

## **Wilkes –Smedberg Papers (1849 - 1913)**

The Wilkes – Smedberg Papers is a collection of letters sent to and from John “Jack” Wilkes (1827 – 1908) and his wife, Jane “Jeanie” Renwick Smedberg Wilkes (1827 – 1913). Through family connections they were related to some of New York City’s most prominent families, including the Jeffrey, Wilkes, Auchincloss, Brevoort, Irving and many others. Their mothers were sisters. The couple grew up together and developed a close relationship when Jack joined the Navy and exchanged letters with his cousin Jane. By 1853, the couple became engaged and they married in April of 1854. By this time, Jack Wilkes became discouraged with the thought of a naval career and the possibility of leaving his new bride a widow. Prior to their wedding in 1854, Jack arranged through his father Captain Charles Wilkes to supervise the stamp mill owned by the latter in St. Catherine’s Mine which was just outside the city of Charlotte, North Carolina.

The couple arrived in Charlotte in May of 1854 and made their home, first in St. Catherine’s and later in Charlotte. Jack Wilkes worked hard to make a success of the Capps Mine but later switched his attention to the Mecklenburg Flour Mill and barrel making operation. The latter was quite successful. Wilkes also purchased the Mecklenburg Iron Works. The couple raised their family and were very involved in St. Peter’s Episcopal Church where Jack Wilkes served as the vestryman throughout his life.

When the Civil War broke out, the flour operations ceased and Jack sold or leased the iron works to the Confederate Navy which they used as the Confederate Naval Yard. Jack Wilkes joined his brother Edmund “Em” Wilkes in constructing a railroad from Danville to Greensboro for the Confederacy. He also served in the local militia and was made Captain. In her spare time, Jeanie Wilkes volunteered at a local hospital, but most of her time was taken up with their five children, two of which were born during the war. Her oldest daughter, Jane Jeffrey Wilkes, suffered from seizures.

The letters between Jack and Jane Wilkes comprise the first and second series. They depict a marriage of equal partnership and devotion. However, the majority of the collection contains letters from the Smedberg family to Jeanie as well as a number of letters from Jack’s two sisters Eliza and Janey Wilkes who resided with their father, Captain Charles Wilkes in Washington, DC, Lincolnton, North Carolina and other places. Other letters are from Jeanie Wilkes myriad of relatives and friends from New York.

After the war, Jack Wilkes became active in obtaining a charter of the First National Bank of Charlotte, opened a woolen mill and reclaimed the iron works. His endeavors in the woolen mill failed and the money loaned to him by the Coates Brothers of Salisbury eventually led to a lawsuit. However, the Mecklenburg Iron Works remained the constant source of income for the family. Attempts to obtain control of Jeanie Wilkes’ dowry from her brothers for the business in North Carolina are mentioned as well as the lawsuit. Jeanie eventually travels to New York to make arrangements to borrow against the dowry in order for the Jack to invest in the iron works. Despite their financial hardships and the deaths of several of their children, the Wilkes became

active participants in the Charlotte community and contributed to social and cultural improvements.

In the 1870s, Jeanie Wilkes devoted her time to raising money for two hospitals, one for whites which became St. Peter's Hospital and one for blacks, Good Samaritan. She serves on committees and writes Bishops, family members and doctors for their assistance in these two projects. Some of the correspondence is to her from these various people.

Other items in the collection include photographs, postcards, schoolwork, copies of wills, an autobiography of Jeanie Wilkes and a biography that she wrote about her husband, Jack. There are some brochures of the hospital.

Due to the handwriting of various family members, it became necessary to transcribe the letters in order to create a finding aid. At this time only Jack's letters to Jeanie and hers to Jack are complete. The transcriptions to these letters will be available soon. Other series will be added as they are completed. The use of nicknames is prevalent throughout the letters and a guide is available to assist researchers in determining the identity of people mentioned in the letters.

Series 1: Jack Wilkes to Jeanie Wilkes – “5” inches  
Series 1A: Jack Wilkes to Jeanie Renwick Smedberg  
Series 2: Jeanie Wilkes to Jack Wilkes – “2” inches  
Series 2A: Jeanie Renwick Smedberg to Jack Wilkes

**Chronological Highlights of the Lives of  
John “Jack Wilkes” and Jane “Jeanie” Renwick Smedberg Wilkes**

December 2, 1815      Charles Gustavus Smedberg marries Isabella Renwick in New York City

September 30, 1816      Oldest brother John George Smedberg is born.

December 13, 1817      William Renwick Smedberg is born.

March 2, 1818      William Renwick Smedberg dies at Devasego, New York.

June 16, 1819      Agnes Smedberg, Jane Wilkes only sister, is born.

September 1, 1821      Charles Gustavus Smedberg is born.

September 24, 1821      Baby Charles Gustavus dies at Devasego, New York.

1823

Charles Smedberg sells business in New York and takes ownership of a tannery, saw and grist mills in Devasego, (Greene County) New York. Construction starts on a home the Smedberg family calls Devasego.

January 12, 1825      Axel Adolphus Smedberg is born.

1828-1835

Smedberg family makes regular trips to Devasego, but maintain home at 217 Duane in Manhattan.

April 26, 1826      Lieutenant Charles Wilkes marries Jane Jeffrey Renwick (Isabella’s sister)

March 31, 1827      John “Jack” Wilkes is born on Warren Street in New York City.

November 22, 1827

Jane (Jeanie to family and friends) is born in the Smedberg Family home at #56 Chambers Street near Broadway in New York City. She is the seventh of thirteen children born to the Charles and Isabella Smedberg.

January 3, 1829      Sister Jane, Janey, Wilkes is born in New York City.

Spring 1829      Lieutenant Wilkes has tour of duty of the Mediterranean.

1831      Jeanie Smedberg & Jack Wilkes attend Miss Rittenhouse School.

May 22, 1831      A brother, Charles Gustavus Smedberg is born.

1831      Lieutenant Charles Wilkes returns home and contracts smallpox.



May 1845

At age sixteen, Jeanie makes her first, long visit from home without her mother. Uncle Charles Wilkes ( a naval officer), takes her to his home in Washington, DC for one month. She and her cousin Janey Wilkes attend parties at home and a wedding at the Navy Yard. The two meet celebrities of the time, including Daniel Webster, John C. Calhoun, Senators Henry Clay and Thomas Hart Benton, President and Mrs. James K. Polk, and Dolly Madison.

August 29, 1845

Charles A. Smedberg, Jeanie's father, dies of a heart attack at Devasego. At some point, the family moves to Beach Street.

March 9-29, 1846

Jack Wilkes serves aboard the USS Mississippi with the Gulf Squadron. The ship provides support for General Zachary Taylor's attack on Vera Cruz during the Mexican-American War. Retains correspondence with Jeanie Wilkes.

1846

John Wilkes receives appointment to attend to the newly formed Naval Academy in Annapolis for a year's study and examination.

January – Feb. 1847

Jeanie returns to Washington, DC and visits with Dolly Madison, who remembers her, "You are Miss Smedberg, dear Mrs. Renwick's granddaughter." She attends parties and receptions with her cousin Janey Wilkes who is "fully out." \*

1847 Lieutenant Jack Wilkes graduates first in a class of 135. It is the first class of the US Naval Academy.

1847 Lieutenant Jack Wilkes serves on the USS Albany in the Gulf of Mexico.

August 31, 1847

William Renwick, brother of Jane Jeffrey Renwick Wilkes and Isabella Smedberg, dies at Devasego, New York. His estate includes property near Charlotte, North Carolina.

April 1848

Captain Charles Wilkes and his son Edmund travel south to settle estate of William Renwick on behalf of the Renwick family. His wife Jane, daughters, Janey and Eliza leave for the summer in Newport, Rhode Island.

Summer 1848

Captain Charles Wilkes works through the Mecklenburg court system to retain ownership of the Renwick family's mining interest. Local business man Ed Bissell of the mining interest of the late William Renwick.

August 11, 1848

Jane Jeffrey Renwick Wilkes, mother of Jack Wilkes, dies of blood poisoning in Newport, Rhode Island.

1848

Jeanie travels to see her aunt and uncle, Agnes Renwick Henry and The Reverend Joseph V. Henry in Ithaca, New York. She also visits her Aunt Ross and other Jeffrey relatives. She meets a cousin Alex Jeffrey, a widower with three children, whom she “falls in love “with and becomes engaged. Upon her return home, her mother persuades her to break the engagement, which she willingly does.

October 1849

Jack Wilkes rejoins family in Washington, DC. He and his father go to Newport and transfer remains of Jane Renwick Wilkes to another grave with white marble marker, surrounded with an iron fence and decorated with flowers.

December 1849

Jack Wilkes spends Christmas with the Smedberg family, on his way to join the USS Marion. He is at sea for almost three years. Wilkes travels to such ports as Hong Kong, Canton, Manila and other Asian ports. Jack and Jeanie resume their correspondence.

Summer 1849

Jack Wilkes travels to St. Catherine’s Mill, near Charlotte North Carolina, with his father as well as his brother and sisters. He does not stay long and returns to Washington, DC.

Winter 1849 or 1850

At Charles Wilkes’ request, Jack receives an assignment to assist him with calculations and formations based upon research gathered during the Expedition.

October 6, 1850

Jane Jeffrey Renwick, Jack and Jeanie’s maternal grandmother dies.

1849 – 1851

Jeanie spends every summer with the Wilkes family in Washington, DC. During this time she meets Stephen A. Douglas; Harriet Lane Johnson, niece of President James Buchanan; Sophie Alexander, Mrs. Andrew Jackson, and General Jack Gibbon.

1852

Commodore Perry requests Lieutenant John (Jack) Wilkes serve as one of his officers for the Japanese expedition. Wilkes declines the offer.

June 1852

Jack Wilkes returns to the United States. He is assigned shore duty but he requests, and receives a year’s leave.

Winter 1853

Jeanie accepts marriage proposal of her cousin John (Jack) Wilkes. Commodore Wilkes’ opposes the marriage. He fears his son will leave the Navy.

December 1853

Jack Wilkes comes to Charlotte, North Carolina to oversee mining and milling property in St. Catherine’s just outside of Charlotte, North Carolina.

April 20, 1854

Jeanie Smedberg marries Jack Wilkes at the Smedberg home at 22 Beach Street New York. Dr. James W. Alexander, of the 5th Avenue Presbyterian Church, officiates the service. The attendants are Edmund Wilkes, Laura Renwick, James R. Smedberg and Janey Wilkes. Sixty guests are in attendance. It snows and Jack Wilkes must take a sleigh into the city from Bergen Hill, New Jersey. The couple stays with Jeanie's mother until April 26, 1854 so they can attend the wedding of her cousin Laura Renwick and John Monroe. (Laura Brevoort Renwick is the daughter of James and Margaret Ann Brevoort Renwick.)

April 27, 1854

Jeanie and Jack Wilkes depart for their home at St. Catherine's Mill, near Charlotte, North Carolina.

May 10, 1854

The couple arrives in Charlotte. Dr. Robert Gibbon, William Davidson, and others meet the couple at the train depot. The gentlemen try to persuade the couple to stay at a hotel for the night, but the couple is determined to set for home. The couple pile into a waiting buggy with luggage and a caged, pet bird in tow and make the two-mile journey home. Their cook, Amanda Henderson is there to receive the newlyweds. "The foliage was just in leaf...and I think there was never such a lovely drive." \*

August 8, 1854

Edmund Wilkes, Jack's brother, marries Bessie Van Buren in Jamesville, Ohio.

August 1854

Jeanie summers at Devasego to avoid the malaria threat in Charlotte.

October 1, 1854

Jack Wilkes travels to New York to escort Jeanie home.

October 3, 1854

Jack Wilkes officially resigns his naval commission.

October 3, 1854

Captain Charles Wilkes, Jack's father, marries Mary H. Lynch Bolton.

February 9, 1855

Charles Wilkes is born. He is the first child of Jack and Jeanie Wilkes

1855

Jack Wilkes becomes a vestryman at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. He retains this post until his death.

September 14, 1855

Charles Wilkes promoted to Captain.

1855

Jack Wilkes becomes a vestryman at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. He remains a vestryman until his death.

April 25, 1855

Jane Adams Smedberg, wife of Jeanie's brother John Smedberg dies.

1856

Jeanie is confirmed as an Episcopalian by Bishop Thomas Atkinson at the Dewey House on Trade Street.

September 1856

Jack Wilkes travels to New York. The couple stay in New York during the last two weeks of September.

October 1, 1856

Jeanie and Jack Wilkes along with a nurse from Devasego, Maria Laraway, embark on the Old Dominion steamer, *Roanoke* for Norfolk at 3:00 in the afternoon. Six hours later, Isabel Wilkes, their second child is born. Once on shore, a Dr. Wilson, who was also traveling aboard the *Roanoke*, along with Nurse Laraway attend to Jeanie, who is carried from the steamer to a nearby hotel. Jack Wilkes returns to Charlotte with Charlie.

October 28, 1856

Jeanie and her children Charlie and Isabel Wilkes return to Charlotte, North Carolina.

November 1, 1856        James Renwick Smedberg marries Elizabeth Byrne Rogers.

June 1, 1857

Isabel becomes sick while teething.

September 1, 1857

Isabel Wilkes dies and Jeanie returns to Devasego to regain her strength.

1858

Jack Wilkes becomes Senior Warden at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. He remains so until his death.

March/April 1858

Jack Wilkes and William R. Myers buy the Mecklenburg Flour Mill. (Leroy Springs built the mill along the railroad between East Trade and East Fifth Streets.) For the next few years Jack Wilkes devotes his time to this business. The flourmill proves to be lucrative and brings good prices in Charleston and New York.

May 4, 1858

Jane Jeffrey "little Jeanie" Wilkes is born at St. Catherine's Mill. She is the third child of Jeanie and Jack Wilkes.

August 1858

Jack and Jeanie Wilkes move to 204 Brevard Street.

September 28, 1858

Jack Wilkes establishes a barrel factory to ship his flour to the northern markets.

Nov. 26, 1858

John George Smedberg remarries. His wife is Harriet Romeyer Auchincloss

1859

The Wilkes move to another house on East Avenue. Jack Wilkes purchases a foundry, later known as the Mecklenburg Iron Works.

April 1860

The Wilkes house members of the North Carolina Episcopal Convention along with Mary Kearny as well as Janey and Eliza Wilkes. Jeanie Wilkes meets members of the North Carolina Episcopal clergy and retains close ties with them.

June 12, 1860

Oscar Smedberg marries Alice Tillou.

September 13, 1860

Rosalie Wilkes is born in Charlotte, North Carolina. She is the fourth child born to Jeanie and Jack Wilkes.



late 1860

At an informal party at the Lowne House, word comes that South Carolina seceded from the Union at a meeting of the Confederate Congress in Mississippi on December 26, 1860. The men become solemn until Dr. Bob Gibbon and Billy Owens raise the spirits of the party. Quoting Dr. Gibbons, "Oh, somebody had to play the fool, you know."

January 1861                      The Wilkes family moves to the 600 block of East Avenue.

April 1861

Civil War begins. Admiral Charles Wilkes and two of Jeanie's brothers Charles and James Smedberg fight for the Union. Jack Wilkes supplies flour and meal to the Confederate Army and leads the Home Guard. Jack Wilkes receives a commission in the Confederate Army. He and his brother Edmund form a company and contract to build a railroad line from Greensboro to Danville.

1861-1865

Jeanie volunteers with the Aid Societies and the Hospital Association. She knits, sews and at times cares for the sick while tending to her ever growing family, particularly Jeanie who suffers from epilepsy. Jack travels frequently to buy corn, and wheat as well as organizing the construction of the Piedmont Railroad.

1861-1865

Jack Wilkes supports his family with the income from working on the railroad. He is also buying corn, and wheat for his family and the workers.

1861-1863

Jeanie mentions that locals abuse Northerners remaining in Charlotte, including her husband, Jack. She describes lawlessness that exists in Charlotte. Arson is common and volunteer firefighters have only buckets and a well to stop the fires.

Summer 1861

The Reverend George M. Everhart comes to St. Peter's Episcopal and resides with Jack Wilkes at the house on East Avenue.

June-August 1861

Jeanie, Charles, little Jeanie and Rosalie summer in Morganton at the Old Mountain Hotel run by a Mrs. Sarah A. Happoldt. Jeanie describes the place as dirty but the food is good. Little Jeanie has bouts of epilepsy.

August 1861

Jack Wilkes comes to Morganton to be with his family, who are spending the summer there. He takes them to Piedmont Spring on Upper Creek where they spend three weeks. The Wilkes return to Morganton and are asked to stay until the WNCRR reaches Morganton, which is in ten days. The Wilkes decide to return home. The war delays the railroad celebration for ten years.

