

Guide to the Croom Papers

1840-1906 (bulk 1850-1870)

Quantity: 15.2 linear feet

Abstract: Correspondence, personal papers, literary manuscripts

Accession: 98-09-346 ; 346-198

Biographical Note:

William Whitfield and Julia Stephens Croom

William Whitfield Croom was born in Lenoir County, North Carolina, the son of General William Whitfield Croom and Elizabeth Whitfield Croom. General Croom died in 1829, and William moved to North Carolina. Julia Stephens Croom was born in North Carolina. She is the daughter of Stephen and Elizabeth Whitfield. William and Julia had two children, Cicero and Elizabeth Whitfield Croom, in 1835.

brigade remained in Winchester expecting a Union attack until July 18, 1861, when the Union threat dissipated.

Stephens and his unit then traveled to Manassas Junction, Virginia, arriving there on July 22, the day after the Battle of First Manassas. Shortly after arriving at Manassas, he was re-assigned as a clerk to the adjutant general of the brigade, which was by then commanded by Colonel John H. Forney of the 10th Alabama Regiment. The brigade spent the winter of 1861-1862 near Centreville and Manassas and in the spring re-located to Yorktown, Virginia. Colonel Forney, who had been severely wounded 2()1(C)on ti1(l)-20()1((s)9(a)f)20(a)-6(2(,)9(a)

Elizabeth Whitfield Croom Bellamy

Elizabeth Whitfield Croom was born April 17, 1837, in Quincy, Florida. The older sister of

In 1867 she became a nationally known author when her first novel, *Four Oaks* was published under the pseudonym, Kamba Thorpe. It was a critical but not a financial success. After her first novel, Elizabeth continued to write and by 1884, was publishing her work under her own name. She wrote novels and short stories that appeared in book form and were also published in national magazines such as *Appleton's*, *The Cycle*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *Youth's Companion*, *Black Cat*, *Lippincott's*, and *Ladies Home Journal*. Even though her writing was well received by literary critics, it never provided her with financial security. Elizabeth continued to teach and in 1868 she accepted a better teaching position twenty miles from Eutaw in Gainesville, Alabama, where she lived until 1877.

Stephens Croom invited Elizabeth to live with his family, and in 1877 she resigned her

Vicksburg while he was serving on General Forney's staff. Also included are numerous school essays written by Stephens while he was attending college at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and by Elizabeth who studied at the Spingler Institute in New York City. The literary manuscripts in the collection--poems, short stories, and novels--were written by Elizabeth between 1865 and 1900. Her early works were published in national magazines under a pseudonym, Kamba Thorpe. In later works she used her married name, Elizabeth W. Bellamy. The collection also contains her notes for lectures on literary subjects.

Arrangement:

1. Croom family correspondence
 2. Croom family miscellaneous
 3. Elizabeth Bellamy
 4. Stephens Croom personal papers
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Access Restrictions:

Appointment and special procedures for use of this collection.

Preferred Citation:

Croom Papers, The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL.

Content List:

Abbreviations used:

BFM (Benjamin F. Marshall)
CSC (Cicero Stephens Croom)
EWC (Elizabeth Whitfield Croom)
EWB (Elizabeth Whitfield Croom Bellamy) after 1858
JSC (Julia Stephens Croom)

MMC (Mary Marshall Croom)
WWC (William Whitfield Croom)

Box 1

Correspondence, 1840-1856

File 1

Correspondence, 1840 and 1848

- 1.1 W. B. P. [Partridge? Primrose?], Washington, La., to uncle [Martin Mayhall?], Fort Claiborne, Ala., 11/20/1840
- 1.2 Wm. W. Croom, Quincy, Fla. to Mon cher fils [CSC], 10/18/1848
- 1.3 Wm. W. Croom, Quincy to Stephens, 11/5/1848 (photo copy)
- 1.4 Wm. W. Croom, Quincy, to Stephens, 11/12/1848

File 2

Correspondence, 1850

- 2.1 Wm W. Croom, New York, to Son [CSC], 8/25/1850
- 2.2 Cousin Croom, Terre Bonne, to Cousin [CSC], 10/8/1850
- 2.3 Bryan Croom, Bel Air, to Cousin [CSC], 10/9/1850

