Research Collections in Women's Studies General Editors: Anne Firor Scott and William H. Chafe

# Southern Women and Their Families in the 19th Century: Papers and Diaries

**Consulting Editor: Anne Firor Scott** 

Series A, Holdings of the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

**Parts 1–3:** 

Mary Susan Ker Papers, 1785–1923; Roach and Eggleston Family Papers, 1830–1905; Louisiana and Mississippi Collections Research Collections in Women's Studies General Editors: Anne Firor Scott and William H. Chafe

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> Associate Editor and Guide Compiled by Martin P. Schipper

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## INTRODUCTION

The creation of history as a scholarly discipline has always depended on the discovery, preservation, and accessibility of primary sources. Some of the leading figures in the first generation of academic historians in the United States spent much of their time and energy on this endeavor, and in so doing made possible the work of their colleagues who wrote monographs and general histories. The invention of microfilm and duplication have vastly improved access to such sources.

At any given time the prevailing conceptions of what is significant in the past will determine which sources are sought and valued. When politics and diplomacy are the center of historians' concern, government documents, treaties, newspapers, and correspondence of political leaders and diplomats will be collected and made accessible. When intellectual history is ascendant, the works of philosophers and reflective thinkers will be studied, analyzed, and discussed. Economic historians will look for records of trade, evidence of price fluctuations, conditions of labor, and many other kinds of data originally collected for business purposes. The propensity of modern governments to collect statistics has made possible whole new fields for historical analysis.

In our own time social historians have flourished, and for them evidence of how people of all kinds have lived, felt, thought, and behaved is a central concern. Private diaries and personal letters are valued for the light they throw on what French historians label the mentalité of a particular time and place. The fact that such documents were usually created only for the writer or for a friend or relative, gives them an immediacy not often found in other kinds of records. At best the writers tell us, directly or by implication, what they think, feel, and do. Even the language and allusions in such spontaneous expression are useful to the historian, whose inferences might surprise the writer could she know what was being made of her words.

This microfilm series focuses on women in the South in the nineteenth century. The fact that many of these documents exist is a tribute to the work of several generations of staff members at the leading archives of the South such as the Southern Historical Collection at Chapel Hill, North Carolina; The William R. Perkins Library at Duke University; the Alderman Library at the University of Virginia; the South Caroliniana Library; the Lower Mississippi Valley Collection at L.S.U.; and several state historical societies. The legend of Southern Historical Collection founder J. G. DeRoulhac Hamilton who, in his effort to preserve the evidence of the southern past, travelled about in his Model A Ford knocking on doors and asking people to look in their attics and cellars, is well known. The result of his labors and those of his counterparts and successors is a vast collection that includes thousands of letters from women of all ages, and hundreds of diaries or diary fragments. Only a small part of this material has yet been studied by professional historians. Some family collections cover decades, even several generations. Others are fragmentary: diaries begun in moments of enthusiasm and shortly abandoned and letters sporadically saved.

The years of the Civil War are particularly well documented since many women were convinced that they were living through momentous historical events of which they should make a record. After the war ended and the "new South" began to take shape, other women wrote memoirs for their children and grandchildren hoping to preserve forever their memories of a better time "before the war," or to record the sacrifices and heroism they had witnessed. The United Daughters of the Confederacy made a special effort to persuade women to record their wartime memories. The collections therefore preserve the voices of one or more women through letters or diaries that cover many years.

Although women's letters to soldiers were often lost in the mud and carnage of battlefields, soldiers' letters were treasured and have survived in abundance. If it is true, as Virginia Woolf once wrote, that in writing a letter one tries to reflect something of the recipient, then these letters may also add to our understanding of the lives of women and families. Moreover so many of the soldiers' letters respond to women's questions, give hints or instructions on managing property, and allude to family life and routine at home, that they can be used to draw valid inferences about the activities of their female correspondents, even when the woman's side of the correspondence is altogether lost.

Seen through women's eyes, nineteenth century southern social history takes on new dimensions. Subjects that were of only passing interest when historians depended on documents created by men now move to center stage. Women's letters dwell heavily on illness, pregnancy, and childbirth. From them we can learn what it is like to live in a society in which very few diseases are well understood, in which death is common in all age groups, and where infant mortality is an accepted fact of life. A forty-three-year-old woman writing in 1851, observed that her father, mother, four sisters, three brothers, and two infants were all dead, and that except for her father none had reached the age of thirty-six.<sup>2</sup>

Slavery has been a central concern of southern historians, generally from the white male perspective. Seen through the eyes of plantation mistresses the peculiar institution becomes even more complex. We can observe a few women searching their souls about the morality of the institution and many more complaining bitterly about the practical burdens it places upon them. We can find mothers worrying about the temptations slave life offers to husbands and sons, and even occasionally expressing sympathy for the vulnerability of slave women. Some claim to be opposed to the institution, but do not take any step to free their own slaves. Others simply agonize. There is, unfortunately, no countervailing written record to enable us to see the relationship from the slaves' point of view.

Until late in the century the word feminism did not exist, and in the South, "women's rights" were often identified with the hated antislavery movement. "Strong minded woman" was a term of anathema. Even so we find even antebellum southern women in their most private moments wondering why men's lives are so much less burdened than their own and why it was always they who must, as one woman wrote, provide the ladder on which a man may climb to heaven. After the Civil War a Georgia diarist reflected—apropos the battle over black suffrage—that if anyone, even the Yankees, had given her the right to vote she would not readily give it up.<sup>3</sup> As early as the 1860s a handful of southern women presented suffrage arguments to the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Nigel Nicholson and Joanne Trautmen, eds. *The Letters of Virginia Woolf*, Vol. IV, 1929–1931 (New York and London: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1979), p. 98: "It is an interesting question—what one tries to do, in writing a letter—partly of course to give back a reflection of the other person…"

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Anne Beale Davis Diary, February 16, 1851, in Beale-Davis Papers, Southern Historical Collection.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Ella Gertrude Clanton Thomas Diary, November 2, 1868, William R. Perkins Library, Duke University.

state constitutional conventions. After 1865 a surprising number of women spoke out in favor of suffrage and a larger number were quiet supporters. There were of course equally ardent opponents, and until approximately 1910 organizing suffrage associations was uphill work; however, as one goes through these records suffragists and advocates of women's rights emerge from the dim corners in which they tended to conceal themselves when they were alive.

The conventional view that southern women eschewed politics will not survive a close reading of these records. As early as the 1820s there is evidence of their participation in political meetings and discussions. Such involvement continued through the secession debates and the difficult days of reconstruction. A South Carolina memoir offers a stirring account of the role of women in the critical election of 1876.<sup>4</sup> By the 1870s southern women were already using their church societies to carve out a political role, and by the end of the century they had added secular clubs, many of them focused on civic improvement.

Reading women's documents we can envision the kinds of education available to the most favored among them. Many women kept records of their reading and much of it was demanding, for example, *Plutarch's Lives* or Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. A very young woman who recorded reading Humbolt's *Cosmos*, Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Madame De Stael's *Corinne*, and Guizot's *History of Civilization* was not altogether unique. Others castigated themselves for reading novels and resolved (sometimes over and over) to undertake more serious study. There are many examples of strenuous efforts at self-education, and in the privacy of their diaries some women admitted to a passionate longing for knowledge (reading clubs, for example, were described as "a peace offering to a hungry mind"). Of course one of the limitations of sources such as these is precisely that they come principally from the minority who had some education. It is up to the perceptive historian to extrapolate from these documents to the poorer women, the slave women, and all those who never left a record at all.

Papers that cover a considerable period provide us with many real-life dramas. Courtship patterns emerge, and marriage and family experience as well. We see the widow left with children to support, attempting to earn a living, and in some cases taking to drink to ease her burdens. We see the single woman cast on her own resources as she tries teaching or housekeeping for a widower to keep body and soul together. Single sisters of wives who died young were likely to wind up first taking care of the bereft children and then marrying the widower. Other single women bemoan their fate and reflect that it might be better to be dead than to live single. Married or single, rich or poor, many women inadvertently reveal the socialization that had persuaded them that they should never complain and must be the burden bearers of family life.

Through the whole century, while the rest of the country was restlessly urbanizing, the South remained predominantly an agricultural society. Women's records allow us to see the boredom of rural life in which almost any bit of news or any adolescent wickedness or youthful romance is subject for comment. We also see the profound religious faith that supported many women through poverty, childbirth, widowhood, and the other trials that filled their lives. The religious history of the Civil War emerges as we see faith challenged by defeat, and many women beginning to question things they had always believed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Sally Elmore Taylor Memoir, in the Franklin Harper Elmore Papers, Southern Historical Collection.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Hope Summerll Chamberlain, "What's Done and Past," unpublished autobiography, William R. Perkins Library, Duke University.

No reader of these documents can any longer doubt that plantation women, in addition to supervising the work of slaves, worked very hard themselves. Depending on their level of affluence, women might take care of livestock and chickens, plant and harvest gardens, card, spin and weave, make quilts, sew clothes, and many other specific tasks. The Soldiers' Aid Societies, whch formed quickly after secession, rested on just these skills developed in the previous years.

One of the most interesting aspects of southern culture that emerges from papers such as these is the views women and men had of each other. No matter how much a woman admired any particular man, she often viewed men in general with extreme skepticism and sometimes with outright bitterness. Men were often described as selfish, authoritarian, profligate, given to drinking too much, and likely to judge women as a class and not in terms of their individual attributes. Many women found their economic dependence galling. In spite of the rather general chaffing at the confines of patriarchy, individual women were devoted to and greatly admired their own husbands, sons, and fathers. Women who travelled spoke with admiration of the independence exhibited by northern women (this both before and after the Civil War). Discontent with their lot included a good deal of private railing against constant childbearing and the burdens of caring for numerous children.

The concept of a woman's culture is also borne out by much of what can be read here. Women frequently assume that they say and feel things which only other women can understand.

It would be difficult to exaggerate the significance of this microfilm publication. Historians of women have been making use of these collections for three decades or more. Now it is gradually becoming clear that they are useful to the student of almost any aspect of southern culture and society. In a recent example, Clarence Mohr, writing about slavery in Georgia, realized that women's records were virtually his only source for testing the well-established southern myth that all slaves had been docile, helpful workers when white men went to war and left their wives and children to supervise plantations. Years earlier Bell Irwin Wiley had suggested that the story was more complicated than that, but it did not occur to him to look for evidence in women's papers. The description of such docility never seemed reasonable, but it was believed by many people, even by some who had every reason to know better. In a close examination of women's diaries and letters Mohr found a quite different picture, one of slaves who, when the master departed, became willful and hard to direct and who gave the mistress many causes for distress. To be sure, they did not often murder families in their beds, but they became lackadaisical about work, took off without permission, talked back, and ran away to the Yankees when opportunity presented itself, expressing the frustration bondsmen and women must always feel.6

Wartime documents are revealing in other ways. We can see rumors flying as victories and defeats were created in the mind, not on the battlefield. We sense the tension of waiting for word from men in the army. We see the women gradually losing faith that God will protect them from the invaders. For some, religion itself is called in question by the experience of invasion and defeat.

As we move into the remaining decades of the nineteenth century these records allow us to trace some of the dramatic social changes of the postwar world. In one family we see a member of the post–Civil War generation, a single woman earning her living in a variety of ways and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Clarence L. Mohr, *On the Threshold of Freedom: Masters and Slaves in Civil War Georgia*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1986.

then beginning a full-time career as a teacher at the age of fifty-eight. She continued to teach well into her eighth decade. This particular set of papers is especially valuable since it goes through three generations—a wonderful exposition of social change as revealed in the lives of women.<sup>7</sup>

We must be struck by the number of men in the immediate postwar years who chose suicide over the challenges of creating a new society without slaves. In records from the second half of the century we can see lynching from the white perspective, observe the universal experience of adolescence, watch the arrival of rural free delivery of mail, the coming of the telephone, and other evidences of change. Reading these personal documents the historian may be reminded of Tolstoy's dictum that all happy families are alike and unhappy families are each unhappy in their own way. One may be tempted to revise his aphorism to say that every family is sometimes happy and sometimes unhappy and the balance between the two states makes for a satisfactory or an unsatisfactory life. Reading family papers one may also be forcefully reminded of Martha Washington writing about the difficulties she faced as first lady. She said that she was "determined to be cheerful and to be happy, in whatever situation I may be; for I have also learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends upon our dispositions, and not upon our circumstances."

From the larger perspective of the social historian, records such as these will help us develop a more comprehensive picture of life as it was experienced by the literate part of the southern population over a century. They help us understand the intricate interaction of individual lives and social change. We can see the world through eyes that perceive very differently from our own, and understand better the dramatic shifts in values that have occurred in the twentieth century. Like any other historical data these must be used with care, empathy, detachment, and humility. But given those conditions they will add significantly to our understanding of a world that in one sense is dead and gone, and in another sense lives on in the hearts and minds and behavior patterns of many southern people.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Mary Susan Ker Papers, Southern Historical Collection.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> John P. Riley, "The First Family in New York." Mount Vernon Ladies Association Annual Report, 1989, p. 23.

# **NOTE ON SOURCES**

The collections microfilmed in this edition are holdings of the Southern Historical Collection, Manuscripts Department, Academic Affairs Library of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599. The descriptions of the collections provided in this user guide are adapted from inventories compiled by the Southern Historical Collection. The inventories are included among the introductory materials on the microfilm.

Historical maps microfilmed among the introductory materials are courtesy of the Map Collection of the Academic Affairs Library of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Maps consulted include:

Andrees Allgemeiner, Handatlas, 1899;

Thomas G. Bradford, Comprehensive Atlas, 1835;

- J. H. Colton, General Atlas, 1870; and
- S. Augustus Mitchell, "A New Map of Kentucky," 1846.

# **EDITORIAL NOTE**

The reel indexes for this edition provide the user with a précis of each collection. Each précis provides information on family history and many business and personal activities documented in the collection. Omissions from the microfilm edition are noted in the précis and on the microfilm.

Following the précis, the reel indexes itemize each file folder and manuscript volume. The four-digit number to the left of each entry indicates the frame number at which a particular document or series of documents begins.

A subject index, which is keyed to the information provided in the reel indexes for Parts 1-3, appears at the end of the user guide.

Researchers should note that significant other papers and diaries of southern women are included in UPA's microfilm edition of *Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations from the Revolution through the Civil War* and *Women's Studies Manuscript Collections from the Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe College, Series 1: Woman Suffrage, Part C: The South.*Subsequent parts of *Southern Women and Their Families in the 19th Century: Papers and Diaries: Series A, Holdings of the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill* will extend to other regions of the South.

# Southern Women and Their Families in the 19th Century: Papers and Diaries

Series A, Holdings of the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Part 1: Mary Susan Ker Papers, 1785–1923

## **REEL INDEX**

Mary Susan Ker Papers, 1785–1958, Adams and Warren Counties, Mississippi; also Louisiana and Texas

#### **Description of the Collection**

Mary Susan Ker of Natchez, Mississippi, was a daughter of cotton planter and American Colonization Society vice-president John Ker (1789–1850) and Mary Baker Ker (d. 1862).

The collection consists primarily of letters received by Mary Susan Ker, dated 1852–1910, and her diary, dated 1886–1923. Also included in this collection are papers and volumes of Ker's parents and ancestors, mostly 1785–1852, a few papers of her grand-nieces Tillie R. Dunbar and Catharine Dunbar Brown, scattered financial and legal papers, photographs, and miscellaneous items such as invitations and calling cards.

Letters received by Ker between 1852 and 1910 from family and friends along the Mississippi River in Louisiana and Mississippi document their lives, family relationships, and financial positions. Among others, Ker corresponded with her sister, Sarah Evelina Ker Butler (1823–1868), who married Richard E. Butler; lawyer and sugar planter David Ker (1825–1884); lawyer John Ker (1826–1870); cotton planter Lewis Ker (1831–1894); and William Henry Ker (1841–1902), teacher and principal of Natchez Institute. There is also material relating to Mary Susan Ker's work as a governess in Louisiana and Mississippi and as a teacher in public and private schools in Adams County, Mississippi, and New Orleans and Natchez, Louisiana. Civil War letters appear for William Henry Ker, who served in Virginia and North Carolina with a cavalry troop that had been raised in Adams County, and for civilians in Louisiana and Mississippi. Ker's diary, 1886–1923, describes a trip to Europe in 1886–1887 and the social life and customs of post-Reconstruction Mississippi, especially around Natchez and Vicksburg. All papers dated before 1852 belong to John Ker (1789–1850), including items relating to his work with the American Colonization Society, or to other Ker family members.