November 8, 1861

Captain Charles Wilkes intercepts at sea the English mail-steamer, *Trent* bound from Havana to England. Wilkes sends Lieutenant Donald M. Fairfax on board to remove the Confederate commissioners, John Slidell and James M. Mason along with their private secretaries. They are transferred to Wilkes' ship the *San Jacinto*. From there, Slidell and Mason are taken to Fort Monroe. The diplomatic problems that ensue become known as The Trent Affair.

January 30, 1862

Agnes Wilkes is born in Charlotte. She is the fifth child born to Jeanie and Jack Wilkes.

Summer 1862

Jeanie Wilkes remain in Charlotte, and the family is anxious and money scarce. Jack Wilkes is away in Greensboro. Slave owners bring their slaves in from the coast. A number are assigned to the railroad and Jack Wilkes is responsible for their care. Wilkes purchases thirty slaves to work in the mill or become coopers to make barrels for the flour. Two women with children are among the Wilkes slaves. Phillis, who has seven children, runs the "boarding house" for the Wilkes slaves. She weaves the cloth for the slaves clothing. Mahala becomes the Wilkes cook, and she has one child.

1862

Jack Wilkes meets two former shipmates Captains William H. Murdaugh and William Parker who are looking for a safe site to move the Confederate Navy Yard to Charlotte from Norfolk. Wilkes shows them the Mecklenburg Iron Works. The facility's proximity to the railroad makes it a perfect location. The Confederate government approves the arrangement, but Wilkes never receives compensation for the foundry. The Confederacy takes possession of the foundry and manufactures shells and machinery.

Edmund Wilkes, Jack's brother, becomes Superintendent of the North Carolina Railroad. Edmund and Jack form a company.

July 1862                      Jack and Edmund contract to build the Piedmont Railroad between Greensboro and Danville.

January 30, 1862              Agnes Wilkes is born in Charlotte. She is the fifth child born to Jack and Jeanie Wilkes.

July 16, 1862                Captain Charles Wilkes promoted to Commodore.

August 12, 1862

Jeanie's mother, Isabella Renwick Smedberg dies. It is many months before Jeanie learns of her mother's death. Her sister Agnes Smedberg Adam's letter reaches her through a flag of truce via friends on both sides of the war in New Bern, North Carolina.

September 15, 1862        Commodore Charles Wilkes promoted to Acting Rear Admiral.

November 12, 1862        Commodore Wilkes becomes Captain Wilkes once more.

Christmas 1862

A Mrs. Sturdivant begins the tradition of spending Christmas dinner with the Wilkes until her death.

January 1, 1863

All the slaves that Jack Wilkes hires out for their owners come to the Wilkes for clothes and food. The Wilkes struggle to provide them with the necessities.

Summer 1863

Agnes becomes ill from teething while the family summers in McBrayer's Spring, two miles west of Shelby, North Carolina. Mrs. Elizabeth McBrayer's, an herbalist, treatments cure the baby. Jeanie learns of the death of her brother Charles Smedberg. He dies of erysipelas on June 1, 1863 while stationed at Falmouth, Virginia. Charlie, the family's favorite son, is buried in the Renwick vault by the Presbyterian Church on Fifth Avenue between 11th and 12th Streets. The vaults are later moved to an unknown location.

Jeanie returns to Charlotte for a week then goes to Shelby via the railroad. Robert L. Davidson is her escort. They travel through Wilsons Spring, later Cleveland Springs, a sulfur spring discovered in 1841. The area is known as health resort but there are no accommodations.

May 20, 1864

John Francis (Frank) Wilkes is born in Charlotte. He is the sixth child of Jeanie and Jack Wilkes.

May 21, 1864

The first train from Danville to Greensboro arrives. The line is complete.

June 15, 1864

Charles Wilkes retires from the US Navy because of age.

Summer 1864

Jack and Edmund start work on another railroad line between Raleigh and Lockwood, North Carolina.

Summer 1864

Jeanie engages rooms at Patterson Springs, but stays at the Wilson Springs House for a week. Keeps company with a Major Rhett and wife Etta Aiken Rhett of Charleston. She describes the owners of the house as "Tennessee Mountaineers" who keep a dirty house and only serve corn bread, sorghum, molasses, bacon, beans and rye coffee. Both parties leave. The Wilkes move to the Patterson's. She describes the difficulties of the roads at that time.

April 1865

Civil War ends. Jack Wilkes goes to Washington, DC to obtain a pardon. Jack Wilkes "repurchases" the Mecklenburg Iron Works although he never really sold it. The company specializes in the manufacturing of steam engines, saw mills and machinery.

June 1865

Family reunites with relatives in New York and Washington, DC. Journey is difficult because of the poor state of the southern railroad system. It takes two days by train, steamer and coach to reach Washington. They stay with the Wilkes for awhile. Jack returns to Charlotte. Jeanie sets out for New York with Charlie, Jeanie, Rosalie, Agnes and Frank as well as a "Negro" servant, Beenie. They first visit John Smedberg in Saugerties, in Ulster County along the Hudson River in New York. She and the children then travel to Devasego. It is a happy summer for Jeanie, but she misses her mother.

July 20, 1865

Jack Wilkes, Thomas W. Dewey, T.H. Brem, E. Nye Hutchison, John M. Springs, B.S. Guion, all of Charlotte and John McDonald of Concord form the first board of directors of the First National Bank. Captain Wilkes and Thomas Dewey travel to Baltimore to secure United States Bond from the money raised in Charlotte.

September 1865

Jack Wilkes joins the family at Devasego. The Wilkes stay through October. Jack does well in cotton and the family has money to spare.

August 2, 1865

Jack Wilkes obtains a charter for the First National Bank of Charlotte. Serves as the banks' president from 1865 to 1869.

November 1, 1865      The family return Charlotte.

May 14, 1866

Paul Wilkes is born in Charlotte. He is the seventh child born to Jeanie and Jack Wilkes.

1866      Jack Wilkes is elected Alderman for the city of Charlotte.

August 14, 1867

Elizabeth Byrne Rogers Smedberg dies. She is the wife of James Smedberg, Jeanie's younger brother.

November 26, 1867

Eliza "Lizzie" Isabel Wilkes is born in Charlotte. She is the eighth child of Jeanie and Jack Wilkes.

July 15, 1866

Captain Charles Wilkes placed on the retired list as Commodore.

September 30, 1867

Jack Wilkes steps down as President of the First National Bank.

November 26, 1867

Eliza "Lizzie" Isabel Wilkes is born in Charlotte. She is the eighth child of Jeanie and Jack Wilkes.

August 19, 1868

While summering in Lincolnton, Lizzie dies at Cleveland Springs. The family is still there in October, when little Jeanie becomes ill with typhoid fever. The family returns to Charlotte in hope of a cure.

November 5, 1868

Jeanie Wilkes dies at the age of ten. She is interred at Elmwood Cemetery.

June 9, 1869

William Renwick Smedberg marries Fanny Maria Raymond in San Francisco.

1869

Wilkes partners with General John A. Young and Miles Wriston. Together they move the Rock Island Woolen Mills from Steele Creek to Charlotte on the site of the flour mill.

Jack Wilkes suffers from the ill effects of sunstroke. The couple attends the Sewanee University Commencement exercises. His health improves.

The Rock Island Woolen Mills fails and the family faces poverty. John Wilkes owes the Coates Brothers of Salisbury \$30,000.

February 1870

Jeanie Wilkes travels to New York and arranges with her brothers to borrow money from her Trust Fund. This enables Jack Wilkes to secure the Mecklenburg Iron Works which lenders threaten to seize ownership.

April 21, 1870

James Renwick Smedberg remarries in San Francisco, California. Carrie Beard Duncan is the bride.

October 17, 1870

Jeanie Wilkes uses funds from her trust to secure the Mecklenburg Iron Works. A controversy over this purchase from R.Y. McAden and S.B. Alexander will haunt the Wilkes for twenty years.

July 10, 1871                 James "Renwick" Wilkes is born in Charlotte.

1870-1871                 Charlie Wilkes attends Virginia Military Institute

June 1871

Charlie Wilkes leaves school and begins working with his father at the Foundry in the office.

1873

Coates Brothers sue John Wilkes in spring of 1874 and receive a judgement for \$31,187.17 plus costs. Wilkes counter claim is that the property in question belongs to his wife Jeanie Wilkes. The plaintiffs reject this notion and the case remains open.

Jan. 26, 1873

John George Smedberg, Jeanie's oldest brother dies at the age of fifty-six at Devasego.

July 4, 1873

A fire breaks out at Elia's & Cohen Store on North Tryon Street. Charlie joins the Hornets Fire Company to help put out the fire.

July 5, 1873

Charlie Wilkes develops typhoid fever. August 7, 1873   Charlie Wilkes dies and is buried at Elmwood Cemetery.

Spring 1874

Coates Brothers of Salisbury obtain judgement against Jack Wilkes for the sum of \$318,187.17 plus costs. The case is appealed.

September 9, 1874

Judgement against the Wilkes is documented and execution to seize Wilkes' property begins. However, Mecklenburg authorities return every notice. This continues until August 21, 1880 when the Coates return to court.

January 25, 1875

The Church Aid Society of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church organizes. Jeanie Wilkes is elected President. The society's objectives are to promote social acquaintances among church members to care for the sick, poor and to promote the interest of St. Peter's Episcopal.

February 5, 1875                 The society holds its first supper and concert to raise funds.

February 18, 1875                 Commercial National Bank receives its charter.

April 19, 1875

Fire breaks out and threatens the old foundry including the castings and the Wilkes home on East Street. Jack Wilkes works with others to put out fire.

1875

The Southern Railroad purchases the old Mecklenburg Iron Works from the Wilkes \$20,000.

Summer 1875

New foundry moves to 510 West Trade Street.

July 4, 1875

The Wilkes move into their new home at 508 West Trade Street. The house must have been an odd structure. Originally, William Elms joined three houses together between 1820 and 1826. Elms sold the house to Doctor William Hayes, who in turn sold it to the Wilkes.

January 1876

January 1876

Reverend Benjamin Bronson meets with the Church Aid Society of St. Peter's society and encourages them to start two hospitals, one for white citizens and one for black citizens. The society endorses the Reverend's suggestions. Financially, they cannot undertake more than renting a small house for the care of white residents. Jeanie Wilkes serves as Treasurer and Secretary of the hospital society.

January 20, 1876

Frederick W.T. Kuester rents two rooms in a house on Seventh Street, between College Street and the Railroad, to the church for the purposes of opening a hospital. Mrs. Stewart, a Baptist, and Mrs. Tennessee Vause, a Methodist are the first patients. The facility is known as The Charlotte Home and Hospital (CHH).

January 21, 1876

Jeanie's brother-in-law William Adams, husband of Agnes Smedberg Adams, dies.

May 1876

Dr. J.T. Moore is the physician in charge of CHH.

May 20, 1876

The CHH arrangement changes because of the lack of space. For twelve dollars and fifty cents, the society rents a house from Mrs. S.A. Harris on North Tryon Street, where Spirit Square now stands.

May 20, 1876

CHH arrangement changes because of the lack of space. For \$12.50, the society rents a house from Mrs. S.A. Harris on North Tryon Street, where Spirit Square now stands.

October 5, 1876

CHH moves to another house owned by a Mrs. Harris on Seventh Street between Tryon and College Streets .

January 11, 1877

Lack of funding forces the hospital to move to a house on North Graham Street near Tenth Street.

February 8, 1877

Admiral Charles Wilkes, father of Jack Wilkes, dies in Washington, DC.

1877

The Busy Bee Society a group of students of Hattie Moore's School raise \$273.00 with the assistance of Colonel Elbert A. K. Osborne, purchase a lot at the corner of North Poplar and West Sixth Street for a hospital. The vestrymen of St. Peter's Episcopal sign the deed. A trust within the deed stipulates that the property be used "for the purpose of sustaining a Hospital and Home for sick, indigent and infirm persons..."

June 4, 1877

The Reverend Thomas Atkinson, Bishop of North Carolina lays the cornerstone of the building. The institution is called The Home and Hospital of St. Peter's Church. Certain items are enclosed in the cornerstone.

July 17, 1877

The hospital moves to a another house on the corner of College and North Graham Streets.

October 8, 1877            Oscar Smedberg, Jeanie's brother dies.

July 17, 1877

The HHSPC moves to a another home on the corner of College and North Graham Street.

1878

Rosalie and Agnes Wilkes attend Charlotte Female Institute.

May 1878

The one-story, four-roomed brick Home and Hospital of St. Peter's Church is complete and is ready to receive patients.

June 13, 1878

The HHSPC closes because its only patient, Mrs. Tennessee Vause moves to Mississippi to live with her daughter.

August 13, 1878

The HHSPC reopens and Nurse Amanda J. Nipper becomes the matron.

January 1879    The hospital receives its charter from the state.

January 1880

The Church Society reorganizes. A board of nine managers is chosen, Julia Fox becomes President. The society elects Jane Wilkes as Secretary-Treasurer.

1881    Hospital quickly outgrows its space.

1881    Jack Wilkes serves as Alderman for the Fourth Ward.

October 1881

Reverend Lucian Holmes creates a list of subscribers who donate \$38.00 a month to the hospital. It is the facility's first regular revenue. Teas, concerts and other "entertainments" make up the financial difference. Few patients have the ability to pay.

December 22, 1881

Agnes Smedberg Adams dies in Devasago. She is Jeanie's only sister.

1882

Reverend Joseph Blount Cheshire establishes a mission chapel for black communicants at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church. Jeanie Wilkes decides to establish a hospital for black citizens and begins a fund raising campaign.

March 1882

St. Peter's expands to accommodate more patients.

1883

Jack Wilkes serves again as Alderman for the Fourth Ward.

April 21, 1883

The Coates Brothers continue with their legal actions against Jack Wilkes commences in the Rowan Superior Court.

May 8, 1883

Jack Wilkes testifies regarding his property. Plaintiffs request that Jeanie Wilkes also testifies about her property.

January 21, 1884

Coates Brother move that a receiver be appointed and that Jack Wilkes produces account books with his property. Both motions are denied. The plaintiffs take the case to the North Carolina Supreme Court.

February 1885

The North Carolina Supreme Court rules that Jack Wilkes must produce his books. However, questions remains if Jane Wilkes is the owner of the property and if the Coates Brothers are suing Jack Wilkes for property that he does not own.

April 8, 1885

Rosalie Wilkes marries Richard Lockwood Jones of Baltimore, Maryland in a morning service at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Sixteen couples serve as attendants.

April 9, 1885

Wilkes host two parties in honor of Rosalie and her new husband. The afternoon party for the "old folks" five to eight o' clock. The evening party for everyone runs until midnight. The couple leave in a few days to honeymoon in northern cities. Eventually, they reside with the Wilkes in Charlotte.

August 24, 1885

Court appoints local attorney, Elbert K.P. Osborne as the receiver in the case of Coates Brothers vs. John Wilkes. The Wilkes must produce Jane Wilkes account books.

October 17, 1885

North Carolina Supreme Court orders that Jack and Jane cannot sell his or her property.

October 27, 1885

John Wilkes appeals this decision. Judge denies his request.

February 1886

Coates Brothers vs. John Wilkes' Appeal by Wilkes on behalf of Jeanie Wilkes who is forbidden to sell or dispose of "her "property. She is not party to the case and the judge rules accordingly.



February 17, 1886

Agnes Wilkes marries Adolphus Erwin Rankin in an evening ceremony at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Bessie Lacy Dewey plays the wedding march. Seven couples serve as attendants. A small reception is held after the wedding and another party will take place the next day.

February 19, 1886

Agnes Wilkes and Adolphus Erwin Rankin leave for their new home in Hartford, Connecticut. Rankin establishes a shoe factory there.

February 1886

Jack Wilkes appeals on behalf of Jeanie Wilkes regarding the order forbidding her to sell or dispose of her property on the claim that Jeanie Wilkes is not party to the case. The judge agrees and rules on behalf of the Wilkes.

October 28, 1886

Agnes Wilkes Rankin gives birth to John Wilkes Rankin, Jeanie's first grandson. Grandmother Jeanie travels to be with Agnes.

1887

Through the fund raising efforts of Jeanie Wilkes, Reverend Cheshire purchases a lot on the south side of Hill Street. Construction of Good Samaritan Hospital begins.

June 6, 1888 Harriet Esther Rankin, Jeanie's first granddaughter is born and Jeanie goes to Connecticut to help Agnes.

December 18, 1888

The cornerstone of Good Samaritan Hospital is laid during a ceremony of black and white residents, dignitaries, clergyman, Captain Jack and Jeanie Wilkes, Miss Hattie Moore. The construction of the hospital is slow.

February 8, 1890

Araminta "Minta" Lockwood, daughter of Rosalie and Richard Jones is born.

