

# Letters to Charlie

## A Finding Aid



Charles Monroe Root (1872-1930)  
from Letters to Charlie Collection

**Livingston County Historian's Office**  
5 Murray Hill Dr.  
Mt. Morris, NY 14510  
July 2021

Prepared by Holly C. Watson, Deputy Livingston County Historian

## I. Collection Summary

<b>Title</b>	Letters to Charlie
<b>Collection No.</b>	C200
<b>Extent</b>	.5 linear feet
<b>Date Range</b>	1887-2006 (bulk 1887-1896, 2004-2006)
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>This collection, compiled by Linda Dodd, is based on 137 original letters to Charles Monroe Root (1872-1930) of Springwater, Livingston County, New York and Rochester, New York. Letters addressed to Root are from a variety of friends and family, including girlfriends, half-sister Zella A. (Root) Farley and parents James Monroe Root and Adelaide (Hopkins) Root. Letters are personal and chatty in nature and represent a period of time when Charles Root lived in Rochester and corresponded with those in Springwater. The Emory Thayer murder at Avon, Livingston County, New York in 1885 is discussed.</p>
<b>Languages</b>	English.
<b>Access and Restrictions</b>	<p>Use of the documents in the collection is for serious research and by request and permission of the Livingston County Historian's Office. Any use of the material in publications must be cited as follows, "Courtesy of Livingston County Historian's Office, New York." Additionally, all original documents should be handled with care.</p> <p>To arrange to conduct research with the documents in the collection, contact the Livingston County Historian by mail at: 5 Murray Hill Drive, Mount Morris, NY, by phone at (585) 243-7955, or by e-mail at <a href="mailto:Historian@livingstoncountyny.gov">Historian@livingstoncountyny.gov</a>.</p>
<b>Copyright</b>	<p>Some materials may be subject to copyright. Researchers are required to seek written permission from the copyright holder to reproduce and/or publish materials under copyright.</p>

## II. Biographical and Background Information

According to Linda S. Dodd (1944-2011), who transcribed and annotated the original letters in the collection, Charles Monroe Root, grew up on a farm in Springwater, Livingston County, New York. He was a son of James Monroe Root and Adelaide (Hopkins) Root. When he was about 15 years old, he was sent to Rochester to live with his married half-sister, Zella (Root) Farley, and her husband, Scott Farley. While living in Rochester, Charles Root attended Mechanic's Institute, which later became Rochester Institute of Technology.

Charlie corresponded with family and friends while he lived in Rochester. His parents wrote often, and Charlie's friends kept up a regular correspondence, keeping him informed of the goings-on in Springwater. The letters are almost entirely social in nature, and tell very little of the daily tasks required to survive at the turn of the 20th century.

Included in the collection are references to the Emory Thayer murder in Avon in 1885 and the subsequent arrest of Samuel Wayman and others in 1890.

In 2004, Linda Dodd transcribed 137 original letters written to Charles Monroe Root during his time in Rochester. She created a simple HTML website where the transcriptions include links to information about correspondents and events. These HTML documents are saved on the Livingston County network drive along with word processor documents containing the transcriptions for duplication and security.

The original letters are folded in original envelopes and stored in archival acid-free tissue and archival box and have not been digitized.

The letters and binder of transcriptions, along with two CDs containing transcriptions, digital images, and HTML documents, were donated to the Livingston County Historian's Office by Linda Dodd in 2005. After Dodd's death, her husband donated a folder of genealogical notes and correspondence conducted by Linda Dodd during her research on the collection as well as a folder of research on the Emory Thayer murder case.

### III. Contents List

- **CD 1**– Microsoft Word documents of each letter transcription, a couple images, list of correspondents / authors of letters, and Thayer trial documents
- **CD 2** – HTML Document files of each letter transcription with links to more information about people and events, some images used on HTML website
- **Miscellaneous Papers**
  - **Folder 1** – Genealogical correspondence and research materials generated by Linda Dodd in the 2000s
  - **Folder 2** – Research notes and materials generated by Linda Dodd regarding Emory Thayer murder case, 1885-1890
- **Original Letters and Transcriptions**

*All listings and descriptions in the table are from Linda Dodd's original HTML files and pertain to both original letters as well as transcriptions.*

<b>1887 Letters, Postmark, Correspondent</b>	<b>Chronology of Events</b>
March 8, Nell Snyder	"Gypsy Queen" presentation
March 15, Nell Snyder	
<b>1888 Letters: Postmark, Correspondent</b>	<b>Chronology of Events</b>
November 15, Adelaide Root	Lawsuit, Lou Monk & Harrison Eldridge; typhoid in town
<b>1889 Letters: Postmark, Correspondent</b>	<b>Chronology of Events</b>
September 9, Jim Stuart	Wedding: Charles Kausch & Jennie Amos
September 17, Jim Stuart	Accounts of who is dating whom, and planned trips to the Fairs.
October 1, Hattie Amos	Hattie reviews "Queen Esther"
October 10, James Monroe Root	Encouragement from Dad.
October 14, Jim Stuart	
October 30, Jim Stuart	typhoid in town
November 6, Hattie Amos	Singing school done until January.
November 9, Hattie Amos	
December 5, Nell Snyder	Dan Meade assailant caught?
December 6, Hattie Amos	Hattie visits Avon.
December 11, Jim Stuart	Goings on at school.
December 17, John Tyler	John confesses that he likes Hattie.

