

LOVE LETTERS TO AMANDA

E. Spencer Merrill 8/10/1832--He asks her to begin corresponding.
Mentions their childhood friendship and that he
is now free of military service but remaining in
Savannah, Georgia.

A.E. Phillips 5/10/1845--addressed to Miss Mary A. Levalley:

Providence May 10 45

My dear Amanda

The shades of night have once
more cast their mantle ~~form~~ around us which brings an
hour for calm and sweet meditations. The golden sun
has sunk behind the western hills and the silvery moon
is rolling forth upon its majestic orb casting its genial
and hallowed ray around and upon the spacious earth.
The planet, the twinkling stars and the tinged clouds
alike surround it giving fresh beauty to its magnificent
and unrivaled splendor. The whole firmaments seemed
decked with bright and glowing beauty the grandeur of
which forcibly reminds me of that glorious afternoon
in which it was my good fortune to enjoy your agreeable
society in a pleasant ... when all nature was hushed
in universal stillness even the roar of the carriage wheels
was but faintly heard. It is now in this hour of solitude
that my mind delight's to wander back upon that day and
forcibly call to memory many pleasing incidents especially
those in which you are so agreeably and intimately associated.
There are many pleasing incidences connected with our
brief acquaintance which renders it doubly impressive
and the recollections of which time and circumstances
never can eradicate them from my memory.

But Amanda you may be surprised at receiving this from
one with whom you have so short an acquaintance! But
there are seasons in life when affection seems to break
away from its ordinary restraints and like a river swollen
by a freshed overflows. but I do myself great injustice
by suppressing my feelings. Although our acquaintance
is brief, my heart is warm and sincerely beats for you.

What a strange peice of mechanism is the human heart.
What a revulsion of feeling has been excited in mine by
the anticipation of possessing the bright creature of
my imagination. Yes to toil for, to gaze on, and to
administer to every want. I have now arrived at an age
when the foolish baubles of the world please me not when
more substantial things engross my thoughts such as business
and one on whome I can pace a pure and holy affection,
to devote myself to the wishes and happiness of her who
would fill my constant thoughts. But why indulge in
this revire your heart may beet for another but if
not give me but word and say their is a hope for me.
you will never find

One whose soul will be more....
It store of happiness to borrow,
In all thy woes to bear a par...
In all thy pleasures to attend t...
And feel that never from his...
Can aught that happens rend...

(A mouse ate
this corner.)

you and I must soon go there four let us be all so ready
for in such an hour as we think not the sun of man cometh
I feel verry lonsome George W has zone back to York State
derect your Letters to Valatia N Y it sames hard to part
with a blooming youth but the Lords will be done and not mine
the rest ov us is well as Common Harret L is over to Abraham
L Marcys been there ever. sence Clara has been sick it is
verry Stormmy to day the Snow fell last tuesday 3 feet deep
Clarra and abbey sends love to you and all Remmber Clarras
diing Love I Send my Love and best Respects to you and
all the rest Give me Love to mother and Johns family
George LeValley

All of these letters are in the possession of Rev. Peter LeValley
Spencer. Paul LeValley has copies.

LETTERS FROM THE FAMILY OF MAJ. GEORGE LEVALLEY AT STURBRIDGE, MASS.
TO AMANDA LEVALLEY PHILLIPS AT WARWICK, R.I.

FIRST PACKET

Washington Sour

Sturbridge Dec. 11th 1845

Dear Aunt Mary and Amnda I received Your Letter to day and was Glad to find you in health I am verry Sorry Aunt has Got hurt Your Letter found us imjouing Good health I Send 4 Schollars to Scool I have as much as I can due to take care of My Cattle It is verry Cold to day I Carry the Children to School Every Morning I have Got a two Year old Colt and the way he Goes is a Cauching to any one If you are Sick any of you down there Come up here and be Cured Elder Potter is up here and he is Giting well verry fast I want Aunt Mary to Come up and Make 2 or three hundred weight of Cheas and I Should be Glad we Cant Ceep any turkeys the fookes is So thick we have Got a Clervoience up here and Tatem puts heer to Sleep and Shee Can Lock right in to any Boddy. I Gees you would Laugh Some times to noon what is Gowing on up here You an doct Phillis Must Come up here for itis but one days Ride Give Milove to Mother and John and all the Rest of Mr incureng friends tell John to Come up and See my Colt tak a Shere of my Love your Selph and your Mouter I want you to Rite Soon as you git this Letter tell W H to be a verry Good Boy I want you to Rite all a Bought John and all the folke down there Wese Got Polk and dallas Texas and oregon we will have You must Excuse m'Riting and so I Bid you Eveing