June 30, 1890

Alfred Erwin Rankin son of Agnes and Adolphus Erwin Rankin is born. Jeanie is there.

February 1891

Elbert K.P. Osborne, Receiver for the Coates Brothers sues John Wilkes and wife. Osborne claims that the Wilkes intend to defraud his clients, the Coates Brothers. A full disclosure is given of how Jeanie Wilkes' money from her trust fund assists Jack during his business failures of 1869. This is the appeal taken to the North Carolina Supreme Court. The statute of limitations for the Coates Brothers' original lawsuit ends just as they begin proceedings against Jane Wilkes, the court finds in favor of the Wilkes.

February 12, 1891

John Wilkes along with other leading citizens form the Charlotte Literary and Library Association. This subscription library is the first library open to the public in Charlotte.

September 23, 1891

Good Samaritan Hospital, the first privately funded medical facility for blacks in North Carolina, is dedicated and opens for business. Jeanie Wilkes serves on the hospital board.

October 7, 1891

Frank Wilkes, son of Jeanie and Jack Wilkes, marries Anna Elizabeth Beale.

June 25, 1892

Ralph Smedberg Rankin is born in Hartford, Connecticut.

1893 Paul Wilkes moves to Washington, DC.

March 6, 1893

The Hospital board amends the charter so that the legal name changes to St. Peter's Home and Hospital.

March 4, 1894

Jean Rankin is born in Hartford, Connecticut.

May 5, 1894

Paul Wilkes, son of Jeanie and Jack Wilkes dies of complications of pneumonia in Washington, DC.

May 26, 1895

John Wilkes, son of Frank and Anna Beale Wilkes is born. He later attends the Naval Academy at Annapolis and rises to the rank of Vice Admiral.

1896 Work begins on the expansion of St. Peter's into a two-story hospital.

April 4, 1896

Anna Beale Wilkes, wife of Frank Wilkes, dies.

May 10, 1896

James Blackburn Rankin, son of Agnes and Adolphus Rankin is born in Connecticut.

November 5, 1896

James B. Rankin son of Agnes Wilkes and Adolphus Rankin dies.

November 18, 1896

Renwick Wilkes, son of Jeanie and Jack Wilkes marries Caroline Settle.

1897

Charlotte National Bank, formerly the Commercial National Bank, receives its charter.

September 13, 1897

Charles Wilkes, son of Renwick and Caroline Settle Wilkes is born in Charlotte.

July 12, 1898

Frank Wilkes, son of Jeanie and Jack Wilkes, marries Fannie Lucas.

July 15, 1898

The expansion of St. Peter's Home and Hospital is complete.

February 1899

The board amends the Hospital charter again and the new name is St. Peter's Hospital.

April 19, 1899

Carrie McIver Wilkes, daughter of Frank and Fannie Lucas Wilkes, is born.

1900

Rosalie and her daughter Minta Jones live with Jack and Jeanie Wilkes. (Note: Richard Lockwood Jones disappears from the family correspondence. He is listed in the 1920 census, living in a Maryland mental hospital.)

January 1902

The first class of nurses graduate from St. Peter's Hospital after a three year training period.

April 20, 1904 Jack and Jeanie Wilkes celebrate their fiftieth wedding with a party at their home. Seven hundred invitations are sent, and they receive three hundred presents. The house is decorated with hundreds of yellow roses, tulips and jonquils.

1904

Jeanie Wilkes, at age seventy-seven, steps down from her duties as Secretary Treasurer of the Hospital Board citing failing health.

June 1904

Jeanie Wilkes is unanimously elected manager of St. Peter's Hospital Board of Trustees.

February 16, 1905 Alice Tillou Smedberg, widow of Oscar Smedberg dies.

November 5, 1905

Julia Settle Wilkes, daughter of Renwick and Caroline Settle Wilkes, is born.

November 16, 1905

Mary Ludlow Morton Smedberg dies. She was the wife of Dolph Smedberg, Jeanie's brother.

June 1906

Jeanie Wilkes becomes President of the Hospital Board of Managers. The board now consists of men and women as well as local physicians.

Jack Wilkes semi-retires from the Mecklenburg Iron Works. He continues to have an interest in the business.

February 19, 1906 Mary Lynch Bolton Wilkes, stepmother of Jack Wilkes, dies in Italy.

July 6, 1908

"Jack" Wilkes dies. The funeral takes place at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Every seat in the church is full. He is buried at Elmwood Cemetery.

August 6, 1908

Eliza Wilkes dies in Washington, DC. She was the youngest sister of Jack Wilkes by his parents, Jane and Charles Wilkes.

August 16, 1908

Maria Wilkes dies in Italy. She was Jack Wilkes' half-sister.

November 6, 1909 Adolphus (Dolph) Smedberg, Jeanie's brother, dies.

March 10, 1910

James Renwick Wilkes, son of Renwick and Caroline Settle Wilkes, is born.

June 3, 1910

Jeanie helps place the United Daughters of the Confederacy tablet marking the site of the Confederate Navy Yard.

July 19, 1911

William Renwick Smedberg, Jeanie's brother, dies in San Francisco.

January 19, 1913

Jane "Jeanie" Smedberg Wilkes dies at her home on West Trade Street of pneumonia.

January 20, 1913

The Right Reverend Joseph Blount Cheshire, Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina conducts the service at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. The crowd spills onto the grounds of the church. Citizens of all backgrounds and races come to pay their respects to Jane Wilkes. The chancel is covered in flowers. She is interred beside her husband in Elmwood Cemetery.

**Series I: John (Jack) Wilkes to Jane (Jeanie) Wilkes (1856 – 1908)**

<b>Series</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	1	1	2 June 1856
1	1	2	7 June 1856
1	1	3	14 June 1856
1	1	4	22 June 1856
1	1	5	1 July 1856
1	1	6	3 July 1856
1	1	7	4 July 1856
1	1	8	12 July 1856
1	1	9	14 July 1856
1	1	10	27 July 1856
1	1	11	30 July 1856
1	1	12	5 August 1856
1	1	13	10 August 1856
1	1	14	10 August 1856
1	1	15	17 August 1856
1	1	16	24 August 1856
1	1	17	27 August 1856
1	1	18	31 August 1856
1	1	19	3 September 1856
1	1	20	8 September 1856

**Series I: John (Jack) Wilkes to Jane (Jeanie) Wilkes (1856 – 1908)**

<b>Series</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Date</b>	
1	1	21	9 October 1856	Jack Wilkes to Jeanie Wilkes who is Norfolk, Va. following birth of Isabella. He describes progression of work at Capps Mine. Regrets leaving Taylor in charge because work was not completed.
1	1	22	10 October 1856	Jack writes more of the same. Worries about Jeanie overdoing it.
1	1	23	12 October 1856	Describes sermons by Dr. Horatio H. Hewitt. Dined at a hotel with Dr. R. Wysong; provides updates on who attended church. Describes work at Capps Mine. Bemoans the fact that autumn will be over before Jeanie can return, but lets her know the work in the nursery is completed, but other household repairs will have to wait. Servants are doing better.
1	1	24	15 October 1856	A continued description of work at the mine as well as Jack's relief that Jeanie's health is improving and describes in detail a shipment of supplies and gifts from the Smedberg family. Enclosed is the piece from the local paper describing Isabella's birth aboard the USS Roanoke.
1	1	25	19 October 1856	Writes to Jeanie about his concern over writing too many letters and how much he misses her. Informs Jeanie that the machinery work at Capps Mine is complete and delivered to the depot. He plans to leave for Norfolk to escort Jeanie and the children home.
1	1	26	14 February 1857	Short letter to Jeanie from Aquia Creek, Virginia half of which was cut out contains. Jack describes the cold and the ice flowing in the river. Writes about missing mule and looking for Dr. John Allison Torrence of Salisbury.
1	1	27	17 February 1857	Jack describes departure from Virginia. His arrival in Washington, DC. In passing, he mentions the French Ambassador, the Comte de Sartiges, obtaining information on milling, a visit to Georgetown then to New York. Describes how her family is doing and the people he meets that Jeanie knows.
1	1	28	20 February 1857	A detailed account of Jack's activities described in this letter include evenings at the Academy of Music and a ball, passing mentions of family and friends and mentions of a lawsuit.

**Series I: John (Jack) Wilkes to Jane (Jeanie) Wilkes (1856 – 1908)**

<b>Series</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	1	29	22 February 1857
A lengthy letter in which Jack relates his visits to the Morgan Iron Works, the Navy Yard and Jeanie's family. Laments the Smedberg's extravagances as well as the Smedberg's brothers lack of employment. Mentions lawsuit, but no details.			
1	1	30	1 July 1859
1	1	31	3 July 1859
1	1	32	7 July 1859
1	1	33	10 July 1859
1	1	34	14 July 1859
1	1	35	17 July 1859
1	1	36	24 July 1859
1	1	37	27 July 1859
1	1	38	31 July 1859
1	1	39	6 August 1859
1	1	40	14 August 1859
1	1	41	19 August 1859
1	1	42	21 August 1859
1	1	43	24 August 1859
1	1	44	28 August 1859
1	1	45	4 September 1859
1	1	46	11 September 1859
1	1	47	12 September 1859
1	1	48	18 September 1859

**Series I: John (Jack) Wilkes to Jane (Jeanie) Wilkes (1856 – 1908)**

<b>Series</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	1	49	24 September 1859

1	1	50	27 September 1859
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1	1	51	26 July 1860
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Traveling through North Carolina, Jack visits with Captain Elias Bryan of Haywood and an attorney and J.J. Jackson of Pittsboro to discuss mining. Both communities are in Chatham County. Wilkes continues onto Washington, DC. Mentions his father and presents he purchased for the children.

1	1	52	30 July 1860
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Writing from New York, Jack gives an account of his journey by train; his Attendance of a performance by the Ravel Brothers at the Winter Gardens; and visits with the Smedberg and Delafield families. Mentions activity at the Mecklenburg Flour Mill which he owns and items purchased for Jeanie and the family. Jack tours the SS Great Eastern, the largest ship of its day. Learns of baby Jeanie's illness, encourages his wife to seek Amanda's assistance and not over do it.

1	1	53	2 August 1860
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Jack moves onto Newburg, New York, purchases 8000 shares of stock; frets about his father's affairs. Tries to find an old Navy friend, Captain Harvey Bell Jack is on his way to Devasego, the Smedberg's summer home. After a brief visit, and if does not hear from his father, he intends to leave be in Charlotte in two weeks after making stops in Baltimore, Washington and Richmond.

1	1	54	3 August 1860
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The letter is from Devasego where Jack admires the beautiful scenery which he associates with Jeanie. Mentions the influx of vacationing New Yorkers. Although the family knew Jack was coming, they seem surprised when he arrives but warmly receive him. Describes Isabella as looking better, but she is not active and is troubled by coughing and lack of sleep. Upon receiving a letter from Jeanie, he tries to reassure her that her mother is fine. Amused that he enjoys the 76° degree weather, but everyone else finds it warm. Jack expresses wish that he had a magic carpet to transport Jeanie and the children to Devasego to be with him.

1	1	55	8 August 1860
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Writing from New York City, Jack describes his stay with brother-in-law John Smedberg and his wife, Harriet Auchincloss Smedberg in Saugerties. His reason for leaving came in a letter but the name is unclear.



## **Series I: John (Jack) Wilkes to Jane (Jeanie) Wilkes (1856 – 1908)**

<b>Series</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Date</b>
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1	1	56	10 August 1860
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Writing from New York, Jack stays with brother-in-law, William Adams. Settles his father's debt to the latter's brother, Henry Wilkes. Attends a show at the Palace Gardens with nephew, Axel Smedberg then later visits friends in Schieffelin just outside New York where he takes in a puppet show which reminds him of the children. Runs into James H. Carson of Charlotte who assures him that all is well at home.

1	1	57	12 August 1860
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Now in Washington, DC, Jack writes a short letter to let Jeanie know he is well and has run into a number of their friends, including the husband of Anna Thorp. Mentions he is staying at the Kirkwood House and attends St. John's Episcopal Church where he hears a sermon by Dr. Smith Pyne.

1	1	58	26 August 1860
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From Raleigh, North Carolina, Jack describes how he obtained a loan from George W. Mordecai, the President of the Bank of North Carolina. While in Raleigh, he met with Governor John Ellis then went onto Chatham County and met with Captain Bryan. He is conducting business, but hard to ascertain specifics from letter. Mentions his brother Edmund and his father as well. However, Jack is clear in telling Jeanie to take care of herself and offers instructions to be given to the servants (slaves).

1	1	59	28 August 1860
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Short note from Baltimore about his business affairs and return home.

1	1	60	27 November 1860
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Describes a train derailment on his trip to Raleigh. Mentions riding up with William "Billy" Owens, a local attorney.

1	1	61	01 December 1860
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Jack is in New York addressing a lawsuit. He believes that with Dolph's move to Yonkers, Jack believes the Smedberg house will be sold and worries where Isabella Smedberg will go. Invited her to winter with them next year, but she declines because of uncertain political climate and the weather. Mentions that Agnes plans to shop with him for a bonnet for Jeannie.

1	1	62	03 December 1860
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Agrees that it is best Jeanie have Blakely Boyd stay overnight because she is frightened about being alone. Jack tried to the Reverend Mr. Harriman about assistance in filling the rector vacancy at St. Peter's. Worshipped at The Church of the Ascension then lunches with the Renwick family. There Jack makes unflattering remarks about Uncle James Renwick's view of the division between the north and south. Jack also declares that the sooner North Carolina secedes from the Union, the better. (Language regarding African Americans reflects the times.)

**Series I: John (Jack) Wilkes to Jane (Jeanie) Wilkes (1856 – 1908)**

**Series Box Folder Date**

1 1 63 06 December 1860

Still in New York awaiting the completion of his business. Saw cousin Vernon Henry. Treats nephews, Charlie and John Adams to Laura Keene's performance of Seven Sisters at the Laura Keene Theater. Believes Isabella's cough is worse, but she refuses to come south. Visits with Anna Thorp and her new baby, who not only has whooping cough, but was handed to him with a wet diaper. Worries that the Smedberg estate will suffer if war breaks out.

1 1 64 23 July 1861

Written from Charlotte, this short letter to Jeanie mentions meeting Paul C. Cameron, President of the North Carolina Railroad, Edmund's new position, the Battle of Manassas (Bull Run) and his worry for his sisters and stepmother due to their proximity to the battle.

1 1 65 26 July 1861

Jack is in Charlotte while the family remains in the mountains. Mentions the first Battle of Manassas or Bull Run.

1 1 66 27 July 1861

While Jeanie and the children are summering in the western part of the state, Jack describes events in Charlotte. An active member of St. Peter's Episcopal, Jack mentions the following individuals who were also communicants there, including Maggie Blake, Sarah Davidson, Joseph Davidson and the Reverend George M. Everhart, rector of St. Peter's from 1861-1866. Concern over Jeanie's health, Jack advises Jeanie not to have Dr. Christopher Happoldt attend her and instead recommends she contact Dr. Samuel Tate, of Morganton.

1 1 67 04 August 1861

Long letter regarding the harvesting of the garden, activities among their friends. Mr. Everhart, the rector and Jack Wilkes taught Sunday School for both black and white children. Jack disagrees with separating the children, but the rector insists. The latter teaches the white children at 9:00, and Wilkes provides lessons for the black children. Reports how the town is emptying out of young men and elderly people afraid to remain on their own in Charlotte. Informs Jeanie of how much he misses her and the children and has special notes for each child.

1 1 68 20 August 1861

Jack remains in Charlotte. Not feeling well, but manages to improve. Misses Jeanie and writes about his loneliness and for a recipe for Catsup because the tomatoes are wasting in the garden. Expressed his and brother Edmund's worries about their sisters Janey and Eliza who are with Esther Hill during the Battle of Manassas. Reports they will soon join their stepmother and stepsister in New York.

**Series I: John (Jack) Wilkes to Jane (Jeanie) Wilkes (1856 – 1908)**

**Series Box Folder Date**

1 1 69 24 August 1861

Money woes worry John Wilkes as he writes Jeanie who is away at the Springs, but does not ask her to return home immediately. Indicates Jeanie may have to travel with the children unescorted. Informs her that the Reverend Everhart is boarding with the Wilkes for a few months.

1 1 70 26 August 1861

Encloses payment for Dr. Happoldt and encloses from his sisters, Janey and Eliza Wilkes.

**Series I: John (Jack) Wilkes to Jane (Jeanie) Wilkes (1856 – 1908)**

**Series Box Folder Date**

1 1 71 01 September 1861

Jack expresses delight in learning that little Jeanie's health improves. Describes the experiences of local residents when an earthquake or more likely, tremors shook the county. (Jack Wilkes slept through it.) Mentions that the loss of Fort Hatteras will bring the war closer to home. Provides news that Dr. Ben Davidson enlisted; brother, James Smedberg is in some sort of difficulty; and Jack frets about his own finances.