The collection is arranged in series and subseries as follows:

Series 1. Chronologically Arranged Papers

Subseries 1.1. 1785-1851

Subseries 1.2. 1852–1860

Subseries 1.3. 1861-1865

Subseries 1.4. 1866-1870

Subseries 1.5. 1871–1893

Subseries 1.6. 1894–1901

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Subseries 1.7. 1902–1958

Subseries 1.8. Undated

Series 2. Diary
Subseries 2.1. Original Diary, 1886–1923
Subseries 2.2. Typed Transcriptions of Diary, 1886–1902
Series 3. Other Volumes, 1852–1891
Series 4. Pictures, 1902–ca. 1918 and undated

The letters that comprise almost all of Series 1, Chronologically Arranged Papers, document the personal lives of Mary Susan Ker's family and friends. Most of the writers had some tie of kinship, close or distant, to her. In addition to her parents, her siblings and their spouses and children, Ker received letters from numerous cousins, especially from her Metcalfe and Conner cousins, who were the children of her mother's sisters. She also received letters from several relatives of her sister's husband, Richard E. Butler. With the notable exceptions of her brothers and her brother-in-law, most of Ker's correspondents were women. Nearly all, however, male or female, lived along the Mississippi River in either Mississippi or Louisiana, as far south as New Orleans and as far north as Washington County, Mississippi.

Ker herself is seen in these letters only as reflected in the words of her correspondents. Although Ker's activities can be inferred from comments made by other writers, her diary is a better guide, at least for the years after 1886, to her whereabouts and activities. The lives of her correspondents, especially her brothers David, Lewis, and Willie, and her nieces Mamie Ker Dunbar and Nellie Ker Pearl, are better reflected in these letters than is hers.

The bulk of the correspondence dates from the 1850s through the early 1900s. Some of the relationships documented span nearly that whole sixty-year time period. The letters reveal many changes in the economic and social circumstances of Mary Susan Ker, her relatives and friends and, indeed, of the region in which she lived. The earliest letters document the affairs of a wealthy planter's family. Civil War letters from Mary Susan Ker's brothers in the military and from civilians in Louisiana and Mississippi are also included. Following the Civil War, many letters document the financial difficulties of planter families. Because of the length of time covered in the correspondence, comparisons of generations are sometimes possible. For example, the letters of the 1850s reveal something of the life of Mary Susan Ker as an adolescent girl; letters of the 1870s reveal something of the adolescence of her nieces Mamie and Nellie Ker; and letters of the early 1900s something of the adolescence of Mamie's daughters Tillie and Catharine Dunbar.

Other themes of interest in the correspondence are single women and college life. Letters appear from or about several self-supporting single women, including Lou Conner, Mamie Ker, Mary Ker Dunbar, and the daughters of David and Lizzie Brownson Ker. College students' correspondence includes letters from William Henry Ker at Harvard, 1858–1861; Thomas W. Butler at Virginia Military Institute, 1869–1871; Mary Beltzhoover Jenkins at Wellesley, 1899–1901; and Catharine Dunbar at the University of Mississippi, 1906–1908.

Series 2 contains the diary of Mary Susan Ker. Consisting of thirty-nine volumes that cover the thirty-seven-year period between 1886 and 1923, the diary was originally intended to serve as a chronicle of Ker's travels in Europe in 1886 and 1887. Upon her return home, however, she decided to continue the diary as a personal account of her thoughts and experiences. The style in which Ker wrote was more an observational than a personal one; for the most part, she avoided revealing the romantic or emotional details of her life and exhibited a tendency to mention but not describe the occurrence of sensitive family events. The letters in Series 1 may help gain insight into some of her more mysterious entries.

Mary Susan Ker's catholic interests, however, make her diary an excellent source for historians of many ilks. A broad-ranging document, it provides an observant record of society in post-Reconstruction Mississippi, especially around Natchez and Vicksburg. Material appears for the study of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century family life, changing gender roles, redemption and Southern Progressive politics, religion and church affairs, race relations, popular entertainment, and genealogy. The diary is particularly rich for the study of kinship networks and the roles of upper class white women. For most of her life Ker kept her distance from active participation in politics, but she did faithfully document local and national controversies and expressed her opinions freely on them. A devout Presbyterian, Ker also frequently wrote about the affairs of Trinity Church in Natchez and commented extensively on other religious activities in the area. While she did not discuss her leisure activities in detail, Ker's commentary does give limited impressions of the popular entertainments of the day, including books and magazines, movies, theatricals, traveling shows, and barnstormers.

Ker often made references in her diary to black-white relations in Natchez and other locations, and she discussed lynching, interracial social contact, and her feelings on racial matters. She also wrote on a consistent basis about the black men and women who worked for her and her relatives as cooks, carpenters, washerwomen, gardeners, and maids. Because she frequently gave their last names and mentioned their family relationships, the diary offers an excellent source of genealogical and employment information on a number of black residents in and around Natchez. Subseries 2.2 provides typed transcriptions of Volumes 1–12 and part of Volume 13 of the original diary. The eight volumes appearing in Series 3 provide information mostly on expenses and slaves at the Ker family's Elba Plantation in the early 1860s, activities at William Henry Ker's Holyrood Plantation in the early 1870s, and on Mary Susan Ker's personal and household expenses in the early 1890s.

#### **Biographical Note**

Mary Susan Ker (1838–1923), daughter of Mary Baker and John Ker, was born near Natchez, Mississippi, in 1838. John Ker (1789–1850) had studied medicine in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania served as a surgeon in the Creek War, married Mary Kenard Baker of Kentucky in 1820, and become a cotton planter. He also served as vice-president and agent of the American Colonization Society and vice-president of the Mississippi Colonization Society.

Mary Susan Ker had eleven siblings, five of whom survived to adulthood: Sarah Evelina (1823–1868) married Richard E. Butler in 1849; David (1825–1884), a lawyer and sugar planter, married Elizabeth Brownson of New York and had six children; John, Jr. (1826–1870), a lawyer and cotton planter, married Rosalthe and had several children; Lewis Baker (1831–1894), a planter who took over most of their father's interests, married first Jane Percy, with whom he had Mamie, Nellie, and other children, and second Susan Hampton Percy, with whom he had more children; and William Henry (1841–1902), a cotton planter and later a teacher who served as principal of the Natchez Institute, superintendent of the Natchez white public schools, president of the State Board of Education, and teacher and conductor of Peabody Summer Normal Schools. He married Josie Chamberlain and had two children.

Raised mostly at Linden, the family home near Natchez, Mary Susan Ker also lived for some time at Good Hope Plantation near Vidalia, Concordia Parish, Louisiana. In the 1850s, she was taught by Mme. Heloise de Mailly. When the Civil War started Ker was living with her mother in Natchez. She remained there after her mother died in 1862.

The Ker family suffered financial reverses and disruption after the Civil War. David Ker tried to cultivate sugar at Linden in Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana, but was not able to provide adequately for his family. His mother-in-law took his wife and some of his children to New York to live. David eventually gave up sugar planting and went into business with his father-in-law, John Brownson, in New York.

William Henry (Willie) Ker first tried cotton farming. When John Ker, Jr.'s wife Rosalthe died in 1865, he sent his son William Bisland (Willie B.) Ker to help Willie work the land and sent his daughters to parochial schools. John, Jr. died in 1870. Willie gave up farming and turned to teaching. Willie and Mary Susan Ker lived together for a time after the war. This arrangement probably ended soon after Willie married Josie Chamberlain in 1871.

Lewis Ker's first wife died during the war so he sent his daughters Mamie and Nellie to live with Mary Susan Ker to be educated. Mary Susan Ker became the girls' guardian in 1867 and in 1871 made a will that divided her property between them. In order to support herself and her wards, Mary Susan Ker turned to teaching. She obtained a Second Grade teaching certificate in 1874 and began teaching at Public School No. 28 in Adams County, Mississippi. Her brother Willie at this time was teaching in Port Gibson, Mississippi. In the 1870s and 1880s, Mary Susan Ker held several teaching positions. In the early 1880s, she had more freedom after her niece Mamie married and Nellie went to live with Willie and his wife in Port Gibson.

In 1886, Mary Susan Ker went to Europe as a travelling companion to her cousin Amelia Metcalfe Choppin and Amelia's twenty-year-old daughter Rose. They travelled eighteen months in France, Italy, England, Germany, and Switzerland. Upon her return to the United States in November 1887, she visited friends in New York and Philadelphia, and then in December returned home to Mississippi, where she stayed with various family members in Natchez, Vicksburg, and other locations. In August 1888 she accepted a position as housekeeper and governess to the four children of William Scarborough Jones, a Vicksburg widower. Ker remained with the Jones family until May 1892, when, after passing the public school teachers' examinations, she applied for a teaching position at the Natchez Institute, the white public school where her brother Willie was principal. She remained in Natchez until December 1892, but no teaching position being open, went to work for the Butler family at "The Cedars" near Bayou Sara, Louisiana. Ker worked at "The Cedars" until July 1894. During her year at Bayou Sara, Nellie's husband (Mr. Pearl), Mamie, and her brother Lewis all died. Mamie left five children: Albert, Mary, Matilda (Tillie), Catharine, and Percy.

Mary Susan Ker wanted to raise two of Mamie's children, Catharine and Tillie, but did not at first have the resources to do so. Catharine went to live with the Hiserodt family and Tillie went to stay with Willie, and a year later Catharine moved to Willie's as well. To earn the money to raise her nieces, Mary returned to teaching. In September 1894 she joined the staff at Mrs. Blake's School in New Orleans, but did not get reelected to teach for the 1895–1896 school year. With no other possibilities before her she reluctantly became a governess again, this time for the widower Mr. Killingsworth on his Galilee Plantation near Cannonsburg, Mississippi. Catharine lived with Mary Susan Ker at the Killingsworths, while Tillie remained at Willie's during this year. The following fall, however, Ker returned to teaching. She taught the 1896–1897 school year at Stanton College in Natchez and arranged it so that Catherine could also attend school there. Ker taught in the public school system for the next eighteen years and continued to live in Natchez for the remainder of her life.

Mary Susan Ker taught at the Natchez Institute from 1897 to 1907, and later from 1907 to 1915 at the Shield's Lane School, located a few miles outside Natchez in Adams County. She

was the school's only teacher and administrator. During much of this time she, along with Tillie and Catharine, stayed with Willie and Josie. One year after Willie's death in 1902, Mary Susan Ker rented a house in Natchez, where she lived with Tillie and Catharine until 1917, at which time Tillie bought a house in Natchez. After the Shield's Lane School closed in 1915, Ker tutored part-time for a few years and then retired from teaching altogether. She lived with Tillie and Catharine, and they supported her until her death in 1923.

Tillie Dunbar graduated from Stanton College in Natchez in 1904, and went to work as a clerk in a local store, Baker and McDowell. In 1912 she left her job there to become a stenographer for the law firm of Truly and Ratliffe, and then in 1918 became a clerk in a bank owned by Truly in Fayette, Mississippi, where she boarded, returning home for weekends. Catharine Dunbar graduated from Natchez Institute in 1905 and attended the University of Mississippi at Oxford, completing her studies there in 1908. She then began teaching at the Natchez Institute, where she remained until 1918. She left that position to work in a Natchez bank.

*N. B.* For additional information on the life of Mary Susan Ker, see Amy L. Holley, "But One Dependence: Mary Susan Ker and Southern Public Education, 1876–1914," Master's Thesis, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 1989. For information on Ker's family connections, see the John Brownson Ker Papers in the Southern Historical Collection.

#### Series 1. Chronologically Arranged Papers, 1785–1958 and Undated

This series includes correspondence and a few legal papers, financial papers, invitations, and other papers. The majority are letters received between 1852 and 1910 by Mary Susan Ker from numerous relatives and friends. Ker's correspondence was extensive; filed here are 50 to 150 letters per year. In any given year, Ker received letters from twenty to forty different people, most of whom appear to have been related to her in some way, although the relationship is often not clear. Many of her correspondents continued to write to her over long periods of time, fifty years or so in the cases of Richard Butler, Lou Conner, and Elizabeth Eskridge MacGavock. The letters preserved here may be only a portion of those Mary Ker received, as her diary indicates that she received three to five letters per day and that she destroyed two trunks full of letters.

Subseries 1.1: 1785–1851 This subseries consists of correspondence and legal papers of Ker, Baker, and Lewis family members. Many of these are photocopies for which no originals are present. The source of these photocopies and the present whereabouts of most of the original documents is unknown. The earliest of the papers in this series is an invitation dated 22 August 1785 from Gouverneur Morris to the "Honl. Delegates of North Carolina" to dine with him at Morrisania. Following this are legal documents relating to the marriage of Joshua Baker and Susannah Lewis, Mary Susan Ker's maternal grandparents. A legal document in Spanish dated 1796 apparently relates to land in the Attakapas region, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana. Also included is a copy made in 1814 of a Spanish land grant dated 20 June 1795.

Other early documents include a photocopy of a letter dated 24 June 1805, from Thomas Rodney to Secretary of State James Madison, notifying him of the death of Territorial Judge David Ker and a deed filed in 1822 reflecting the sale of land in Jefferson County, Mississippi, by the heirs of David Ker.

A photocopy of a typed copy from the Louisiana State University Archives of John Ker's essay "On the Connexion and Mutual Influence of the Body and Mind in Health and Disease," submitted to the University of Pennsylvania for the M.D. degree in 1811 may also be found here.

Most of the correspondence for years before 1852 consists of letters of Mary Susan Ker's parents, John and Mary Baker Ker. There are photocopies of a number of letters dated in the 1820s and 1830s from Stephen Duncan to John Ker. Some of these concern business matters such as purchases of land and slaves, and some are about personal matters such as the death of Duncan's son. Other letters of the 1830s and 1840s are family letters of Mary and John Ker and their older children, Sarah, David, and Lewis.

Also filed here is a photocopy of Franklin L. Riley's "A Contribution to the History of the Colonization Movement in Mississippi," *Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society*, IX, 337–414, which includes transcriptions of forty-eight letters, 1831–1849, about colonization, most of them to or from John Ker.

Papers of 1850 and 1851 include more family correspondence, as well as an inventory and appraisal, dated 17 February 1850, of Good Hope Plantation, John Ker's plantation in Concordia Parish, Louisiana. A copy of John Ker's will may be found in the John Brownson Ker Papers among the holdings of the Southern Historical Collection. Of particular interest in the family correspondence for these years are letters from Sarah E. (Ker) Butler to her mother, dated 8 October and 28 October 1850, in which she described the routines of her daily life and her determination to stay at home even though, being pregnant, she feared for her life because it would take six hours for a doctor to reach her.

Subseries 1. 2: 1852–1860 This subseries includes Ker family letters, most written to Mary Susan Ker, especially in 1855 when she was visiting New York and in 1857–1860 when she was back at home and her brother Willie was writing to her and her mother from Cambridge, Massachusetts. During Ker's visit to New York, she received letters from her mother giving news of family and friends, from her teacher Heloise de Mailly, and a few from her brothers David, Willie, and Lewis with news of their activities.

Many letters of the years 1857–1860 are letters from Mary Susan Ker's younger brother William Henry Ker (Willie) to her and to their mother, written from Cambridge, Massachusetts. Although Willie apparently went to Cambridge to study in the spring of 1857, he did not enter Harvard until July 1858. Willie's letters from Cambridge mostly describe his social activities and recreations, the state of his health, and a little about his studies. Of particular interest is a letter of 4 January 1860 in which Willie described the collapse of Pemberton Mills at Lawrence, Massachusetts, in which he said three hundred to four hundred people were killed or wounded.

In the late 1850s, Mary Susan Ker received increasing numbers of letters from friends. Edward G. Butler, brother of her sister's husband, wrote to "sister Mary" of visits he had made and of weddings in his neighborhood near St. Francisville, West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana. Female friends wrote to her of their health, recreation, travel plans, and social calls. "Cousin Lou," Eliza Cochran, Berta Buckner, Anna Sparrow, Elizabeth Eskridge, and Carrie and Mollie Brownson are among these correspondents. writing from such diverse locations as Adams, Jefferson and Lawndes Counties, Mississippi; Carroll, Catahoula, Concordia, Orleans, and St. Mary parishes, Louisiana; New York; and Pennsylvania.

Some of Ker's correspondents used nicknames for each other; she is sometimes addressed as Polly Hopkins or as Polly. Lou Conner signed herself Countess.

Subseries 1. 3: 1861–1865 This subseries includes Civil War era letters to Mary Susan Ker from civilian friends and from her brothers and other friends serving in the military in Louisiana, Mississippi, Virginia, and North Carolina. Some letters of January 1861 came from Northern friends who expressed their hope that "you will not forget us though you are in a foreign country" (Mollie Brownson, Brooklyn, 10 January) or "we will never be foreigners and strangers

to each other ... even if we are governed by <u>distinct</u> laws" (Charlotte E. Peirce, Cambridge, 14 January). Charlotte Peirce went on to express her sympathy for the South and her hope that "we may again be united as <u>one</u> people" (14 January 1861).