Yours &c George Levalley

Sturbridg Thursday evening Dec. 11th 45

Dear cousin Amnda we received your kind Letter today and was happy to receive a line from you was very sorry to here that your Mother had hurt herself and that you had the toothache It is a general time of colds up here my health is a gooddeal better then it has been Harriet is as fat as a pig Clara & abbey goes to school and M F to and it leaves me alone I want to see you very much and your husband you have allways said that you had no one to come up here with and now I see no excuse you and Mr Phillis must come while there is sleying dont fail I want to come down very much I want to see all the folke down there very much tho sometimes I think they have all foxrotten us up here where is Betsey we have not received a line from her since we lived up here tell her I should be glad to have a line from her if she dont come up tell W Henry that I am verry glad to here that he has got work and is well tell him to do the best he can and we will write to him soon to pay for that letter he promised. you dont know how lonesome it is up here no meetings short of forty five miles there you can go every Sunday. there has been a very great chang since I was down there Mrs Gorton has moved over and evry thing is changed I tell...folke that I shall come down in the spring I want to come so bad you cannot tell give my love to Aunt and take a double share yourself give love to Mother & John

& Lucia and little sis also all enquiring friends I must
draw to a close please to accept this of your friend and
Cousin Eliza O Levalley
write soon and all the particular

Sturbridge Mass Dec 12 1845

Dear Cousin Amanda,
I have taken the privilege to write
with out bidding, we received your kind letter do day (Dec 11)
I wish you could have just peaced in when Father read the
letter. Mother cried. father come very near crying. it is
the first letter he ever received from any of his folks
he read the letter more than once before he would let any
one else read it. You tried to joke me about coming down
there but there is no attraction of that kind I will assure
you. I am coming down when I am 18 yrs old that is what
I tell our folks, I want to come down very much. you must
come up here with Mr Phillips, I should like to see my new
Cousin do come up with him I will agree to show you all
there is up here. We will ride all the time, I was very
glad to hear from Wm Henry we had not heard from him since
he left, I go to school we have a very good school but
not a great many scholars the school does not seem like
Mr Curry's school. Clara & Abby have grown very much since
you saw them. Harriet Josephine goes alone give my love
to your Mother. I am very sorry she has hurt herself give
love to Grandmother Uncle John but Lucia little Coz all the
rest of the inquiring friend take double share yourself
I want you to write to me in particular write all the news
you can find tell Wm H I am going to write to him next week
he must be a good boy I shall look for a reply soon adieu
PS excuse all mistakes Please to except of this scrap
from your...Mary Eliza

SECOND PACKET

Dear Mr Mary and Amanda I take my pen to rite a few
lines to you to let you see that I am in the land of the living
my helth is no better than it was when I was down there
I work a little. I hope these lines will find you injoying
good helth. I have got a Cow that gives 3 balefull fulls
of milk a day Make 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs of Butter in 4 days one of W
Yabours has got one that will due the Same. and we will
get them for \$75.00 apiece. they are knowning Cows. they have
takein the breeding to Worcester and Sturbridge and now we offer
them for 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ the cost...come to them Millers. I have got 3
turkeys and got 2 more to get. I rejoice with you with your
diminutive State Massachusetts Dismetric... Rite how they
sit long up there what John is about and what they are all
about ...Father is dead. George W was home 2 weekes a Go
stayed 3 Nites was well as Garmon. John Pater is sick
the folks see he is runng down. he looks like a Corpse. Give
mi Love to Father and Johns folks and all my inquiring friends
and take a double share your selvs
April * 27 * 1851
George Levalley

Ever since I saw you my heart ...to one who must become
the arbitress of ...happiness or eternal misery.

I am dear Amanda affectionately
Yours A.E. Phillips

N.B. Please give kindest
regards to your Mother and let
me hear from you. Should the weather
prove unfavourable Thursday you may
expect me the first pleasant day.

I remain Yours,
P.

Dr. P. 6/25/1845--He misses her.

Dr. Saturday Morning (after marriage, before split)--He is
clearing himself from debt and borrowing \$1000 before
he accepts her money.

Dr. P. 7/22/1845--He longs for her and promises to come
in a few days.

Dr. 8/5/1845--(addressed to Mrs. Dr. A.E. Phillips):

Providence Aug 5, 45

Mrs. Amanda

I received your communication this morning,
but was exceedingly surprised at the conclusion at which
you and your mother arrived at. I have always considered
you as my friend and while I entertained this felly idea
my friendship for you was unbounded. When I looked upon
you as a woman formed to make my life happy my admiration
equalled my friendship. And when fate permitted me to
behold you in the tender light of betrothed wife my soaring
love left the humble passion at a distance. You must
be aware that my constant aim has been to promote the
happiness of you and your mother and to establish myself
so as when old age crept upon the person of your only
relative on earth, when those limbs which has always
moved for you should be paralyzed by infirmities and even
when she has finished her course here and is consigned
to the bosom of her Mother Earth then for you to have
one on whom you could look for friendship and comfort.