1 1 72 05 September 1861

Warns Jeanie not to consult Dr. Happoldt for any medical reasons. Recommends other health remedies. Advises her not to worry about the panic set off after Federal troops began seizing more coastal towns. Mail can no longer be sent north.

1 1 73 08 September 1861

Jeanie is still away with the children. Jack wants to take them to Piedmont, but he is in debt and worries about it. Mentions their friend Kate Gibbons is in Richmond working in a hospital, tending to the sick and injured. Three boys returned from their first fight, Blakely Boyd, Minor Sadler and Sam Lowrie. Describes how the latter "resigned" his commission and the activities of the Reverend Everhart.

1 1 74 12 September 1861

Jack informs Jennie that he is coming to escort her and the children home. Asks her to pack all of their clothes, the sewing machine and other items they will not need on the journey home. Mentions working with Captain Bryan.

1 1 75 25 October 1862

Jack Wilkes is now in Wolf Trap, Virginia. By this time, he and his brother, Edmund, (Em in the letters) contracts to construct railroad lines between Greensboro and Danville, Virginia. He is obviously dissatisfied with his brother and the project, but feels obligated to remain with it. Provides a description of his travels through Virginia and the people he meets.

## **Series I: John (Jack) Wilkes to Jane (Jeanie) Wilkes (1856 – 1908)**

<b>Series</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Date</b>
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1	1	76	28 January 1863
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Describes the amount of money spent on the train exceeds budget. One gathers that Jack entered into the project in the hopes of becoming rich. Problems carry over from when Railroad Directors dismissed Edmund Wilkes in 1862 as Superintendent Chief Engineer with the North Carolina Rail Road. Wilkes writes he will be in Virginia for some time.

1	1	77	01 February 1863
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Jack goes into details about the difficulties he encounters traveling by buggy on muddy roads, the lack of communication between himself and his brother, his hopes the Directors will be reimburse them for their extra expenses, a mention of a plank road is interesting. Begins to mention his spiritual needs.

1	1	78	06 February 1863
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Jack provides details regarding the inflated economy during the Confederacy. Writing from Richmond, Jack expresses his love and appreciation for his wife and her housekeeping skills as well as the children. Apparently, they have been apart for some time. Still waiting to hear from the Directors about reimbursements. Meets Kate Gibbons in Richmond.

1	1	79	12 February 1863
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While in Richmond, Jack writes to describe his arduous train journey and the ongoing issue with the NCRR.

1	1	80	13 February 1863
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While waiting for the NCRR to make a decision, Jack provides his account of attending an auction where he purchased various kinds of cloth for the making of clothes for his families and brogans for the slaves working on the railroad. Sends a letter to his sister, Janey Wilkes under a flag of truce.

1	1	81	15 February 1863
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While in Danville, Virginia, Jack Wilkes undergoes a conscious of faith. He realizes his brother, Edmund Wilkes, does not have the skills to complete the work of the railroad, but cannot talk to him about due to Em's refusal to discuss the situation. He also mentions some problem at home concerning one of the Wilkes' neighbors.

1	1	82	01 March 1863
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Writing from Greensboro, North Carolina, Jack is lonely and missing. His family. Wishes he left the business earlier when he has a chance. Implores her to telegraph him if little Jeanie continues to have attacks.

**Series I: John (Jack) Wilkes to Jane (Jeanie) Wilkes (1856 – 1908)**

**Series Box Folder Date**

1 1 83 15 March 1863

Still in Greensboro, Jack describes the difficulty of traveling from Charlotte to Greensboro, but is rooming with a Mrs. Palmer who makes his life comfortable. Money received from the Board. The prospects of the work improve despite the mismanagement in all of the company's departments. Mentions the negroes work under abysmal conditions and wonders why they do not run away. The children are ailing. Jack suggests they take the train up to see him, and he will ride back with them. It is obvious that Jack Wilkes misses his family.

1 1 84 20 March 1863

Jack describes how he rides up and down the rail line making sure the work continues. He boards with a Mrs. Palmer. While riding through woods at night, Jack runs into a tree branch. Mentions gardening and requests seeds for a Mrs. D. S. Lumley of Rawlingsburg, North Carolina.

1 1 85 22 March 1863

Snowed in and glad of it, Jack writes about how he spends his days, Edmunds ineptness, and his concern regarding their daughter, Jeanie.

1 1 86 23 March 1863

From this short letter, it is inferred that Jack will be home soon after he attends a slave sale. Jeanie continues to have "attacks." He advises treating her with Zinc and other homeopathic remedies until he returns.

1 1 87 05 March 1863

Writing from Danville, the weather enables Jack Wilkes to write Jeanie. Mentions Ned Kearney. Also writes about finding clothes and shoes for the Negroes. The letter implies he is one responsible for providing for their needs.

1 1 88 20 April 1863

Work on the railroad is complete in some areas, and work will resume in other locations. Jack expresses great concern for Jeanie and the children, especially where they will summer for their health. Complains about the lack of efficiency in the Confederate postal service, and the lack of current news regarding the war.

1 1 89 22 April 1863

Apparently daughter, Jeanie's health continues to fluctuate. Jack asks her to consult with Dr. Johnson and mention this to Dr. Taylor. He searches Piedmont Springs as a possible place for the family to spend the summer. Paper supply is out.

1 1 90 22 April 1863

Responding to a letter from Jeanie Wilkes from the 18<sup>th</sup>, Jack is troubled about daughter, Jeanie's continued decline. Believes Dr. Taylor has given up practice and requests that she consult Dr. Johnson.

**Series I: John (Jack) Wilkes to Jane (Jeanie) Wilkes (1856 – 1908)**

**Series Box Folder Date**

1 1 91 12 May 1863

Writing from Goldsboro, Jack lets Jeanie know the business still needs money; how he avoided a Baptist foot washing; missed the Episcopal conference; longs for the war to be over and that he will soon return to the family.

1 1 92 31 May 1863

From Salem – Jack provides Jeanie with an account of his travels. In passing, he mentions the theft of meat. Complains about the lack of good, basic staples, such as milk, bread and butter. Offers a description of worshipping at the Moravian Church in Salem and visiting with the Constantine and Mary Banner family of Salem as well as their daughter, Minerva and their friend Mrs. Fries. At the time, Jack is on his way to Richmond, Virginia.

1 1 93 5 June 1863

From Reidsville – Jack writes about his activities in Salem. The state of the south; staying at a hotel in Kernersville; and in the course of the letter makes anti-Semitic remarks about local Charlotte merchants.

1 1 94 3 July 1863

Jeanie and the children are in Burke County while John remains in Charlotte. Mentions the building of a “Negro House” being constructed on the Square. Writes about fruit that is coming in as well as produce and new livestock. Sends medicine from the “institute” for daughter, Agnes. Mentions price of staples and refugees in the city.

1 1 95 6 July 1863

Jack writes about affairs in Charlotte. People concern about the conscription, and its impact on the community. The construction of the “Negro House” continues. Building designed to keep blacks “under surveillance.” Early reports of the battle (Gettysburg) are promising. Hopes we (Confederacy) can obtain a quick peace agreement.

1 1 96 7 July 1863

Short letter to Jeanie. Governor Vance requests all home militia to ride to Raleigh with Negroes and tools to fight a band of raiders who cut the railroad line at Warsaw, North Carolina.

1 1 97 8 July 1863

From Greensboro, Jack writes that the scare by the raiders came to nothing. Relieved that Agnes’ health improves, but the worry is the same for daughter, Jeanie. Jack tries to promote the election of his brother Edmund as Superintendent of the North Carolina Railroad because his (Edmund’s) inefficiency hampers them completing their contract. Jane, probably a servant, hires herself out to Mrs. Thompson. Fruit trees are prolific, and he will send some to her.

1 1 98 20 July 1863

Short note from Charlotte to let Jeanie know that Edmund needs Jack in Greensboro.

**Series I: John (Jack) Wilkes to Jane (Jeanie) Wilkes (1856 – 1908)**

**Series Box Folder Date**

1 1 99 24 July 1863

Jack and Charlie remain in Greensboro. The former continues to regret going into business with his brother. Charlie spends his days playing.

1 1 100 26 July 1863

Daughter Jeanie still having seizures. John does not believe that it prevent her from developing. Charlie enjoying himself. A long discussion with his sister-in-law Bessie Wilkes reveals that she agrees with her Jack that Em has lost interest in the railroad and wants to quiet, but Jack frets because the company owes them \$35,000. Plans to start teaching Charlie math.

1 1 101 28 July 1863

Young Charlie Wilkes is with his father Jack in Greensboro. Jack writes that they are well and the railroad work continues.

1 1 102 30 July 1863

Writing from Greensboro, Jack encourages Jeanie and the children remain in the mountains because the summer heat is still too much. Still in Greensboro with Charlie, Jack reiterates difficulties in working with Edmund, the regret of the job, but acknowledges that no matter what happens he has the wherewithal to persevere and take care of the family.

1 1 103 05 August 1863

From Charlotte, the letter contains amusing comment about Mary Kearney James, Jeanie Wilkes' brother, and Lizzie Smedberg were staying at the Mansion House. Fabric becoming expensive and Jack needs to remain in Charlotte because it is "repairing" season. Complains about the laziness of some workers and is sad to report of the death of Henderson Lucas, who died from wounds received at Gettysburg.

1 1 104 09 August 1863

Back in Greensboro with Charlie, Jack worries about the heat both for himself and Charlie. Amazed how the negroes manage to perform the work on the railroad line. Mentions that Methodist Female College in Greensboro burned on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

1 1 105 14 August 1863

Remaining in Greensboro, Jack sympathizes with Jeanie over little Jeanie's setback, but is delighted to hear Agnes is teething. Warns her not to bring the family back yet because of the heat and threat of "sickness." Continues to lament entering into the partnership with his brother, who Jack describes as incompetent in every aspect of the business including financial matters. Dreads dealing with the railroad engineers in Danville who are not polite about expressing the incompetence of the operation. Wilkes not in a place to argue with them because he agrees. Shares a story with Jeanie to pass onto Charlie about a poor slave who was distraught over the death of a horse he had cared for two years.

## **Series I: John (Jack) Wilkes to Jane (Jeanie) Wilkes (1856 – 1908)**

<b>Series</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Date</b>
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1	1	106	21 September 1865
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In a letter from Richmond, Jack describes difficulties in obtaining financing with New Bern Bank on behalf of the Charlotte Bank. Informs her that the railroad lines are improving as well as mail service. Lillie Spratt died of typhoid fever and her sister Mary has it too and is not expect to live. Mr. Everhart resigned from the St. Episcopal and Mr. Stacey performed the services. Someone he knows auctioned off his belongings and left Charlotte.

1	1	107	10 May 1866
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Jack is in Baltimore and describes recent meetings with the Smedberg family. Obviously, problems with the settling of Isabelle Smedberg's estate and the first mention of problems surrounding his father's ownership of the High Shoals property. Ends with mentions of the William Spottwood Family and others. Jack also writes about meeting some clergymen in need of a parish.

1	1	108	11 May 1866
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Remaining in Baltimore to try and settle some legal matter, and the possibility of a Mr. Mahan, who can assist with finding a new rector.

1	1	109	26 August 1866
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In Washington on his way to New York, Jack writes Jeanie about his travels and mutual friends. Worries about finding financing for his investments and the Rock Island Mill. Mentions her trust and how difficult her brothers are about releasing funds to her. Hopes the new doctor, Smedes, can provide treatment for their daughter Jeanie.

1	1	110	27 August 1866
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Short letter to Jeanie from Baltimore. Mentions meeting General Robert C. Buchanan.

1	1	111	29 August 1866
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Wishes the family could join him in Philadelphia. Plans to sell Capps Mine. Expresses concern that the decision to remain in Charlotte will impact their lack of opportunities in the future compared if they had remained in New York

1	1	112	30 August 1866
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Short letter from New York where Jack writes about the Smedberg family. Encourages her in her plans to hire a nurse. Enquires about her requests from the dressmaker.

1	1	113	01 September 1866
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Remaining in NYC with Will and Agnes Adams, Jack writes about his concern over Jeanie's health (wife). Tells her to not worry about the church work. He himself is not feeling well, but plans to move onto Yonkers. James and Lizzie plan to return as the work in Savannah never paid. Urges Charlie to write to him.



## **Series I: John (Jack) Wilkes to Jane (Jeanie) Wilkes (1856 – 1908)**

<b>Series</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Date</b>
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1	1	114	06 September 1866
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From Boston, Jack describes his journey from NYC to New Port where he visits his mother's grave. After paying for the upkeep, Jack leaves for Boston where he stays with old friends, the Rawls. Jack continues to try and settle the High Shoals dispute for his father.

1	1	115	07 September 1866
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Sympathizes with Jeanie over the return of little Jeanie's illness. Describes his plan to replace the New York trustees with Charlotte trustees who will enable them to have access to her trust fund. Everything depends on Will and Dolph's approval. Wishes her well with the horses and advised her to not sell the mule but instead send it to Capps Mine or High Shoals.

1	1	116	08 September 1866
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Writing from the British shopping firm of Darrell and Nash, Jack jokes about Jeanie's problem of finding a maid after all of the many times they laughed at Jeanie's sister Agnes's servant problem. Jack writes that he requests his father to send the girls down to help her. Purchasing lots probably in Charlotte. Letter indicates there are problems with the Rock Island Company.

1	1	117	10 September 1866
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Remaining in New York, Wilkes writes again from Darrell and Nash. Plans to go to Devasego to hire Marian Laraway to assist Jeanie down south.

1	1	118	11 September 1866
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From Philadelphia, Jack writes that his business plans for the Capps Mine is going nowhere. In addition, he is having problems locating a servant and a governess for the children.

1	1	119	12 September 1866
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On stationary from his brother-in-law's office (Oscar Smedberg), Jack writes a short note. Comments on how the speed of travel unnerves him. Does not feel well, but plans to move onto Devasego.

1	1	120	19 September 1866
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Back in New York, Jack describes how illness prevents him from writing. Problems with the trust fund, and it is obvious Jack is disappointed in how his brother-in-laws are behaving.

1	1	121	20 September 1866
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At the offices of Darrell and Nash, Jack mentions the problems with the trusts; his hope for selling the Chatham Mines and the success of the Rock Island Mill.

1	1	122	23 September 1866
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Jack describes his journey to Yonkers and back to New York. Struck with a cold, Jack worries about his business dealings and the family's financial future. Describes how he places his faith in God.

## Series I: John (Jack) Wilkes to Jane (Jeanie) Wilkes (1856 – 1908)

Series	Box	Folder	Date	
1	1	123	25 September 1866	From Baltimore, Jack describes his remaining time in New York. Amused by the Renwick's indulgent life style while pleading to be poor. Still waiting to hear if the rules in the trust could be more flexible. Purchases books for the children.
1	1	124	27 September 1866	Business transactions successful. Worries where Drury is. Remarks about people they know possibly from Baltimore – Fricks and Cooks. Writes about the loud, face pace of city life. Glad he decided for a simpler one. Jack wanted to purchase a hat for Jeanie to celebrate, but the styles a "horrendous."
1	1	125	19 November 1866	Jack takes his oldest daughter, Rosalie to Washington. He mentions a sermon by the Reverend Mark L. Olds; having tea with Judge Edward Greeley Loring and how Rosalie entertains herself and everyone. Jack continues to worry about the family's financial situation.
1	1	126	21 November 1866	Jack and Rosalie travel to New York and stay at the St. Nicholas at Broadway and Springs. Wilkes sign papers. Placed a dress order at Mrs. Schrodgers and requested Jane to have Zimmerman purchase \$5000.00 worth of insurance for both the real and personal property.
1	1	127	22 November 1866	Business dealings are not satisfactory. Jack suffers from headaches. Rosalie stays with Agnes during the day and is becoming homesick. Jack mails all of the Christmas presents to Charlotte, including a tree.
1	1	128	27 November 1866	Remaining in New York in hopes of settling business deals, Jack entertains Rosalie and their cousins to see opera singer, Clara Kellogg in <i>Crispino e la Comare</i> . Plans to take her to see Barnum's Menagerie the next day.
1	1	129	28 November 1866	Writes of returning soon that Rosalie has been wonderful. Deal with the Capps Mine will eventually leave him out of the mine. James Renwick is back from Cuba and is living with his wife, Lizzie with her mother in Norwich. James lost money in the venture.
1	1	130	16 December 1866	Travels to New York through a snow storm The trip is for bank business. He alludes to the political problems in North Carolina, Reconstruction, and W.W. Holden. Decides not to pursue more wealth and asks her to order cords of wood for the poor.

