SUMMARY INFORMATION

Title: Courtship Letters of Mary A. Roe and Luther P. Hawkins

Dates: 1873-1875 and undated

Accession #: 2008-108

Creator: Roe, Mary A., 1846-1930
           Hawkins, Luther P., 1835-1920

Physical Description: 2.25 linear feet (3 boxes)

Languages: Collection material in English.

Processed by: Special Collections staff processed the collection. In 2018, Anna Johnson and Allie Bolton further described the letters, and Julia Cowart updated the finding aid.

Summary: Courtship letters between Mary A. Roe and Luther P. Hawkins from August 12, 1873 to December 3, 1875. The letters contain commentary on events and conditions in Greenville, S.C. during the late 19th century.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition:
Mary Hawkins Carr, great granddaughter of Mary A. Roe and Luther P. Hawkins, donated this collection in 2008.

USING THE COLLECTION

Access Restrictions: None.

Preferred Citation: [Identification of item], Courtship Letters of Mary A. Roe and Luther P. Hawkins, Acc. 2008-108 [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections and Archives, Furman University, Greenville, S.C.
Biographical Sketch:
Mary Ann Roe was born to Thomas and Sarah Stradley Roe on March 27, 1846. Mary’s mother, Sarah, was from the large family of Rev. Thomas Stradley who came from Woolwich, England in 1828. Rev. Stradley was organizer and first pastor of the First Baptist Church in Asheville, NC. Several Stradley family members were prominent businessmen in Greenville, S.C.

Mary’s family lived in the Paris Mountain Township, an area today that encompasses Furman University’s campus. Mary was a schoolteacher before she married.

Luther Preston Hawkins was born in November 24, 1835 to Berryman and Martha Salmon Hawkins in Greenville County.

The U.S. Census indicates Luther was a clerk in 1860. He served during the American Civil War, enlisting in Company B, S.C. 2nd Infantry Regiment, and was wounded in the battles of Seven Pines, the Wilderness and Chickamauga. He was later a member of Camp Pulliam, South Carolina Division of the United Confederate of the United Sons of Veterans.

During their courtship, Hawkins is living in Greenville and working with Mary’s cousin, Charles D. Stradley (1853-1938) at David & Stradley grocery, owned by Samuel Stradley (1833-1916), his fiancé’s first cousin once removed. Samuel Stradley was Greenville’s first railroad agent, a Greenville mayor and magistrate. Some of Hawkins’ letters are written on the letterhead of Samuel Stradley, Grocer and Commission Merchant.

Mary’s cousin Charles D. Stradley (1853-1938) was the son of her mother’s brother, Thomas F. Stradley (1827-1905). In 1882, Charles went into the dry goods business with George T. Barr in Stradley & Barr, and in 1902 started his own business, C.D. Stradley Dry Goods.

Hawkins’ obituary indicates he was a bookkeeper at Markley Hardware for 42 years.

The couple became engaged in the summer of 1873 and were married in 1876. They had six children together: Hampton, Lulu, Anna Mary, Sadie/Sarah, Willie, and Ralph. Luther died on January 17, 1920, and Mary died on January 14, 1930.

ARRANGEMENT
This collection is arranged chronologically.

SCOPE AND CONTENT
This collection consists of letters exchanged between Mary A. Roe and Luther P. Hawkins between 1873 and 1875. The letters represent a style of courtship correspondence from the 1870s. Topics of the letters include weather, health, illness, family, friends and local events. Roe writes in her letters to Hawkins about her working as a schoolteacher.

There is one letter from Charles Stradley to Mary and one letter from Mary’s sister, Whildie (Anna Whilden Roe 1853-1937) to Mary.
COLLECTION INVENTORY

Box 1:

Folder 1: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - August 12, 1873
   - Letter describing Luther’s anxieties about liking Mary, and how he wished for more time with her when he sees her upon his return to Greenville.

Folder 2: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - August 14, 1873
   - Letter describing Mary’s family’s reactions to her ring from Luther, and how her younger sister Minnie wished for him to write to her.

Folder 3: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - August 18, 1873
   - Letter describing some of Luther’s work under Mr. Stradley and his wife, as well as some of his daily life. He says there is a wedding between “A.M. Therill” and “Miss Lara.”

Folder 4: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - August 22, 1873
   - Letter explaining Mary’s daily life, including that the recent rain made it hard to cross the river, even on horseback, and that Thomas Hunt, Bordie, and her sister Lu went to Asheville.

Folder 5: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - August 25, 1873
   - Letter apologizing for his unexpected visit to her house, and offering to teach a student of Mary’s book keeping.

Folder 6: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - August 31, 1873
   - Letter welcoming Luther to Mary’s family house any time, and explaining her business as a result of working at the school and being at church. She mentions going to Reedy River in the morning (for Sunday School) and Berea in the afternoon (for Church).

Folder 7: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - September 1, 1873
   - Letter discussing the Reedy River Sunday School population and how it will hopefully increase, as well as how Mr. Stradley wishes Luther to go to Atlanta around the 15th.

Folder 8: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - September 6, 1873
   - Letter talking about Luther’s interaction with Mary’s father and how he attended the election for some public office.

Folder 9: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - September 15, 1873
   - [Missing letter from Mary to Luther on the 10th] Letter describing how Luther saw Dr. Williams preach and is no longer going to Atlanta, which he is glad about. He talked with Dr. [James C.] Furman who had been very feeble, but was feeling better, and how he liked him very much.