File 3

Correspondence, 1852

- 3.1 Friend [Harmon Morgan] to Stephens, 1/31/1852
- 3.2 Sister [EWC], Columbus, Georgia, to Little Brother [CSC], 2/27/1852
- 3.3 E. W. Croom, Columbus, to Brother [CSC], 2/28/1852 [w/note from Mother, 3/1/1852]
- 3.4 Croom Bellamy, Hopoi, [Georgia], to Cousin [CSC], 2/28/1852
- 3.5 Cousin Julia [K]enan, Columbus, to Stephens, 11/3/1852
- 3.6 W. W. Croom, Quincy, [Fla.] to Son [CSC], 11/7/1852
- 3.7 W.W. Croom, Quincy, to Son [CSC], 11/14/1852

File 4

Correspondence, January-July 1853

4d1 Mother [JSC] to Son [CSC] 1/23/1853ncy, to1 (c)18(y)5(,)6()1(t)-1(o)-4(1 (c)1(wuDT3)2(.)7(2)1(

- 5.1 Wm. W. Croom, New York, to Son [CSC], 8/17/1853
- 5.2 Mother [JSC], New York, to Son [CSC], 8/21/1853
- 5.3 Mother [JSC], New York, to Son [CSC], 8/27/1853
- 5.4 Mother [JSC], New York, to Son [CSC], [n.d., probably 1853]
- 5.5 W. W. Croom, New York, to Son [CSC], 9/2/1853
- 5.6 Lizzie W. Croom, New York, to Stephens, West Point, New York, 9/4/1853
- 5.7 Mother [JSC], New York, to Dear Boy [CSC], 9/11/[probably 1853]
- 5.8 Son C. S. Croom, West Point, to Mother [JSC], 9/13/1853
- 5.9 Mother [JSC], New York, to Son [CSC], 9/18/[probably 1853]
- 5.10 C. S. Croom, West Point to Mother [JSC], 9/21/1853

File 6

Correspondence, October to December 1853

- 6.1 Mother [JSC], New York, to Dear Boy [CSC], [Quincy, Fla.], 10/27/ [probably 1853]
- 6.2 Mother [JSC], New York, to Son [CSC], [Quincy], 11/14/1853
- 6.3 Sister E. W. Croom, New York, to Brother [CSC], [Quincy], [w/note from JSC], 11/27/1853
- 6.4 George J. Osborn, West Point, to [CS] Croom [Florida], 12/2/1853
- 6.5 C. S. Croom, Casto de Lago, [Florida], to Father [W WC], 12/10/1853
- 6.6 W. W. Croom, Savannah, to Son [CSC], [Tallahassee], 12/10/1853
- 6.7 W. W. Croom, New York, to Dear Boy [CSC], [Tallahassee], 12/14/1853, [w/letter from Mother [JSC] to Son]
- 6.8 Wm. W. Croom, New York , to Son [CSC], [Tallahassee], 12/17/1853
- 6.9 Mother [JSC], New York, to Dear Boy [CSC], [Tallahassee], 12/18/1835 [1853]

- 8.3 Mother [JSC], New York, to Son [CSC], 3/19/1854
- 8.4 Mother [JSC], New York, to Son [CSC], 3/29/1854
- 8.5 Harold Bellamy, Hopoi, Ga., to Cousin [CSC], 5/9/[1854]
- 8.6 Mother [JSC], New York, to Son [CSC], 5/18/1854
- 8.7 Mother [JSC], New York, to Son [CSC], 5/21/1854

- 12.1 W. T. Stockton, Quincy, to Dear Friend [CSC?], 6/9/1855
- 12.2 Harold Bellamy, Hopoi, Ga., to cousin Stephens, 7/6/1855
- 12.3 Isaac C. J[...], Quincy, to Stephens, 9/9/1855
- 12.4 George Osborn, New Haven, to Friend [CSC], 10/14/1855
- 12.5 S. L. C., Columbus, to Dear Old Fashionable Friend and Gossip [JSC], 10/17/1855
- 12.6 Bryan Croom Jr., Northhampton, to Stephens, 11/12/1855
- 12.7 George Osborn, New Haven, to Friend [CSC], 11/18/1855
- 12.8 Harold Bellamy to Cousin [CSC], 12/2/1855