<b>1890 Letters: Postmark, Correspondent</b>	<b>Chronology of Events</b>
January 13 , Hattie Amos	Week of prayer in Springwater churches; John Tyler's surprise.
January 16 , Adelaide Root	Typhoid and LaGrippe in town.
January 20 , Nell Snyder	Nell has LaGrippe.
January 23 , James & Adelaide Root	
January 24 , Jim Stuart	Doings in town, Wilson Brothers concert coming up.
January 28 , Nell Snyder	Wilson Brothers to give their first concert at the Rink
January 31 , Hattie Amos	Wilson Brothers give their concert at the Rink
February 3 , Nell Snyder	Nell reviews the Wilson Brothers concert.
February 4 , Jim Stuart	Jim reviews Wilson Brothers concert, and the Springwater girls.
February 12 , Nell Snyder	Details of Charles Snyder's Entertainment.
February 17 , Jim Stuart	Charles Snyder's surprise party.
February 19 , Nell Snyder	Charles Snyder's surprise party. John likes Nell. Wilsons planning move. Snyder's Entertainment in jeopardy.
February 25 , James Monroe Root	Hiram Wilson and family leave for Boston. Springwater burglars arrested, including the man who shot Dan Mead
February 26 , Nell Snyder	Confession of Thayer murderer
March 1 , Norman H. Root	Report on Hattie's party.
March 8, Nell Snyder	Nell pledges her love.
March 11 , Nell Snyder	Report on Hattie's party.
March 16 , Jim Stuart	Report on the entertainment; George Pierce and Jenny Miles wed.
March 17 , Will Wilcox	Party at Ernie's; hop soda
March 18 , Nell Snyder	Fred Wilson leaves for Boston. Nell, Maud, and Blanche Agard will commence teaching school. Bert Masten and Nora Doughty married 3/16/1890.
March 21 , John Tyler	John wants to come to Rochester.
March 24 , Kell Marvin	Thanks for the laundry.
March 25 , Jim Stuart	Bert Mastin & Nora Doughty are married (3/16/90).
March 26 , Nell Snyder	Hattie going to Lima to school. John will work at the nursery.
April 3, Nell Snyder	Nell teaching; Easter concert coming up.
April 9, Nell Snyder	Easter concert goings on.
April 12, Nell Snyder	Nell misses Charlie.
April 21, Nell Snyder	Nell teaching; general news
April 22, Nell Snyder	Nell receives a ring.
May 2, Nell Snyder	Teaching school, deflecting questions about her ring.
May 5, James Monroe Root	News from Dad.
May 8, Will Wilcox	Boys will gossip.
May 10, Nell Snyder	Frank Lamont shot Fred Leach
May 21, Nell Snyder	Hattie has the measles. Nell going to Mt. Morris to Teacher's Institute.
May 27, Nell Snyder	Nell wants to go on the train to Mt. Morris. Misses Charlie.

June 14, Nell Snyder	Lillie has the measles.
June 27, Nell Snyder	Charles picnics with Lillie.
July 21, Nell Snyder	Nell dating Edd Jones; Hattie dated Frank Wemett in Lima.
August 6, Nell Snyder	Nell and Edd Jones are through.
August 21, Nell Snyder	Edd Jones is sick with the fever.
August 26, Nell Snyder	Methodist picnic at the lake on Thursday.
September 5, Nell Snyder	Edd Jones is dead.
September 22, Nell Snyder	Nell studies in school..
October 00, Nell Snyder	Is this love affair over?
October 14, Nell Snyder	Nell passed her teacher exams, will teach next summer.
October 31, Nell Snyder	Nell misses Charlie.
November 3, Nell Snyder	Nell & Hattie's trip to Rochester unsure.
<b>1891 Letters: Postmark, Correspondent</b>	<b>Chronology of Events</b>
January 16, Hattie Amos	Hattie has been ill, so can't go for a sleigh ride with Charles.
January 31, Charles Monroe Root	Nell, please return my letters and ring. Thanks for the memories.
February 01, Nell Snyder	Will return the ring, but not his letters. Hopes he finds a new love.
February 02, Nell Snyder	Reasons for breakup.
February 12, John Tyler	From Bath, where John works as a dispatcher. Guy talk re smoke and drink.
April 1, Maud M. Brewer	Maud accepts Charlie's invitation to a concert.
June 20, Hattie Amos	It's hot, Hattie teaching school, local gossip.
October 12, William Wilcox	Addison Marvin is dead, Kell is mourning. Baseball games, and games of chance.
October 27, Maud M. Brewer	Charlie going to Denver?
November 10, Maud M. Brewer	George Farley loves Nell Snyder, votes to please her.
November 28, Maud M. Brewer	How did you spend Thanksgiving? Smith Family Concert in town.
December 17, Maud M. Brewer	Attended concert given by Mandolin Club of Dansville.
<b>1892 Letters: Postmark, Correspondent</b>	<b>Chronology of Events</b>
January 5, Maud M. Brewer	
January 26, Maud M. Brewer	Stella Marvin and Mr. Colton from Buffalo will marry.
February 18, Maud M. Brewer	
March 12, Maud M. Brewer	Adelina Patti has performed in Rochester.