Folder 10: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - September 24, 1873
   - Letter discussing their last meeting, as well as Mary’s schoolwork. Mary gave Luther a sketch and asked him not to show anyone because she is ashamed of it.
Folder 11: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - October 9, 1873
- [Missing letter from Luther to Mary Oct.-5] Letter encouraging Luther not to feel down, and discussing how her school is more full but the semester is almost over.

Folder 12: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - October 27, 1873
- Letter expressing Luther’s eagerness to see Mary; he talks about the death of a man named John Westfield at the breakfast table due to “whiskey”, and states how awful it would be to die a drunkard.

Folder 13: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - October 31, 1873
- Letter discussing the weather of Greenville going into winter, and how Butler is meant to be ordained as a Deacon at the Reedy River Church in November.

Folder 14: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - November 3, 1873
- Letter describing how Luther was joking with Mary about being afraid of her mother, but loves her too much to tease her, and the different churches they each prefer.

Folder 15: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - November 11, 1873
- Letter discussing how Luther hopes to see Mary on Sunday, and how it has been too long since they have seen each other.

Folder 16: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - November 13, 1873
- Letter about how, with winter approaching, the Sunday School and Mary’s normal school have shut down, to the children’s dismay.

Folder 17: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - November 17, 1873
- Luther’s report on his visit to Mary, and a cold he came down with after. Also some self-deprecating comments on his unworthiness to be with Mary.

Folder 18: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - November 22, 1873
- Letter expressing sympathy and happiness over Luther’s cold subsiding, and hoping that he heard a good sermon since he’s in town.

Folder 19: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - November 24, 1873
- Luther’s letter on his birthday discussing how the trade has been slow because of the rain.

Folder 20: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - November 27, 1873
- Letter describing some church affairs and expressing hope that Luther could come up on the next Sunday. Mary is experiencing neuralgia.

Folder 21: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - November 30, 1873
- Letter discussing how many people will be in Greenville for the “show,” and their eagerness to discuss Luther’s friend “E.”

Folder 22: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - December 8, 1873
- Letter addressing his return from a visit to Mary, the events with E. and his proposal/hopeful response, and possible Christmas plans.

Folder 23: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - December 29, 1873
- Letter describing the news of Greenville, including some marriages (Lizzie Edward, who is moving to California after the wedding) and movement, as well as how Luther’s friend E. has yet to hear from his girlfriend.
Folder 24: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - January 2, 1874
- Letter discussing the marriage in town and replying to Luther’s worries about the doctor seeing Mary and his own sadness. She mentions for him not to show anyone her letters.

Folder 25: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - January 3, 1874
- Short letter expressing his wishes to see Mary, and briefly mentioning marriage.

Folder 26: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - January 5, 1874
- Letter addressing some interactions Luther had with his neighbors and friends, including one asking when he was going to get married, and his response of “after a while” plus its confidential nature.

Folder 27: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - January 8, 1874
- Letter discussing Mary’s thoughts on marriage and how people ask her if she is getting married, as well as talking about the rumor that Luther would get married in two months.

Folder 28: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - January 12, 1874
- Letter regarding the moving of several families to Greenville, and Luther’s interactions with some young women when he was with his friends. He spoke to her mother and apologizes for Mary’s illness (neuralgia).

Folder 29: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - January 19, 1874
- Letter about Luther and Mary’s health, and Luther’s business at work, sadness, and loneliness, although he states he shouldn’t be sad with a woman like Mary to love him.

Folder 30: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - January 19, 1874
- Letter reporting some marriages in Paris Mt. area and a change in pastor in the Reedy River Church, and how she is feeling better.

Folder 31: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - February 1, 1874
- Luther states he meant to come today, but his boss had loaned both his horses out. He again denies getting married immediately, and mentions a funeral in town.

Folder 32: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - February 2, 1874
- Letter discussing Mary’s eagerness for Luther to come, and how he is welcome at any time. She states she was sick during Church, but was asked to teach at two places.

Folder 33: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - February 9, 1874
- A short letter in response to Luther’s from the 1st, mentioning how she wishes he could’ve seen the “Jew Peddlers.”

Folder 34: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - February 22, 1874
- Response to Mary’s two letters and Luther’s reactions to more people asking if he’s married or not. He also has another toothache.

Folder 35: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - February 27, 1874
- Letter expressing sympathy for Luther’s teeth and his loneliness, and her unworthiness of his praise.
Folder 36: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - March 2, 1874
- Response to Mary’s letter and another discussion of people asking when he will be married. He is anxious to visit Mary and asks her to take care of herself.

Folder 37: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - March 9, 1874
- Letter regarding their last meeting at church and how he will soon be coming out again, plus how people continue to ask about their marriage.

Folder 38: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - March 9, 1874
- Letter requesting to be told who the people who asked about Luther’s marriage were, because people like to gossip, as well as wishing him good health.

Folder 39: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - March 16, 1874
- Letter about how much he appreciates Mary’s writing, and how Ms. Stradley is going to Georgia to adopt a little girl and then West Tennessee to live.

Folder 40: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - March 30, 1874
- Luther describing how he has had a falling out with Ms. Broaddus because he does things he isn’t supposed to, apparently. Another man named Luther was married and people mistook him for that man, and he states he must get married to stop the confusion.