File 13

Correspondence, January-April 1856

- 13.1 E. W. Croom to Brother [CSC], n.d. [1856]
- 13.2 Francis L. Hawks [kinsman], New York, to Stephens, 1/12/1856
- 13.3 C. S. C., Chapel Hill, to Father [WWC], 2/9/1856
- 13.4 Stephens, Chapel Hill, to Mother [JSC], 2/17/1856
- 13.5 Stephens, Chapel Hill, to Father [WWC], 3/11/1856
- 13.6 Stephens, Chapel Hill, to Mother [JSC], 3/24/1856
- 13.7 Stephens, Chapel Hill, to Mother [JSC], 4/14/1856
- 13.8 Brother [CSC], Chapel Hill, to Sister [EWC], 4/20/1856

File 14

Correspondence, May-August 1856

- 14.1 Stephens, Chapel Hill, to Mother [JSC], 5/4/1856
- 14.2 Stephens, Chapel Hill, to Mother [JSC], 5/12/1856
- 14.3 Stephens, Chapel Hill, to Mother [JSC], 6/20/1856

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- 3.7 [P.W.] White, Quincy, to S. C. Croom [CSC], 3/19/1857
- 3.8 Wm. W. Croom, New York, to Son [CSC], 3/22/1857
- 3.9 Aunt Betsey [Croom Bellamy], Quincy, to Stephens, 3/25/1857
- 3.10 Mother [JSC], New York, to Son [CSC], 3/29/1857

File 4

Correspondence, April-June 1857

- 4.1 Mother [JSC], New York, to Son [CSC], 4/3/1857
- 4.2 Wm. W. Croom, New York, to Son [CSC], 4/4/1857
- 4.3 Stephens, Chapel Hill, to Mother [JSC], 4/11/1857
- 4.4 Mother [JSC], New York, to Son [CSC], 4/13/1857
- 4.5 W. W. Croom, New York, to Son [CSC], 4/14/1857
- 4.6 Mother [JSC], New York, to Son [CSC], 4/19/1857
- 4.7 N. [Nathan B. Whitfield?] to Stephens, 5/21/1857
- 4.8 Mother [JSC], Casa del Laga [Quincy, Fla.] to Son [CSC] 5/27/1857
- 4.9 Wm. W. Croom to Son, [6/1857]
- 4.10 Cicero S. C., Asheville, N.C., to Mother [JSC], 6/8/1857
- 4.11 Mother [JSC], Quincy, to Son [CSC], 6/14/1857
- 4.12 Mother [JSC], Quincy, to Son [CSC], 6/22/1857
- 4.13 Alphonse C. A[very], Morgantown, to Stephens, 6/25/1857
- 4.14 [JSC], Hopoi, to Son [CSC], 6/27/1857

File 5

Correspondence, July 1857

- 5.1 Mother [JSC], Hopoi, to Son [CSC] 7/1857
- 5.2 Cousin Hap [Bellamy], Hopoi, to Stephens, 7/2/1857
- 5.3 Sister [EWC], Hopoi, to Brother [CSC], 7/3/1857
- 5.4 Stephens, Ashville, to Father [WWC], 7/3/1857
- 5.5 W. W. Croom, Hopoi, to Son [CSC], 7/8/1857
- 5.6 D. C. Jay, New York, to Sir [CSC], 7/20/1857
- 5.7 Stephens, Chapel Hill, to Mother [JSC], 7/24/1857 [partial letter]
- 5.8. Mother [JSC], Louisville, to Dear Boy [CSC], 7/25/1857
- 5.9 Sister [EWC], Columbus, to Brother [CSC], 7/31/1857

File 6

Correspondence, August 1857

- 6.1 Wm. W. Croom, Memphis, Tenn., to Son [CSC], 8/3/1857
- 6.2 Mother [JSC], Hopoi, to Son [CSC], 8/6/1857
- 6.3 N. Whitfield [Nathan B.], Baltimore City, to Stephens, 8/8/1857
- 6.4 Harold [Bellamy], Hopoi, Ga., to Cousin [CSC], 8/11/1857
- 6.5 Stephens, Chapel Hill, to Father [WWC], 8/11/1857
- 6.6 Mother [JSC], Hopoi, Ga., to Son [CSC], 8/16/1857, w/note from sister [EWC] and W. W. Croom
- 6.7 Aunt Betsey [Croom Bellamy], Quincy, Fla., to Stephens, 8/28/1857

