohen and to Sons**

### **Letters from Emilie to A.A. Cohen: 1855-1860**

Letters given to CB House by Beatrice Bartlett (great niece to AH Cohen)

1. 1855 Aug 31: Small, 3x4, envelope addressed to Alfred Cohen, % Willard Hotel, Washington, D.C. from Wilmington (Delaware?) Only pages 5 and 6 of the letter are there and the letter is signed from "M" or "Mr" Kemp.  
"Miss Cadner (?) is going to be married to a Mr Childs and intends to go to Australia after the wedding. Miss Eliza Baugh was to have married John Ca?(cannot read name) but she jilted him and now is going to marry Mr. Jennings. [Reference to "Your brothers Alexander and Sam" and "your little goddaughter Eliza" (or Elizabeth?)
2. 1855 Oct 15: Emilie from Woodlawn to Alfred A (AA) at Metropolitan Hotel, NY; she says: "lonely but glad to have our darling little baby [William] to occupy me."
3. 1855 Oct 18: Emilie to AA from Woodlawn, Philadelphia, A PA where she is visiting family and has her first born son William with her.
4. 1855 Nov 23: Emilie to AA from Wilmington where she is staying with her parents. Mentions son Willie; Fanny and Ellen
5. 1856 Jan 5: Morris A Cohen to Emilie Cohen, signed 'your affectionate brother' (bro in law) re: a 'Bill of Exchange' (a promissory note or IOU) for ten thousand dollars
6. 1856 Jan 31: Emilie Gibbons Cohen to her uncle Charles Gibbons 132 So 3rd Street re: the above Bill of Exchange
7. 1857 Mar 20: OakKnoll [Napa] Emilie to AA "weather is too hot to be inside; Willie is teething."
8. 1860 Jan 2: Emilie to Alfred % Eugene Kelly & Co., 164 Fulton, St, NY;
9. 1860 Jan 5: Emilie to Alfred [ditto] Alfred's departure from SF by steamer to New York
10. 1860 Jan 8: Emilie to Alfred [ditto] News about the children; too rainy in Alameda to go outside; children having fun playing with their aunties
11. 1860 Jan 18: Emilie [Fernside] to AA [NY] "I wish I could make my letters more interesting."
12. 1860 Jan 15-18: Daily diary from Henry Cohen [AA's brother] re: work on the home farm with John and Fred
13. 1860 Jan 19-28: Daily diary from Henry Cohen [AA's brother] re work on the home farm
14. 1860 Jan 22: Emilie to Alfred % Eugene Kelly & Co, (Banking Company) 164 Fulton, NY
15. 1860 29 Jan Emilie to Alfred from Fernside detailing daily life with the children; curry rabbit for dinner; 10 eggs per day from the chickens
16. 1860 Jan 30-Feb 5: Emilie to Alfred [% Eugene Kelly] Diary of daily activity

17. 1860 Jan 30: From Charles Gibbons [lawyer] to Alfred Cohen re: Settling “your wife’s estate without loss to myself as I am anxious to be rid of the annoyance of attending it.”
18. 1860 Feb 2-5: Emilie to Alfred [% Eugene Kelly]ditto] Emelie states: “The object of your visit to the Atlantic States has been discovered. It is currently reported that you and Father are partners in an apposition boat to run between here and San Francisco and you have gone home to purchase it.”
19. 1860 Feb 9: Letter from Willie [age 5] to “Papa”
20. Feb 9: Letter from Emilie explaining Willie’s letter: “It was entirely his composition I only held his hand [to write]. He had no difficulty in finding subjects to write about!”
21. 1860 Feb 6-12: From Henry Cohen [Fernside] to his brother AA in NY with daily details of what is being done on the home farm: “Fred and I put out 15 cherry and plum trees in the place of those that were missing.”
22. 1860 Feb 12: Emilie to “My dear Mother” [Mrs P Gibbons on address]; Mentions “Aunty and George and Rebecca”. Includes measurements for Henry’s sock size: “Henry’s foot is 10 inches long, 9 “ round the toes, 9  $\frac{3}{4}$  instep, and 12’5 in heel.”
23. 1860 Feb 12: Emilie to AA; She was “relieved to receive the letter you posted from Panama” and hopes he has now “safely arrived in NY.”
24. 1860 Feb 14: Emilie to AA [% Kelly] with love poem [Valentine’s Day?]
25. 1860 Feb 19: Emilie to AA: “A week is equal to a month now that you are absent.”
26. 1860 Feb 23: Emilie to AA: “Looking forward to you leaving NY on March 20”; “Children were pleased to hear from you.”
27. 1892 Feb 29 To “Miss Cohen” 55 W 47th NY; Return address 18 Broadway, NY
28. 1974 Aug 4 to Barbara Donald from “Sister” (Emilie Jeanette Daggett Bartlett) niece to Alfred Henry Cohen.