Civilian friends wrote about their daily activities in Lousiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas, and passed on news of the war and of soldiers. Chief among these were Elizabeth Eskridge, who wrote from Woppanoka, Crittenden County, Arkansas, and Lou Conner, who wrote from Blakely Plantation, Warren County, Mississippi.

The most thoroughly documented war experience is that of Mary Susan Ker's brother, William (Willie) Henry Ker. Willie served in Virginia and North Carolina with a cavalry troop raised in Adams County, Mississippi. The troop was attached independently, he wrote, to Stuart's Cavalry Regiment (21 September 1861). Later letters, including one dated 27 October 1861, in which he described the election of officers and organization of the regiment, were headed, "Company A, Jeff Davis Legion." Willie's letters describe camp life, give news of friends in the army, and describe his feelings about the southern cause (see especially 25 December 1862). Her other brothers John, Lewis, and David all served closer to home, in Mississippi and Louisiana. Only a few letters from them are preserved here.

Mary Susan Ker also received some letters from Edward G. Butler, who served with the 1st regiment of Louisiana artillery. Butler's letters of 1861 from Baton Rouge and of early 1862 from Fort Pike, Louisiana, are light in tone, speculating on the loves of various officers. A letter of 20 July 1862, from Vicksburg gives news of the bombardment of the city and describes the arrival of the CSS *Arkansas*, as well as giving news of friends. Included in correspondence of 1862 are letters of condolence upon the death of Mary Baker Ker.

Some papers in 1864 and 1865 document the Union occupation of Natchez. These include a pass from the Provost Marshal (20 September 1864) and a permit for a revolver (13 January 1865). Beginning in 1864, there are friendly letters to Mary Susan Ker from Loren and Richard Kent, brothers who apparently were officers in the Union army. Beginning in 1865, there are letters from Ethelbert Dudley of St. Louis, who apparently had been in Natchez during the war. Ysobel Boyd's letters begin near the end of 1865.

Subseries 1. 4: 1866–1870 This subseries includes letters to Mary Susan Ker from her brothers, other relatives, and from friends, documenting their financial problems and struggles to adjust to postwar life. Her brothers Willie, Lewis, and David tried to make a living by planting in Louisiana—Willie planting cotton at Elba Plantation (apparently near Vidalia), Lewis at Huntley Plantation in Catahoula Parish, and David planting sugar at Linden Plantation in Terrebonne Parish. Their letters in the immediate postwar years reveal their difficulties in finding and keeping laborers, their chronic shortage of cash, and their efforts to cope with these problems. In addition to their financial problems, the letters reveal personal problems—Lewis had to cope with his family's disapproval of his marriage to his deceased wife's younger sister; David's wife went to live with her mother in New York because of his drinking and mismanagement of their plantation; and, until John, Jr.'s death in 1870, Lewis and Willie tried to care for him when he also drank to excess.

Mary Susan Ker also received letters from nieces and nephews during this period. Most revealing are those from David's daughters Lizzie and Minnie from Pomona (New York) and from Linden. Of particular interest is a letter from Minnie dated 27 December 1867, describing a Christmas celebration in Pomona. Mary also received occasional letters from her nephew T. W. Butler, including a few that describe his life at Virginia Military Institute in 1869 and 1870.

Mary Susan Ker received many letters during this period from Ethelbert L. Dudley, whom she apparently had met in Natchez during the war. Dudley wrote from Natchez and other locations in Mississippi and Louisiana in 1866 and 1867. His later letters indicate that he was working, possibly with surveying crews, for the St. Louis and Iron Mountain railroad and later for the Kansas Pacific Railway Co. They reveal some but not much about life in railroad camps.

Ysobel Boyd wrote to Mary Susan Ker first from England (6 October 1867) and later from France. Her letters describe her travels and some observations of English and French people. Boyd appears to have settled in Bordeaux and to have continued to write a few letters to Mary each year.

Subseries 1. 5: 1871–1893 This subseries includes letters received by Mary Susan Ker from relatives and friends. Major correspondents are Ker's sister-in-law, Josie Chamberlain Ker, her brother-in-law, Richard E. Butler, and her nieces Mamie and Nellie Ker. There are also continuing letters from her brothers Willie, David, and Lewis, from other nieces and nephews, and from Elizabeth E. MacGavock, Ysobel Boyd Forrester, Lou Conner, M. A. Metcalfe, Wee Wee Metcalfe, Amelia Metcalfe Choppin, and Lou Butler. The letters reveal something of Ker's social network and the lives of her connections but little of her life—even her trip to Europe caused no major change in the letters she received.

Soon after Willie's engagement and marriage to Josie Chamberlain in 1871, especially after Willie and Josie moved away from Natchez to Port Gibson in 1873, Josie became the major writer of letters found here. Josie's letters are filled primarily with family news. After his marriage, Willie wrote fewer letters to Mary Susan Ker, and those he did write usually concerned family finances. On 30 August 1874, Willie wrote to her asking her to live with him and Josie in Port Gibson and not teach or to teach in Port Gibson if she insisted on being independent.

Richard E. Butler continued to write to Mary Susan after his wife, Sarah Ker Butler, died in 1868. In 1871 Butler was planting sugar at Grand Caillou, but gave it up and returned to live with his family at the Cottage near St. Francisville, Louisiana. Most of Butler's letters contain family news, but he did occasionally comment on the economic problems of planters. In a letter dated 29 July 1873, he said, "I begin to think that none of our generation can adapt themselves to the times. We were not brought up to succeed in such times as we are now having. I hope our children will do better, although I cannot say that the future of this country, as far as we can judge, offers much encouragement for us to think it will get better." Additional letters from Ker's nephew, Thomas W. Butler are also included in this subseries.

Further light is shed on sugar planters' difficulties in a letter dated 10 December 1873, from Willie B. Ker to Willie H. Ker saying that he was leaving Linden because he could not get work there. He said that many planters were ruined, having made only half of what they expected. Overseers who had gotten \$2500–\$3000 could not get work at \$600–\$800.

In the 1870s, Mary Susan Ker began to receive letters from her brother Lewis's daughters, Mamie and Nellie Ker. She had raised Mamie and Nellie since their mother died. In 1867 Lewis had given her control of his daughters. In 1871 she made a will dividing her property between them. As teenagers in the 1870s, Mamie and Nellie began to visit at the homes of friends and relatives without Mary Susan Ker and apparently to spend a large portion of their time at their father's home at Huntley Plantation in Catahoula Parish, Louisiana. Their letters to her are affectionate and filled with news of their family and their visits, recreations, and friends. In 1875 Nellie wrote that a fire destroyed a portion of the house at Huntley, but Lewis refused to leave there. In the late 1870s there are several letters each year from Nellie to her aunt. In the 1880s and early 1890s there are far fewer. Mamie wrote in the late 1870s from Glen Allen, Louisiana,

where she was employed by the Spencer family to teach their children. She wrote from there until she married Albert Dunbar and moved to Marathon in late 1878 or early 1879. Her letters of the 1880s and early 1890s document her married life and the growth of her family. She had five children at the time of her death in 1894.

Letters from Mary Susan Ker's Metcalfe relations document their moves to Kentucky and to Texas. Some of the Metcalfes remained in the Natchez area, but M. A. Metcalfe and Wee Wee wrote from Belle Forest in Mason County, Kentucky, between 1872 and 1874. M. A. Metcalfe wrote in 1876 describing Kosse, Limestone County, Texas, where she had moved with Amelia.

Amelia Metcalfe Choppin wrote from Fontainebleau in 1880 and from Florence in 1881. These letters and her letters from Baden–Baden in 1883 contain some description of Europe and her life there, but more of her family and acquaintances. Letters in 1886 document Mary Susan Ker's plan to go to Europe to help care for Amelia. During this trip, she met and befriended Charles A. Dougherty, some of whose letters may be found here. Dougherty worked at the American legation in Rome.

Letters from Lou Butler at Laurel Hill begin in the late 1870s. Lou Conner's letters also frequently come from Laurel Hill. In these letters Mary Susan Ker is often addressed as Polly, Lou Butler is referred to as Chick, her husband James Butler is called Lord Dundreary, and Lou Conner is the Countess.

Ker's friend Elizabeth Eskridge McGavock wrote from Pecan Point, Mississippi County, Arkansas. Ysobel Boyd was married in about 1871 to a Mr. Forrester and continued to write from Bordeaux. H. De Mailly wrote from her school in Ireland.

Subseries 1. 6: 1894–1901 This subseries includes letters to Mary Susan Ker from relatives and friends and a few other items. The most frequent correspondents in this subseries are Josie Ker; Mamie Ker Dunbar's children Albert (Bertie), Mary, and Tillie; Nellie Ker Pearl; Richard E. Butler; Lizzie Cade (Mary Susan Ker's niece, David's daughter); Lou Butler; and Lou Conner. A few letters may be found in each year from Elizabeth Eskridge MacGavock and Ysobel Boyd Forrester. In 1894 and 1895, Mary received numerous letters from J. M. Gleeson, who was apparently an artist she had met in Europe in 1886–1887 and who was travelling in the South and staying with Ker's family and friends in 1894–1895.

Josie Ker's letters to Mary Susan Ker in 1894 and 1895 mostly have to do with the care of the children of Mamie Ker Dunbar. Her later letters in the subseries were written while she was travelling with her husband because of his illness. In 1900 and 1901, she wrote from Washington, D.C., where she and Willie were living with or near their son, John.

In 1894, Mary Susan Ker's niece, Mamie Ker Dunbar, died. In that year there are several letters about where Mamie's five children—Albert, Mary, Tillie, Catharine, and Percy—would live. The children were split up and each sent to a different home. In the early years of this subseries there are a few letters each year from Albert, Mary, and Tillie. As the years passed, the children became increasingly important correspondents. In 1899 Albert went to Owensboro, Kentucky, to work as a telegrapher. His letters describe the town and his recreations, visits, reading, and other details of his life. In 1900 and 1901, Albert wrote similar letters sometimes from Vicksburg or Cincinnati, and a few letters from New Orleans.

Not long before Mamie Dunbar died, her sister Nellie Ker Pearl wrote a letter to Mary Susan Ker saying that her (and Mamie's) father, Lewis Ker, was dying. She also indicated that her own husband had already died. Nellie apparently moved to Dayton, Alabama, in early 1894. From there she wrote letters about her efforts to support herself and her four children by taking in sewing and washing. There are also a few letters from Nellie's children, Julia and Mary Ker

Pearl, and some letters from friends of Nellie's about her financial situation, her drinking, and her health. In 1901 Nellie moved to Lake Providence, Louisiana, to manage the Lakeview Hotel. Her move to Louisiana was financed by a \$100 loan from Aunt Letitia Davis.

Letters from Mary Susan Ker's niece Lizzie Cade, written from New Iberia, Louisiana, are also found in this subseries. Occasional letters from Lizzie Ker from New York and from Louisiana may be found in Subseries 1.5. Lizzie married some time in the late 1880s or early 1890s and her letters after her marriage are usually headed New Iberia. Some letters from "Mother" to "Liz" appear to be letters from David Ker's widow, Lizzie Brownson Ker, to her daughter Lizzie Cade, which she then sent on to Mary Susan Ker or other family members. At least once, Lizzie also forwarded a letter from her brother John Brownson Ker's wife Ellen. A few letters from Lizzie Cade's mother, Lizzie Brownson Ker, to Mary Susan Ker may be found here. They give her address in 1898 as 520 W. 123rd St., New York, and tell of single women in her family supporting themselves by taking in boarders.

Letters from Wee Wee Metcalfe in this period are headed Azura, California. Also of note is a letter dated 29 October 1899, and a few additional letters in 1900 and 1901 from Mary Beltzhoover Jenkins describing her classes and her life at Wellesley College.

Subseries 1. 7: 1902–1958 This subseries includes letters to Mary Susan Ker from relatives and friends, papers of Tillie Dunbar, and a few other items. In this subseries Mary Susan Ker's grand-nieces, Tillie and Catharine Dunbar, become increasingly important correspondents. There continue to be letters from Josie Ker, Richard Butler, Elizabeth Eskridge MacGavock, Ysobel Boyd Forrester, Lizzie Cade, and others.

Of particular interest in this subseries are Catharine Dunbar's letters from the University of Mississippi in 1906–1908. These letters describe her studies, her teachers, sorority parties she attended, and other aspects of her social life.

Other Dunbars also wrote to Mary Susan Ker during these years. Letters from Catharine's sister Tillie in 1905 are on stationery of the Baker & McDowell Hardware. Albert Dunbar wrote letters from Beaumont and El Paso, Texas, describing the towns, his work for Western Union, and his social life. Catharine and Tillie visited Albert in El Paso in 1905 and wrote letters describing their activities there.

Correspondence indicates that in 1906, Josie and Willie's son, John Ker moved to Portland, Oregon, where his uncle George Chamberlain had already settled. John worked for the Mexican Rubber Culture Company in Portland.

Many wedding and commencement invitations are dated 1909 and 1910, as well as a few letters.

Papers of 1935 and 1949 apparently are papers of Tillie Dunbar. The 1935 papers have to do with a bequest to Tillie from Jeff Truly and other legal matters having to do with Tillie's association with the Jefferson County Bank of Fayette, Mississippi. Letters of 1949 are one from Emily Dunbar to Tillie enclosing one from an unknown person to Emily describing a trip to Florida.

The 1958 item is a Ker cemetery record.

Subseries 1. 8: Undated Papers This subseries includes calling cards, invitations, and undated letters. The letters are filed by surname of the writer. Items are arranged as follows: Blake letters; Butler letters; Ker letters; Metcalfe letters; letters, A–K; letters, L–Z and surname unknown; invitations, calling cards, and greeting cards; wedding invitations; and miscellaneous.

#### Series 2. Diary of Mary Susan Ker, 1886–1923

This series includes the original diary of Mary Susan Ker, written between 1886 and 1923, and typed transcriptions of Volumes 1–12 and part of Volume 13.

Subseries 2. 1: Original Diary, 1886–1923 This subseries consists of the personal diary of Mary Susan Ker, dating from 1886 to 1923, in thirty-nine volumes. Spanning a thirty-seven-year period, the diary offers an in-depth look at both Mary Susan Ker's long career as a governess and teacher and at the extended kinship system in which she lived. It also documents the intensely sensitive political, social, and racial climate of the period, which encompassed the turbulent years of Progressive reform, redemption politics, and World War I.

Entries for the first one and one-half years of the diary (August 1886–December 1887) document Ker's travels in Europe with her cousin Amelia Metcalfe Choppin and Amelia's daughter Rose. The three women took trips to Paris and Arcachon, France; Baden–Baden and Heidelberg, Germany; Lucerne, Switzerland; Pisa, Rome, Milan, Venice, Florence, Sorrento, Capri, and Viareggio, Italy; and London and Southampton, England. A substantial portion of the diary describes the sights they visited and remarks on the acquaintances they made and the activities they engaged in, including attending the theater, visiting museums, historic sites, and vineyards, attending church, and taking hikes and drives through the countryside.

Ker also frequently commented on the social relations she, Amelia, and Rose had with European friends and acquaintances. Of note among their friends were Charles Dougherty, secretary of the American legation in Rome, who fell in love with her, and Mr. Covarrubias, secretary of the Mexican legation in Rome, who later married Rose. Others on whom Ker commented with some frequency were a German beau of Rose's named Mr. Von der Becke; the American consul in Germany, Mr. Monaghan; and her cousin Frank Metcalfe of Florence, Italy. Ker also regularly remarked on the strained relations between Amelia and Rose, Amelia's gradually deepening depression, and her own conflicts with Amelia. In addition, though away from her American family, Ker remained in close touch with them and often recorded family news in her entries.

The first nine years (1888–1896) after Ker's return to Mississippi she worked mostly as a housekeeper and governess for the Jones family in Vicksburg, the Killingsworth family in Cannonsburg, Mississippi, and the Butler family in Bayou Sara, West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana. In this period she often wrote about her work duties, commenting extensively on her relationships with the children she nursed and taught, with the servants she supervised, and with her employers. (Additional information on her life as a governess can be found in three volumes contained in Series 3.) Ker also worked one school year, 1894–1895, as a teacher in New Orleans, and she again wrote a great deal about her school activities, her students, and her relationships with her superiors and fellow teachers.

Ker's family contacts and relationships are faithfully documented in the diary for these, as well as for later, years. She wrote most regularly about members of the Ker, Butler, Metcalfe, Chamberlain, Dunbar, Dameron, Boyd, Byrnes, and Shields families. Significant detail appears on the household activities and family relationships of Willie and Josie Ker and James and Laura Butler.