File 7

Correspondence, September 1857

- 7.1 Stephens, Chapel Hill, to Father [WWC], 9/1/1857
- 7.2 Wm. W. Croom, New York, to Son [CSC], 9/3/1857
- 7.3 Sister [EWC], Hopoi, to Brother [CSC], 9/5/1857
- 7.4 Stephens, Chapel Hill, to Mother [JSC], 9/9/1857

- 10.4 Mother [JSC], Memphis, to Son [CSC] 12/17/[1857, not 1858 as written]
- 10.5 E. W. Croom, Memphis, to Brother [CSC], 12/20/1857
- 10.6 Cousin Harold [Croom], Hopoi, Miss., to Stephens, 12/21/1857
- 10.7 Wm. W. Croom, Memphis, to Son [CSC], 12/30/1857

File 11

Correspondence, January 1858

- 11.1 Stephens, Chapel Hill, to Father [WWC], 1/5/1858
- 11.2 Mother [JSC], Memphis, to Son [CSC], 1/9/1858
- 11.3 Stephens, Chapel Hill, to Mother [JSC], 1/12/1858
- 11.4 Wm. W. Croom, Atlanta, Ga., to Son [CSC], 1/13/1858
- 11.5 Wm. W. Croom, Fort Valley, to Son [CSC], 1/17/1858
- 11.6 C. S. Croom, Chapel Hill, to Father [WWC], 1/23/1858
- 11.7 E. W. Croom, Memphis, to Brother [CSC], 1/31/1858

File 12

Correspondence, February-April 1858

- 12.1 C. S. Croom, Chapel Hill, to Sister [EWC], 2/7/1858
- 12.2 A. K.KCAa,31(K)-3(.)6(71(S)-12(.1(we)9(mes)2mes)t],(i)1(S)-N(I)52mes)w,31(K(.1(Y)1o(.)4rW)4k

- 19.3 Stephens, Chapel Hill, to Father [WWC], 2/7/1859
- 19.4 Stephens, Chapel Hill, to Mother [JSC], 2/19/1859
- 19.5 Stephens, Chapel Hill, to Father [WWC], 3/14/1859
- 19.6 Stephens, Chapel Hill, to Father [WWC], 3/23/1859

File 20

Correspondence, April-October 1859

- 20.1 Stephens, Chapel Hill, to Father [WWC], 4/9/1859
 - 20.2 Stephens, Chapel Hill, to Father [WWC], 4/14/1859
 - 20.3 Stephens, Chapel Hill, to Father [WWC], 5/4/1859
 - 20.4 Wm. W. Croom, New York, to Wife [JSC], 6/1/1859
 - 20.5 Stephens, New York, to Mother [JSC], 6/9/1859, with note from Wm. W. Croom
 - 20.6 James P. Coffin, Knoxville, to Stephens, 7/28/1859
 - 20.7 James L. Gaines, Black Mountain, to Stephens, 10/30/1859
- [No correspondence in August, September, November and December 1859]

Box 3

Correspondence, 1860-1865

File 1

Correspondence, 1860

- 1.1 James P. [Park] Coffin, Knoxville, to Stephens, 1/13/1860
 - 1.2 Friend N. Collins Hughes, New Berne, N.C., to Stephens, 3/8/1860
 - 1.3 James P. Coffin, Knoxville, to Stephens, 10/7/1860
 - 1.4 James P. Coffin, Knoxville, to Stephens, 11/11/1860
- [No correspondence in February, April-September, or December 1860]

File 2

Correspondence, February-July 1861 [No correspondence January, March-May]

- 2.1 J. S. Gaines to Stephen, 2/3/1861, St. Charles, Mo.
- 2.2 Stephens to Mother [JSC], 6/22/61, Dalton, Ga.
- 2.3 Stephens to Father [WWC], 6/26/1861, Lynchburbruary, Aps to M