But alas for our feeble calculations you have by this this
act severed the silken tie which I have ferevntly prayed
that naught but death could sever. And for a few paltry
dollars broke harmony which I hoped would always remain.
It is not the moeny but the principle which I am contending
for.

You have still my wishes for your solitary life and
even love. I will not attempt to deceive either myself
or you in disavowing but still with a firm assurance I
declare that prudence outweighs all respect and love, that
a wife one whom has sworn to love, respect and obey should
be so insensible to that which concerns the happiness
of her husband and herself, and now as I am confident
you have the means of assisting me & will not I declare
from this date I have not the slightest desire to be
regarded by you in any respect than one who wishes you
will let not affected resentment, contempt or levity oppose
that serenity which I wish to enjoy. I will not for a

So dont trouble me with any more of those letters
as they will not be answered. And dont expose your ignorance
by saying again your were deceived

I am Madam

All the letters I have written A.E. Phillips
I have manuscript copy's and were written
in company of a gentleman So come in/

Stephen and Alice Phillips /18/1845--Their son the Dr.
never had another wife, regardless of what gossips say.

Henry R. Congdon (grandson of Margaret LeValley Remmington)
10/4/1845--He mentions her mother "Aunt Mary".
He begs her not to repeat things he said regarding
Mr. Phillips who is already angrily trying to avoid
scandal. He offers to help her in her embarrassing
difficulty.

A.E. Phillips 9/14/1845:

New Bedford Set. 14.45

Mrs. Amanda

Notwithstanding what has past my feelings
are as keen for you as ever.

Since I left you I have met with friends. Yes! with friends
those who know me best and notwithstanding all prejugices
they have furnished my friend Taft and myself with goods
to the amount four thousands dollars with which we are
doing business at New Bedford and are not dependant on
you or anyone for assistane.

But if you want to come to New Bedford and live with
me and will do that which every wife should do for her
husband (you can come) I should be very glad to have you.
I have made some calculation in haveing assistance...
and know you will not disappoint me
I want you to let me know when you will come so I can
make preperations to board you. Taft sends his respects
to you and your Mother

Respectfully Yours
A.E. Phillips

Dr. P. 11/22/1848 (three years later):

My dear Amanda

Having leisure I devote it in writing
you although I fear I tire your patients by so often perusing
my epistles but if you receive one half the pleasure
in perusing as I do in writing you would never be tired.
I presume you feel lonely at home even as I do while here
And the only consolations I find is in writing you where
I can pour out my Soul by this little instrument the pen
It is unplesant even when surrounded by the many luxuris
of a city to think we are separated from one who occupies
our constant thoughts and to feel there is one in this
cold world whose truest happiness consists in making that
of anothers and to know we are separated even for a short
time. I know Amanda your heart is warm and the red drops
which encircle it flows for me. I well know your feelings
and wishes, disposition--&c. all are ingenious, frank,
good, confiding and every quatily which constitutes

moment suppress my feelings but frankly admit that I love thee still but pride and a wounded feeling blasted hope's has instigated me to the dicission. for your sake have I not severed a tye of friendship which was keen for me to do have I not done every thing which I was competant of performing, but enough of this you understand it unless you conclude to assist me as I proposed you accompany your money if you wish I am determind to never see you again however keen the anguish may be to me Your ingratitude is the Cause

And now I entreat you for your own sake and for mine when we shall be far assunder that upon every important occassion you will call your serious judgement to direct you. So now we part forever. Heaven bless you may you meet with one who will be more kind and affectionate than I have been And one who is willing to live under the yoke of ingratitude.

I shall leave Providence for parts unknown in two or three days soon as I pack my goods. if you have any reply to offer I will receive it

but be reminded you are the Cause of this And it is not to late to yet be happy.

Unhappily

Dr.

A.E. Phillips Aug. 1845--(addressed to Miss Amandy M. Levalley):

Providence Aug /45

Amanda

I received you letter this morning And as this is the last you will probably hare frome me I will say you have no cause to reproach me for your conduct is the the cause that I have been dissatisfied owing to your close intimacy with Taft as I have seen you several times under suspicious circumstances but I thought I would overlook that and when I found you had no desire to promote my happiness my feelings of love were turned to contenssion.

You say you shall come & see my father I wish you would I have acquainted him with all the circumstance & he would laugh to see you. You will find poor consolation with him I can assure you.