March 29, Maud M. Brewer	LaGrippe in Springwater. Nell and Mr. Hunt from Mt. Morris in overturned cutter accident. Mr. Hunter's last sermon.
April 20, Maud M. Brewer	German Measles in town; Harry Niles organizes band; Ortha Willis dies.
May 3, Maud M. Brewer	
May 17, Maud M. Brewer	Mina Grover is married. New minister is in town (Mr. Hallock). Retired clergyman William Hunter and wife celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.
May 31, Maud M. Brewer	Liz Brewer's birthday.
June 11, Maud M. Brewer	Scott and Zella are at the convention.
June 18, Maud M. Brewer	Rob Withington commits suicide. Harrison nominated. Maud invited to Niagara Falls.
June 30, Maud M. Brewer	Maud visits Niagara Falls.
July 8, Maud M. Brewer	
July 19, Maud M. Brewer	Maud's Uncle Henry has died.
July 26, Maud M. Brewer	
August 10, Maud M. Brewer	Maud is back from Niagara Falls.
August 14, Charles M. Root	Does Charles propose???
August 22, Maud M. Brewer	Is Hattie living at Hemlock?
August 31, Nell Snyder	Will you return my letter?
September 10, Hattie Amos	From Canadice; has commenced Charles's wedding present.
September 12, Maud M. Brewer	THE HUSBAND'S COMMANDMENTS
September 16, Maud M. Brewer	Reid Brewer is born.
September 23, Maud M. Brewer	Norma is in Rochester with Charlie.
October 1, Maud M. Brewer	David Curtice was crazy.... Jim works at evaporator.
October 27, Maud M. Brewer	James Buckner and Minnie Beers are wed.
November 8, Maud M. Brewer	John Morris married.
November 21, Maud M. Brewer	Mark Willis & Adella Dunn married. Lill Gordon married.
December 6, Maud M. Brewer	Nell Redmond and George Mack are married. David Curtice is dead.
December 22, Maud M. Brewer	Who is coming home for Christmas?
December 30, Maud M. Brewer	Going to Canadice tonight. Will Charlie be there?
<b>1893 Letters: Postmark, Correspondent</b>	<b>Chronology of Events</b>
January 10, Maud M. Brewer	Band concert coming soon. Charles encloses his picture. Paderewski???
January 20, Maud M. Brewer	News from Springwater.

February 4, Maud M. Brewer	Upcoming play Esmeralda
March 14, Maud M. Brewer	Charlie has had the mumps. Play went well.
April 10, Maud M. Brewer	Maud teaching; play was a success.
May 19, Maud M. Brewer	Maud no longer teaching; new hotel in the works.
June 1, Maud M. Brewer	Charlie Amos and Carrie Wheaton are wed. Is Will Wilcox also married?
July 5, Maud M. Brewer	"Ten Nights in a Bar room"; World's Fair
July 24, Maud M. Brewer	Fun at the lake.
August 15, Maud M. Brewer	Fun at the lake
<b>1894 -1921</b> <b>Letters: Postmark,</b> <b>Correspondent</b>	<b>Chronology of Events</b>
Dec. 13, 1894: Nell Snyder	Frank Wemett and Hattie Amos are wed.
January 1, 1895: Nell Snyder	Nell wishes to renew their friendship.
January 28, 1895: Nell Snyder	Going to Batavia to visit her brother, Harry.
January 27, 1896: Maud M. Ball	Social life in Pittsburgh - lots of theatre.
February 13, 1896: Maud M. Ball	Social Life in Pittsburgh - more theatre.
Dec. 26, 1910: W. Wesley Boies Furniture And Undertaking	For services rendered, funeral of James Monroe Root
June 6, 1912: Scott A. Farley	Re monuments for Zara, Adelaide, and James Monroe Root.
May 21, 1913: Eveline Brockway	Ruth will make her a dress.
Oct. 8, 1913: Jet Brockway Mack	Norman Hopkins Root has died.
June 10, 1914: Eveline Brockway	Zella is ill.
Oct. 12, 1914: Ruth Brockway Putnam	News of Ruth and Jet's families.
April 1, 1915: Beulah Mack	Requests Nellie get yard goods for a dress.
April 6, 1917: Zella and Scott Farley	Nell Root is not well.
May 11, 1917: Zella Root Farley	Sympathy for Nellie's illness;
June 8, 1917: Zella Root Farley	Wartime; wish for a farm to plant crops.
Jan. 15, 1921: Scott Farley	Thanks for gifts; regards to new family.

#### **IV. Related Materials**

**Livingston County Historian's Office**  
Mount Morris, New York

Family Files and other reference information that may relate to the Roots and other persons mentioned in the letters.