Folder 41: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - April 6, 1874
- Letter expressing his sadness over not getting a letter from Mary, and how she hopefully should see him at church on Sunday.

Folder 42: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - April 9, 1874
- Letter wishing Luther could have the trip to Texas he mentioned because he had been working very hard, and talking about her own work, which involves a 2 ½ mile walk to the school every day.

Folder 43: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - April 13, 1874
- Letter asking for the news from Mary, and apologizing for his handwriting and spelling compared to her own.

Folder 44: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - April 20, 1874
- Letter discussing how Luther will be travelling to Atlanta with his boss after he goes to Charleston, and how he will miss Mary in that time.

Folder 45: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - April 20, 1874
- Letter wishing Luther safe travels, and discussing how after he left church many people asked Mary when they were going to marry.

Folder 46: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - April 27, 1874
- Letter reporting on how Luther’s boss is going to the seminary commencement in Charleston with Dr. Furman, who both Luther and Mary think highly of.

Folder 47: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - May 1, 1874
- Letter of Luther’s travels first to Atlanta, then Chattanooga, then Nashville and the sights in those places.
Folder 48: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - June 1, 1874
- Letter ending Luther’s travels and explaining why he didn’t come to see Mary when he got home. He also describes disliking the parts where there were mosquitoes and you could see alligators.

Folder 49: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - June 8, 1874
- Letter in response to Mary’s letter [missing], describing his experiences back at church and how he will be getting a horse soon.

Folder 50: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - June 9, 1874
- Letter of break up from Mary.

Folder 51: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - June 15, 1874
- A letter of apology and hopeful reconciliation from Mary. The rumor that she heard was that Luther was with another girl and she broke it off but now realizes she still cares for him and likely him for her.

Folder 52: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - June 22, 1874
- Letter of explanation to Mary, stating that he wanted to fix things and hopes they will turn out right. She considered herself his betrothed and he said he still would.

Folder 53: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - June 29, 1874
- Letter welcoming Luther to her home anytime and stating that she believed herself to be his betrothed only because of his words of affection.

Folder 54: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - June 30, 1874
- Luther stating that he saw Mary’s mother and father, and that they seemed to be friendly towards him. Mr. Stradley has gone to Asheville.

Folder 55: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - July 4, 1874
- Letter stating that it is both pleasing to write and receive letters and thus she will continue, but also that she is keeping his letters’ content secret (even from her mother). Mary says that she gave her school 2 weeks of vacation 1 week ago, and that the two of them will be able to meet soon. In addition, the R.R. Sunday School now has a girl’s class of 10 little girls.

Folder 56: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - July 6, 1874
- Letter stating that he wishes to visit Mary very soon, and Luther’s trip to Texas. He mentions their “Radical Friends” and calls them bad folks. He apologizes that he remembers no dreams to tell her and asks that she write back soon and tell him about any of her dreams.

Folder 57: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - July 13, 1874
- Letter saying he planned to leave to visit her this day but realized she’d be in school when he arrived and will postpone his travel till the following day. Luther sends regards to Mary’s mother and apologizes for being away so long. Explains that Davis was killed near Belton and suspects the military will arrive soon to investigate since they were already nearby managing some Freedmen. He misses Mary very much and looks forward to seeing her.
Folder 58: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - July 15, 1874
- Letter apologizing for not having a letter for Luther on Saturday. Discusses a recent sermon and the recent rainfall in the area. She hopes that he continues to keep the contents of their letters secret and hopes to see him soon.

Folder 59: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - July 20, 1874
- Luther apologizes profusely for not having come to visit yet. He says life is dull for him and he doesn’t enjoy going to preaching anymore. He will come Sunday if he can get a horse.

Folder 60: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - July 21, 1874
- Letter stating that Luther still did not arrive and she hopes he has a good excuse and went to church. She doesn’t like hearing about companies of freedmen forming and worries about their opposition at the coming election. She is sad to hear about Davis. She ran into an old friend the day before and hopes to tell more about it soon.

Folder 61: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - July 21, 1874
- Luther saw Butler speaking with someone. He is glad Mary wrote him and he still wishes to visit soon. He continues to apologize, request letters, and promise to visit soon.

Folder 62: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - July 28, 1874
- Luther loves receiving Mary’s letters and feels all his friends have forsaken him. He is scared of Mary’s mother. He will continue to try to come visit.

Folder 63: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - July 31, 1874
- Luther will finally be able to visit this coming Sunday.

Folder 64: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - July, 1874
- Mary is disappointed to find Luther still has not visited and she has two letters from him instead. She feels she is a sinner in the eyes of God but Luther has no heart to feel love with. Her school is growing and her mother is still not dangerous.

Folder 65: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - August 1, 1874
- Mary’s school recently started a debate club and thinks Luther would like it.

Folder 66: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - August 6, 1874
- Luther considers Mary a True Friend. He finally visited her the previous Sunday but he felt the visit was too short. He mentions that they are planning to build a railroad from Greenville to Asheville. Luther’s boss was nominated for Mayor. Mary’s people were friendly to him when he visited and he would like to come again soon.

Folder 67: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - August 11, 1874
- Luther talks about the two candidates for mayor. Promises he would never deceive Mary and very much wanting to marry her.