**Series I: John (Jack) Wilkes to Jane (Jeanie) Wilkes (1856 – 1908)**

<b>Series</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Date</b>	
1	1	131	14 February 1867	Jack writes about this trip to Baltimore. Off to settle father's business surrounding Hill property as well as his.
1	1	132	18 February 1867	Jack apologizes for not writing before now, but nothing new to report. While staying with Agnes, he awaits word on the High Shoals Property. Edmund Wilkes turns down a position with the railroad. Provides additional family news and shares her concern over their daughter, Jeanie.
1	1	133	20 February 1867	Continues to wait news of the sale of a number of properties. Jack takes in a performance by Edwin Booth in <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> .
1	1	134	21 February 1867	Writing from the offices of Darrell & Nash, Jack writes about his discouragement and the Military Reconstruction Act.
1	1	135	25 February 1867	In New York, Jack writes of meeting old friends, problems with settling Devasego and concern that despite appearances, the war has caused some friction between the Wilkes and the Smedberg family. Hoped to hear good news about some business project, Jack expresses his gratitude to his wife for her support. Brother Em's prospects failed again. Mentions the start of problems with the Rock Island Mill.
1	1	136	27 February 1867	Still in New York, Jack worries that she is expecting him home soon, but he is unsure when he can return. Calls on Mrs. Pyne and the Hale family. Undertakes purchase of religious music for the church, but not prayer books.
1	1	137	01 March 1867	While in New York, Jack spends money at an auction and feels so guilty, he purchases the prayer books. Informs her that James has been offered a permanent position in San Francisco. Concern over the health of other family members. Complains about the rudeness of old friend Peter Kemble, says New Yorkers are every bit as rude as the Charlotte gentlemen.
1	1	138	29 May 1869	While in Millville, Massachusetts, Jack provides a lengthy account of his travels. Visits Agnes. Her son Charlie is to attend theological school in Gambier, Ohio. Jack continues through Providence and onto Rhode Island then Millville in search of a finisher for the mill.

**Series I: John (Jack) Wilkes to Jane (Jeanie) Wilkes (1856 – 1908)**

<b>Series</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Date</b>	
1	1	139	31 May 1869	Now in Worcester, Massachusetts, Jack seeks information on the running of Rock Island Mill. Attends All Saints Episcopal Church in Worcester.
1	1	140	21 August 1870	After enrolling his oldest son, Charlie (Charles) at Virginia Military Institute, Jack returns to Washington and gives an account of their arrival and their reception by Superintendent Francis H. Smith and Commander Matthew Maury.
1	1	141	23 August 1870	Jack and Charlie are in Washington awaiting the time for Charlie to enter Virginia Military Institute and for Commodore Wilkes to relinquish title to some property for Jack. The latter makes comments on the news reports of the Franco-Prussian War. There are mentions business dealings, purchases for Charlie and a trip to the Naval Yard.
1	1	142	24 August 1870	Jack writes from Washington to let Jeanie know he will be leaving soon. Beautiful description of the Aurora Borealis. Comments on the death of Juliet Rogers, widow of the late Reverend Zabdiah Rogers of Charleston. Expresses his concern of Charlie's lack of knowledge in Grammar, History, and Geography.
1	1	143	25 August 1870	Remaining in Washington, DC, Jack and Charlie take in a baseball game. It is the first one Jack has ever seen, and his son was taken with the sport.
1	1	144	15 September 1870	Short note from DC to report he is waiting for the deposit of a check.
1	1	145	16 September 1870	From the Ebbitt House in DC, Jack tries to allay Jeanie's fears because no word has come from Charlie. Provides news accounts of the war because he worries the "fine" newspaper print will ruin her eyes. Describes how politicians are taking sides in order to secure votes in upcoming elections.
1	1	146	17 September 1870	Rejoices that Jeanie has received a letter from Charlie, but is concerned that the school is not consistent in allowing their son to attend an Episcopal church. Still trying to rent out his father's Washington home. Remarks about the rudeness of a Bishop and the difficulties of dealing with his step-mother. Regrets the time this trip has taken from the family.
1	1	147	18 September 1870	Quick note from Washington. Attended St. John's Episcopal, compliments the rector, The Reverend John Lewis. Visits an old Navy friend whose health has declined.

**Series I: John (Jack) Wilkes to Jane (Jeanie) Wilkes (1856 – 1908)**

**Series Box Folder Date**

1 1 148 20 November 1870

Jack in Washington during his father's illness. At the time, Jack does not believe his father would survive, but Charles Wilkes recovers.

1 1 149 27 April 1871

From Baltimore on stationary of the Charles E. Inloes & Company, (Gas Pipe Fitting Company on Charles Street. Quick letter about a house under construction and plans to go to Delaware to check on machinery. Visits with the Turnbells, whose son Jimmy was court-martialed and dismissed from VMI. Purchases a pair of \$5.00 shoes.

1 1 150 30 April 1871

Written from the Ebbitt House in DC, Jack describes an elegant, formal dinner with such dignitaries as the Ambassador Robert Schenck, Nathaniel Michler and the Reverend Henry Pyne.

1 1 151 2 May 1871

On stationary from C. W. Havenner & Company, a real estate brokerage firm, Jack waits for the selling of a house. Describes the natural wonders of Washington to Jeanie and tells her not to do so much.

1 1 152 04 May 1871

On stationary from the Quarter Masters Office at Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia, Jack writes to relieve Jeanie of her worries for her oldest son. The latter is fine, but is having trouble with his school work. Jack surmises he did not have the proper preparatory training, but plans to take Charlie to see the Natural Bridge and relax.

1 1 153 05 May 1871

Jack continues visit with Charlie at VMI. They meet some of Charlie's acquaintances and see the Natural Bridge. Jack expresses his worries for his son's health with the school's physician.

1 1 154 11 May 1871

Back in Washington, Jack writes to Jeanie from the offices of Havenner & Company. The chief topic of the letter is Charlie and how he fell behind in math at the school and some critical observations of the school.

1 1 155 12 May 1871

Jack continues to lament Charlie's deficiencies in math and is pleased One of the teachers, Mr. Brooks intends to tutor Charlie. Jack also Believes Charlie is not as goal oriented as he would like.

1 1 156 23 June 1871

Very short note from Lexington, Jack informs Jeanie that Charlie Did not do well on the math test, but feels he is improved in other areas. Jack takes the responsibility for Charlie's failures because he should have paid more attention to his son's education.

**Series I: John (Jack) Wilkes to Jane (Jeanie) Wilkes (1856 – 1908)**

**Series Box Folder Date**

1 1 157 27 June 1871

Still in Lexington, Jack talks at length how he sees room for improvement at VMI. He continues to report on Charlie's examination and laments over the news that Margaret Anna Robertson Burwell (1808-1871), wife of the Reverend Robert Burwell (1802-1895) died on June 27, 1871.

1 1 158 28 June 1871

While in Lexington, Jack writes to Jeanie about his concerns regarding Charlie's less than stellar academic abilities. Worries that his failings was because of the lack of opportunities in Charlotte.

1 1 159 30 June 1871

Jack is still in Lexington and meets Robert E. Lee and his family.

1 1 160 03 July 1871

Remaining in Lexington so he file a report with the board, Jack is held up because the school board is busy with end of school activities as well as commencement.

1 161 08 July 1871

Just arriving in Washington, Jack writes Jeanie to let her know the VMI Board received his report requesting changes in the school. Stopped at the Rockbridge Baths and wishes she and the children could come there. Requests that Charlie run the shop in his absence as well as keeps up with his math studies.

1 1 162 09 July 1871

In a follow-up letter to the one written the day before, Jack provides a lengthy account of the outcome in Lexington. Mentions he has problems with writing. Continues to lament over Charlie's academic report. Mentions mutual friends and a desire to see the Reverend Dr. Henry C. Alexander.

1 1 163 10 July 1871

From Washington, Jack writes to Jeanie upon learning of the birth of their youngest child, James Renwick Wilkes on 10 July. Urges her to take care of herself, order ice and spare no expense. Obvious, he is relieved that she and the baby are all right.

1 1 164 11 July 1871

On stationary from Daniel E. Groux & Co. Claims Agents in Washington, District Columbia on Louisiana and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets, Jack writes that he will be delayed because of business. Encourages Charlie to stick to his mathematical studies.

**Series I: John (Jack) Wilkes to Jane (Jeanie) Wilkes (1856 – 1908)**

**Series Box Folder Date**

1 1 165 03 September 1871

From Washington, Jack mentions the journey with his brother Edmund and his family. Jack writes that Em is not well plus there is trouble finding a tenant for the “house” presumably, his father, Charles Wilkes’ residence.

1 1 166 26 September 1871

Quick note from DC, Jack traveled to Washington with his father, Charles Wilkes. Journey made uncomfortable when father insisted upon sharing a berth in a sleeping car.

1 1 167 29 September 1871

From DC, Jack Wilkes writes about the want of a tenant for the house. A friend, named Bryce, took him to the theater to see Charles Selby’s play, *Marble Heart*.

1 1 168 30 September 1871

Jack writes from New York and mentions seeing Jeanie’s brothers and their cousin Laura Renwick Monroe (1826-1879) who invited him to stay at her home.

1 1 169 03 October 1871

From Baltimore on his way to Washington, DC, Jack writes in depth about his financial debt and the burdens he feels. Mentions the (Episcopal) General Convention and the Reverend Bronson as well as Laura Monroe’s son Gus and how the family holds him in little regard. Wishes Charlie would confide in him more and take an interest in the business. His father continues to experience money problems and would not draw any pay for the next coming year except for the rental of the house.

1 1 170 20 January 1873

From Baltimore on route to Washington, Jack writes to Jeanie to let her know he arrived safely. Searching for basins possibly for the church. Still does not have a tenant for the DC house. Hard to determine if this house belongs to his father or was an investment by Jack. The latter also had to testify at a trial.

1 1 171 23 January 1873

On stationary of the Law Offices of Dennis & Scott, Jack informs Jeanie the trial has been delayed. Relays orders to Charlie and visits Poole and Hunt’s Foundry.

1 1 172 24 January 1873

Remaining in Baltimore, Jack writes to Jeanie of his pride in Charlie’s business reports. Waiting to hear if the trial is postponed, Jack offers a detailed account of how he spends his day, inquires about the children, and mentions the flurry of the trial of Ellen Wharton who was charged with poisoning General Scott Ketcham.

**Series I: John (Jack) Wilkes to Jane (Jeanie) Wilkes (1856 – 1908)**

**Series Box Folder Date**

1 1 173 26 January 1873

After finishing business affairs in Washington, Jack returns to Baltimore, where he write about the service held at St. Luke's Episcopal by the Reverend, Dr. Charles Woodruff Rankin.

1 1 174 27 January 1873

From Baltimore, the Judges dismisses the jury and are handling the case involving two banks. Jack's testimony will take two days. In between testifying, he purchases items for the children and the household.

1 1 175 20 April 1873

From High Shoals, Jack visits his ailing father and sends a note of love and appreciation to Jeanie as it is their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Also sends instructions regarding a man named Bridges.

1 1 176 20 August 1873

Short note to Jeanie who is now at High Shoals tending to her uncle/father-in-law, Charles Wilkes. Jack is home with Rosalie and Paul.

1 1 177 22 August 1873

Jack to Jeanie and the situation is the same. Jack writes he suffers from a bad cold.

1 1 178 24 August 1873

While Jeanie remains in High Shoals, Jack updates her with all the local gossip involving the Dr. Bronson his sister Abby Bodfish and nephew David, who worked for Jack Wilkes.

1 1 179 26 August 1873

A sad letter to Jeanie who is away, twenty days after the death of their oldest son, Charlie Wilkes, who died of typhoid fever. Evident, Jack Wilkes feels the loss of his son. First mention of the financial difficulties that would preoccupy the Wilkes for a number of years. Also describes business at the Iron Works.

1 1 180 28 August 1873

Writing to Jeanie from Charlotte who remains in High Shoals recovering the loss of their son. Jack lets her know that if her health does not improve soon, she is to go north and visit with relatives. Provides a little gossip about the Reverend Bronson, his sister-in-law, Mrs. Bodfish and a *mysterious* trip to visit their mother.

1 1 181 29 August 1873

Jack to Jane from Charlotte – her letter describing her homesickness nearly made him cry, so he sends money for her return trip with the children. He Purnell Zimmerman as a bookkeeper.



## **Series I: John (Jack) Wilkes to Jane (Jeanie) Wilkes (1856 – 1908)**

<b>Series</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Date</b>
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1	1	182	01 November 1873
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Strapped for funds, Jack writes to Jeanie from Washington, DC to let her know of his circumstances. They need to sell the Washington house. Jack mentions the public works projects under Governor Alexander Roby Shepherd.

1	1	183	04 November 1873
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Sells some property. Owes too much on one property to sell. Still looking for tenants. Met some old friends who sent love to Jane. Mentions women by name associated with positions in the government.

1	1	184	05 November 1873
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Still in Washington, Jack writes of meeting three former acquaintances, all women who now clerk in government offices. Still trying to sell or lease property. Addresses the problem with the Coates who threaten legal action over the Rock Island Woolen Company. Jack fears bankruptcy.

1	1	185	06 November 1873
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Writes to Jeanie and requests she enlist the assistance of Dewey or Haywood Guion, a local attorney to protect his interests in an Ice [sic] Company against the board of directors and Dr. Charles J. Fox. Wonders if he can withstand the burdens, and doubts about the strength of faith. Mentions mutual friends. And despite the financial crisis, plans to purchase a new carpet for their home.

1	1	186	07 November 1873
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While in Washington, Jack meets a Dr. Curtis of Knoxville, Tennessee and the former discusses the condition of his daughter, Jeanie with Dr. Curtis. The latter recommends that he contact Dr. George Brown, Superintendent of the Barre, Massachusetts Institution for the Education of Feeble Minded Youth. The latter was one of the first training schools for the mentally handicapped in the country. Based on the letter, Jack made financial arrangements with the Freedman's Bank.

1	1	187	04 January 1874
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From Philadelphia, Jack writes of his visit with Kate Gibbons. While there, he attends a production at The Chestnut Theatre and a service at St. Stephen's Episcopal. Jack describes, at length, the sermon by the Reverend Dr. William Rudder. Brief instructions to workers and to Zimmerman.

1	1	188	05 January 1874
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Two letters written on the same day to Jeanie regarding the High Shoals Iron Company property that his father purchased in 1865. (Confusion over this property led to a prolonged legal battle. Jack expresses concerns regarding the finances of the Foundry. Numerous mentions of Zimmerman.

## **Series I: John (Jack) Wilkes to Jane (Jeanie) Wilkes (1856 – 1908)**

<b>Series</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Date</b>	
1	1	189	06 January 1874	A sad letter to Jeanie from Philadelphia as they await the outcome on the sale of High Shoals. Jack feels sorry for his father and his futile attempt to hang onto the property.
1	1	190	07 January 1874	Still in Philadelphia, Jack reports there is no change in the situation and provides information regarding how business is conducted in Philadelphia. Charles Wilkes proposes a contingency plan to purchase property but Jack fears it is a bad idea.
1	1	191	08 June 1874	From Washington, DC, Jack describes his business affairs and the people he meets in the process. Appears he is selling property to pay creditors.
1	1	192	10 June 1874	In the middle of an intense heat wave, Jack writes to let Jeanie know he is still waiting for the lots to sell and the loan to go through.
1	1	193	23 June 1874	Back in Washington, Jack is again waiting for a trial to commence. This short letter contains for the most part, information about his trip.
1	1	194	11 November 1875	Jack travels to Washington, DC to be with his ailing father, Admiral Charles Wilkes. Writing to Jeanie, he details his journey and his father's illness.
1	1	195	12 November 1875	Remaining with his father as his health declines, Jack makes reference to several family members, including his brother, who seems to be separated from his wife Bessie. Tells Jeanie how much she means to him and ask her to forgive him when he is out of sorts.
1	1	196	13 November 1875	Jack remains in Washington and takes charge of his father's care despite his own jaw and head pain.
1	1	197	14 November 1875	Charles Wilkes rallies. Brother, Edmund is disagreeable.
1	1	198	15 November 1875	Jack provides instruction on which bills to pay and is glad she is there to take care of business matters for him. His father takes a turn for the worse.

**Series I: John (Jack) Wilkes to Jane (Jeanie) Wilkes (1856 – 1908)**

**Series Box Folder Date**

1 1 199 16 November 1875

Charles Wilkes' health continues to deteriorate while Jack waits for Oscar Smedberg's arrival to secure funds from Jeanie's trust for Mecklenburg Iron Works.

1 1 200 17 November 1875

Father's decline is now physical and mental. Encloses a letter from Oscar Smedberg to her. Complains about Edmund's continued laziness. Worries about this sisters and stepmother and how they will cope after Jack leaves.