An enthusiastic observer of politics, whose allegiances lay squarely with the Old South, Ker commented regularly on local (mostly Natchez), state, and national elections and on other political events, such as northern labor riots. Of note are her entries on Louisiana sugar planters bolting the Democratic party in September 1894, assassination attempts made on those who had

left the party in November 1894, and the return of the Democratic party to power in the state in 1896.

Other topics on which Ker wrote with some consistency were local amusements, travel, and church affairs. A clear picture of the daily leisure activities of the upper class emerges from her entries. Ker often described visiting the theater and opera, attending traveling shows such as the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show, dog and pony shows, hypnotists' demonstrations, and circuses, and going to view art exhibits. She also wrote about vacations she took to hot springs in Brown's Wells, Mississippi, and other locations, to the mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina, and to the seashore at Pass Christian, Mississippi. Of note are a series of entries Ker made between 20 July and September 1893 when she attended the Columbian Exposition in Chicago. They describe the crowded conditions of the fair, its sights, its high costs, and the unhappiness of its vendors.

A devout Presbyterian and member of Trinity Church in Natchez, Ker often recorded her thoughts on the church's programs and missionary activities, on the clergy and their sermons, and on controversies that arose in the church. She occasionally referred to sermons and activities of the local Episcopal church as well.

A great deal of information can be culled from Ker's diary during this period on the status of race relations in Vicksburg, Natchez, and surrounding areas. Ker frequently remarked on local lynchings, on her relationship to black servants who worked for her or for her relatives, and on political conflicts that centered on race. Several entries are of note, including one for 19 April 1890, which discusses the controversy over a black man being named postmaster in Natchez; one for 10 February 1895, which describes a prank carried out by white students at Tulane with black students at a nearby college; and one for 23 November 1895, which expresses Ker's dismay over her inability to stop her niece Catharine from playing with the black children on the Galilee Plantation.

In 1896 Ker adopted teaching as a full-time career and took up permanent residence in Natchez, living first with her brother Willie and later with her two grand-nieces, Tillie and Catharine Dunbar. The diary for the next nineteen years discusses in detail her life as a teacher at Stanton College (1896–1897), at the Natchez Institute (1897–1907), and at the Shield's Lane School (1907–1915). Documenting her thoughts and feelings about students, teachers, and administrators, as well as about curricula, school events and controversies, it provides a large amount of information on daily life in late-nineteenth- and early twentieth-century boarding and public schools. Ker also wrote almost daily about her relationship with Tillie and Catharine, about their education, and about conflicts she had with Willie's wife Josie over how they should be raised.

Ker continued to comment freely in these years on politics, social activities, religion, and family. Political topics she broached included the Spanish-American War, Prohibition, suffrage, and local and national elections and political figures. Of special note are her comments on the October 1906 mayoral election in Natchez, in which a Catholic-Jewish coalition defeated the local reform candidate, and on her adamant support of suffrage as expressed in entries for 11 November 1912; 4 November 1915; 18 October 1920; and 7 May 1921. Ker disliked Theodore Roosevelt intensely because of the overtures he made to Booker T. Washington and other black leaders, and she took many opportunities to criticize his "social equality" policies, including comments she made on 26–29 January 1903; 2 July 1904; 8 November 1904; and 22 June 1910.

Ker's thoughts on religion between 1896 and 1915 reflected an increasing awareness of new religious sects and the growth of charismatic evangelical religious styles, as well as the rise of

scientific challenges to religion. Of interest in her entries are descriptions of an instance of faith healing (15 December 1897), a "Holy Jumpers" tent revival she attended in Waukesha, Wisconsin (7–13 August 1908), a controversy over a Christian Scientist who would not allow her husband to be seen by a doctor (30 September–2 October 1990), and a visit from a Seventh Day Adventist missionary (29 April 1912). In addition, she made several entries in August 1897 and later concerning arguments over science versus the Bible that threatened to split the Butler family. Also of particular interest are remarks Ker made on 6 September 1908 indicating that she felt her own church needed to be more "hopeful" in its preaching to compete with other religions such as Christian Science.

Besides changes in religious practices, Ker documented other signs of the rapidly shifting cultural landscape of Natchez at the turn of the century. Her entries illustrate the increasing popularity of movies, automobiling, dancing, and sports as everyday entertainments. Ker frequently mentioned books she and her grand-nieces were reading and movies they saw, sometimes providing her opinion on their merits. Fascinated with flying, Ker went whenever she could to see visiting barnstormers and wrote glowingly of their performances (see for example, entries for 19–20 October 1911; 20 July 1918; 10 March 1919; 18, 20, 22, and 26 November 1919; and 8 December 1919). In addition she made regular mention of Tillie and Catharine's social activities, both while they were in school and after they went to work. Her comments include discussion of the two womens' jobs, friends, and courtships, of Catharine's participation in dramatics and athletics, especially tennis, and their day-to-day amusements such as automobiling and card playing.

Ker made numerous entries between 1897 and 1915 that illuminate her racial views and the interracial contacts she had. She discussed her feelings about the performance of the many black workers she hired, and sometimes referred to them by their full names. Workers she named included her housekeeper Eliza Brown; cooks Maria Matthews, Florence Cole(?), and Kate Nichols; and washerwoman Celeste Roy. She also commented on other black acquaintances, especially Jennie Hubbard, who were descendants of slaves owned by her own or related families. Ker's frequent complaints about her workers' habits of taking time off for family events or illnesses and the fears she expressed about getting what she considered reliable help provide indirect evidence of her workers' resistance to the demands of domestic labor. One entry, dated 3 October 1907, which concerned a threatened strike by black cooks in Natchez, suggests that this resistance sometimes took organized form.

After retiring from teaching in 1915, Ker lived with Tillie and Catharine in Natchez until her death in 1923. For a few years she continued to tutor private students but mostly retreated to the few household duties her advancing age allowed. The diary for this period discusses mostly family events and news, Ker's daily household routine, and her relationship with Tillie and Catharine. Ker continued, however, to comment on political and social events, though her commentary abated as she got older. Of note are her remarks on suffrage, which she wholeheartedly supported. On 11 November 1912, she called herself a "suffragist, not 'ette'." On 18 October 1920, she noted that she had registered to vote, and on 7 May 1921, that she had helped elect a woman as school superintendent.

Ker took on responsibility for overseeing many household duties after leaving teaching, and as a result had more contact with her black servants and workers than before. She regularly employed and commented on the work of gardener William Powell and hairdresser Sophy Whitlock. She also discussed several members of the Fort family, who had worked as servants for the Butlers for many years. Other entries of note concerning blacks in Natchez are Ker's

9 April 1921, description of a black baptism in the Mississippi River and her frequent comments on the activities of local blacks on Decoration Day (Memorial Day) and other holidays.

In addition to the topics outlined above, the diary provides an excellent source for the study of changing social and gender roles. In particular it illuminates the lives of single women in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, illustrating both the similarities and contrasts between the experiences of Mary Ker and her grand-nieces, Tillie and Catharine, both of whom remained unmarried at the diary's end. As well the diary describes changes in the roles of southern upper class white men. Ker mentioned in her comments on her family and friends a number of instances of men suffering emotional difficulty as the result of growing financial and social pressures, and she recorded over the span of the diary an inordinate number of male suicides. A careful reading of the diary may provide important clues for understanding the changes occurring for men of Ker's social class.

Subseries 2. 2: Typed Transcriptions of Diary, 1886–1902 This subseries consists of typed transcriptions of the first twelve and one-half volumes of Mary Susan Ker's original diary, covering the period 1886 to 1902. When first typed, the transcriptions consisted of one unnumbered volume (labeled by its date) and eight volumes numbered I–VIII. The volumes have been renumbered as Volumes 40–48.

#### Series 3. Other Volumes, 1852–1891

This series consists of other volumes, including a French exercise book belonging to Mary Susan Ker and seven volumes pertaining to the plantation, personal, and household accounts of Mary Baker Ker (Mrs. John Ker), Mary Susan Ker, and William Henry Ker.

Volume 49 is a notebook of French exercises completed by Mary Susan Ker in 1852 and 1853 and corrected by a tutor, probably Mme. de Mailly. Three additional volumes appear for Mary Susan Ker, all of which are notebooks she kept while working as a governess for the Jones family in Vicksburg. Volume 54, dated 1889–1890, contains mostly her personal expenses and household accounts, with additional notes on clothing sizes for the Dunbar children and a list of those to be invited to a party. Volume 55, dated 1890–1891, includes a record of the treatment she administered to Horace Jones during an illness and her personal accounts. Volume 56 is a softcover tablet dated August to September 1891. It provides lists of preserves, linens, silverware, china, and glassware in the Jones household, her personal accounts, and a list of visits to be returned.

Several volumes pertain to plantation affairs. Two pocket-size plantation books (Volumes 50 and 51) belonging to Mary Susan Ker's mother, Mary Baker Ker, appear for the Elba Plantation. The first, an account book dated 1858–1861, contains plantation accounts, a list of notes owed by Mrs. Ker, a list of slaves, and a list of clothes to be purchased for slaves. The second, a notebook dated 1861, lists women's and men's clothes to be purchased for slaves and Mrs. Ker's comments on the frequent absences of her employee, Mrs. Callahan. A later pocket-size account book (Volume 53) appears for William Henry Ker's postwar farm, Holyrood Place. It lists notes due, taxes paid and land owned, accounts for wood and lumber, hardware, and household provisions. Also included are accounts with laborers, accounts of Ker's expenses on a trip to Arkansas, a list of distances to places along the Mississippi, and a number of Turkish proverbs. Several of the account entries seem to be in Mary Susan Ker's handwriting. One final item (Volume 52) is an unidentified pocket-size account book for November 1872 to November 1873, which lists farm and household accounts and accounts for laundry services, hardware, and

clothes. (The handwriting in this volume may also have been William Henry Ker's and Mary Susan Ker's.)

#### Series 4. Pictures, 1902–ca. 1918 and Undated

This series consists of pictures of family members and friends, mostly unidentified, with a few photographs of unidentified scenes. There are several portraits and snapshots of Mary Susan Ker. Other identified pictures of women include Bessie Richmond, Mary Blake, Carrie Blake, Tillie Dunbar, and Catharine Dunbar. Many pictures are of unidentified persons, groups of persons, and landscapes with cattle. One undated postcard picture is of an unidentified street in California.

*N. B.* A related collection among the holdings of the Southern Historical Collection is the John Brownson Ker Papers. A related Collection among the holdings of the Louisiana State University Libraries is the John Ker and Family Papers.

#### Reel 1

Frame No.

#### **Introductory Materials**

0001 Introductory Materials. 33 frames.

#### Series 1. Chronologically Arranged Papers, 1785–1958 and Undated

#### Subseries 1.1: 1785-1851

0034	Description of Subseries 1.1. 1 frame.
0035	Folder 1, 1785–1834. 93 frames.
0128	Folder 2, 1836–1851. 168 frames.

#### Subseries 1.2: 1852–1860

0296	Description of Subseries 1.2. I frame.
0297	Folder 3, 1852–1858. 326 frames.
0623	Folder 4, 1859 and Undated (1850s). 175 frames.
0798	Folder 5, 1860. 126 frames.

#### Subseries 1.3: 1861-1865

Description of Subseries 1.3. 1 frame.

0925 Folder 6, 1861. 149 frames.

## Reel 2

## Mary Susan Ker Papers cont.

#### Series 1. Chronologically Arranged Papers, 1785–1958 and Undated cont.

#### Subseries 1.3: 1861-1865 cont.

0001	Folder 7, 1862. 199 frames.
0200	Folder 8, 1863–1864. 156 frames.
0356	Folder 9, 1865, 171 frames.

#### Subseries 1.4: 1866-1870

Frame No.	
0527	Description of Subseries 1.4. 1 frame.
0528	Folder 10, 1866. 144 frames.
0672	Folder 11, 1867. 186 frames.
0858	Folder 12, 1868. 171 frames.

## Reel 3

## Mary Susan Ker Papers cont.

Series 1. Chronologically Arranged Papers, 1785–1958 and Undated cont.

#### Subseries 1.4: 1866-1870 cont.

0001	Folder 13, January–March 1869. 86 frames.
0087	Folder 14, April–December 1869. 195 frames
0282	Folder 15, 1870. 112 frames.

#### Subseries 1.5. 1871\_1893

Subscries 1.	3. 10/1–10/3	
[Description of Subseries 1.5 omitted, <i>see</i> in guide above or Reel 1, frames 0015–0017.]		
0394	Folder 16, 1871. 104 frames.	
0498	Folder 17, 1872. 105 frames.	
0603	Folder 18, 1873. 137 frames.	
0740	Folder 19, January–May 1874. 108 frames.	
0848	Folder 20, June–December 1874. 132 frames.	

## Reel 4

## Mary Susan Ker Papers cont.

Series 1. Chronologically Arranged Papers, 1785-1958 and Undated cont.

#### Subseries 1.5: 1871-1893 cont.

0001	Folder 21, 1875. 163 frames.
0164	Folder 22, 1876. 178 frames.
0342	Folder 23, 1877. 185 frames.
0527	Folder 24, 1878. 124 frames.
0651	Folder 25, 1879. 85 frames.
0736	Folder 26, 1880. 162 frames.
0898	Folder 27, 1881. 217 frames.

## Reel 5

## Mary Susan Ker Papers cont.

Series 1. Chronologically Arranged Papers, 1785-1958 and Undated cont.

# Subseries 1.5: 1871–1893 cont.

0001	Folder 28, January–June 1882. 179 frames.
0180	Folder 29, July–December 1882. 113 frames.
0293	Folder 30, 1883. 153 frames.
0446	Folder 31, January–June 1884. 103 frames.
0549	Folder 32, July–December 1884. 131 frames.
0680	Folder 33, 1885. 184 frames.
0864	Folder 34, January–July 1886. 108 frames.

Frame No.

O972 Folder 35, August–December 1886. 167 frames.

## Reel 6

## Mary Susan Ker Papers cont.

Series 1. Chronologically Arranged Papers, 1785–1958 and Undated cont.

#### Subseries 1.5: 1871-1893 cont.

0001	Folder 36, January–June 1887. 181 frames.
0182	Folder 37, July–December 1887. 170 frames.
0352	Folder 38, January–May 1888. 128 frames.
0480	Folder 39, June–December 1888. 174 frames.
0654	Folder 40, January–June 1889. 117 frames.
0771	Folder 41, July–December 1889. 200 frames.
0971	Folder 42, January–March 1890. 152 frames.

## Reel 7

## Mary Susan Ker Papers cont.

Series 1. Chronologically Arranged Papers, 1785–1958 and Undated cont.

#### Subseries 1.5: 1871-1893 cont.

0001	Folder 43, April–September 1890. 153 frames.
0154	Folder 44, October–December 1890. 140 frames.
0294	Folder 45, 1891. 139 frames.
0433	Folder 46, January–April 1892. 173 frames.
0606	Folder 47, May–July 12, 1892. 97 frames.
0703	Folder 48, July 13–August 1892. 113 frames.
0816	Folder 49, September–December 1892. 178 frames.

## Reel 8

## Mary Susan Ker Papers cont.

Series 1. Chronologically Arranged Papers, 1785–1958 and Undated cont.

#### Subseries 1.5: 1871-1893 cont.

0001	Folder 50, January–April 1893. 93 frames.
0094	Folder 51, May–July 1893. 102 frames.
0196	Folder 52, August–September 1893. 195 frames.
0391	Folder 53, October–December 1893. 102 frames.

#### Subseries 1.6: 1894-1901

0493	Description of Subseries 1.6. 2 frames.
0495	Folder 54, January–May 1894. 155 frames.
0650	Folder 55, June–July 1894. 168 frames.
0818	Folder 56, August–December 1894, 211 frames.

Frame No.

## Reel 9

## Mary Susan Ker Papers cont.

## Series 1. Chronologically Arranged Papers, 1785-1958 and Undated cont.

#### Subseries 1.6: 1894-1901 cont.

0001	Folder 57, January–March 1895. 224 frames.
0225	Folder 58, April-May 1895. 207 frames.
0432	Folder 59, June–December 1895. 153 frames.
0585	Folder 60, January-April 1896. 154 frames.
0739	Folder 61, May–December 1896. 163 frames.
0902	Folder 62, January–April 1897. 161 frames.

## Reel 10

## Mary Susan Ker Papers cont.

## Series 1. Chronologically Arranged Papers, 1785-1958 and Undated cont.

#### Subseries 1.6: 1894-1901 cont.

0001 Folder 63, May–August 1897. 164 frames.	
Folder 64, September–December 1897. 208 fram	nes
0373 Folder 65, January–June 1898. 218 frames.	
Folder 66, July–December 1898. 262 frames.	
Folder 67, January–April 1899. 147 frames.	