File 8

Correspondence, August-September 1862

- 8.1 Stephens to Father [WWC], 8/1/62, Mobile
- 8.2 Stephens to Father [WWC], 8/9/62, Mobile
- 8.3 Stephens to Mother [JSC], 8/17/62, Mobile
- 8.4 E. W. Bellamy to Brother [CSC], 8/21/62, Eutaw
- 8.5 Stephens to Mother [JSC], 9/7/62, Mobile
- 8.6 Stephens to Father [WWC], 9/10/62, Mobile
- 8.7 [WWC] to Son [CSC], 9/20/1862, Eutaw

- 12.5 Stephens to Mother [JSC], 7/22/63, Enterprise, Miss.
- 12.6 Stephens to Mother [JSC], 9/11/63, Enterprise
- 12.7 Stephens to Mother [JSC], 10/5/63, Enterprise
- 12.8 Stephens to Sister [EWB], 11/12/63, "Coventry"
- 12.9 Stephens to Sister [EWB], 11/27/63, Enterprise
- 12.10 Stephens to Mother [JSC], 12/4/63, Enterprise, Miss.

File 13

Corresp

- 2.1 Stephens to Mother [JSC], 4/13/1867, Mobile, Ala.
- 2.2 Stephens to Miss Mary [Marshall], 7/21/1867, Eutaw, Ala.
- 2.3 B[enjamin] F[ranklin] Marshall to Son [B. F., Jr.], 9/6/1867, Mobile, Ala.

File 3

Correspondence, 1868

Correspondence, 1877-1879

- 14.1 Hannis Taylor, Mobile, to Mrs. Croom [MMC], 9/8/1886 [copy]
- 14.2 Vivian [H. Marshall], Anniston, Ala., to Sister [MMC], Mobile, 6/9/1887
- 14.3 Benton Fremont, Los Angeles, to Mr. Belford, 6/27/1888
- 14.4 Robert Belford [publisher], New York, to Mrs. Bellamy [EWB], 10/10/1888

File 15

Correspondence, 1892-1895 [No correspondence for 1893]

- 15.1 Aunt [Lib?] to Maime [MMC], Mobile, 10/5/1892
- 15.2 Fannie [Marshall], Mansfield, Ohio to Sister [MMC], 12/27/1894
- 15.3 Vivian [H. Marshall], Jacksonville, Ala., to Sister [MMC], 8/1/1895

File 16

Correspondence, 1897

- 16.1 Vivian [H. Marshall], Jacksonville, Ala, to Sister [MMC], Mobile, 3/10/1897
- 16.2 Cousin Georgia, Spring Hill, to Mamie [MMC], Mobile, 10/22/1897
- 16.3 Vivian [H. Marshall], Jacksonville, Ala., Sister [MMC], 10/23/1897
- 16.4 C[hess] E. Howard [cousin of MMC], Atlanta, Ga., to Mrs. Bellamy [EWB], 10/26/1897
- 16.5 Cousin Georgia, Spring Hill, to Cousin [MMC], Mobile, 11/3/1897

File 17

Correspondence, 1898-1906 [Empty envelopes only]

File 18

Correspondence, undated

- 18.1 E. W. Croom to Mother [JSC] 9/3/[1857-58]
- 18.2 [EWB], Eutaw, to Brother [CSC], 10/26/[1861-68] includes a long poem
- 18.3 Mother [Caroline Howard Marshall], Mobile, to Daughter [MMC], [1866-68]
- 18.4 Mother [Caroline Howard Marshall], to Daughter [MMC], 8/30/[...]
- 18.5 M.T. [Marie Thompson], Washington, D.C., to Mrs. Marshall 12/19/[...]
- 18.6 Fannie [Marshall] to Sister [MMC] 12/21/[1877-1909], Jacksonville, Ala.
- 18.7 L. M. Higley, Collage Hill, to Mrs. Bellamy, 11/4/[1884-1900]
- 18.8 L. M. Higley, Collage Hill, to Maime [MMC], 11/16/[1884-1900]
- 18.9 M. H. Vaughan to Mrs. B. [EWB], [1890s]
- 18.10 M.C.A. [Mrs. Leroy H. Anderson], Gainesville, to Friend [MMC] [after 4/13/1900]

Box 5

Elizabeth Bellamy Writings (Lectures)

- 1. Some Aspects of the Renaissance, Lectures 1-4
- 2. Some Aspects of the Renaissance, Lectures 5-9
- 3. Shakespeare Lectures, 1-4
- 4. Shakespeare Lectures, 5-8
- 5. Shakespeare Lectures, 9-12
- 6. Shakespeare Notes, mixed pages