1 1 201 18 November 1875

Jack finally convinces stepmother to consult with doctor regarding care of Charles Wilkes. The latter's health continues to fail. Jack plans to go to Charlotte with Oscar Smedberg, but he is reluctant to leave his father. Work at the foundry is slow except for orders for a jail.

1 1 202 20 November 1875

This letter from Washington, follows a telegram from Jack to Jeanie that he is remaining in Washington. In the letter, Jack explains why. Apparently, his father became so sad when he learned Jack plan to return to Charlotte that the doctor thought it best he remain in DC. Providing instructions to Jeanie regarding foundry business, he praises her for carrying on in his absence.

1 1 203 21 November 1875

Jack reports that his father's condition improved upon hearing he will stay in DC. Provides instructions on the payment of a debt and the foundry. Jack and Edmund convince stepmother to allow them to take on the night shift with their father.

1 1 204 22 November 1875

Short letter, no change in Charles Wilkes' condition. Decides to remain in DC until Oscar Smedberg's arrival. Plus a lengthy letter

1 1 205 23 November 1875

Long letter describing the rainy weather, the gloom settling over his father's house, and a report of his condition. Describes in detail his frustration over his brother's attitude towards finding employment, and a few sentences on how his sisters, Janey and Eliza spend their time.

1 1 206 24 November 1875

Remaining in Washington, Jack is weary of waiting. Several mentions regarding business affairs and numerous comments praising Jeanie for taking care of business in his absence.

1 1 207 25 November 1875

Jack continues to wait for Oscar before returning to Charlotte. Lengthy description of the quality of Yale locks and that they are to be used for the Cabarrus County Jail. Mentions architect, (George) Applegate. Instructs Jeanie to pay the bills, including one for Disston and Sons of Philadelphia.

**Series I: John (Jack) Wilkes to Jane (Jeanie) Wilkes (1856 – 1908)**

**Series Box Folder Date**

1 1 208 26 November 1875

Preparing to return home without Oscar, Jack describes how the Doctors applied electricity to his father's stomach. Brief mentions of meeting certain individuals and his impatience with his stepmother and stepsister.

1 1 209 22 December 1875

Jack writes from Washington on his way to Baltimore. Feels guilty for leaving his father, but he has to take care of business. Instructs Jeanie to give the hands Christmas and for other bills to be paid.

1 1 210 16 May 1895

Jeanie is away at an Episcopal Women's Convention and Jack writes a short note about Rosalie's activities, sends sympathies that Jeanie is not being treated respectfully.

1 1 211 17 May 1895

Brief note to Jeanie, who is away, regarding a fire at the Railroad Depot.

1 1 212 07 August 1905

Short note to Jeanie about household affairs and wondering why Renwick does not send postcards from his trip.

1 1 213 28 August 1905

Long note to Jeanie describing the hot weather in Charlotte, a parade in Dilworth where the "soldiers" were rude to the negroes. Jack blames it on the "pretend soldiers." Talks about vegetables, neighbors and family activities.

1 1 214 29 August 1905

Jeanie is still away and Jack writes a short letter about meeting with Mr. Harris Mallinckrodt, the new rector and fretting about bills.

**Jack Wilkes to Jeanie Smedberg (Wilkes) Series 1A 1853-1854 (Courtship and Marriage)**

**Series Box Folder Date**

1A 1 1 19 April 1853

From Charlotte, Charles writes a lengthy letter describing his experiences in settling Edmund's accounts and learning that things are not as his brother described. Great faith in their upcoming marriage and the life they will have together.

1A 1 2 24 April 1853

1A 1 3 1 May 1853

1A 1 4 23 May 1853

1A 1 5 25 May 1853

1A 1 6 27 May 1853

1A 1 7 1 June 1853

1A 1 8 8 June 1853

1A 1 9 16 June 1853

1A 1 10 18 June 1853

1A 1 11 20 June 1853

1A 1 12 22 June 1853

1A 1 13 25 June 1853

1A 1 14 4 July 1853

1A 1 15 6 July 1853

1A 1 16 8 July 1853

1A 1 17 10 July 1853

1A 1 18 13 July 1853

1A 1 19 19 July 1853

1A 1 20 22 July 1853

**Jack Wilkes to Jeanie Smedberg (Wilkes) Series 1A 1853-1854 (Courtship and Marriage)**

<b>Series</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Date</b>
1A	1	21	25 July 1853
1A	1	22	28 July 1853
1A	1	23	31 July 1853
1A	1	24	4 August 1853
1A	1	25	7 August 1853
1A	1	26	9 August 1853
1A	1	27	13 August 1853
1A	1	28	15 August 1853
1A	1	29	16 September 1853
1A	1	30	21 September 1853
1A	1	31	1 October 1853
1A	1	32	5 October 1853
1A	1	33	8 October 1853
1A	1	34	11 October 1853
1A	1	35	15 October 1853
1A	1	36	19 October 1853
1A	1	37	22 October 1853
1A	1	38	23 October 1853
1A	1	39	30 October 1853
1A	1	40	4 November 1853
1A	1	41	7 November 1853

**Jack Wilkes to Jeanie Smedberg (Wilkes) Series 1A 1853-1854 (Courtship and Marriage)**

<b>Series</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Date</b>
1A	1	42	18 December 1853
1A	1	43	20 December 1853
1A	1	44	22 December 1853
1A	1	45	23 December 1853
1A	1	46	26 December 1853
1A	1	47	30 December 1853
1A	1	48	31 December 1853
1A	1	49	1 January 1854
1A	1	50	5 January 1854
			Writes to Jeanie from Goldsboro to let her know that he is safe, and that she may hear of a terrible train wreck in the area, but his train was not involved.
1A	1	51	7 January 1854
1A	1	52	15 January 1854
1A	1	53	22 January 1854
1A	1	54	27 January 1854
1A	1	55	4 February 1854
1A	1	56	7 February 1854
1A	1	57	12 February 1854
1A	1	58	19 February 1854
1A	1	59	21 February 1854
1A	1	60	25 February 1854
1A	1	61	5 March 1854
1A	1	62	9 March 1854

**Jack Wilkes to Jeanie Smedberg (Wilkes) Series 1A 1853-1854 (Courtship and Marriage)**

<b>Series</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Date</b>
1A	1	63	13 March 1854
1A	1	64	20 March 1854
1A	1	65	25 March 1854
1A	1	66	2 April 1854
1A	1	67	22 August 1854
1A	1	68	27 August 1854
1A	1	69	1 September 1854
1A	1	70	4 September 1854
1A	1	71	10 September 1854
1A	1	72	12 September 1854
1A	1	73	15 September 1854
1A	1	74	16 September 1854
1A	1	75	21 September 1854
1A	1	76	24 September 1854
1A	1	77	30 September 1854
1A	1	78	8 October 1854
1A	1	79	11 October 1854
1A	1	80	18 October 1854

**Series 1B Jack Wilkes to Jeanie Smedberg (Prior to courtship)**

1B 1 17 August 1851

Written from Macao, Jack is aboard the US Ship Marion which is doing a tour of duty through Canton and other Asian ports. Laments about the changes among the New York family as the



Renwick members move uptown and Grandmother Jane Jeffrey Renwick's passing on October 6, 1850.

**Series 2 Jane “Jenie” Wilkes to John “Jack” Wilkes 1856 - 1898**

**Series Box Folder Date**

2 2 1 May 27, 1856

From Goldsboro, Jenie describes her trip north to Jack. She travels with their son, “Charlie” who one year old at the time. Describes the assistance of the gentlemen they knew who assisted her with baggage.

2 2 2 May 28 1856

From the Steamboat North Carolina, Jenie lets Jack know they are both well and are resting comfortably.

2 2 3 May 30, 1856

From New York, Jenie arrived safely in New York with Charlie. She lost her purse with her money in it. Describes their stop in Philadelphia, visiting the Lardner’s, Eliza Wilkes’ school, then the push onto New York. Both she and Charlie are tired but relieved to be at her mother’s, Isabella Smedberg’s home on Beech Street.

2 2 4 June 4, 1856

Jenie writes to Jack that her brother-in-law, William Adams is unwilling to underwrite a note so Jack can cover debts accumulated because of his father, Charles Wilkes. The Greenleaf’s, Julia Irving and others called on her. Has Charlie fitted with a truss. Realizes her purse was “picked.” Learns her yearly income does not go as far as she thought.

2 2 5 7 June 1856

After Will explains her finances, Jenie learns her yearly income does not go as far as she thought.

2 2 6 14 June 1856

Jenie traveled to Newport, Rhode Island with Eliza and cousins from the Henry family. Prior to that visits dentist and gives an account.

2 2 7 15 June 1856

A long letter describing her time in Newport, traveling with the Wilkes family. Mentions Poke Wright, the fire of the Daniel Parish’s summer home; orders for the garden in Charlotte, Charlie’s daily activities as well as her own.

2 2 8 20 June 1856

Short letter describing Charlie’s summer ailments from bug bites and teething. Interesting parts regarding the couple’s financial situation. Frets to learn that Jack has been ill.

## Series 2 Jane "Jeanie" Wilkes to John "Jack" Wilkes 1856 - 1898

**Series Box Folder Date**

2 2 9 26 June 1856

Still in Newport, we learn that Jeanie suffers from the affects of malaria, is taking quinine and is pregnant. Jeanie writes in detail about her pregnancy. Describes Charlie playing with Grandfather Wilkes, her plans to travel with her sister Agnes Adams to Devasego where she will see her family as well as her friend Anna Thorpe. An awkward relationship exists between Jeanie and Charles Wilkes but she is getting on with Mary Bolton Wilkes, her husband's stepmother. Provides instruction on maintaining flowers and preserving walnuts.

2 2 10 29 June 1856

Most of the letter describes how Charlie spends his days, his improving health and his personality. They go sailing with the Hunts. Jeanie gives instructions for the canning of vegetables from the garden. Hopes that the baby will be a girl, expresses a desire to live a more spiritual life. Writes how much she misses him. Encloses a diagram by Janey Wilkes of the house the family is staying.

2 2 11 3 July 1856

Jeanie finally arrives in Devasego, offers a good description of traveling by coach and steamboat from Rhode Island to New York. She is glad to be there and describes the surroundings.

2 2 12 7 July 1856

Describes Charlie's popularity with the family. Frets about Jack postponing the time that he will come for them as her due date is approaching. Talks about the confusion of having so many children around with the same given name and tells John they will not to repeat that mistake. Suggests they hire a nurse and a seamstress to come south with them on their return. Cousin Ann Wilkes is engaged.

2 2 13 10 July 1856

2 2 14 15 July 1856

2 2 15 22 July 1856

2 2 16 25 July 1856

2 2 17 29 July 1856

2 2 18 4 August 1856

2 2 19 8 August 1856

2 2 20 11 August 1856

2 2 21 13 August 1856

**Series 2 Jane "Jeanie" Wilkes to John "Jack" Wilkes 1856 - 1898**

<b>Series</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Date</b>
2	2	22	18 August 1856
2	2	23	22 August 1856
2	2	24	26 August 1856
2	2	25	2 September 1856
2	2	26	9 September 1856
2	2	27	8 October 1856
2	2	28	11 October 1856
2	2	29	14 October 1856
2	2	30	15 October 1856
2	2	31	16 October 1856
2	2	32	4 May 1859
2	2	33	2 July 1859
2	2	34	7 July 1859
2	2	35	12 July 1859
2	2	36	1859
2	2	37	16 July 1859
2	2	38	21 July 1859
2	2	39	26 July 1859
2	2	40	28 July 1859
2	2	41	1 August 1859
2	2	42	7 August 1859
2	2	43	10 August 1859

**Series 2 Jane "Jeanie" Wilkes to John "Jack" Wilkes 1856 - 1898**

<b>Series</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Date</b>
2	2	44	14 August 1859
2	2	45	18 August 1859
2	2	46	23 August 1859
2	2	47	27 August 1859
2	2	48	30 August 1859
2	2	49	8 September 1859
2	2	50	11 September 1859
2	2	51	15 September 1859
2	2	52	18 September 1859
2	2	53	20 September 1859
2	2	54	22 September 1859
2	2	55	25 September 1859
2	2	56	28 September 1859
2	2	57	2 October 1859
2	2	58	24 July 1860
2	2	59	26 July 1860
2	2	60	26 July 1860
2	2	61	28 July 1860
2	2	62	30 July 1860
2	2	63	2 August 1860
2	2	64	5 August 1860
2	2	65	8 August 1860

**Series 2 Jane "Jeanie" Wilkes to John "Jack" Wilkes 1856 - 1898**

<b>Series</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Date</b>
2	2	66	9 August 1860
2	2	67	12 August 1860
2	2	68	30 August 1860
2	2	69	29 November 1860
2	2	70	2 December 1860
2	2	71	12 February 1861
2	2	72	13 February 1861
2	2	73	21 March 1861
2	2	74	26 June 1861
2	2	75	29 June 1861
2	2	76	30 June 1861
2	2	77	6 July 1861
2	2	78	9 July 1861
2	2	79	29 July 1861
2	2	80	30 July 1861
2	2	81	1 August 1861
2	2	82	4 August 1861
2	2	83	6 August 1861
2	2	84	7 August 1861
2	2	85	19 August 1861
2	2	86	21 August 1861
2	2	87	22 August 1861

**Series 2 Jane "Jeanie" Wilkes to John "Jack" Wilkes 1856 - 1898**

<b>Series</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Date</b>
2	2	88	25 August 1861
2	2	89	2 September 1861
2	2	90	4 September 1861
2	2	91	5 September 1861
2	2	92	9 September 1861
2	2	93	10 September 1861
2	2	94	13 September 1861
2	2	95	4 December 1861
2	2	96	14 December 1862
2	2	97	11 July 1864
<p>Writes to let Jack know they are all well in Charlotte except for Jeanie and her attacks and baby Lizzie has a sore mouth. Mrs. Dewey and Dr. Bob Gibbons made quite an impression at a local dance. Dr. Green W. Caldwell, who was a member of the State Legislature and one time Superintendent of the Charlotte Branch Mint died on the 10 July and Jeanie and Charlie attended the funeral. Dr. Chap. Briscoe was wounded</p>			
2	2	98	17 July 1865
2	2	99	28 July 1865
2	2	100	3 August 1865
2	2	101	7 August 1865
2	2	102	9 August 1865
2	2	103	27 August 1865
2	2	104	2 September 1865
2	2	105	9 September 1865

**Series 2 Jane “Jenie Smedberg to John “Jack” Wilkes 1855 - 1898**

**Series Box Folder Date**

2 2 106 17August 1868

Written from Cleveland Springs, Jenie implores Jack to come because their daughter Lizzie is sick. She dies two days later.

2 2 107 2 May 1871

2 2 108 12 July 1871

While Jack remains in Lexington, Jenie informs him that the new baby James Renwick, born on July 10<sup>th</sup> is fine. The children are a bit much in the heat, but the neighbors are helping.

2 2 109 26 September 1871

Short note to Jack about Paul’s injured foot and a fire at Wadsworth stables which was quickly extinguished.

2 2 110 7 September 1873

Short note to Jack who is away mostly family news.

2 2 111 December 22, 1881

Writing to her children from New York, Jenie provides details of the death of her sister Agnes Adams.

2 2 112 26 December 1881

Provides details of her visits with relatives, shopping for her children and a desire to stay longer because there is so much to see. Provides information regarding location of household items.

2 2 113 28 December 1881

Long letter to Jack describing family outings, shopping, and problems between siblings John and Agnes Adams. Weather is messy. Laments she cannot take some of the family heirlooms with her. Plans to leave soon, first to Washington then to Charlotte.

2 2 114 14 June 1888

Nine days after the birth of her granddaughter, Harriet Esther, Rankin on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 1888, Jenie writes to Jack from her daughter’s home on Farmington Avenue in Hartford, Connecticut. Plans to hire her nephew, Charlie Adams to write and publish her hospital auxiliary report. Seeks advice from Jack regarding the price. Mentions convention and other personal subjects. Inquires about Jack’s visit to Cleveland Springs and construction of Good Samaritan Hospital.

2 2 115 15 June 1888

Lengthy letter regarding employment and investment opportunities for son-in-law, Richard Lockwood Jones. Jenie tries to ease Jack’s uneasiness about business situations.



**Series 2 Jane “Jeanie Smedberg to John “Jack” Wilkes 1855 - 1898**

**Series Box Folder Date**

2 1 116 17 June 1888

Letter reflects the period in term of dress and custom. Jeanie writes at the Women’s Auxiliary of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut.

2 2 117 18 June 1888

Jeanie describes her daily activities in Hartford. One reference to a hospital made in this letter. Mostly, she met with lawyers friends, and attends church.