## Reel 11

## Mary Susan Ker Papers cont.

#### Series 1. Chronologically Arranged Papers, 1785–1958 and Undated cont.

#### Subseries 1.6: 1894-1901 cont.

0001	Folder 68, May–August 1899. 107 frames.
0108	Folder 69, September–December 1899. 150 frames.
0258	Folder 70, January–March 1900. 75 frames.
0333	Folder 71, April–December 1900. 129 frames.
0462	Folder 72, January–February 1901. 125 frames.
0587	Folder 73, March–May 1901. 156 frames.
0743	Folder 74, June–July 1901. 159 frames.
0902	Folder 75, August–September 1901. 148 frames.

## Reel 12

## Mary Susan Ker Papers cont.

#### Series 1. Chronologically Arranged Papers, 1785-1958 and Undated cont.

#### Subseries 1.6: 1894-1901 cont.

Folder 76, October–December 1901. 156 frames.

#### Subseries 1.7: 1902-1958

0157 Description of Subseries 1.7. 1 frame.

Frame No.	
0158	Folder 77, January–March 1902. 137 frames.
0295	Folder 78, April–July 1902. 169 frames.
0464	Folder 79, August–December 1902. 167 frames.
0631	Folder 80, January–May 1903. 182 frames.
0813	Folder 81, June–December 1903. 195 frames.

## Reel 13

## Mary Susan Ker Papers cont.

Series 1. Chronologically Arranged Papers, 1785-1958 and Undated cont.

#### Subseries 1.7: 1902-1958 cont.

0001	Folder 82, January–June 1904. 209 frames.
0210	Folder 83, July–September 1904. 169 frames.
0379	Folder 84, October–December 1904. 140 frames.
0519	Folder 85, January–March 1905. 160 frames.
0679	Folder 86, April–June 1905. 136 frames.
0815	Folder 87, July-August 1905. 177 frames.

## Reel 14

## Mary Susan Ker Papers cont.

Series 1. Chronologically Arranged Papers, 1785-1958 and Undated cont.

#### Subseries 1.7: 1902–1958 cont.

0001	Folder 88, September–October 1905. 115 frames.
0116	Folder 89, November-December 1905. 53 frames.
0169	Folder 90, January–June 1906. 116 frames.
0285	Folder 91, July–September 1906. 140 frames.
0425	Folder 92, October–December 1906. 123 frames.
0548	Folder 93, January–April 1907. 120 frames.
0668	Folder 94, May–July 1907. 143 frames.
0811	Folder 95, August–December 1907. 126 frames.

## Reel 15

## Mary Susan Ker Papers cont.

Series 1. Chronologically Arranged Papers, 1785-1958 and Undated cont.

#### Subseries 1.7: 1902-1958 cont.

0001	Folder 96, January–April 1908. 162 frames.
0163	Folder 97, May–June 1908. 141 frames.
0304	Folder 98, July 1908. 95 frames.
0399	Folder 99, August–October 1908. 138 frames.
0537	Folder 100, 1909–1910. 146 frames.
0683	Description of Subseries 1.8. 1 frame.
0684	Folder 101, 1936, 1949, 1958. 22 frames.

Frame No.

#### **Subseries 1.8: Undated Papers**

[Description of Subseries 1.8 is at Frame 0683] 0706 Folder 102, Blake Letters. 50 frames. 0756 Folder 103, Butler Letters. 158 frames. 0914 Folder 104, Ker Letters. 109 frames.

## Reel 16

## Mary Susan Ker Papers cont.

#### Series 1. Chronologically Arranged Papers, 1785-1958 and Undated cont.

#### Subseries 1.8: Undated Papers cont.

0001	Folder 105, Metcalfe Letters. 68 frames.
0069	Folder 106, Letters, A–K. 166 frames.
0235	Folder 107, Letters, L–Y and Surname Unknown. 166 frames.
0401	Folder 108, Invitations, Calling Cards, and Greeting Cards. 21 frames.
0422	Folder 109, Wedding Invitations. 23 frames.
0445	Folder 110, Miscellaneous. 71 frames.

#### Series 2. Diary of Mary Susan Ker, 1886–1923

#### Subseries 2.1: Original Diary, 1886-1923

0516	Description of Subseries 2.1. 5 frames.
0521	Folder 111, Volume 1, Diary, 14 August 1886–15 May 1887. 180 frames.
0701	Folder 112, Volume 2, Diary, 16 May 1887–20 August 1888. 152 frames.
0853	Folder 113, Volume 3, Diary, 29 August 1888–7 February 1890. 52 frames.

## **Reel 17**

## Mary Susan Ker Papers cont. Series 2. Diary of Mary Susan Ker, 1886–1923 cont.

#### Subseries 2.1: Original Diary, 1886-1923 cont.

0001	Folder 114, Volume 4, Diary, 17 February 1890–29 October 1890. 45 frames.
0046	Folder 115, Volume 5, Diary, 1 November 1890–3 September 1892. 132 frames.
0178	Folder 116, Volume 6, Diary, 3 September 1892–6 November 1893. 77 frames.
0255	Folder 117, Volume 7, Diary, 12 November 1893–9 March 1895. 77 frames.
0332	Folder 118, Volume 8, Diary, 10 March 1895–9 December 1895. 64 frames.
0396	Folder 119, Volume 9, Diary, 10 December 1895–23 August 1897. 203 frames.
0599	Folder 120, Volume 10, Diary, 24 August 1897–12 December 1899. 305 frames.

## Reel 18

## Mary Susan Ker Papers cont. Series 2. Diary of Mary Susan Ker, 1886–1923 cont.

#### Subseries 2.1: Original Diary, 1886-1923 cont.

0001	Folder 121, Volume 11, Diary, 13 December 1899–3 February 1901. 204 frames.
0205	Folder 122, Volume 12, Diary, 4 February 1901–15 August 1902. 204 frames.

Frame No.

0409	Folder 123, Volume 13, Diary, 19 August 1902–17 March 1904. 205 frames.
0614	Folder 124, Volume 14, Diary, 19 March 1904–28 November 1905. 204 frames

## Reel 19

## Mary Susan Ker Papers cont. Series 2. Diary of Mary Susan Ker, 1886–1923 cont.

#### Subseries 2.1: Original Diary, 1886–1923 cont.

0001	Folder 125, Volume 15, Diary, 28 November 1905–11 May 1907. 204 frames.
0205	Folder 126, Volume 16, Diary, 12 May 1907–8 August 1908. 202 frames.
0407	Folder 127, Volume 17, Diary, 10 August 1908–21 January 1909. 104 frames.
0511	Folder 128, Volume 18, Diary, 23 January 1909–17 July 1909. 102 frames.
0613	Folder 129, Volume 19, Diary, 18 July 1909–19 March 1911. 311 frames.

## Reel 20

## Mary Susan Ker Papers cont. Series 2. Diary of Mary Susan Ker, 1886–1923 cont.

#### Subseries 2.1: Original Diary, 1886-1923 cont.

0001	Folder 130, Volume 20, Diary, 20 March 1911–31 August 1911. 102 frames.
0103	Folder 131, Volume 21, Diary, 2 September 1911–20 May 1912. 198 frames.
0301	Folder 132, Volume 22, Diary, 21 May 1912–22 February 1913. 196 frames.
0497	Folder 133, Volume 23, Diary, 23 February 1913–20 November 1913. 200 frames.
0697	Folder 134, Volume 24, Diary, 22 November 1913–8 November 1914. 204 frames.
	[see also Reel 22, Frame 0814]

## Reel 21

## Mary Susan Ker Papers cont. Series 2. Diary of Mary Susan Ker, 1886–1923 cont.

#### Subseries 2.1: Original Diary, 1886-1923 cont.

0001	Folder 135, Volume 25, Diary, 9 November 1914–28 August 1915. 164 frames.
	[see also Reel 22, Frame 0814]
0165	Folder 136, Volume 26, Diary, 29 August 1915–8 June 1916. 201 frames.
0366	Folder 137, Volume 27, Diary, 11 June 1916–25 March 1917. 192 frames.
0558	Folder 138, Volume 28, Diary, 26 March 1917–28 February 1918. 200 frames.
0758	Folder 139, Volume 29, Diary, 2 March 1918–16 October 1918. 104 frames.

## Reel 22

#### Mary Susan Ker Papers cont. Series 2. Diary of Mary Susan Ker, 1886–1923 cont.

#### Subseries 2.1: Original Diary, 1886–1923 cont.

0001	Folder 140, Volume 30, Diary, 17 October 1918–30 April 1919. 104 frames.
0105	Folder 141, Volume 31, Diary, 1 May 1919–22 October 1919. 105 frames.

Frame No.	
0210	Folder 142, Volume 32, Diary, 23 October 1919–18 April 1920. 124 frames.
0334	Folder 143, Volume 33, Diary, 19 April 1920–6 September 1920. 103 frames.
0437	Folder 144, Volume 34, Diary, 7 September 1920–8 February 1921. 104 frames.
0541	Folder 145, Volume 35, Diary, 9 February 1921–8 June 1921. 100 frames.
0641	Folder 146, Volume 36, Diary, 9 June 1921–11 November 1921. 87 frames.
0728	Folder 147, Volume 37, Diary, 2 January 1922–31 December 1922. 70 frames.
0798	Folder 148, Volume 38, Diary, 1 January 1923–10 January 1923. 16 frames.
0814	Folder 149, Volume 39, Calendar with Diary Entries, 1914. 29 frames.

## Reel 23

## Mary Susan Ker Papers cont. Series 2. Diary of Mary Susan Ker, 1886–1923 cont.

#### Subseries 2.2: Typed Transcriptions of Diary, 1886–1902

0001	Description of Subseries 2.2. 1 frame.
0002	Folder 150, Volume 40, Transcriptions, 14 August 1886–15 May 1887. 183 frames.
0185	Folder 151, Volume 41, Transcriptions, 16 May 1887–20 August 1888. 225 frames.
0410	Folder 152, Volume 42, Transcriptions, 29 August 1888–3 September 1892. 372 frames.

## Reel 24

## Mary Susan Ker Papers cont. Series 2. Diary of Mary Susan Ker, 1886–1923 cont.

#### Subseries 2.2: Typed Transcriptions of Diary, 1886–1902 cont.

0001	Folder 153, Volume 43, Transcriptions, 3 September 1892–31 December 1894.
0001	313 frames.
	313 frames.
0314	Folder 154, Volume 44, Transcriptions, 1 January 1895–31 December 1896. 333 frames.
0647	Folder 155, Volume 45, Transcriptions, 1897–1898. 361 frames

## Reel 25

## Mary Susan Ker Papers cont. Series 2. Diary of Mary Susan Ker, 1886–1923 cont.

# Subseries 2.2: Typed Transcriptions of Diary, 1886–1902 cont. O001 Folder 156 Volume 46 Transcriptions 1899–1900 385 frames

0000	Series 3. Other Volumes, 1852–189
0611	Folder 158, Volume 48, Transcriptions, 1902. 211 frames.
0396	Folder 157, Volume 47, Transcriptions, 1901. 215 frames.
0001	Folder 156, Volume 46, Transcriptions, 1899–1900. 385 frames.

Series 3. Other Volumes, 1852–1891	
0822	Description of Series 3. 1 frame.
0823	Folder 159, Volume 49, Mary Susan Ker, French Exercises, 1852–1853. 136 frames.
0959	Folder 160, Volume 50, Mary Baker Ker, Plantation Account Book, 1858–1861. 27 frames.
0986	Folder 161, Volume 51, Mary Baker Ker, Plantation Note Book, 1861. 9 frames.
0995	Folder 162, Volume 52, William H. Ker and Mary Susan Ker?, Plantation Account Book,
	1872–1873. 21 frames.
1016	Folder 163, Volume 53, William H. Ker and Mary Susan Ker?, Plantation Account Book,
	1874–1877. 46 frames.

Reel Index

Frame No.

1062 Folder 164, Volume 54, Mary Susan Ker, Note Book, 1889–1890. 37 frames.
1099 Folder 165, Volume 55, Mary Susan Ker, Note Book, 1890–1891. 23 frames.
1122 Folder 166, Volume 56, Mary Susan Ker, Note Book, 1891. 23 frames.

Series 4. Pictures, 1902–ca. 1918 and Undated

1145 Description of Series 4. 1 frame.

1146

P-1467/1-21. 24 frames.

# Southern Women and Their Families in the 19th Century: Papers and Diaries

Series A, Holdings of the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Part 2: Roach and Eggleston Family Papers, 1830–1905

## **REEL INDEX**

## Roach and Eggleston Family Papers, 1825–1905, Warren and Wilkinson Counties, Mississippi; also Louisiana

#### **Description of the Collection**

The Roach and Eggleston families were residents of Woodville, Wilkinson County, and Vicksburg, Mississippi. Prominent family members included Elizabeth Gildart Eggleston (d. 1895), a member of the Confederate Cemetery Association of Vicksburg; her daughter, Mahala P. H. Roach (1825–1905); and Mahala's husband, James P. Roach (d. 1860), a banker in the firm of Wirt Adams & Co.

The forty-nine-volume diary of Mahala P. H. Roach, 1853–1860, 1862, and 1866–1905, comprises the bulk of this collection. Mahala wrote about household chores; her family, including disciplining her children and conflicts with her mother; and neighbors and friends, especially focusing on social activities in Vicksburg. Mahala also described nursing she did during epidemics of yellow fever, cholera, and other sicknesses in Vicksburg. Only one volume (1862) dates from the Civil War, but there is further documentation of Mahala's activities and those of her mother, Elizabeth Gildart Eggleston, during the Civil War in the Miscellaneous Diaries Series. A three-volume diary of James P. Roach, 1858–1860, is also included. James Roach, wrote about banking, civic and political affairs in Vicksburg, as well as his personal life. James and Mahala both noted visits from Jefferson and Joseph Emory Davis. Also included are correspondence, financial and legal items, scrapbooks and commonplace books, and miscellaneous diaries of other members of the Roach, Gildart, and Eggleston families. One of these diaries discusses the 1864 banishment from Vicksburg of Elizabeth Gildart Eggleston, who appears to have been running a hospital in the city.

#### **Biographical Note**

The major figure in this collection is Mahala P. H. Roach (1825–1905). She was the daughter of Dick H. Eggleston, M.D., and Elizabeth Gildart Eggleston (d. 1895), and grew up in Woodville, Wilkinson County, Mississippi. On 26 November 1844, she married James P. Roach (d. 1860). The Roaches lived in Woodville for a few years before moving to Vicksburg in 1848. James Roach was a banker in the firm of Wirt Adams & Co.

Mahala had six children: Tom (b. 1845), who married Loulie Kirkpatrick in 1876; Nora (1847–1881), who married R. J. Turnbull, M.D., in 1865; Sophy (d. 1857); Mahala (1851–1885), who married James B. Browne in 1874; John (1856–1878); and Jim (b. 1859), who married Kate Klein in 1882. All but two of her children died before her.

It appears that Mahala's mother ran a hospital in Vicksburg during the Civil War. Mahala also had some knowledge of nursing and nursed many family members and friends. Mahala was in Vicksburg during its occupation by Union forces and continued to reside there throughout her

life. She was very much involved in the social life of Vicksburg and was visited frequently by many members of the community.

#### Series 1. Unbound Papers, 1844–1904 and Undated

This series consists of correspondence, financial and legal items, and other papers chiefly of Mahala P. H. and James P. Roach, and of Mahala's mother, Elizabeth Gildart Eggleston. A chronological listing is included. A social note and an election jingle is dated 1844. A letter to Lizzie Eggleston from her aunt, E. C. Prosser, giving family news, chiefly illnesses and deaths, is dated 1848. A document appointing James P. Roach as agent for creditors of the estate of Silas J. Cary of Clinton, Mississippi, is dated 1849. Two communications to James P. Roach about life insurance and correspondence of Mahala P. H. Roach and William Parker after Parker's recovery from an illness in which Mahala nursed him are dated 1849–1850. Letters to Mahala P. H. Roach from Josephine Wilkinson (her sister?) in New Orleans, cousin Anne M. Archer, William Parker and others, as well as a paper relating to the Vicksburg, Shreveport & Texas Railroad are dated 1855–1858. Several letters reflecting the illness and death of James P. Roach are dated 1860.

Civil War era letters, 1861–1864, to Mahala P. H. Roach and her mother in Vicksburg, are chiefly from soldiers, some of whom were entrenched near the city and some whom Elizabeth Gildart Eggleston had nursed in her hospital and befriended in various ways. They include requests for medicines, food, tools, etc. Also included are letters from prisoners of war after the fall of Vicksburg and a series of letters to Elizabeth Gildart Eggleston from her nephew, O. S. Holland.