Folder 68: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - August 15, 1874
- Mary has not written lately because she has been so busy with school. She updates him on the debate club. She wonders what all Luther has been waiting to tell her and hopes to see him soon.
Luther remarks that Mary isn’t writing much. Luther has been sick and boss left for Augusta, Ga and will be gone until Monday, so if he gets well, he will come see Mary that Sunday. (He tried to send Mary a melon but couldn’t figure out how.)

Mary just received his letter from Aug 6th. She sympathizes with Luther for his lost pets and believes she knows the name of his remaining pet. She talks about her time as a teacher and her worries that she isn’t very good. She would love to see him Friday or Saturday. Two marriages took place in her town this day.

Luther is feeling better. He worries that his letters are taking too long to reach Mary and there must be a problem. People recently got on to him about getting married soon. He worries he’s not worthy of Mary. His remaining pet is named Miss Mary. Town is the same except for election talk. He hopes to come see Mary soon whenever she has time outside of school.

Mary took a while to write back because she woke up with a headache. She will be working in town with the school and now looks forward to the school’s closing. She looks forward to the surprise Luther promised. Mary enjoyed the melon he sent. She is excited to hear about the desire Luther mentioned and wants to speak to him in person more.

Luther looked for Mary all day when he heard she’d be in town but never saw her. Town is buzzing over the upcoming election. There was a shootout in town and one shot the other’s hand. Luther asks to go home with Mary on Sunday.

Luther apologizes for acting funny on Sunday; he wanted to go home with Mary but got cold feet when he saw how much company she had. The election happened and there was some fighting because of it. He will come visit Mary again soon.

Mary did not realize Luther’s aversion to lots of company. A wedding took place between Mr. Herbert Eubanks and Miss Julia Wyttenbach.

Luther recently visited Charlotte for a wedding. He wants to visit Mary this Sunday. Luther has a friend who is writing a book and he hopes to read it someday. Luther is catching a train in the morning.

Mary heard Luther brought a girl back from his trip and wants to know if it is true. She goes on a tangent about his book-writing-friend being a sinner. She hopes
Luther is not an infidel. Some people are getting sick and she is worried. Mary feels her letter is poorly written and is embarrassed to send it.

Folder 79: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - September 29, 1874
- Luther did not visit Sunday because it was raining and now “has the blues” because of it. The wedding he attended was not his but rather he went because his buddy Lindsey Davis wanted him to come with. Luther will try again to visit next Sunday.

Box 2

Folder 1: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - October 5, 1874
- Mary wants to know why Luther is blue and who this “only one to love” is. Mary went to the church association and there were so many people she couldn’t hear the sermons. Mary’s cousin Charles is going to work with Luther and she hopes Luther will like him.

Folder 2: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - October 10, 1874
- Luther has been busy at work and his boss was gone to Charleston for a while. Luther wants to know who the one is whom Mary wants to be sure she has the love and devotion of. He wants to visit next Sunday.

Folder 3: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - October 20, 1874
- Luther hasn’t heard from Mary in a while. There is a lot of sickness now and he just saw two children in one coffin. Two men he knows have each lost a child and he hears that so far 6 are dead in town. Trade is improving. He heard Mary had a tooth ache. Charles is doing well and getting used to the work. He wants Mary to answer the questions he sent her and hopes to see her soon.

Folder 4: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - October 21, 1874
- Mary notes that Luther wanted to know who she spoke of wanting devotion from but that was in regards to her wanting to know who his one to love was and neither of them have answered. She admits that she was talking about him. Now that she has answered, he has to answer too. She gives some gossip about her cousins. Many are mourning the loss of children to illness.

Folder 5: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - October 30, 1874
- Luther hopes Mary will someday be “more than a friend.” Luther hopes to visit soon and stay the night so he can have a good long talk with Mary. Luther will keep the contents of the letters secret. Mary is also the one most in Luther’s thoughts and he loves her. More children are dying of illness. He hopes Mary is still well.

Folder 6: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - October 30, 1874
- Mary appreciates the toothache sympathy but she didn’t actually have one. Cousin Charles said he likes working with Luther and enjoys his sense of humor. She had a nice dinner at her Uncle Barns’ on Sunday. The weather is very cold. Mr. Watson lost his son Bennie to illness and Mary is very sad.

Folder 7: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - November 2, 1874
- Luther wants to meet Mary at RR on Sunday to chat with her. He will come again another Sunday for a long talk. He would stay longer after RR but he has work to do.

Folder 8: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - November 2, 1874
- Mary is in the city with her sister Whildie. She heard Luther is going up to “Pu. River” soon and wonders if he will be stopping by her house. She reminds him that the coming Sunday he has planned to come is a preaching Sunday but she would still love to see him then anyway. She still wants to know what made him “low spirited” before.

Folder 9: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - November 9, 1874
- Luther will come visit as soon as Mary returns home. Luther’s brother wants to see him. Now Luther feels bad for not visiting him when he went to Texas.
- A small note [the note delivered by Charles] in which Luther apologizes for not answering sooner.

Folder 10: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - November 11, 1874
- Mary is in the city with family and doesn’t know when she will see Luther next. She tried to put off the visit so she could see Luther, but to no avail. Someone is sick back home and Mary is waiting at Whildie’s house while she checks on them, so Mary doesn’t know when she will be back.

Folder 11: Letter Whildie To Mary Roe - November 16, 1874
- Letter from Whildie telling Mary that Bardie is recovering from illness. Doctors have been visiting and their parents visited too. She hopes God will heal Bardie. She asks Mary to send her love to her friends and family back home. Bardie sends love to Mary and Whildie and Thomas are getting along.