2 2 118 20 June 1888

Lengthy letter from Jeanie to Jack regarding her trip to Middletown to visit friends, Agnes’ recovering from childbirth, Rich’s business plans as well as comments on deaths and events in Charlotte. With the assistance of her son-in-law, Erwin, she makes business transactions as well as gives detailed instructions regarding the installation of plumbing and heating at Good Samaritan Hospital.

2 2 119 26 June 1888

Lengthy letter to Jack regarding Agnes’s progress, the weather and her lecture to the Episcopal Women’s Auxiliary of Hartford. Other information concerning their two son-in-laws is included as well as continued pleas for Jack to join her and the itinerary for her return trip to Charlotte.

2 2 120 4 March 1889

Jeanie writes to Jack as they both wait to hear word on the outcome of the lawsuit against them regarding Court case involving a twenty year old lawsuit between I.K.P. Osborne, Receiver vs. John and Jane Wilkes, which ended in verdict for the Wilkes.

2 2 121 5 March 1889

Short letter to Jack regarding the trial as well as the death of Eliza Hall, a member of St. Peter’s.

2 2 122 11 September 1889

Postcard letting Jack know her train was delayed.

2 2 123 11 September 1889

Arrived in Hartford to visit Agnes and family.

2 2 124 12 September 1889

2 2 125 13 September 1889

Lengthy letter regarding Frank living in Hoboken. Rosalie’s Charlotte visit. Erwin Rankin’s coming and goings and the Possibility of Agnes coming to Charlotte if the Hartford house sells

2 2 126 15 September 1889

From Hartford, Jeanie instructs which bills to be paid including the milk bill for Good Samaritan.

## Series 2 Jane "Jeanie Smedberg to John "Jack" Wilkes 1855 - 1898

**Series Box Folder Date**

2 2 127 17 September 1889

Mostly family news as well as commiserating over their servant Thomas's latest "spree," a disagreement between Bishop Lyman and their rector, Mr. Cheshire.

2 2 128 19 September 1889

Responding to Jack's requests for more letters, Jeanie wonders about the location of her previous letters. Contains mostly family tidbits, urging him to come north and her plans to visit Devasego.

2 2 129 20 September 1899

Descriptions of the development of her grandchildren, Harriet and Wilkes Erwin.

2 2 130 21 September 1899

Besides family anecdotes, Jeanie writes of going to the Hartford Woven Wire Mattress Company to see about mattresses for the Hospital. Inquires if the electrical lights have been installed for Good Samaritan. Laments about the death of Susie Hutchison of Charlotte.

2 2 131 23 September 1899

A short note in which she mentions her plan to travel to Devasego as well as meeting Elizabeth Colt, widow of the inventor, Samuel Colt.

2 2 132 25 September 1899

Traveling to New York, Jeanie describes her trip through rural upstate New York and reminds Jack to ask Rosalie and other church members to look in on a Mrs. Doby who is in need of financial assistance.

2 2 133 25 September 1899

From Kingston, N.Y. Jeanie sends a short note with instructions.

2 2 134 14 December 1899

From Charlotte, Jeanie writes to Jack who is in Atlanta. The letter contains news about the neighborhood and their friends.

2 2 135 15 December 1899

Jack is still away and Jeanie keeps him informed regarding local happenings.

2 2 136 28 October 1891

Jeanie writes to Jack who is on his way to New York. Besides the usual mentions of neighbors, we learn Paul Wilkes suffers from rheumatoid arthritis and that Jack Wilkes still worries about the money owed to the Coates Brothers. Surprisingly, Jeanie only concern is about Jack's anxiety over the matter. She does not care if the Coates ever receive repayment after their behavior.

**Series 2 Jane "Jeanie Smedberg to John "Jack" Wilkes 1855 - 1898**

**Series Box Folder Date**

2 2 137 29 October 1891

Jack remains in New York and Jeanie informs him of her activities. Agrees with Jack that her brother, Dolph is being stubborn regarding the transfer of her dowry to North Carolina. Mentions her continued interest in the hospitals.

2 2 138 31 October 1891

Jeanie offers suggestions to ease Frank Wilkes' strain at foundry. Dolph Smedberg is not moved by threats of a lawsuit. The Coates problem still troubles Jack but not Jeanie. Paul is recovering from a recent RA attack Visits patients at St. Peter's. Learn that the city's thermometer was kept in Elmwood. First mention of her granddaughter, Minta Araminta Lockwood Jones.

2 2 139 1 November 1891

Jack is now in Hartford with Agnes and her family. Jeanie keeps him up to date with the family's daily activities.

2 2 140 2 November 1891

Short note to let him know she was going to the opera to see Paul Pry

2 2 141 3 November 1891

Jeanie writes to Jack who remains in Hartford about her activities, hospital visits, and is very frank about his latest investment in a Catawba County mine and expresses her disapproval of all mines. Excited that Jack will be home soon, but they are in need of servants.

2 2 142 18 November 1891

From Charlotte, Jeanie writes to Jack who is in Richmond. Provides accounts of the family and the cold snap hit Charlotte unexpectedly.

2 2 143 27 May 1892

Short note from Washington on her way to Hoboken.

2 2 144 27 May 1892

Writing from the Naegeli's Hotel in Hoboken, New Jersey, Jeanie informs Jack that she is unable to see many of the people she planned to visit. Their son Renwick postpones a school trip to escort her. Mentions seeing Mary Bolton Wilkes, widow of Charles Wilkes. Most likely when she stopped in Washington.

2 2 145 29 May 1892

Written on stationary from the Naegeli Hotel, Jeanie describes her time with her son, Renwick as well as meeting her brother Renwick and his wife Fanny who are in New York from San Francisco. Tries to settle accounts with Dolph, but unsuccessful. Visits with cousins, Harry and Margaret Renwick.

**Series 2 Jane "Jeanie Smedberg to John "Jack" Wilkes 1855 - 1898**

**Series Box Folder Date**

2 2 146 31 May 1892

From Hartford, Jeanie describes her trip to Riverdale and her visits with Jim Renwick and old friends, the Thorps. Jeanie was with Agnes who was expecting her fourth child in June. Mentions her brother James Smedberg's Chicago business venture. She is very critical of his work habits. Provides instructions for servants and apologizes for some problem at the hospital with a Dr. Graham.

2 2 147 3 June 1892

From Hartford, Jeanie writes to John about their unruly grandchildren and offers opinions of a business venture. She mentions that Miss Evans left the hospital and dreads the search for a new matron. Talks about resentment on the Hospital board when she wanted her daughter, Rosalie to be elected Secretary-Treasury pro tem.

2 2 148 4 June 1892

With Agnes in Hartford, Jeanie describes their daily activities. Annoyed upon hearing that in Charlotte, local officials want to cut down the trees in front of City Hall and construct an arch monument.

2 2 149 8 June 1892

Short not from Hartford with information about Harriet Rankin's birthday party and childhood ailments.

2 2 150 9 June 1892

Jane learns that her mother-in-law, Mary Bolton Wilkes asked that her son, Paul Wilkes escort Mary Wilkes and her daughter, Marie to Europe. Debates on whether she should try and see them off, but decides against it. Comments about the work of Drs. Wilder and Graham who want a city hospital. Jeanie sees this as the way the church will remove itself from hospital care.

2 2 151 12 June 1892

Long letter to John from Jeanie regarding her visit with Paul seeing him, her mother-in-law and sister-in-law off on their trip. Descriptive account on arrangements. Frets about Renwick's exams coinciding with a heat wave. Also describes her disapproval of her grandchildren's behavior.

2 2 152 15 June 1892

From Hartford, Jeanie questions John if the city plans to create a hospital and purchase the two hospitals, St. Peters and Good Samaritan. Describes daily activities and the weather.

2 2 153 17 June 1892

Jeanie writes about the weather and domestic happenings at Agnes' house. Saddened to learn about the death of a friend.

**Series 2 Jane "Jeanie Smedberg to John "Jack" Wilkes 1855 - 1898**

**Series Box Folder Date**

2 2 154 22 June 1892

Jeanie lists all of the people she has called on with her grandchildren or who have called on her. Complains about the heat, but is getting on better

2 2 155 June 23 1892

Anxious to come home, but Jeanie remarks there is no change in Agnes' condition. Comments on who wrote her from Charlotte. Saddened to hear that so much rain has ruined local crops. Glad to hear the news of Grover Cleveland's nomination for President. Questions regarding the sale of the mine and the Coates lawsuit. Thanks Jack for proofing the Good Samaritan Hospital report. She plans to distribute them up north.

2 2 156 June 25, 1892

Not much to report from Hartford other than the weather and grandchildren misbehaving. Tells Jack not to worry about the Coates suit and wishes he and Renwick would be closer.

2 2 157 26 June 1892

Jeanie travels to New York upon hearing of the death of her nephew, John Magnus Adams. Describes her travel plans for her return trip home. Jeanie describes her uneasiness about granddaughter, Minta's and Jack's illness.

2 2 158 27 June 1892

Saddened by the death of her nephew John Magnus Adams, and worried that Jack and Minta are sick, Jeanie writes to Jack regarding her travel plans. Describes Agnes's new baby, Ralph Rankin, as pretty. Her eyesight is failing so she plans to see an "oculist" in Hartford.

2 2 159 29 June 1892

Writes that if Agnes' health improves, she plans to leave on a Friday which would have made it three days. The baby is fine, but Agnes is feverish. She did not make it to the eye doctor, but will try again.

2 2 160 1 July 1892

On a train to New York, Jeanie writes to Jack that Agnes is still under the weather, but the baby is fine. She finally purchases glasses. Deal between Erwin Rankin and the Maury Brothers finalized. Jeanie plans to travel with Renwick, pay some visits before meeting Janey and Eliza Wilkes in Rockville, New York.

2 2 161 2 or 3 July 1892

Writing from her brother's home in Flushing, New York. Mentions mutual friends, her delight in seeing her niece, Agnes in New York. Her brother James is well. She plans to leave for Washington soon.

**Series 2 Jane "Jeanie Smedberg to John "Jack" Wilkes 1855 - 1898**

**Series Box Folder Date**

2 2 162 July 4, 1892

Two short letters written on the train to Washington, DC, Jeanie writes about who she saw in New York and the countryside.

2 2 163 July 5, 1892

Writing from Washington, DC in the home of her two sister-in-laws, Jeanie writes Jack about her travel plans. She is anxious to see him since he has been so sick and worried since she was away. Jeanie is glad to hear Renwick went to a celebration of the Battle Guilford Courthouse in Greensboro. Went shopping with Janey, but is resting now while Janey sleeps and Eliza is at the office. Paul will need a new suit while in Europe.

2 2 164 July 6, 1892

Remaining in Washington, Jeanie plans a visit with the Humbert family. Dined at the Nourse's where she saw Emma Drayton. Plans to arrive in Charlotte either July 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup>.

2 2 165 June 6, 1893

While Jack is away at a reunion at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Jeanie keeps him apprised of their son's excitement of graduating from college, the failures of the railroad and a local baseball game.

2 2 166 June 9, 1893

Family news of grandchildren, trips to the dentist and the hospital.

2 2 167 September 3, 1893

News of home and neighbors the Clarkson while Jack is away.

2 2 168 September 5, 1893 J

Jack is away at the springs. Jeanie apprises him of the daily activities. Minta's pleasure in playing with her kittens. The Reverend Mr. Cheshire has some mission plans that he would like Jack to look over so she encloses them in a large envelope. All are well and she hopes he is resting.

2 2 169 January 20, 1895

Short letter to Jack regarding how she spent the day in church, dislikes the rector's service, visits the hospital and who she has over for dinner.

2 2 170 January 22, 1895

Jack is away and Jeanie describes her busy days of a meeting of the two hospital boards, visiting and helping out at Good Samaritan, taking care of Nannies, and calling on the Mayor.

2 2 171 January 23, 1895

While Jack is away in Cincinnati, she learns that he might have a renewed interest in mining. She implores him to drop them.

**Series 2 Jane "Jeanie Smedberg to John "Jack" Wilkes 1855 - 1898**

**Series Box Folder Date**

2 2 172 January 25, 1895

Jeanie describes the effects of the rainy weather. Hospital activities are mentioned as well as news of the grandchildren.

2 2 173 January 26, 1895

Short letter requesting house hold goods as well as some personal items. Frank is running the factory in absence of his father.

2 2 174 January 28, 1895

Jeanie telegraphs Jack in Philadelphia that their cousin, Harry Renwick died in New York City.

2 2 175 January 28, 1895

Short letter to Jack includes kind remarks about their cousin and family happenings.

2 2 176 January 29, 1895

A heartfelt letter from Jeanie to Jack imploring him not to invest in any more mines, but to be satisfied with making equipment purchased by mine owners. Mentions investment in Kings Mountain mines.

2 2 177 January 29, 1895

Worried she may have come across as too harsh in her letter of the 29th, Jeanie writes to Jack later that night and apologizes for her tone but repeats her earnest wish that he not invest more money into the mines.

2 2 178 February 03 1895

Jeanie writes to Jack regarding the purchase of napkins, the weather and makes remarks about the work of Bishop Ellison Capers and the Reverend Edmund N. Joyner.

2 2 179 February 3, 1895

Jeanie writes to tell Jack she measured the napkins wrong. Informs him that General Rufus Barringer died. No word has come regarding the death of their cousin, Harry Renwick. Comments on the rector's sermon.

2 2 180 February 4, 1895

Jeanie writes to Jack from Charlotte and reminds him to buy a birthday present for their granddaughter Minta Jones. Informs him she attended Rufus Barringer's funeral and provides a description of it. Excited that he is returning and will bring Mrs. Lyman, widow of Theodore Lyman, for a visit. The right Reverend Theodore Lyman was the Bishop of North Carolina.

**Series 2 Jane "Jenie" Wilkes to John "Jack" Wilkes 1855 - 1898**

**Series Box Folder Date**

2 2 181 27 November 1895

It is near Christmas and Jenie sends Jack the requests of their children. Agnes and her family are in town. Mentions a hospital meeting and purchasing items for the hospitals at Snyder's. Mentions activities at local organizations the arrival of the Settles and mention of Caroline Settle their future daughter-in-law.

2 2 182 November 28, 1895

Very short note to Jack informing him of all the family's activities.

2 2 183 October 29, 1898

Postcard from Jenie to Jack from Murray Hill as she is on her way to New York then Hartford.

2 2 184 October 30, 1898

While staying with her brother Dolph Smedberg, Jenie tries again to obtain control over her inheritance. Learns the family gossip and is saddened to know that her brother's second wife Carrie Duncan Smedberg lost family in the sinking of the Mohegan off the coast of Cornwall. Extensive footnotes at the end of letter.

2 2 185 November 1, 1898

Jenie writes to Jack from Hartford. Their grandson Wilkes collects American stamps and his siblings collect international stamps. News regarding locating a nurse for the hospital to replace Miss. Rittenhouse. The rest is news about their California relatives.

2 2 186 November 2, 1898

Short letter regarding payment of bills and family news.

2 2 187 November 3, 1898

While in Hartford, Jenie tries to hire a Miss Holden to take charge of the Hospital. Complains that the Reverend Junius Horner consecration will inconvenient the Horner family if held in Asheville.

2 2 188 November 4, 1898

Short note, Rosalie has a cold, but otherwise they are fine.

2 2 189 November 6, 1898

From Hartford, Jenie apprises Jack of her travel plans. Hired Mrs. Holden to serve as Matron of St. Peter's Hospital. Disappointed that Agnes will not let her take any of the children with her for a visit as she believes this will be her last visit North. Mentions Agnes' rise in Hartford society as well as some family gossip.



**Series 2 Jane “Jeanie” Wilkes to John “Jack” Wilkes 1855 - 1898****Series Box Folder Date**

2 2 190 November 8, 1898

Still in Hartford, Jeanie requests that Jack once again talk to Mrs. H.C. Jones and obtain the funds to hire the nurse, Constance A. Holden. Comments that her main reason for coming north was to hire a new matron. Apparently Mrs. Jones, wants Jeanie to wait, but the latter is firm that the contract is signed and needs to be honored. Informs Jack that the eye doctor says she is blind in one eye. Comments on the politics within North Carolina Episcopal Church.

2 2 191 November 9, 1898

Short note from New York to let Jack know that she and Fanny are on their way to Washington. Eliza Wilkes is not well, but they will be staying with Janey and Eliza.

2 2 192 November 10, 1898

Another short letter describing their trip from New York to Washington. Unhappy with Mrs. Jones' who only sent half the train fare for Mrs. Holden, and makes it impossible for Jeanie to transfer the money.

2 2 193 29 November (unknown)

Short letter to Jeanie. Jack is away. The letter is too vague to make an exact determination of the year but most likely written between 1860-1865. Mentions visit by Mary Gibbon and the children's health.

2 2 194 2 December (unknown)

Same as above.