Papers dated 1865–1867 concern the business affairs of Mahala P. H. Roach who had owned considerable property in Vicksburg. Some city property had been used by the Union forces, and there are items concerning its restoration to her. Also included are miscellaneous bills and receipts, clippings, and Mahala P. H. Roach's U.S. tax return dated May 1865.

An 1868 letter from General Henry W. Slocum in Brooklyn to Elizabeth Gildart Eggleston, thanks her for her letter of congratulations to him. A few scattered personal letters to Mahala P. H. Roach and some items concerning property, notes due, etc., date from the 1870s–1890s.

There are scattered undated papers, including invitations, social notes, and notes of thanks. Two folders of clippings, 1862–1904 and undated, concern the Civil War, labor, race relations, and religion, primarily in Mississippi.

#### Series 2. Diaries of Mahala P. H. Roach, 1853-1905

This series includes both original and typed transcriptions of the diaries of Mahala P. H. Roach. Entries cover the years 1853–1860, 1862, and 1866–1905. There are no diaries for 1861 or 1863–1865. (*See also* Series 4, Volume 71, which includes a typed transcription of "Christmas Days," a record made by Mahala at Christmas each year, 1844–1860.)

Subseries 2. 1: Original Diaries, 1853–1905 This subseries consists of forty-nine volumes, each devoted to a year's diary entries of Mahala P. H. Roach. The annual diary volumes begin in 1853. Mahala described her daily activities and household chores, such as sewing, cleaning silver, writing, and taking care of the children. She apparently had servants to help her, and they did most of the cooking. Other topics are her health and temper and the health and tempers of her children. When her children were young, she frequently described losing her temper with them, punishing them, and feeling sorry for it afterwards.

Another frequent topic is the social life in Vicksburg where Mahala lived. She described the visits she made and callers she received. Many entries include a list of the day's callers. She

described other social events, such as attending concerts and parties, and events in the lives of her neighbors, such as sicknesses, deaths, births, and marriages. There were numerous fires in Vicksburg, and Mahala indicated times of fires and what buildings burned down. At the beginning of each entry she noted the weather for the day.

In 1860 (Volume 8), Mahala's husband, James P. Roach, suffered and finally died after a long illness. Many of the entries during this year deal with his health and welfare. There was a great deal of sickness in Vicksburg in the spring of 1860, which affected Mahala's own family and other neighbors and acquaintances.

The collection includes only one volume (Volume 9, 1862) from the Civil War period. In January of that year, Mahala mentioned going to a military camp near town and the removal of the company that was stationed there, which she called the "Jeff Davis Rebels." Another indication of the war was a foundry in town that cast shells and cannon and that she visited a few times to watch the casting. In April of 1862, she learned that New Orleans had surrendered. There were rumors that Vicksburg would be attacked and the women and children would have to leave. On 28 April, Mahala wrote that a fort was being erected and a stream of wagons was leaving Vicksburg hauling out cotton and machinery. Mahala also mentioned spending that day at the hospital. In early May Confederate soldiers moved into town and Mahala provided them with water and allowed some to sleep on her "gallery." On 7 May 1962, Mahala and her family left Vicksburg and went to stay in Woodville with her aunt. Vicksburg was shelled by the Yankees and federal gunboats were in the river. On 4 July, her son Tommy told her that their house had been struck by a piece of shell. On 31 July, Mahala wrote that the Yankee fleet had left, and many people were returning to Vicksburg. She was afraid to go, but would try to do so if she could. The return of civilians was apparently premature, since on 18 August a visiting friend told Mahala that Yankee gunboats were again at Vicksburg.

Social visits continued in this year, and Mahala mentioned the frequent calls of a Mr. Greve, who she believed to be the admirer of her daughter Nora. When Mahala was living in Woodville, she occasionally returned to town for short periods and became friendly with some of the soldiers. On 28 August, during a brief stay in Vicksburg, Mahala accompanied her mother on a visit to General Van Dorn about business.

The next diary (Volume 10) covers 1866. Mahala and her children lived at this time with her mother in Vicksburg. Her son Tom had apparently served in the army and was now home and ill. Her daughter Nora had married Dr. R. J. Turnbull on 17 June 1865, and did not live in Vicksburg. The three younger children, Mahala (Hala), John, and Jim lived at home and required much care and attention. John and Jim were frequently punished. Mahala spent much time sewing clothing for Hala and the others.

During this year, Mahala began to experience the effects of poverty. On 9 June 1866, she wrote that by a suit brought against Wirt Adams & Co. and an attachment on the bank, she would lose its rent and have but one-third of the income of the past six months.

Mahala's mother was much involved with the Confederate Cemetery Association and spent many days at the cemetery. Mahala was also involved in this organization to a lesser degree. From comments Mahala made during this and later years, it appears that her mother was intensely embittered by the war. On 7 November 1866, at a meeting of the association, a committee was established to cooperate with the Society for the Relief of Mrs. Davis and Family of Jackson.

Social visits and events continued during this year. Joseph Emory Davis was a frequent caller and assisted the Roach family by driving them various places in his carriage.

In August and September 1866, there was an epidemic of cholera in Vicksburg. Throughout the year, and particularly during those months, Mahala nursed many sick friends and neighbors. She apparently was skilled as a nurse for, throughout the diaries, she recorded attending numerous sick and dying individuals.

The years 1867 through 1873 (Volumes 11–17) were very difficult ones for Mahala and her family. Their greatest trouble appears to have been poverty. There was also a great deal of conflict between Mahala and her mother. The exact nature of their disagreement is never mentioned, but it is clear that her mother was frequently unpleasant to members of the family and to some of their friends. Her mother seemed to direct most of her animosity towards Mahala's younger daughter Hala. Mrs. Eggleston still spent a great deal of time at the cemetery.

On 21 January 1868, ex-President Davis visited Vicksburg, causing great excitement. On 23 July 1870, Mahala wrote that Joseph Emory Davis looked feeble and weak and that they would lose a good friend when he died.

Tom was working at a bank and contributed a great deal to the family income. In 1871 he transferred from an unnamed bank to the Vicksburg Bank. On 7 February, he attended a Banker's Convention in Jacksonville where he represented the Vicksburg Bank.

John and Jim still required much attention. Jim in particular was continually getting into trouble. On 22 January 1872, Jim was expelled from school and had to be started at the public school. Mahala also worried about the few pleasures she could give her daughter Hala. She spent much time sewing clothes for Hala and described what she made.

There was a great deal of sickness during these years, and Mahala spent a lot of time nursing her family and others. In September and October 1867, there was an epidemic of yellow fever, and Tom spent time at a quarantine station. On 22 December 1872, the Roaches learned that Tom had Varioloid, a mild form of smallpox, and were worried and fearful. Tom wanted them to strap down his hands to prevent him from scratching his face. He apparently came through the disease safely.

In 1874 (Volume 18), a new chapter opened in the lives of the Roach family. In January and February James B. Browne courted Hala, and on 4 February he proposed to her. Mahala wrote that her son Tom had no objections other than those which only Hala had a right to judge, that is, his age and his three children. For the next month, until Hala's wedding on 19 March, they were very busy getting her ready and sewing her wedding clothes. The next several years were much happier for Mahala. Browne was apparently quite comfortable financially, and he was providing for one of her children. John and Tom were working full time at a bank. Mahala's relations with her mother improved greatly after Hala's departure.

On 12 February 1874, Mahala wrote that she went to a fair given by Jewish ladies and was received with kindness by her Jewish friends. This is one of a few entries in the diary that refers to the Jewish population in Vicksburg.

Mahala spent a lot of time visiting Hala. On 29 January 1875 (Volume 19), Hala had a baby girl. Ex-President Davis visited again on 8 March 1875.

On 24 February 1876 (Volume 20), Tom married Loulie Kirkpatrick, who was an old friend of the family. Christmas of 1876 was a very happy one for Mahala who now had several grandchildren.

There was an extremely virulent epidemic of yellow fever in Vicksburg during the summer and fall of 1878 (Volume 22). Mahala's son, John, died from the fever on 5 September 1878. Mahala spent her first Christmas with Nora that year and remained at her house until April.

In 1881 (Volume 25), Mahala's daughter Nora died after a long, debilitating illness. Nora spent most of the year at her mother's house, and Mahala nursed her until her death on 28 September.

Sometime in 1882 (Volume 26), Jim married Kate Klein, and Tom moved his family to New Orleans. Mahala began to split her time between the houses of her two sons, spending half of the year in New Orleans and half the year in Vicksburg. Mahala's mother was still alive and remained in Jim's house in Vicksburg. In January 1885, Mahala was with Tom's family in New Orleans and mentioned attending an exposition where she saw many wonderful things.

Mahala's daughter Hala and two of her grandchildren died of diphtheria in October 1885 (Volume 29). On 31 December, Mahala wrote that this year had given her more sorrow than any other.

For the next twenty years (Volumes 30–49), Mahala continued to live in the houses of her two sons, assisting with the household chores, participating in family activities, and visiting friends and neighbors. Her mother lived until 9 March 1895, and continued to spend many days at the cemetery. Mahala was also still involved with the Cemetery Association and mentioned on 2 June 1892, the Association's decision to erect a monument.

In 1905 (Volume 49), another epidemic of yellow fever began in New Orleans and spread up the river. On 25 July, Mahala wrote that fever was said to be of the real old-fashioned virulent type. Members of her family were all immune except for her granddaughter Hala. On 27 July, Mahala wrote that the papers were all much stirred up about the yellow fever and subscriptions were being taken up for cleaning the city; over thirty deaths had been reported. Vessels had been coming in freely from Panama and "fruit countries," and now "everywhere" was quarantined against Louisiana. Oil was put in cisterns to drive off mosquitoes and purify the water. On 4 September, Mahala wrote that yellow fever had definitely reached Vicksburg, and she knew that there would be confusion and evacuation. During the epidemic she kept lists each day of the new cases and deaths.

Mahala's last full entry is dated 29 September 1905. She suffered from an unspecified illness (apparently not yellow fever) and died on 23 October 1905.

*Subseries 2. 2: Typed Transcriptions, 1853–1875* This subseries consists of typed transcriptions of the first nineteen volumes of Mahala P. H. Roach's diaries, 1853–1860, 1862, and 1866–1875.

#### Series 3. Diaries of James P. Roach, 1858-1860

This series includes both originals and typed transcriptions of the diaries of James P. Roach. Entries cover the years 1858–1860.

Subseries 3. 1: Originals, 1858–1860 This subseries includes three volumes of the diary of James P. Roach, husband of Mahala P. H. Roach. Roach worked in the banking house of Wirt Adams & Co. in Vicksburg. Many of the entries deal with affairs in the banking world. The firm's business increased dramatically during the years 1858 and 1859, and Roach frequently commented on busy workdays and numerous transactions. Early in 1858, a number of banks in New Orleans apparently closed or suspended operations due to financial difficulties. Roach often mentioned the owner of the bank, Mr. Adams, with whom he had long discussions about the business. Mr. Adams apparently lived on a plantation near Vicksburg and had another banking house in Jackson. In March 1859, Roach wrote about some counterfeit money that was in circulation.

Roach was also involved in the affairs of the Episcopal church. One of his most frequent callers was Mr. Lord, rector of his parish. He also corresponded with and was visited by Bishop William Mercer Green. In entries for Sundays, Roach wrote descriptions of services and noted who attended, who was baptized or confirmed, and his opinion of Mr. Lord's sermon. On 27 April 1859, he attended a church convention at Natchez and served on the finance committee. He was also a member of the vestry, and, in May 1859, described a meeting in which they decided to rent pews to obtain revenue, an action he initially opposed. Roach was also a member of the board of trustees of Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi, and periodically attended meetings there.

Roach was somewhat active in civic affairs and local politics. In an entry dated 17 February 1858, he wrote that he had learned that day that he was elected in November by the legislature as a commissioner to organize the Grand Gulf and Ship Island Rail Road. He also mentioned attending a Southern Convention from 9 May to 13 May 1859, in Vicksburg where a big topic for discussion was the African slave trade. He recorded the results of local elections in his diary.

Roach sometimes wrote about social calls and other events. Among others, Jefferson Davis occasionally called when he was in town, and, on 19 April 1859, Varina Davis telegraphed that their son had been born in Washington. Davis's older brother, Joseph, also called. Roach wrote about events in the lives of his friends and neighbors, such as marriages, births, and deaths. He also wrote about happenings in Vicksburg society, such as quarrels between individuals, murders, and other events.

During the winter and spring every year, the water level in the Mississippi River was a big topic in his diary. He recorded its rise and fall and the difficulties with railroad lines being washed away. In the spring of 1859, he wrote that that the river was the highest it had been in many years, and he was sure that Jeff and Joe Davis's place was now under water.

In the summer of 1859, Roach began to be almost continuously ill. In his diary, he described symptoms of stomach upsets, piles, coughing, and diarrhea. His doctors could not diagnose his disease and tried various treatments. He became too weak to work, and, in January 1860, he arranged for Mr. Newman to take his place at the bank. On 5 January 1860, he resigned from the board of trustees of Mississippi College. The diary entries end on 17 May 1860, and Roach died on 1 July 1860.

Subseries 3. 2: Typed Transcription, 1858–1860 This subseries consists of a typed transcription of the three volumes of James P. Roach's diary.

#### Series 4. Miscellaneous Diaries, 1825–1864

This series includes diaries of four members of the Gildart and Eggleston families, as well as additional diary entries of Mahala P. H. Roach.

Volume 70 is a typed transcription of a travel diary of an extensive trip to England made in 1825 and 1826 by H. N. Gildart, grandfather of Mahala P. H. Roach. Gildart described the sights in Birmingham, Leamington, Oxford, Windsor on the Thames, London, and many other places. He made comparisons between England and his own country, always preferring the United States. He was surprised by the town of Birmingham, which was much nicer than he had expected. The original of this diary was returned to the donor.

Volume 71 contains three different typed transcriptions. The first, "Here I Rest," includes reminiscences of love affairs written by an unknown author, dated between 1825 and 1847. The second transcription is "Christmas Days," in which Mahala P. H. Roach described events in her life during the previous year and her activities on Christmas day 1844–1860. This "diary" was

kept during the years of Mahala's marriage to James P. Roach and deals chiefly with family health and welfare. At Christmas 1846, Mahala noted that they had spent several days at Hurricane and Briarfield, homes of Jefferson Davis and his older brother, Joseph Emory Davis. The Davises lived near Woodville, which had been Mahala's home as a child and young woman, and were friends of the family. The third transcription is "Papers Relating to the Banishment of Mrs. Eggleston by General Dana, 1864." It contains copies of letters, military passes, and military orders relating to the banishment from Vicksburg of Elizabeth Gildart Eggleston during 1864. She was banished for being a "general busybody with rebel interests, rebel philanthropist, mail receiver, carrier of smuggled funds to prisoners in jail, etc. etc." The letters are chiefly appeals to General Dana and others to have the order of banishment revoked. The originals of these three volumes were returned to the donor.

Volume 72 is a diary and plantation journal kept in 1830 by Dick H. Eggleston, who owned Learmont Plantation in Wilkinson County, Mississippi. He described social life in Wilkinson County, including visits from his neighbors who included Judge Randolph, members of the Gildart family, and others. He also described the work of his slaves on the plantation, where they planted cotton, peas, and corn.

#### Series 5. Scrapbooks and Commonplace Books, 1836–1901

This series includes three scrapbooks and two commonplace books of Mahala P. H. Roach. Volume 73 is a commonplace book given to Mahala before her marriage in 1836. She later gave it to her son, Tom, in 1886. It contains poems and quotations written by friends. Volumes 74, 75, and 76 are scrapbooks dated 1857–1902. They contain newspaper clippings of poems, stories, and pictures. Volume 75 was previously used as an account book for a steamboat in 1847. Volume 77 is a commonplace book, apparently kept by J. G. Fox, 1820–1850. It was given to Mahala by her aunt, Sophy Fox, in 1872. Mahala gave it to her son, Tom, in 1886. It contains definitions and notes about various words such as "character" and "chastity."

#### Series 6. Wallet of Dick H. Eggleston, Undated

This series includes a wallet that belonged to Dick H. Eggleston of Woodville, Wilkinson County, Mississippi.

## Reel 1

Frame No.

#### **Introductory Materials**

0001 Introductory Materials. 21 frames.

#### Series 1. Unbound Papers, [1839] 1844–1904 and Undated

0022	Description of Series 1. 1 frame.
0023	Folder 1, 1839–1859. 41 frames.
0064	Folder 2, 1860–1863. 69 frames.
0133	Folder 3, 1864–1869. 71 frames.
0204	Folder 4, 1870–1899. 16 frames.
0220	Folder 5, Undated. 19 frames.