7. Shakespeare and Renaissance Notes, mixed pages
8. Notes on Literary Figures
9. Notebook on 18th & 19th century literary figures

Box 6

Elizabeth Bellamy Writings (Published)

1. "Shadow-Fame" by Kamba Thorpe in *Mobile Sunday Times*, April 26, 1868
2. "Jack" by Kamba Thorpe in *Appleton's* 9 (June 21, 1873)
3. "Foreclosing the Mortgage" by Kamba Thorpe in *Appleton's* 10 (August 16, 1873)
4. "The Story of Daffy-Down-Dilly" by Kamba Thorpe in *Appleton's* 12 (August 1, 1874)
5. "Grapes of Thorns" [("E]TJ 2p)1()1(F)1(i)-11()1()1()1(o)9(f)7()1(T)6(h)-1(i)-11(s)>BD]TJ 0 Tc

- 11-12. "A Question of Duty"
- 13. "Prize Story of Adventure"
- 14. "Marianna's Happy Day" [signed Ellis Barron - pseudonym]
- 15. "The Day after the Feast"
- 16. "A Night Watch"
- 17. "Heard at Moxley Station"
- 18. "Manifest Destiny"
- 19. "Miss Bailey's Conflict"
- 20. "Eugenia"
- 21. "A Misfit"
- 22-26. "Rony Pettibone"

Box 8

Elizabeth Bellamy Writings (Unpublished)

Novels:

- 1-10. "Her One Talent"
- 11. "Clay in the Hands of the Potter"
- 12-14. "Mizzan"

Non-Fiction:

- 15. "A Summer Hotel"
- 16. "A Youth Named Abderrahaman"
- 17. "The Persistency of Error"

Partial Manuscripts:

- 18. "The Stranger"
- 19. "Pen-for-Short"
- 20. "A Confession"
- 21. "Hadassa's Warfare"
- 22. Mixed pages, unidentified manuscripts

Box 9

Elizabeth Bellamy Writings and Personal Papers

Elizabeth Bellamy Writings:

1. Poetry by Elizabeth Croom Bellamy (published):
 - "Patria Dolorosa," *Mobile Advertiser and Register*, August 1866
 - "Summer Idyl," *Mobile Daily Register*, August 19, [1868]
 - "Transition," *Mobile Sunday Times*, February 2, 1868
 - "Sic Transit Gloria," *Southern Collegian*, n.d.
 - "The Lesson of the Rose," [*The Gossip*, c. December 1885] photocopy
 - "Baby Logic," *Ghosts of Old Mobile*

2. Poetry (published) author unknown:

"Maryland, My Maryland"

16. Correspondence with Publishers and Editors, 1889-90, 1899, and undated:

John W. Lovell to EWB, 2/1/1889

Perry Mason and Co. to EWB, 9/11/1889

John W. Lovell to EWB, 11/18/1889

George F. Seely to EWB, 5/12/1890

Robert Underwood Johnson to EWB, 6/5/1890

Corresponding Editor of *The Youth's Companion* to EWB, 11/8/1899

Perry Mason and Co. to EWB, April, no year

17. Correspondence - Miscellaneous, 1884-94 and undated:

H. L. W5 Tweprh'sC1(1)1(E)-3(W)4(B)4(,)-6()1(14(5 Tw1(89)1(1)1(88)1(9)]TJ 0 Tc 0 Tw 10.193 0 6.5
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"The Model Student"

3/1877;

Extracts from the minutes of the Mobile Police Board and response from the Commission of

Box 13 (Oversize)

The Youth's Companion: an illustrated weekly paper for young people and the family(loose issues)

1887 (1 issue), 1888 (1 issue), 1893 (4 issues), 1894 (6 issues), 1895 (18 issues), 1896 (4 issues), 1897 (8 issues), 1900 (1 issue)

Paper is very brittle and should be handled as little as possible. Microfilm of this periodical is available at Samford University for the years 1885-97

Box 14 (Oversize)

The Youth's Companion (bound volumes): 1889 (49), 1890 (48) [See also Box 13 for other 1889 and 1890 issues]

Box 15 (Oversize)

The Youth's Companion (bound volumes): 1891 (48), 1892 (50)