**Series 2A Jane “Jeanie” Smedberg to John “Jack” Wilkes (1853 – 1854)****Series Box Folder Date**

2A 2 1 20 March 1853

2A 2 2 30 March 1853

2A 2 3 2 April 1853

2A 2 4 6 April 1853

2A 2 5 7 April 1853

2A 2 6 10 April 1853

2A 2 7 14 April 1853

2A 2 8 16 April 1853

**Series 2A Jane “Jeanie” Smedberg to John “Jack” Wilkes (1853 – 1854)**

<b>Series</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Date</b>
2A	2	9	18 April 1853
2A	2	10	19 April 1853
2A	2	11	22 April 1853
2A	2	12	25 April 1853
2A	2	13	26 April 1853
2A	2	14	29 April 1853
2A	2	15	2 May 1853
2A	2	16	21 May 1853
2A	2	17	23 May 1853
2A	2	18	26 May 1853
2A	2	19	30 May 1853
2A	2	20	1 June 1853
2A	2	21	15 June 1853
2A	2	22	19 June 1853
2A	2	23	22 June 1853
2A	2	24	23 June 1853
2A	2	25	25 June 1853
2A	2	26	27 June 1853
2A	2	27	30 June 1853
2A	2	28	5 July 1853
2A	2	29	7 July 1853
2A	2	30	11 July 1853

**Series 2A Jane “Jeanie” Smedberg to John “Jack” Wilkes (1853 – 1854)**

<b>Series</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Date</b>
2A	2	31	14 July 1853
2A	2	32	18 July 1853
2A	2	33	20 July 1853
2A	2	34	22 July 1853
2A	2	35	26 July 1853
2A	2	36	28 July 1853
2A	2	37	1 August 1853
2A	2	38	5 August 1853
2A	2	39	8 August 1853
2A	2	40	11 August 1853
2A	2	41	16 August 1853
2A	2	42	19 August 1853
2A	2	43	21 August 1853
2A	2	44	23 August 1853
2A	2	45	14 September 1853
2A	2	46	16 September 1853
2A	2	47	20 September 1853
2A	2	48	23 September 1853
2A	2	49	30 September 1853
2A	2	50	4 October 1853
2A	2	51	7 October 1853

**Series 2A Jane “Jeanie” Smedberg to John “Jack” Wilkes (1853 – 1854)**

<b>Series</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Date</b>
2A	2	52	10 October 1853
2A	2	53	13 October 1853
2A	2	54	17 October 1853
2A	2	55	21 October 1853
2A	2	56	24 October 1853
2A	2	57	28 October 1853
2A	2	58	31 October 1853
2A	2	59	4 November 1853
2A	2	60	17 December 1853
2A	2	61	20 December 1853
2A	2	62	23 December 1853
2A	2	63	27 December 1853
2A	2	64	29 December 1853
2A	2	65	1 January 1854
2A	2	66	6 January 1854
2A	2	67	10 January 1854
2A	2	68	14 January 1854
2A	2	69	17 January 1854
2A	2	70	21 January 1854
2A	2	71	24 January 1854
2A	2	72	27 January 1854
2A	2	73	1 February 1854

**Series 2A Jane “Jeanie” Smedberg to John “Jack” Wilkes (1853 – 1854)**

<b>Series</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Date</b>
2A	2	74	4 February 1854
2A	2	75	7 February 1854
2A	2	76	10 February 1854
2A	2	77	14 February 1854
2A	2	78	17 February 1854
2A	2	79	21 February 1854
2A	2	80	24 February 1854
2A	2	81	1 March 1854
2A	2	82	3 March 1854
2A	2	83	7 March 1854
2A	2	84	10 March 1854
2A	2	85	14 March 1854
2A	2	86	17 March 1854
2A	2	87	21 March 1854
2A	2	88	24 March 1854
2A	2	89	27 March 1854
2A	2	90	31 March 1854
2A	2	91	3 April 1854
2A	2	92	10 April 1854
2A	2	93	21 August 1854
2A	2	94	23 August 1854
2A	2	95	23 August 1854

**Series 2A Jane “Jeanie” Smedberg to John “Jack” Wilkes (1853 – 1854)**

<b>Series</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Date</b>
2A	2	96	30 August 1854
2A	2	97	4 September 1854
2A	2	98	7 September 1854
2A	2	99	12 September 1854
2A	2	100	18 September 1854
2A	2	101	19 September 1854
2A	2	102	22 September 1854
2A	2	103	26 September 1854
2A	2	104	29 September 1854
2A	2	105	4 October 1854
2A	2	106	8 October 1854
2A	2	107	11 October 1854
2A	2	108	15 October 1854
2A	2	109	22 October 1854

## Common Names or Nicknames that Appear in the Papers

Adams	=	Agnes Smedberg's in-laws
Adolphus	=	Adolphus Smedberg, brother of Jeanie Wilkes, often called Dolph
Agnes	=	Agnes Smedberg Adams, older sister of Jeanie Wilkes.
Agnes	=	Daughter of Jack and Jeanie Wilkes.
Alice	=	Alice Smedberg
Anne	=	Anne Renwick
Anna	=	AnnaThorpe, friend of Jeanie Wilkes
Axel	=	Axel Smedberg Adams, son of Agnes and William Adams
Bella Smedberg.	=	Isabella Wilkes, infant daughter of John and Jane Adams
Bessie	=	Bessie Wilkes, wife of Edmund Wilkes.
Carrie	=	Carrie Smedberg
Charles	=	Charles Adams, nephew of Jeanie Wilkes
Charlie	=	Charles Gustavus Smedberg, youngest brother of Jeanie Wilkes.
	=	Charles Wilkes, oldest child of Jack and Jeanie Wilkes.
	=	Charlie Adams, child of Agnes Adams
Cora	=	Cora Smedberg
D.C.	=	D.C. Peabody
Dolph	=	Adolphus Smedburg (brother of Jeanie Wilkes)
E.J.	=	Elizabeth Jeffrey Cunningham of Scotland (great-aunt of Jane & John Wilkes) lived in Stranraer, Scotland
Edmund	=	Jack Wilkes only brother.
Edwin	=	Edwin R. Rich
Ellen	=	Ellen Kemble
Eliza	=	Jack Wilkes youngest sister.
	=	Infant daughter of Jeanie and Jack Wilkes
	=	Eliza Hill, a cousin
Fanny	=	Frances Fanny Louise Tray Morgan (wife of J.P. Morgan)
Frances	=	Frances Smedberg
Frank	=	John Francis Wilkes, youngest child of Jack and Jeanie Wilkes
Frank	=	Frank Smedburg (Jeanie's brother)
Gouv	=	Gouverner Kemble, a friend of the Smedberg brothers
Gertrude	=	Servant in Smedberg home
Hannah	=	Servant in Smedberg home
Harriet	=	Harriet Smedberg, second wife of John Smedberg, Jeanies brother
Uncle Henry	=	Reverend Henry Broovort
Henry	=	Henry Pellew
Jack	=	John Wilkes. The family always refer to him as Jack.
Isabella	=	Isabella Adams Smedberg
Isabella	=	Isabella Wilkes, daughter of Jack and Jeanie Wilkes, See: Bella
James	=	James Smedberg, Jeanie's brother.
James or Jas'	=	James Renwick, Professor of Columbia College and Jeanie and Jack's maternal uncle.
Jane Renwick	=	Jane Jeffrey Renwick, maternal grandmother of Jeanie and Jack Wilkes

Janey	=	Jane Wilkes, sister of Jack Wilkes.
Jeanie	=	Jane Renwick Smedburg Wilkes – A family name.
Jeanie	=	Jane Jeffrey Wilkes, daughter of Jack and Jeanie Wilkes (She suffered from epilepsy and is mentioned in the early letters.)
Jack	=	John Wilkes
John	=	John Smedberg, oldest brother of Jeanie Wilkes
John A.	=	John Adams
Laura	=	Laura Renwick Monroe, cousin of Jeanie Wilkes
Lizzie	=	Another nickname for Eliza Smedberg, wife of James Smedberg
Lockwood	=	Richard Lockwood Jones, husband of Rosalie Wilkes
Minta	=	Araminta Lockwood Jones Hull, granddaughter of Jack and Jeanie also referred to as Mrs. M. L. Hull, Mrs. Lockwood Hull
Mother	=	If written by Jeanie Wilkes or Agnes Smedberg Adams, it refers to Isabella Smedberg. If written by Janey Wilkes, the letter refers to her step-mother. Mary Bolton Wilkes.
Niclas	=	Smedberg cousin by marriage
Nicolina	=	Niclas' daughter
Oscar	=	Oscar Smedberg, brother of Jeanie Wilkes.
Paul	=	Paul Jones
Paul	=	Paul Wilkes, son of Jack and Jeanie Wilkes.
Renwick	=	Renwick Smedberg, brother of Jeanie Smedberg
Renwick	=	Son of Jack and Jeanie
Rosalie	=	Daughter of Jeanie and Jack Wilkes
Sarah	=	Sarah Monis
Sarah	=	Sarah B. Shuman
Thomas	=	Thomas Burry
Thomas J. Jarvis		
Vernon	=	Vernon Henry
William or Wm	=	William Renwick, uncle of Jack and Jeanie who died inestate. His Charlotte property enabled them to settle here.
	=	William Smedberg, brother of Jeanie may also be called Renwick.
	=	William Adams, Agnes Smedberg Adam's husband, brother-in-law to Jeanie and Jack Wilkes
	=	William Adams, Sr. sometimes referred to old W. Adams or old Mr. Adams
Surnames		
Smedberg	=	Jeanie's Family
Jeffreys	=	Jeanie and Jack's maternal relatives.
Renwick	=	Jeanie and Jack's maternal relatives.
Brevoort	=	Jeanie and Jack's maternal relatives, a mutual aunt married into the Kemp, Brevoort family.
Adams	=	Agnes Smedberg, sister of Jeanie, married William Adams.
Henry	=	Jeanie and Jack's maternal relatives, a mutual aunt married the Reverend James Vernon Henry.



Kemp = Several relatives married into this family.  
Kemble  
Auchincloss

### **Locations**

Amity Street - Agnes Smedberg Adams resides here with her husband Will and their children.

Beach Street - Isabella Renwick Smedberg's residence is on this street in New York City.

St. Catherines Mill was just outside the Charlotte City limits. Now incorporated into Charlotte.

Devasego (Summer home of the Smedburg family in the Catskills of NY)

Washington, DC (Home of the two sisters Jane & Eliza and their father Charles)

High Shoals is in Gaston County. Charles Wilkes had land holdings there but no actual deed. This involved lengthy litigation that was not settled in his favor.

### **Prominent Names**

John P. Alderman

Thomas Ashe

Bishop Thomas Atkinson

US Representative for NC

Bishop of the North Carolina Episcopal Diocese  
(1853-1881)

Charles B. Aycock

NC Educator and Governor

Robert S. Barnett

Robert Barrett (Baxter)

Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard CSA General, famous for Bull Run, and Ft. Sumter

Reverend Samuel Bishop

Reverend Thomas Bratton

Bishop Theodore D. Bratton

Bishop of the Mississippi Episcopal Diocese  
Resident of Seattle, Washington

Amos Brown

Thomas Burry

Lewis Burton

Rector, St. Johns Episcopal in Richmond, VA

Marion Butler	US Senator from NC 1895-1901, Populist Party
E. Capers	
Bishop Thomas Nelson Capes	
T. H. Carter	Lieutenant Colonel US Army during Civil War
Bishop James B. Chesire	
Bishop Joseph B. Cheshire	Rector at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in
Charlotte from 1881-Bishop of the North Carolina Episcopal Diocese (1893-) Fst native NC to	
elected Bishop of a Diocese in the United States	
A.R. Chisolm	
Amos J. Cummings	US Representative of New York, 1902-1903
James W. Currier	Dealer in musical organs for The Mason & Hamlin Cabinet Organs of Boston, Mass.
Jefferson Davis	President of Confederate States of America
Julia Floyd Delafield	Possibly daughter of Francis and Katherine Van
Rensellaer –	spouse Frederick Von Schoonhoven
Crosby	
Isabella DePuy	
Charles Deems	North Carolina Writer and Methodist Minister
Dewey	Local banker and wife Bessie.
Alice H. Dickinson	
Denby, Edwin	US Secretary of the Navy
George Dewey	Admiral in the US Navy
Alice H. Dickinson	
Susan W. Dimock	wife of Henry F. Dimock of Washington, DC
Ignatius Donnelly	Lawyer, Politician, author, poet, US
Representative, Minnesota	
John Downins	
Bishop T. U. Dudley	Bishop of Washington, DC Diocese
E.F. Elliot	
Fairbanks, Charles	Vice President of the United States
Millard Fillmore	13 <sup>th</sup> President of the United States, 1850-1853
Louise Fleetwood	
H.D. Frasier	
Robert Gibbons, Mary Gibbons	
Kate Gibbons	Local doctor and family members
Adolphus Washinton Greely	Arctic Explorer, Indian Mediator, co-founder of the National Geographic
Elizabeth Greenville	
Alfred Harding	Dean of the Washington National Cathedral (1909- 1916)
Julian Hawthorne	M. Walter Dunne Company, The Colonial Press Library Committee, 170 Fifth Avenue, New York
John Henry	
S.O. Henry	
Abram S. Hewitt	US Representative of NY and later Mayor of NYC
Julius Hewitt	

Bishop Horatio Hewitt	First resident minister at St. Peter's Episcopal
Mary Higham	
Isabella (Jeffrey) Hill	relative of Jeanie's
E.A. Hoffman	
John Hopkins	Could be the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont or his son who wrote hymns.
Susan Hopkins	
Junius Moore Horner	Son of James Hunter Horner, founder of Horner Military School who
	became the first Bishop of the Missionary District in Asheville, NC in 1898
Reverend F. (Fordyce) M. Hubbard	Professor UNC Chapel Hill
G. Humbart or Humburt	
Henry Hunt	Either Brigadier General Chief Of Artillery Army Of The Potomac or the artist or ?
AB (Aaron Burtis) Hunter	Principal of Augustine College in Raleigh (19 <sup>th</sup> century)
Julia Irving	
Jack Janey	
Thomas J. Jarvis	US Senator of NC, 1894-1895
Johnston Jones	
Paul Jones	
Mary E. Kearney	
Ellen Kemble	Friend of Jeanie Wilkes
W.W. Kirk	
John J. Laffery (Lafferty)	
Alfred Lee	Episcopal minister/rector possibly from Delaware
Bishop Abiel Leonard	Missionary Bishop of Utah and Nevada, etal
Bishop William A. Leonard	Bishop of Ohio
Lettie Green Llesenson	
Sarah Lord	
Mary Lucas	
Bishop Theodore B. Lyman	Assistant Bishop of the North Carolina Episcopal Diocese
Dr. James R. McCombs	Local Charlotte physician
Mary Harrison McKee	Daughter of US President Benjamin Harrison
R. H. McKim	Minister associated with Washington & Lee
Josiah, Macy	Sea Merchant, founder of the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation
W.C. Maxwell	Lieutenant Colonel in the US Army
Sarah Monis	
Margaret Montgomery	
William W. Morrison	
W. H. Murdoch	
Lee Slater Overman	US Senator from NC, 1903-1930
Henry Pellew	Secretary to Bishop Dudley of Washington, DC

D.C. Peabody	
William S. Pettigrew	North Carolina Politician
Henry Lee Reynolds	Conn. & NC Cotton merchant, arrested by Feds during Civil War.
Edwin R. Rich	
J. Charlotte Ross	
Bishop Salleka	
Louis Sands	Naval Officer
Joseph Shannonhouse	Charlottean whose son was ordained as a minister.
George Sherston	British
Sarah B. Shuman	
Annie L. Smith	
Benjamin T. Smith	
Bishop John Spaulding	First Episcopal Missionary Bishop of Colorado
Robert Strange	Bishop of the Diocese of East Carolina
Ruth McErney Stuart	
Helen Taft	wife of President William Howard Taft
Annie Thorp	Friend of Jeanie Wilkes
Frances Tiernan	North Carolina female fiction writer
B.W. Tilley	
Bishop Daniel Tuttle	Bishop of the Utah Episcopal Diocese
Bishop Dave Tuttle	
Emory Upton	General in the US Army, Civil War hero
Zebulon Vance	NC Governor & Senator who made his home in Charlotte, friend of Wilkes
A.A. (Alfred Augustin) Watson	Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of East Carolina
A.W. Watson	
Edwin Webb	US Representative of NC (D), 1903-1919
Bishop Edwin Weed	Third Bishop of Florida Episcopal Diocese
William R. Wetmore	Rector of Christ Episcopal Church in New Bern
Bishop John H. White	
Jane Whiting	
Marshall P. Wilder	American author and humorist
Clelia F. Wills	
Caroline Wilson	
J.H. Wilson	
George Winston	possibly Professor UNC Chapel Hill
Mary Wyckoff	