

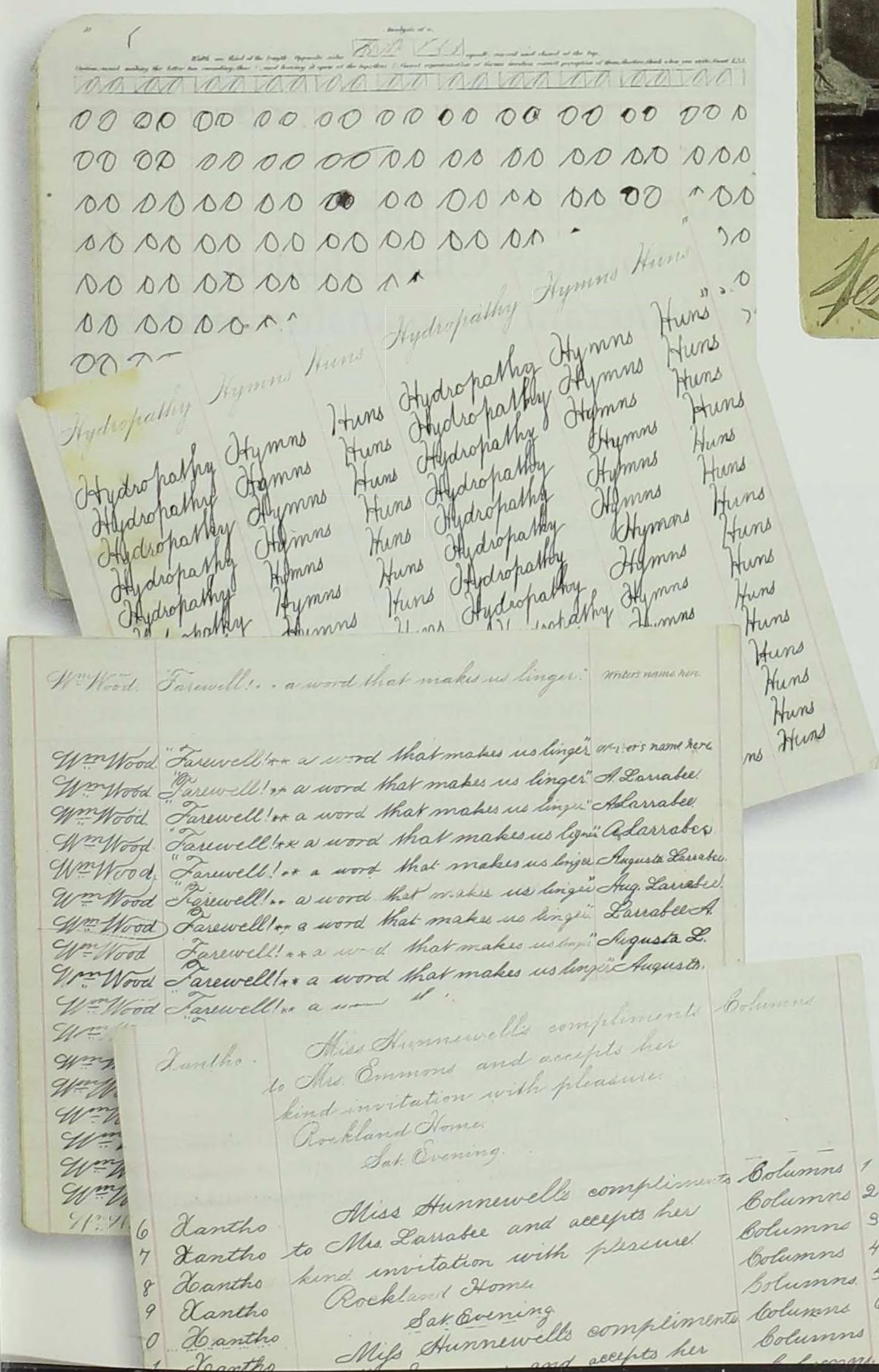
Augusta Larrabee masters the pen

In the copybooks of Augusta Larrabee (right), we see the developing penmanship of a young girl in the late 19th century.

The first page (below) testifies to Larrabee's endless practice of individual letters. The page is from Book 1 of the *Spencerian System of Practical Penmanship*. The outside



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cover (see page 133) bears the name "Miss Gussie Larrabee."

The other three pages shown here are from Books 5 and 8 of *Babbittonian Penmanship*, another system taught in the 19th century.

On these pages, Augusta Larrabee progresses to more interesting material. First, to series of alliterative words—Hydrophathy, Hymns, Huns. Then, to poetic sentences—"Farewell! ** a word that makes us linger"—and various arrangements of her name. Finally, on the bottom page, she applies her penmanship to an everyday situation befitting a young lady, as she practices a written response to a formal invitation.

Born in 1864, Augusta Larrabee was the daughter of Anna and William Larrabee (Iowa's 12th governor). Their home, Montauk, is just beyond Clermont, Iowa, and is now a historic site of the State Historical Society of Iowa.

—The Editor