You may expose your foolishness as much as you please without getting any satisfaction You have refused to assist me together with other things and have deceived me wonderfully You said prior to our marriage that you had money & would assist me and wanted me to go into business and that you were willing to go any where with me. You have deceived me. And my friends know this and wish they could see you they would give you a piece of their minds. So come in with your letters-- You come in to my father ha! ha! ha! I wish you would-- I hope you will before I go away.

Did not your mother Say she would assist me to \$1000. did she do it no. then she feels very unhappy because I won't stay out there and be made a fool of by you Amanda I should always used you well and it would have been pleasure for me to have toiled for you if you had acted the part of a lady

April 27th '51

Dear Cousin Amanda

It is with feelings of extreme pleasure that I now sit down to address you, it is Sunday and a beautiful day it is, the birds are singing as though they were happy, I should like to go to meeting today I suppose you will go to Mrs Spencer's funeral, we heard that she was dead last night, there has been a good many deaths in this town this Spring, one little girl drowned last week, Mary has come to live in the middle of the town, I have not been to see her yet but I am a going May-day, have you been a mowing yet I went one day last week and got a great many flowers I suppose they are most gone down there, how I wish I was there to go, but I do not think that I shall come until next fall, I expect it will be so changed around there that I shall not know where I am, I shall want you to go down into the Village with me and show me, they have got an arcade built, since I have been down, it has been most five years I have most forgotten how it looks, give my love to Aunt Mary and tell her I want to see her very much and give my love to Grandmother's folks & Aunt Nannie's, keeping a good share yourself Ma send her love to you and all inquiring friends I cant write much more as Abby & Pa wants to write I gress it will bother you to read some of this but you must excuse all mistakes and bad composition for I never composed much you must answer this short epistle as soon as you get it and perhaps the next will be wrote better, I must leave you by bidding you good by

From Your Affectionate Cousin

Clara F LeValley

April 27th '51

Dear Cousin

I now set down to inform you how I get a long I am enjoying a good share of health and I hope these few lines will find you the same I should like to see you very give my love to aunt Mary and grandmothes folks I have been out and got some May-flowers they smell very sweet Mary E has gone to keeping house and Clara and I talk of going to see her May Day give my love to all enquiring friends takeing a double share your self good by

From your affectionate cousin Abby

PS you must excuse Abby's letter as she is young and somewhat careless in her writing, C.

THIRD PACKET

Starbridge April the 1st 1852

Dear Aunt Mary & Amanda I got down to answer your letter I was glad to here from you Clara F is verry sick we havent any hope of here getting any better she falls verry fast she has not set up any for 4 or 5 weeks she is verry poor she does not eat much of any thing the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away and blessed be the name of the Lord Dear old Mary you have got to be a verry old lady

woman. but envy, malice, jealousy, misrepresentation and Calumny has been used by my enemies and your pretended friends to set your heart against me. and can I establish that confidence in you which you should have in me it would be the happiest day of my existence. my situation will soon be different business and strict attention will soon enable me to be in a position whereby I can contribute to your slightest wish only give me an opportunity to use my faculties to bring into rise and practice those ideas which have cost me much time and expense. then I shall be in a situation to travel with you or in fact contribute to every wish I look forward to that time as my halcyon days when we or myself will not be assailed by sneers and calumnies of an idle people. You sometimes complain of my being idle or as you say why don't you go into a store or work in some office. Amanda would you have your husband demean himself or like a common labourer work under pay when he has a profession which will bring tenfold the profit and elevate his social position class him with the learned of the day. and I am very sure it would be more congenial to your feelings to be and to see me in such a position for your station in society will of course be governed by mine. Therefore I am governed by you for my future pastime and happiness and success it is in your power to make us both happy or me eternally miserable. Therefore consider well as I hope I am to be able to leave Boston soon to be with you.

I hope you enjoy good health for without that the pleasures of life are diminished. Also I hope Mother enjoys this great comfort and blessing of life affectionately remember me to her please read this letter to her and all such as would give her pleasure And believe me Yours &c

Boston Nov 22. 48 8 o'clock AM. Dr. P.

P.S. It would afford me unbounded pleasure to hear from you at No 20. Washington St Salem Mass as I expect to go every day. also to the care of Dr Robinson

Prof. Benna Sweet 10/28/1861--He mentions his former marriage and his seeing Amanda to all of the dances. He wishes to attend another circus on her pasture. (Written on Civil War stationery)

Prof. Benna Sweet 1/27/1862 (Written on Civil War stationery)-- He mentions that he sees John LeValley nearly every day, and that John has grown whiskers.

All of these letters are in the possession of Rev. Peter LeValley Spencer.