#### Frame No.

0239	Folder 6, Clippings, 1866 and Undated. 14 frames.
0253	Folder 7, Clippings, 1862–1904 and Undated. 9 frames.

## Series 2. Diaries of Mahala P. H. Roach, 1853-1905

#### Subseries 2.1.: Original Diaries, 1853-1905

0262	Description of Subseries 2.1. 6 frames.
0268	Folder 8, Volume 1, 1853. 190 frames.
0458	Folder 9, Volume 2, 1854. 190 frames.
0648	Folder 10, Volume 3, 1855. 185 frames.
0833	Folder 11, Volume 4, 1856. 200 frames.

## Reel 2

## Roach and Eggleston Family Papers cont. Series 2. Diaries of Mahala P. H. Roach, 1853–1905 cont.

#### Subseries 2.1: Original Diaries, 1853-1905 cont.

0001	Folder 12, Volume 5, 1857. 213 frames.
0214	Folder 13, Volume 6, 1858. 228 frames.
0442	Folder 14, Volume 7, 1859. 213 frames.
0665	Folder 15, Volume 8, 1860. 354 frames.

## Reel 3

## Roach and Eggleston Family Papers cont. Series 2. Diaries of Mahala P. H. Roach, 1853–1905 cont.

#### Subseries 2.1: Original Diaries, 1853-1905 cont.

0001	Folder 16, Volume 9, 1862. 358 frames.
0359	Folder 17, Volume 10, 1866. 141 frames.
0500	Folder 18, Volume 11, 1867. 350 frames.
0850	Folder 19, Volume 12, 1868. 368 frames.

## Reel 4

## Roach and Eggleston Family Papers cont. Series 2. Diaries of Mahala P. H. Roach, 1853–1905 cont.

#### Subseries 2.1: Original Diaries, 1853-1905 cont.

0001	Folder 20, Volume 13, 1869. 371 frames.
0372	Folder 21, Volume 14, 1870. 366 frames.
0738	Folder 22, Volume 15, 1871. 372 frames.

Frame No.

## Reel 5

## Roach and Eggleston Family Papers cont. Series 2. Diaries of Mahala P. H. Roach, 1853–1905 cont.

#### Subseries 2.1: Original Diaries, 1853-1905 cont.

Folder 23, Volume 16, 1872. 378 frames.
 Folder 24, Volume 17, 1873. 378 frames.
 Folder 25, Volume 18, 1874. 395 frames.

## Reel 6

Roach and Eggleston Family Papers cont. Series 2. Diaries of Mahala P. H. Roach, 1853–1905 cont.

#### Subseries 2.1: Original Diaries, 1853-1905 cont.

Folder 26, Volume 19, 1875. 376 frames.
 Folder 27, Volume 20, 1876. 384 frames.
 Folder 28, Volume 21, 1877. 369 frames.

## Reel 7

Roach and Eggleston Family Papers cont. Series 2. Diaries of Mahala P. H. Roach, 1853–1905 cont.

#### Subseries 2.1: Original Diaries, 1853-1905 cont.

0001 Folder 29, Volume 22, 1878. 384 frames. 0385 Folder 30, Volume 23, 1879. 384 frames. 0769 Folder 31, Volume 24, 1880. 380 frames.

## Reel 8

Roach and Eggleston Family Papers cont.
Series 2. Diaries of Mahala P. H. Roach, 1853–1905 cont.

#### Subseries 2.1: Original Diaries, 1853-1905 cont.

Folder 32, Volume 25, 1881. 380 frames.
Folder 33, Volume 26, 1882. 380 frames.
Folder 34, Volume 27, 1883–1884. 406 frames.

## Reel 9

Roach and Eggleston Family Papers cont. Series 2. Diaries of Mahala P. H. Roach, 1853–1905 cont.

#### Subseries 2.1: Original Diaries, 1853-1905 cont.

Folder 35, Volume 28, 1884. 198 frames.Folder 36, Volume 29, 1885. 197 frames.

Frame No.

0396 Folder 37, Volume 30, 1886. 197 frames. 0593 Folder 38, Volume 31, 1887. 200 frames.

## Reel 10

## Roach and Eggleston Family Papers cont. Series 2. Diaries of Mahala P. H. Roach, 1853–1905 cont.

#### Subseries 2.1: Original Diaries, 1853-1905 cont.

0001	Folder 39, Volume 32, 1888. 200 frames.
0201	Folder 40, Volume 33, 1889. 204 frames.
0405	Folder 41, Volume 34, 1890. 204 frames.
0609	Folder 42, Volume 35, 1891. 200 frames.
0809	Folder 43, Volume 36, 1892. 207 frames.
1016	Folder 44, Volume 37, 1893. 208 frames.

## Reel 11

## Roach and Eggleston Family Papers cont. Series 2. Diaries of Mahala P. H. Roach, 1853–1905 cont.

#### Subseries 2.1: Original Diaries, 1853-1905 cont.

0001	Folder 45, Volume 38, 1894. 210 frames.
0211	Folder 46, Volume 39, 1895. 155 frames.
0366	Folder 47, Volume 40, 1896. 412 frames.
0778	Folder 48, Volume 41, 1897. 207 frames.

## Reel 12

## Roach and Eggleston Family Papers cont. Series 2. Diaries of Mahala P. H. Roach, 1853–1905 cont.

#### Subseries 2.1: Original Diaries, 1853-1905 cont.

0001	Folder 49, Volume 42, 1898. 197 frames.
0198	Folder 50, Volume 43, 1899. 209 frames.
0407	Folder 51, Volume 44, 1900. 203 frames.
0610	Folder 52, Volume 45, 1901. 204 frames.
0814	Folder 53, Volume 46, 1902. 208 frames.

## Reel 13

## Roach and Eggleston Family Papers cont. Series 2. Diaries of Mahala P. H. Roach, 1853–1905 cont.

#### Subseries 2.1: Original Diaries, 1853-1905 cont.

0001	Folder 54, Volume 47, 1903. 205 frames.
0206	Folder 55, Volume 48, 1904. 207 frames.
0413	Folder 56, Volume 49, 1905. 186 frames.

Frame No.

#### Subseries 2.2: Typed Transcriptions, 1853–1875

0598	Description of Subs	series 2.2. 1 frame.	Note: Frame 059	3 is repeated.

Folder 57, Volume 50, 1853. 158 frames.
 Folder 58, Volume 51, 1854. 184 frames.
 Folder 59, Volume 52, 1855. 180 frames.

## Reel 14

## Roach and Eggleston Family Papers cont. Series 2. Diaries of Mahala P. H. Roach, 1853–1905 cont.

#### Subseries 2.2: Typed Transcriptions, 1853–1875 cont.

0001	Folder 60, Volume 53, 1856–1857. 277 frames.
0278	Folder 61, Volume 54, 1857–1858. 312 frames.
0590	Folder 62, Volume 55, 1859–1860. 420 frames.

## Reel 15

## Roach and Eggleston Family Papers cont. Series 2. Diaries of Mahala P. H. Roach, 1853–1905 cont.

#### Subseries 2.2: Typed Transcriptions, 1853–1875 cont.

0001	Folder 63, Volume 56, 1862 and 1866. 403 frames.
0404	Folder 64, Volume 57, 1867. 279 frames.
0683	Folder 65, Volume 58, 1868. 285 frames.
0968	Folder 66, Volume 59, 1869. 271 frames.

## Reel 16

## Roach and Eggleston Family Papers cont. Series 2. Diaries of Mahala P. H. Roach, 1853–1905 cont.

#### Subseries 2.2: Typed Transcriptions, 1853-1875 cont.

0001	Folder 67, Volume 60, 1870. 273 frames.
0274	Folder 68, Volume 61, 1871. 258 frames.
0532	Folder 69, Volume 62, 1872. 281 frames.
0813	Folder 70, Volume 63, 1873. 274 frames.

## **Reel 17**

## Roach and Eggleston Family Papers cont. Series 2. Diaries of Mahala P. H. Roach, 1853–1905 cont.

#### Subseries 2.2: Typed Transcriptions, 1853–1875 cont.

0001	Folder 71, Volume 64, 1874. 258 frames.
0259	Folder 72, Volume 65, 1875. 232 frames.

Frame No.

#### Series 3. Diaries of James P. Roach, 1858–1860

#### Subseries 3.1: Originals, 1858-1860

0491 Description of Subseries 3.1. 1 frame.
0492 Folder 73, Volume 66, 1858. 219 frames.
0711 Folder 74, Volume 67, 1859. 209 frames.
0920 Folder 75, Volume 68, 1860. 144 frames.

## **Reel 18**

## Roach and Eggleston Family Papers cont. Series 3. Diaries of James P. Roach, 1858–1860 cont.

#### Subseries 3.2: Typed Transcription, 1858-1860

Description of Subseries 3.2. 1 frame.

0002 Folder 76, Volume 69, 1858–1860. 281 frames.

#### Series 4. Miscellaneous Diaries, 1825–1864

0265 Description of Series 4. I frame	0283	Description of Series 4. 1 frame.
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0284 Folder 77, Volume 70, H. N. Gildart, Diary of Trip to England, 1825–1826. 78 frames.

O362 Folder 78, Volume 71, Unknown Author, "Here I Rest," 1825–1847; Mahala P. H. Roach, Christmas Days, 1844–1860; and Elizabeth Eggleston, Papers relating to the Banishment of Mrs. Eggleston by General Dana, 1864. 69 frames.

O431 Folder 79, Volume 72, Dick H. Eggleston, Diary and Plantation Journal, 1830. 54 frames.

#### Series 5. Scrapbooks and Commonplace Books, 1836–1901

0485 Description of Series 5. 1 frame.

O486 Folder 80, Volume 73, Mahala P. H. Roach, Commonplace Book, 1836–1901. 143 frames.

Folder 81, Volume 74, Scrapbook, 1857. 34 frames.

Folder 82, Volume 75, Scrapbook, 1861–1902 [Pasted in Account Book for Steamboat, 1847]. 91 frames.

0754 Folder 83, Volume 76, Scrapbook, 1862–1899. 87 frames.

0841 Folder 84, Volume 77, J. B. Fox?, Commonplace Book, 1820–1850, 1872, and 1886. 116 frames.

#### Series 6. Wallet of Dick H. Eggleston, Undated

0957 Description of Series 6. 1 frame.

0958 Folder 85, Dick H. Eggleston, Wallet, Undated. 3 frames.

# Southern Women and Their Families in the 19th Century: Papers and Diaries

Series A, Holdings of the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Part 3: Louisiana and Mississippi Collections

## **REEL INDEX**

## Taylor Beatty Papers, 1780–1849, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana; also Virginia and Kentucky

#### **Description of the Collection**

Taylor Beatty of Thibodaux, Louisiana, was a Confederate military judge, sugar planter, lawyer, and judge. He was the son of Charlotte Beatty (1810–1847) and the grandson of Walker Reid (b. 1783).

Items in the collection include a volume that belonged to Walker Reid, containing Kentucky land entries, genealogical information on the Belt, Berkly, Blincoe, Botts, Gaines, Newman, Reid, Ward, and Wigginton families, and spiritual reflections. Also included is a diary of Charlotte Beatty for 1843 documenting daily activities involving her house and garden and visits with her friends.

Also included in the original collection, but not here, are eighteenth-century land grants. Omitted materials are chiefly diaries of Taylor Beatty documenting his activities during the Civil War as friend of General Braxton Bragg, judge of the military court of Lt. Gen. Hardee's Corps and participant in the battles of Santa Rosa Island, Florida, October 1861; Shiloh, April 1862; Murfreesboro, Tennessee, December 1862; Chickamauga, Georgia, September 1863; Resaca, Georgia, May 1864; and Franklin, Tennessee, November 1864. Also documented are the years 1883–1917 when he was a sugar planter in Louisiana and owned the plantations Dixie and Vivian, and a lawyer who attended court in Louisiana at Houma, Napoleonville, Thibodaux, and New Orleans.

The collection is arranged as follows: Series 1, Land Grants and other Loose Papers [not included]; Series 2, Walker Reid Volume; Series 3, Diary of Charlotte Beatty; Series 4. Diaries of Taylor Beatty [not included]; and Series 5, Typed Transcriptions of Series 2, 3, and 4 [included in part with Series 2 and 3].

#### **Biographical Note**

The chief figure in these papers is Taylor Beatty (1837–ca.1917), son of Charlotte Beatty (1810–1847). He was a Confederate veteran, lawyer, and judge, and spent most of his life in Thibodaux, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana. He married Fannie Pugh (fl. 1883–1917), and had four children: Kate (fl. 1880s), Charlton (b. 1869), Charlotte (b. 1883), and Taylor (fl. 1891–1917). He owned Dixie and Vivian plantations.

Charlotte Beatty also lived in Thibodaux. She was the daughter of Walker Reid (b. 1783), who moved to Kentucky in 1804 and settled in the town of Washington in Mason County. It appears that he moved to Kentucky from Virginia.

Series 2. Walker Reid Volume, 1780–1849

This volume (Volume 1) is made up of two separate elements, each beginning at an outside cover and working toward the middle of the volume. A typed transcription is included.

The first part of the volume consists of entries or surveys of land made in 1780. This land presumably was in Kentucky since many parcels border on the Licking River. It is possible that these records were copied from another source.

The second part of the volume is the memoranda of Walker Reid who was born 19 February 1783, and came to Kentucky in 1804. He settled in the town of Washington in Mason County. He appears to have been the father of Charlotte Beatty. The memoranda consist chiefly of family history and genealogy with personal notes about members of the family. The first notes were made in 1824 and Reid added to the book at intervals: 1838, 1841, 1842, 1846, 1847, and 1849. Members of the major families included in this collection lived in Kentucky and/or the northern counties of Virginia, such as Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William; these families are Belt, Berkly, Blincoe, Botts, Gaines, Newman, Reid, Ward, and Wigginton. Also included are a catalogue of Reid's library, listing books and prices, and spiritual reflections that he wrote in 1842, 1847, and 1849.

#### Series 3. Diary of Charlotte Beatty, 1843

This series contains the pocket diary (Volume 2) of Charlotte Beatty, mother of Taylor Beatty, who apparently lived in or quite near Thibodaux, Louisiana. A typed transcription is included. The diary contains entries for the year 1843 and poetry and memoranda on the fly-leaves in front and in back, including instructions for treating hydrophobia.

The entries cover daily activities connected with Beatty's home, garden, and children, visits with neighbors and guests, and occasional trips to New Orleans. She mentioned a trip she made on the boat "Fuselier" on 17 June, returning from New Orleans. She also mentioned hearing Bishop Polk at church.

#### **Omissions**

A list of omissions from the Taylor Beatty Papers is provided on Reel 1, Frame 0355, and includes Series 1, Land Grants and Other Loose Papers, 1733–1834 and undated; Series 4, Diaries of Taylor Beatty, 1861–1917; and Series 5, Typed Transcriptions of Series 2, 3, and 4 [included in part with Series 2 and 3].

## Reel 1

#### **Introductory Materials**

0001 Introductory Materials. 14 frames.

#### Series 2. Walker Reid Volume, 1780-1849

0015 Description of Series 2. 1 frame.

0016 Folder 2, Volume 1, 1780-1849. 117 frames.

0133 Typed Transcription of Volume 1. 104 frames.

#### Series 3. Diary of Charlotte Beatty, 1843

0237 Description of Series 3. 1 frame.

0238 Folder 3, Volume 2, 1843. 70 frames. 0308 Typed Transcription of Volume 2. 47 frames.

#### **Omissions**

0355 List of Omissions from the Taylor Beatty Papers. 1 frame.

## Charles W. Bradbury Papers, 1817–1854, New Orleans, Louisiana; also Indiana, New York, and Ohio

#### **Description of the Collection**

The Bradbury family were residents of Manlius and Canandaigua, New York; Cincinnati and Montgomery, Ohio; Madison, Indiana; and New Orleans, Louisiana. Family members included Jacob Bradbury (fl. 1817–1825); Cornelius S. Bradbury (fl. 1817–1848); Elizabeth A. Bradbury (fl.1817–1825); and Charles William Bradbury (fl. 1832–1856). Madaline Selima Edwards (fl.1843–1848), C. W. Bradbury's New Orleans mistress, is also significant in this collection.

Chiefly consists of letters to Cornelius S. Bradbury, 1818–1825; correspondence, financial and legal papers, and memorandum books of Charles W. Bradbury, 1832–1852; and notebooks, containing essays, poems, and other writings, and diaries of Madaline S. Edwards, 1843–1847. Legal papers include items relating to purchases of slaves, real estate, and a cottonseed manufacturing plant in or near New Orleans. Letters include descriptions of social life and customs in the various places of residence of the Bradbury family, descriptions of traveling through southern Indiana and down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers from Cincinnati to New Orleans, and reflections on their relationship by Charles Bradbury and Madaline Edwards. Also included are three daguerreotypes, a photograph, and an ink sketch.