Folder 12: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - November 22, 1874
- He is sorry for not writing in so long. Luther was sent off by his boss yesterday and feels he only did it so he could sample the cotton. He has been thinking about Mary a lot lately and has something he wants badly to tell her next time he sees her. He’s sending the letter through Charles so Mr. S won’t know about it. Luther intended to go to church today but it rained too hard to go.

Folder 13: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - November 26, 1874
- Mary’s family insists she stay on their side of town until after Conference but she wants to go home so Luther can visit. Mary didn’t have a great Thanksgiving because of the current state of affairs. Mary is struggling to send the letters in secret.

Folder 14: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - December 2, 1874
- Luther was delighted to see Mary in his store the other day. Mary’s Ma asked Luther to send her some stove polish to polish the Church stove. Charles has a cold. Luther wants to meet Mary at the Christmas gathering.

Folder 15: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - December 7, 1874
- Mary explains she’s anxious to go home so Luther can visit. Mary would love to see Luther at Christmas Conference and he could help decorate the tree.
Folder 16: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - December 11, 1874
- Luther wants to know when Mary is home so he can visit as soon as possible to put
a surprise on the tree for the kids. There was a wedding recently and Luther wants
to go to a wedding soon so he knows what to do when it’s his turn. Luther feels
that Mary’s mom likes him now. Someone came to Luther and claims to know all
about his secret courtship with Mary.

Folder 17: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - December 15, 1874
- Mary has been busy preparing for Christmas and missed church and the Bell
Ringers. She thinks she will go home Wednesday before Christmas. She wants to
know who claims to know Luther’s secret.

Folder 18: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - December 18, 1874
- Luther explains who was teasing him about Mary and says he will go to the Baptist
church on Sunday with Mary. Mary’s Ma invited him to the Christmas tree.

Folder 19: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - December 20, 1874
- Mary and her mom appreciate the Christmas gifts from Luther. Cousin H wants
Mary to visit home for the weekend then come back down for Christmas but Mary
wants to stay at home to visit with Luther.

Folder 20: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - December 23, 1874
- Mary sent Luther a slice of cake with her last letter. Luther cannot join them at the
Christmas tree but will still visit the following week.

Folder 21: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - December 28, 1874
- Mary had a good Christmas save for a few fussy girls. Luther’s gift to her was
candy and a new Bible. Mary has a gift for Luther to give him next they meet.

Folder 22: Letter Charles Stradley to Mary Roe - December 1874
- Charles asks Mary to eat the apples at home and feed them to the kids so they do
not go bad. Luther and Charles have Christmas gifts for Mary and the girls.
Charles will be home Thursday or Friday.

Folder 23: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - January 15, 1875
- Mary bought Luther a book called “Hope and Health for the Young” and Whildie
doesn’t want her to give it to him because the chapter on marriage might make him
think she’s pushing him. Mrs. S appreciates the apples from Luther. Mary wants to
go home next week and hopes to see Luther then.

Folder 24: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - January 17, 1875
- Luther enjoyed Christmas at Mary’s and is coming to visit again soon. He
would’ve come a few days before but Mary had to go to a funeral. Luther is very
interested in the book Mary has for him, especially the marriage chapter.

Folder 25: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - January 21, 1875
- Uncle S took Mary home today. She is sad for Mr. Frank S. losing his wife. Mary
didn’t get why people hated her gift to Luther so much so she is giving it to him
anyway. She hopes to see him soon.

Folder 26: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - January 26, 1875
- A short note on Stradley stationary because Luther didn’t realize Charley was
leaving until that minute. He hopes Mary is doing well and that she will write.
Folder 27: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - January 30, 1875
- Excited to see Luther soon. There’s a wedding on Feb 4th and she wished Luther could come with her. She wants to know if he got the book she sent. She asks that he write to Mary [implying that he stop using the pet name Molly in their letters].

Folder 28: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - February 5, 1875
- Mary enjoyed the wedding. Bardie is sending Luther a slice of wedding cake.

Folder 29: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - February 12, 1875
- Luther wants to come soon but Luther got frostbite on his feet because of the cold weather and it hurts him to walk. Mr. S said Luther should get married by next fall. Luther is thinking about taking lessons in bookkeeping.

Folder 30: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - February 17, 1875
- Mary wants to know if Luther is really serious about wanting to be married by next fall. Mary thinks bookkeeping lessons are expensive, so he shouldn’t do it if he’s not going to get a new job, but he should if he plans to actually go into bookkeeping. Mary doesn’t understand why Greenville is becoming a city, nor does she like it. She hopes Luther and others feel better soon.

Folder 31: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - February 19, 1875
- Luther wants to know why Mary is shocked to hear about Luther wanting to be married by next fall. Luther ran into someone who didn’t understand why he and Mary don’t get married. Luther plans to see Mary at church.

Folder 32: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - February 25, 1875
- She asks Luther a question and hopes to discuss it in person. Mary is feeling sick.

Folder 33: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - March 11, 1875
- Luther recently spent an evening with Mary. They did not get to talk about what they had wanted to in their letters, but he hopes to visit again to talk soon.

Folder 34: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - March 17, 1875
- Mary has received job offers to teach in Travelers Rest. She doesn’t she will take it, but still likes knowing that someone thinks she’s a good teacher.

