

# The West Bangor Collection

Special Collections  
Benjamin F. Feinberg Library  
Plattsburgh State University College  
Plattsburgh, N.Y. 12901

By  
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## Introduction

The West Bangor Collection is a small collection of papers from several families in West Bangor, New York. It was donated to the Feinberg Library by Mrs. Ruth Hecht in 1968. The collection contains social and business correspondence, receipts, insurance policies, advertisements, newspaper clippings, and mail order materials.

The primary correspondents are the Lawrence family of West Bangor headed by Mrs. Eliza Lawrence (b.1811) and her three offspring: eldest daughter Emma (b.1832) and her husband-farmer Isa Darling; daughter Hattie (b.1835) and her husband-farmer George Brownell, who died suddenly in 1889; son Burton (b.1847) and wife Mary Eliza (b.1862). All were North Country dairy farmers, with ferry located in Parishville, St. Lawrence County and West Bangor, Franklin County. Eliza Lawrence had come from Connecticut, was a widow, however it is not known when her husband died.

The Lawrence farm in Parishville was run by another correspondent in the collection, Emery Sanford. Sanford was not directly related to the Lawrence family. Both he and his wife, Flora, were born in 1845. By 1900 they had three children, ranging in age from twenty-four to sixteen. Emery's mother came from Scotland and his father from Canada.

Part of the collection centers around material from several mail order companies, selling such materials as balding cures, facial creams, and a powerful persuasive, the K-maji system. The material is addressed to Hattie Brownell and consists of form letters attempting to sell her these miracle cures.

The papers involved span some twenty years, with the earliest being 1888 and the latest 1907. The only additional information that can be obtained on these families from material in the Feinberg Library is contained in United States census records.

Overall, this collection presents a vivid picture of how life was lived and business conducted in a rural area in the North Country of New York during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

## Contents

The collection is housed in a half-size Hollinger Box with five folders. The material is in chronological order except for some undated pieces which are housed with other related pieces. The pieces of written correspondence are separated into social and business correspondence. Also separate are insurance policies, newspaper clippings, and mail order advertisements.

### Box 1 of 1

Folder 1 - Business receipts, purchases and transactions 36 items

Folder 2 - Social correspondence 6 items

Folder 3 - Insurance policies 8 items

Folder 4 - Advertisements, form letters, mailorder 13 items

Folder 5- News clippings 2 items

**Number of Items: 65**