2023 by Kate McAnaney

### **Letters from Emilie to Sons William and Alfred H: 1867-1895**

- 1867 Folder: Ten Letters between Emilie G Cohen and her sons Alfred H and William Cohen while they were boarding at ‘Brewer’s Academy’ a.k.a. Saint Matthew’s Military School in San Mateo, CA under the direction of Rev A.L. Brewer;
- Three letters from William G Cohen to his parents from Academy
- One letter from A.A. Cohen to “Billy”
- 1868 Folder: Seven letters-Two from AA Cohen, four from Emilie, and one from Willie to Alfred. In April 1868 letters reveal that Willie was convalescing at Fernside from some illness. Letters from ‘Papa’ (AA Cohen) were infrequent, but he was equally instructive as his wife to their sons. He told them they were to remain in San Mateo for Thanksgiving, and he expected them to “make good use

of your time to be able to show some improvement when you come home at Christmas. I will be very much disappointed if you don't." He did however send some turkeys to Rev. Brewer for the Thanksgiving holiday.

1869 Folder: Seventeen letters-Four written by Alfred H; five written by William G Cohen; seven written by Emilie G. Cohen; 1 written in morse code by ? Alfred H, age 11, is still in school at Rev. Brewer's Academy in San Mateo, and William, age 14, is at University Mound School in San Francisco. In a letter of Aug 8, 1869, Alfred H wrote to Willie telling about seeing a full solar eclipse day before, viewing it through some glass that he 'smoked'. Two letters from AA Cohen to William

1870-1872 Folder: Nineteen letters written by Alfred Henry Cohen-thirteen to his brother William at University Mound college in San Francisco; one to his Grandmother Gibbons in San Francisco; and two to his mother in Alameda; two to his father in Alameda. There is varying quality of penmanship which might indicate that AH had someone else write his letters to the adults.

1873 Folder: Six letters from Alfred H Cohen to his family from University Mound College in San Francisco, where his younger brother Edgar was also in residence. Older brother William had graduated and was living at Fernside in Alameda. Alfred reports that he and Edgar had the mumps in late April 1873. One letter from AH Cohen to William in original envelope 4.5x 2.75 inches; stamp has been cut off [William collected stamps]

1875-1877 Folder: Twenty three; three report cards for AH at Exeter Academy, New Hampshire; one Account Sheet dated December 21, 1875 for college expenses at Phillips Exeter Academy.

There are several letters from Alfred H to his father Alfred A Cohen that reflect an ongoing conversation regarding A.H.'s study habits, handling of money, writing home, and whether or not he belongs in college. Eighteen year old Alfred H offers counter-arguments in his defense. After traveling to Ireland with his mother and siblings and a stay in London in July of 1876, Alfred decides to return to Exeter under certain conditions, but also makes some concessions to his father's wishes and writes up a short promise contract. The contentious correspondence continued for the duration of 1876 and included a letter from Edgar who was attending Exeter. In Nov 1876. Edgar pushed back on his father's criticism of his attention to studies by pointing out that there 'were only so many daylight hours that he could apply to studying' after all other activities of the day were

completed. He reported that the Exeter faculty had “petitioned the Trustees to put in gas lighting, but they said it was unnecessary.” The faculty made a suggestion to students that if they could “get their parents to contribute two or three hundred dollars” that they would cover the rest of the amount. Edgar also mentioned that he was having trouble seeing and he wondered if he needed new glasses.

1879-1883 Folder: One telegram dated Aug 25, 1879 to Wm Cohen from AA Cohen that appears to be in code as it makes no sense; one letter presumably written by Alfred H with salutation “My dear friend” chronicled a trip to Chicago and Boston on business in Feb

1882; three letters from Oct-Nov 1883 from Alfred to his mother discussing carpet measurements for the home at 1440 29th Street in Oakland that he would share with his new wife Emma Bray. [His wife Emma Bray’s parents had the house built for the newlyweds and the Cohen parents had the home furnished]

1895 Folder: One letter to Emilie Gibbons Cohen from her daughter in law Emma Bray Cohen dated Feb 17, 1895, addressed to EGC c/o Wm Bancroft, Wilmington, Delaware where Emilie was visiting her Gibbons family [dried violets sent by grandchildren were included in the envelope]; one letter from Mr H. B. Laidlaw to Alfred Henry Cohen re: \$75 payment mix up 1895.