Folder 35: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - March 20, 1875
- Luther has been very busy lately. He plans to visit Mary after church tomorrow. Luther’s boarding house has been gloomy lately since Miss Fannie died. He is thinking about death more now.

Folder 36: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - March 25, 1875
- Mrs. S is going to visit North Carolina. Dr. B asked Mary about her future and something was said about wedding garments? There was a wedding recently Mary talks for a while about what it means to be married. She hopes to see Luther on Sunday.

Folder 37: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - March 27, 1875
- Pencil note on Stradley stationary saying Luther plans to visit Mary tomorrow.

Folder 38: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - March 30, 1875
- Luther and Charles visited Mary but could not stay very long. Luther spoke to an old bachelor about getting married. Luther thinks a man with a wife can do twice
as much, but the bachelor said two people means twice the cost of living and he couldn’t afford it. Hopes to see Mary this Sunday.

Folder 39: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - April 2, 1875
- Luther visited Mary on Sunday and plans to come again next Sunday. Charles Stradley received a letter and Mary thinks Luther may know something about it. Mary feels the old bachelor is dumb and greedy and should not be married if he sees it that way because he wouldn’t love his wife.

Folder 40: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - April 7, 1875
- Luther saw Mary’s mom and heard something about “the new house.” Luther will visit Mary next Sunday. Someone else told Luther he should get married soon.

Folder 41: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - April 8, 1875
- Mary has been teased by people saying she should buy Luther’s new house with him. Mr. and Mrs. Stradley are coming to visit Mary’s house tonight.

Folder 42: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - April 13, 1875
- Luther saw Mary today but was so busy he can’t remember if they talked or not. Someone asked him about Mary again and he tried to avoid the question.

Folder 43: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - April 16, 1875
- Mary got her photo taken and Mrs. S claimed the best one for herself. Mary visited some old friends. Mentions Dr. Furman. She hopes to see Luther at church on Sunday.

Folder 44: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - April 20, 1875
- Someone Luther knows (Jeff) has been telling people that Luther and Mary are sweethearts. Luther met Miss Bettie and found her very boring.

Folder 45: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - April 23, 1875
- Mrs. S is on a trip until next Friday. Mary spent a while with a friend recently. Luther plans to come the following day and she hopes he does.

Folder 46: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - April 27, 1875
- Luther didn’t think Mary would be at church last Sunday so he didn’t go and now feels bad knowing she was there. Mary’s Pa invited Luther over yesterday but Luther declined because he already had an invitation elsewhere.

Folder 47: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - April 29, 1875
- Mary was disappointed Luther didn’t come to church or dinner on Sunday. Mary felt ill on Monday. Says she enjoyed seeing Luther today.

Folder 48: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - April 30, 1875
- Luther wants to see Mary. He is not feeling well. Hopes Mary is not mad at him.

Folder 49: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - May 1, 1875
- Mary thought Luther looked sad the other day and is sad to hear he is sick. Mary is not mad, just disappointed he didn’t visit on Sunday. Mary has been teased for mailing Luther so she’s having Charles deliver this letter. Mr. and Mrs. S are coming home tomorrow.
Folder 50: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - May 6, 1875
- Luther heard Mary is going home and hopes it will not be long because he will miss her.

Folder 51: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - May 6, 1875
- Mary is going home Friday or Saturday and hopes to see Luther often.

Folder 52: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - May 10, 1875
- Mary’s Ma teased her about mailing Luther already. Mary enjoyed her stay away from home and wanted to stay longer but would’ve been imposing. She will think of Luther often and hope he comes up to visit.

Folder 53: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - May 21, 1875
- Charles left for Charlotte. Mr. S wants Luther to take a week vacation sometime but Luther has nowhere to go. Miss Bettie invited Luther to the Methodist church picnic but won’t go. He hopes he will see Mary soon.

Folder 54: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - May 28, 1875
- Mary’s Ma says Luther was lively last she was at the store. The preacher told Mary’s Ma that when Luther last visited, he saw a ring on Mary’s finger. She hopes Luther will visit soon and feel better.

Folder 55: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - June 3, 1875
- Luther is glad Mary’s mom likes him waiting on her at the warehouse. Luther is skipping church to write Mary. Luther has been sick for two weeks. Mr. S has set up a trip to NC for Luther and Samy when school gets out in two weeks. He hopes he can use the trip to visit Mary.

Folder 56: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - June 9, 1875
- Mary talks about preachers and Sunday school. Mary would gladly accompany Luther to NC. Whildie will be in the city for a few weeks so Mary will be lonely.

Folder 57: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - June 11, 1875
- Luther did go to the Methodist picnic and enjoyed it. Luther plans to visit the following Sunday. There have been five funerals recently. He has not heard anything about the NC trip lately but will let Mary know when he does.

Folder 58: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - June 1875
- Short note in which Mary expresses her desire to see Luther.

Folder 59: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - July 2, 1875
- Luther had a pleasant time visiting on Sunday. Luther doesn’t like appearance of Mary’s preacher. Mrs. Cagle teased Luther saying she knows something but won’t tell him yet. There is a court session going on sentencing three robbers. Hopes to visit Mary soon.

Folder 60: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - July 2, 1875
- Some of Mary’s family was supposed to be in town this week but now will not. She is anxious for Luther’s next visit.
Folder 61: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - July 10, 1875
- Luther sent a stack of papers along with the letter and Mary is very grateful. She is glad to hear about Luther’s friend’s engagement and goes on about what a good thing a good wife is. Mary’s parents were complimenting Luther recently.

