

# Guide to the **Alonzo Austin Bennett Letters**

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## **Collection Number V-64-3-8**

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### COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

This collection of letters was found in floor joists of a house at 519 N. Aurora Street, Ithaca. Most are not dated, but some date from the late 1890s, and some are dated 1896.

Mr. Bennett lived in various places from 1893 to 1897. (103 N. Aurora [1893], 14 W. Mill St. [1895], and 119 N. Aurora [1896]). In 1893 he is listed in the Ithaca City Directory as a dental student but after that he was a clerk at “Ben Mintz-Fine Ready Made Clothing and Gent’s Furnishing Goods” located at 20-31 East State Street. All of the letters are written on the store’s letterhead.

One group of letters is written to Eva J. Tomson, who lived in Corning. Some of the people and places mentioned in the letters are Nellie Bly, Howard Hollister, Leo Leopold (who had a dancing academy at 42 N. Plain Street), the Clinton House, and various places around Ithaca where he met friends. His name does not appear in the directory after 1897.

### CONTAINER LIST

<i>Description</i>	<i>Folders</i>
Dated letters 1896 (3)	Folder #1
Undated letters	Folder #2
Letters to Eva Tomson	Folder #3
Parts of letters (not completed)	Folder #4
Signed letters (3)	Folder #5