Folder 62: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - August 11, 1875
- Luther needs to explain something about a basket. He plans to visit next Sunday. He has not been writing lately because he has been so busy.

Folder 63: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - August 12, 1875
- Mary’s family noticed her relief when she got the letter. She was worried Luther was mad at her. She sent him a basket with a few apples. People have been getting sick lately, including Luther’s brother.

Folder 64: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - August 15, 1875
- Luther is glad to hear from Mary and to understand the basket now. He thought about visiting today but it was raining. Next weekend a special train will run from Greenville to Easly. Mr. S is back from the farm and did not seem to enjoy it but Luther has not gotten a chance to talk to him about it yet.

Folder 65: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - August 31, 1875
- Mrs. Young is ill and dying so Ma and Bardie are taking care of her. Mr. Carter asked Whildie how long Mary and Luther had been engaged. Her school now has 28 people and will run for a month. She hopes Luther will visit on Second Sunday.

Folder 66: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - September 3, 1875
- Luther got home safe. He is glad to hear from Mary and doesn’t know when he will see her again. Has not decided if he is going to Church on Sunday or not.

Folder 67: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - September 7, 1875
- Some of her family will be in town at the end of the week. Her school only lasts 6 more days and she is glad because she is tired of the long walk.

Folder 68: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - September 9, 1875
- Luther made a bargain to take some preachers to RR someday. Someone shot Joe Crews yesterday but he did not die. A different, old man died today. Mr. D [Duskin?] wants to go up to the country with Luther on Sunday and Luther will visit Mary.

Folder 69: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - September 22, 1875
- Mrs. Young died last week and everyone is very sad. Mary visited for Friday and Saturday to help the family and was sad seeing her children around her body.

Folder 70: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - September 24, 1875
- The store has been busy now that cotton is coming in. Luther has decided to stay home this weekend and visit Mary on First Sunday. He sent Mary’s Ma some cheese and wants to know if she liked it. Hopes to visit next Sunday.

Folder 71: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - September 27, 1875
- C. was baptized yesterday. Cousin Cora wants to come stay for the winter and asks that Mary and Luther not get married before she can be there. Mary’s Ma loved the cheese.
**Box 3**

Folder 1: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - October 9, 1875
- “The Show” will be in town on Thursday and Luther wants to go. Mary’s Ma was in town and Luther waited on her. Luther is going up the River again soon. He plans to visit Mary next Sunday.

Folder 2: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - October 11, 1875
- Mary waited to write until Charles came home with Luther’s latest letter. Hopes to have plenty of time to talk next Sunday. Mary has been taking care of sick little boys. They are getting better and she expects to be home this week. Mrs. S invited her up but Mary thinks she is too busy to do so.

Folder 3: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - October 19, 1875
- Mary is sorry if Luther was disappointed in not getting a letter. When Butler went to get the mail, he did not have a letter for Mary until school started the next day. She hasn’t been home since the day she met Luther there but hopes to go home Friday or Sunday. She heard Luther sometimes wished he was a pastor but Mary assures him he can be servant of God without being a pastor. Butler will be delivering the note.

Folder 4: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - October 30, 1875
- Mary is up late helping Lula with her dress. Mollie asked Mary to visit the family in the mountains on a bridal tour. Mary was sad to hear Mr. Elford died. She heard the Baptist church had a meeting and hopes Luther joined and that God gives him peace of mind.

Folder 5: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - October 1875
- Luther had a long but safe ride home from visiting Mary. He heard Mary’s cousin Mollie will be visiting and hopes it goes well. Hopes to visit again soon but will have to inquire with Mr. S about it first so he does not know when.

Folder 6: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - November 12, 1875
- Luther plans to come visit this coming Sunday. He hasn’t been to church lately because of bad weather and business. Mrs. S visited Mary and Luther is curious to hear about it. Several people joined the Baptist church recently so there will be several Baptisms soon. Charlie will take up the letter the following day. He hopes to hear from Mary very soon.

Folder 7: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - November 13, 1875
- Mary cooked supper for two cornshuckings this week. Reached home after midnight last night. One of her neighbors just lost two children to illness. Mary
was devastated; she gave one of them a Christmas present last year. She is glad to hear of the success of the Baptist meetings

Folder 8: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - November 27, 1875
- Mr. S is talking about going to Charleston soon. They ask if Luther’s wedding will be soon he keeps saying no, but they are telling him to just own it. He is coming to visit Mary very soon.

Folder 9: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - December 3, 1875
- Butler saw Luther and told Mary he seemed well. She hopes to see him herself soon. Her Pa is now sick and the family is very worried about him.

Folder 10: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - Tuesday Morning, 1875
- Mary was very disappointed Luther didn’t visit Sunday. Something Mary said in her last letter made Luther not visit and she is devastated that she messed up. She wants Luther to write and explain if he is mad and what offended him. She was very happy to see his face at church, prays he is not mad, and will come visit her soon.

Folder 11: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - Jan 30
- Luther wants to know who was getting married that Mary mentioned so he may go to the wedding. He wants to be ready when it is his turn and he hopes it is soon. A lady friend at his boarding house thinks he’d do well with a wife.

Folder 12: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - March 23
- Luther is sorry he didn’t send his letter on time but he had no way to send it on time. He is sorry and does not mean to deceive her. People keep asking when he is getting married. Luther wants to visit Sunday morning. He ran into Mary’s cousin Willie and asked about Mary but they hadn’t seen each other. Luther hopes she will write if they do not get to see each other.

Folder 13: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - March 30
- Mary has not written lately because she has not been at home because she took up school. She has thought about going into teaching. RR started Sunday school but she didn’t go. She will write as often as she can and can get the mail once a week now that she is boarding at Mr. Butler Watson’s.

Folder 14: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - June 5
- Mary is glad Luther got home safe and wants to hear all about his trip next time they see each other. She wants to know who asked about their marrying and “the seven years engagement.” She will be in town today and hopes to see Luther.
Folder 15: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - July 7
- It has been thunder storming. Mary’s preacher came by recently to pick up some books. Luther is looking after Mary’s plant and it now has a bloom. Luther wants to visit soon but not on preaching day. They are expecting a Yankee Garrison tonight and Luther does not like that.

Folder 16: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - September 22
- Luther can’t come to the Saturday Picnic because “the boys” are leaving town and Luther has to stay and run the shop. He is trying to find a way to come visit on Sunday if he can. He wants to know what Mary was studying last he saw her. He will send a basket of apples on Saturday since he cannot actually be there.

Folder 17: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - September 28
- Mary enjoyed morning preaching but is skipping night time preaching to write to Luther. Mary was sad Luther didn’t come to church but trusts he had a good reason not to come. She is open to having Luther over whenever is best for him. The picnic went very well and Mary saved Luther a slice of cake.

Folder 18: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - October 20
- Mr. McCall and Miss Lipscumbe were married recently. Times have been dull at the business. People are recovering from the recent illness. He hopes to see Mary Sunday morning.

Folder 19: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe – October
- Luther got home safe Sunday night, went to church, got up early Monday for work, and was shocked to see Mr. S had returned home on the Sunday night train. Luther sold five dress patterns and hopes to keep selling them. He has not selected a dress pattern yet but will soon. He is feeling unwell this night and hopes to recover quickly.

Folder 20: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins – December
- Mary’s cousin H came for a surprise visit, asked Mary to come stay with her, then they were off to town 3 hours later. Whildie will take care of Mary’s letters from Luther while she is gone. “The dress” is set to be made next week. She doesn’t know how long she will be in town but hopes Luther will visit

Folder 21: Letter (Money order) Sadie Hawkins to Montgomery Ward & Co. – undated
- A money order for $5.40 from Montgomery Ward & Co. in Chicago. On the back are four school-assignment sounding questions and answers about the ice age.

Folder 22: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - Tuesday Night
- [Possibly a follow up to Mary’s Tuesday morning, 1875 letter, folder 10] Luther was not offended by Mary at all and did not visit because he thought she was at the
funeral but did not see her. Had he known she was at home, he would’ve visited, and will visit on Thursday or Friday before she leaves town. For the first time in years he heard from Frank S. who is coming back to Greenville. Lost his wife and one child and he is now a single father of a six-year-old girl.

Folder 23: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - Friday Night
- Charles came back from Charlotte and had a good time; Luther came back from a trip to Saluda and did not have a good time. He wants to visit Mary soon. Capt. B[?]’s mother-in-law just died and will be burned tomorrow.

Folder 24: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - Sunday Evening
- Disappointed Luther didn’t visit because she has a surprise for him. She hopes he comes tonight as he promised.

Folder 25: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - Sunday Evening
- Mary passed Luther sitting on a step today and he looked very lonely. She wants to talk to him soon and hopes he is not sad.

Folder 26: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins – Undated
- Mary seems very concerned about having messed up and upset Luther. She worries he will believe she was not true. She has been told he loves someone else and there are rumors going around. She wants to meet up with him and set things right.

Folder 27: Letter Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins – undated
- She is glad to hear Luther’s tooth ache has gone and wants to know who this lady is he thinks of to get rid of pain. Mary over heard her Ma talking to her Pa about how big Mary’s engagement ring is. She has family in town for the Association.

Folder 28: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe – undated
- Luther didn’t stay because he got cold and decided to go home to avoid getting sick but enjoyed seeing Mary anyway. Hopes to see her at church this Sunday.

Folder 29: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe – undated
- Luther wants to visit this weekend and plans to leave tomorrow.

Folder 30: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe – undated
- Luther wants to come visit tomorrow since he could not come last Sunday.

Folder 31: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe – undated
- Luther told one of his friends that Mary disapproved of him and said friend paid Mary a compliment. Luther sometimes wishes he was a preacher but doesn’t feel he was made for it. Someone is sick and a little boy has a sore throat but it looks like they will be okay.
Folder 32: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe – undated
- [very short note] Luther will visit Mary tonight at 8.

Folder 33: Letter Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe – undated
- Luther couldn’t come to the picnic because Mrs. Stradley is sick and Mr. Stradley is gone right now. He will soon send a basket of apples. He hopes to visit next Sunday. Luther is thinking about moving to a new boarding place. He appreciates her sending cake.

Folder 34: Envelopes, Luther Hawkins to Mary Roe - Postmarked on Dec 10, Jun 27?, Ju? 23, and 3 undated envelopes

Folder 35: Envelopes, Mary Roe to Luther Hawkins - Postmarked on Oct 11, one undated envelope, one blank envelope