The collection is arranged as follows: Series 1, Correspondence and Other Loose Papers; Series 2, Writing Books, Diaries, and Memorandum Books; and Series 3, Pictures.

#### **Biographical Note**

Jacob Bradbury (fl. 1817–1834), apparently a doctor and farmer, was married to Mary Bradbury (fl. 1817–1842); their children included Elizabeth A. Bradbury (fl. 1817–1835); Cornelius S. Bradbury (fl. 1818–1848); Charles William Bradbury (fl. 1835–1856); Mrs. C. I. (Bradbury) Doan (fl. 1835–1842); James Anson Bradbury (fl. 1835–1848); and Marcus T. I. Bradbury (fl. 1834–1848).

Cornelius S. Bradbury moved from Canandaigua, New York, to Cincinnati in about 1820. He married Sarah (surname unknown) Bradbury (fl. 1821–1844) in about 1822. Jacob Bradbury moved from Manlius, New York, to Montgomery, Ohio, in late 1821; the rest of his family followed in 1822. By 1834 many of the family had removed to Madison, Indiana.

Charles William ("Charley") Bradbury moved to New Orleans in 1835. He married Mary Anne (Hamilton) Taylor (fl. 1836–1852) in 1836. The New Orleans directory shows that Charles William Bradbury resided on Estelle Street between Constance and Magazine in 1838; in 1852, he was an insurance broker with an office at the corner of Erato and Bacchus (Baronne) streets; in 1853 he was at No. 75 St. Charles Street; the 1856 directory lists him as a "Cottonseed and Lard Oil Manufacturer," with an office on Circus Street, corner of Girod.

Madaline Selima ("Mad") Edwards (fl. 1843–1848), originally from Tennessee and later Mississippi, was living in New Orleans when she met Charles W. Bradbury. She apparently became his mistress, and he purchased a house for her use in October 1843. References in the papers indicate that Mrs. Edwards was raised by an uncle in Tennessee and was married at his house, and that three of her children died in Clinton, Mississippi. Another connection to Charles W. Bradbury was Helen ("Ellen") Hart, apparently of Cincinnati, Ohio.

#### Series 1. Correspondence and Other Loose Papers, 1817–1854

This series consists chiefly of letters and related materials of members of the Bradbury family. Letters written by Helen ("Ellen") Hart and Madaline ("Mad") Selima Edwards to Charles W. Bradbury also are included.

For the period 1817 to 1825, there are letters to Cornelius S. Bradbury at Canandaigua, New York, and at Cincinnati, Ohio, from Jacob, Elizabeth A., and Mary Bradbury, discussing family matters, marriages, and deaths in Manlius, New York, and Montgomery, Ohio, travel plans, and the need for money. A letter from Elizabeth A. Bradbury at Manlius, New York, dated 24 June 1821, mentions her trip to Herkimer, Herkimer County, New York, and the death of the family dog "Trip." Another letter from her, dated 2(?) November 1821, mentions that Jacob Bradbury left for Cincinnati on 17 October and Cornelius S. Bradbury's upcoming marriage. Jacob, at Montgomery, Ohio, wrote to Cornelius on 7 and 21 (no month) and 30 September 1822, about his bad situation there and also about the latter's wife, Sarah. Elizabeth A. Bradbury wrote, on 5 October 1822, on the eve of her departure from Manlius to Montgomery, about her general excitement. She wrote about life in Montgomery in a letter dated 2 May 1823.

Letters and related materials for the years from 1832 to 1835 are chiefly letters to Charles William Bradbury; there is also a bank loan (10 July 1835), and one letter from Charles William Bradbury. A letter from Cornelius S. Bradbury at Cincinnati mentions pestilence spreading westward; he solicited Charles William to attend school in Cincinnati and expressed religious sentiments. C. I. Bradbury at Madison, Indiana, wrote to Charles William Bradbury at Cincinnati on 14 April 1834, of her impending marriage to Mr. Doan. Helen ("Ellen") Hart at Vincennes, Indiana, wrote in a letter dated 28 June 1834, about her two hundred-mile trip from Cincinnati to Vincennes, mostly across southern Indiana, and of her intention to continue to St. Louis, Missouri, despite an outbreak of cholera there. C. I. (Bradbury) Doan at Madison, Indiana, wrote on 26 July 1834, about the social news of Madison; another letter from her dated 20 June 1835, mentions an outbreak of cholera there. In a letter dated 7 November 1835, Charles W. Bradbury at New Orleans, Louisiana, wrote to Sarah Bradbury at Cincinnati, about his trip by steamship from Cincinnati to New Orleans via the Mississippi River Valley. He provided a detailed description of his trip and also his initial impressions of living in New Orleans compared to Ohio.

Letters and related materials for the years 1836 to 1842 are chiefly personal letters to Charles W. Bradbury at New Orleans concerning his work and other members of the Bradbury family in Ohio, Indiana, and Louisiana, and legal and financial papers from New Orleans. In a letter dated 9 April 1836, Cornelius S. Bradbury at Cincinnati wrote about business and merchandizing; in another dated 15 May 1836, he advised Charles William not to marry while still in his teens and before he had fully established his place in the world. A note from Mary A. (Hamilton Taylor) Bradbury at Madisonville, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, mentions her illness. There are letters concerning Charles William Bradbury's possible employment at the Atchafalaya Bank, contracts for the purchase of land in St. John the Baptist Parish, 27 June 1838,

and the purchase of slaves, 15 August 1838. There are documents relating to Mary A. (Taylor) Bradbury's agreement to give Charles William Bradbury power of attorney over her affairs, 13 February 1839, as well as her last will and testament, 21 May 1840. There are several papers relating to Charles William Bradbury's power of attorney over James Anson Bradbury's legal and business affairs, 1841–1842. An 1841 bill of sale for a slave named Lucy or Lucinda describes her as being "addicted to the vice of ebriety."

Correspondence and related materials for the years 1843 to 1849 are chiefly letters and poems to Charles William Bradbury at New Orleans from Madaline Selima Edwards, also at New Orleans, and legal and financial papers of Charles William Bradbury involving purchases of slaves and real estate. Edwards's letters discuss the clandestine nature of her relationship with Bradbury, her position as a social outcast, and her hopes for employment in a school. Letters in 1847 present both Edwards's and Bradbury's views on their final separation.

Papers for the period 1852 to 1854 are chiefly financial and legal papers of Charles William Bradbury at New Orleans, involve the purchase of a cottonseed oil manufacturing plant.

#### Series 2. Writing Books, Diaries, and Memorandum Books, 1843–1847

This series consists of six volumes, dated 1843–1847. Included are writing books and diaries of Madeline Selima Edwards and memorandum books of Charles William Bradbury.

Volumes 1 and 2 are writing books of Madaline Selima Edwards, 1843–1847. The notebooks contain, in neat handwriting, essays, poems, comments on her reading, long diary-like entries at intervals, autobiographical writings and thoughts, "A Tale of Real Life"—including some incidents from her own, stories, and other writings. She appears to have entered her thoughts in these books several times a month. She focuses frequently on human relationships, and mentions, among many other things, Charles William Bradbury, school in New Orleans, astronomy, and religion. Entries also concern childbirth and instructions for the care of a child, with whom she thought she was pregnant, should she die giving birth. Many items appear intended for publication.

Volumes 3 and 4 are diaries of Madaline Selima Edwards Diaries, 1844–1845. The diaries consist of short, almost daily entries noting Edwards's activities, people she met, her health, knitting, and her relationship with Charles William Bradbury. Entries also concern a false pregnancy and her fear of death in childbirth, her position as a social outcast, painting, reading, and her writing and her occasionally successful efforts to get pieces published in the *Native American*.

Volumes 5 and 6 are memorandum books of Charles William Bradbury, 1846–1847. The memorandum books contain brief records of expenses. Volume 6 is headed, "Memorandum book of expenses, etc. at the Bay of St. Louis in the year 1847—during the months of July–August, Septr. & Octr."

#### Series 3. Pictures, ca. 1844–1855 and Undated

A print of an unidentified man (Cornelius S. or Charles William Bradbury?), ca. 1844–1855, three daguerreotypes of an unidentified woman (possibly Sarah Bradbury, wife of Cornelius S. Bradbury), ca. 1844–1855, and an ink sketch of a coat of arms (undated).

## Reel 1 cont.

#### **Introductory Materials**

0356 Introductory Materials. 14 frames.

## Series 1. Correspondence and Other Loose Papers, 1817–1854

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0370 Description of Series 1. 2 frames.
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0372 Folder 1, 1817–1820. 18 frames.

0390 Folder 2, 1821. 15 frames.

0405 Folder 3, 1822-1825. 17 frames.

0422 Folder 4, 1832–1834. 19 frames.

0441 Folder 5, 1835. 18 frames.

0459 Folder 6, 1836–1837. 27 frames.

0486 Folder 7, 1838-1840. 18 frames.

0504 Folder 8, 1841–1842. 34 frames.

0538 Folder 9, 1843–1844. 38 frames.

0576 Folder 10, 1845–1846. 12 frames.

0588 Folder 11, January-June 1847. 34 frames.

0622 Folder 12, September 1847–1849. 23 frames.

0645 Folder 13, 1852–1854. 45 frames.

#### Series 2. Writing Books, Diaries, and Memorandum Books, 1843–1847

0690 Description of Series 2. 1 frame.

0691 Folder 14, Volume 1, Madeline Selima Edwards, Writing Book, December 1843–September 1844. 168 frames.

0859 Folder 15, Volume 2, Madeline Selima Edwards, Writing Book, October 1844-April 1847. 153 frames.

## Reel 2

# Charles W. Bradbury Papers cont. Series 2. Writing Books, Diaries, and Memorandum Books cont.

0001 Folder 16, Volume 3, Madeline Selima Edwards, Diary, 1844. 70 frames.

0071 Folder 17, Volume 4, Madeline Selima Edwards, Diary, 1845. 71 frames.

0142 Folder 18, Volumes 5-6, Charles W. Bradbury, Memorandum Books, 1846-1847. 23 frames.

#### Series 3. Pictures, ca. 1844–1855 and Undated

0166 P-3011/1-5. 11 frames.

## Gale and Polk Family Papers, 1815–1940, Jefferson and Yazoo Counties, Mississippi; also North Carolina, Tennessee, and Louisiana

#### **Description of the Collection**

This collection includes family and military papers, chiefly 1815 through 1881. Antebellum papers concern family affairs, agriculture, politics, and epidemics, and a description of Mount Vernon, Virginia; numerous Civil War letters written by William Dudley Gale while serving as general staff officer under generals Leonidas Polk and Alexander P. Stewart (1821–1908), with descriptions of the Battle of Chickamauga, the Atlanta Campaign of 1864, and the battles of Franklin and Nashville, and his opinions concerning Jefferson Davis, Nathan Bedford Forrest,

Braxton Bragg (1817–1876), William Joseph Hardee (1815–1873), John Bell Hood (1831–1879), and Joseph E. Johnston (1807–1891); scattered Civil War correspondence between Leonidas Polk and his wife; recollections (1895) of Katherine (Polk) Gale, of her life during the Civil War in Nashville, Tennessee, and Yazoo County, Mississippi, and Asheville, North Carolina; and diaries (1873–1874) of Frances (Devereux) Polk, recording her activities in the Gale household near Nashville. There are scattered letters written by Thomas Gale, Anne (Green) Gale (antebellum only), William Dudley Gale, Leonidas Polk, Frances (Devereux) Polk, and others before and during the Civil War. The recollections written by Katherine (Polk) Gale contain much information about the Polk and Gale families and the disruptive effects of the Civil War on life in Mississippi and North Carolina. The diaries of Frances (Devereux) Polk consist of only brief daily entries and memoranda chiefly regarding personal and family matters.

While a staff officer in the Confederate army, William Dudley Gale wrote a large number of letters to his wife. He discussed the operations of Polk's Corps (also known as the "Army of Mississippi") of the Army of Tennessee from late 1862 until the death of Leonidas Polk in June 1864, after which he described activities of Stewart's Corps of the Army of Tennessee. There is a sketch map of the Nashville battleground and also typed transcriptions of two long letters written in January 1865.

The collection is arranged as follows: Series 1, Correspondence and Other Loose Papers, and Series 2, Diary and Recollections.

#### **Biographical Note**

Thomas Gale (fl. 1815–1881), a physician who served with Indian-fighting soldiers in Alabama Territory in 1815 and afterwards became a planter in Jefferson and Yazoo counties, Mississippi, and later in Davidson County, Tennessee, married Ann M. Greene (fl. 1820–1845). William Dudley Gale (fl. 1844–1881), their son, married Katherine ("Kate") Polk (fl. 1858–1895) in 1858, after his first wife died. He joined the Confederate army as a staff officer for his father-in-law, General Leonidas Polk, in the fall of 1862. After the general's death near Pine Mountain, Georgia, in June 1864, Gale was assigned to the staff of General Alexander P. Stewart. The family resided near Nashville, Tennessee, after the Civil War. Thomas and Ann (Greene) Gale had at least two other sons: Abner G. Gale and Josiah R. Gale. Other Gales mentioned in these papers include James G., John, Josiah, and Robert; also John Hutchins, an uncle of Thomas Gale. Greene family members mentioned in the papers include Ann (Greene) Gale's mother, Mary Greene, and brother, William H. Greene.

Leonidas Polk (1806–1864), son of William Polk (1758–1844) and Sarah (Hawkins) Polk (fl. 1828–1855), was born in Raleigh, North Carolina, and attended the University of North Carolina from 1821 to 1823, when he transferred to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York. He graduated in 1827 but, having converted to the Episcopal Church, resigned his commission from the U.S. Army. He became an ordained deacon, and in 1830, married Frances Ann ("Fanny") Devereux (1807–1875) of Raleigh, North Carolina. She was the daughter of John Devereux (1761–1844) and Frances (Pollock) Devereux (1771–1849). Other relatives mentioned in the collection include Leonidas Polk's nephew, Lucius Eugene Polk (1833–1892), and Leonidas Polk's sister, Susan S. (Polk) Rayner.

After traveling and living with Frances in various places from Virginia to Louisiana, Leonidas Polk was made bishop of Louisiana in 1841. He became a sugar planter, utilizing a large number of slaves inherited by his wife from the Devereux family of North Carolina. He also helped found the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, in 1857. In 1861, he was

appointed major general in the Confederate army; and in 1862, promoted to lieutenant general. He served in independent command under Generals Albert Sidney Johnston, Braxton Bragg, and Joseph E. Johnston. He was killed during the Atlanta campaign on June 14, 1864. Frances (Devereux) Polk rented a house in Asheville, North Carolina, during the latter half of the Civil War, and afterwards lived, much of the time, with her daughter Katherine (Polk) Gale and son-in-law William Dudley Gale, near Nashville, Tennessee, until her death in 1875.

#### Series 1. Correspondence and Other Loose Papers, (1815–1940 and Undated)

This series is chiefly family correspondence of the Gale and Polk families in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Georgia, and North Carolina. Most items are dated between 1815 and 1881.

In a letter dated 31 May 1815, Thomas Gale at Mobile, Alabama, wrote to James Isam(?) at Columbia, Maury County, Tennessee, of troop movements and inhabitants fleeing in response to "the yet unsubdued Creek Indians" and depredations by the British-supplied Seminole Indians, as well as of relations with the Spanish. In letters dated 3 July 1816, and 1 June 1817, Thomas Gale at Greenville, Jefferson County, Mississippi, reflected philosophically and religiously on his life and duty. In the latter letter, Gale mentioned his possible marriage in the near future, and also mentioned a general election to decide whether to divide the Mississippi Territory in two. In another letter dated 25 October 1817, Gale mentioned a deadly outbreak of yellow fever in Natchez, Mississippi, but not in the surrounding counties, and the latest outlook for cotton and corn crops in the area.

In a letter dated 17 June 1822, at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Catharine Ann Devereux wrote to her mother, Frances (Pollock) Devereux at Raleigh, North Carolina, mostly about her sister Frances ("Fanny") Devereux's thoughts about deferring her decision to join the Catholic Church until she turned eighteen years old. Thomas Gale at Lacache(?), wrote to Josiah Gale at Franklinton, Louisiana, 26 May 1827, mostly about the sale of three slaves as part of the settlement of Joseph(?) Gale's estate. In a note of 15 March 1828, John Callander at Port Gibson, Mississippi, informed Thomas Gale at Lacache of his election to the Board of Directors of the Bank of the State of Mississippi.

In a letter to his brother Lucius, dated 3 July 1828, Leonidas Polk at Raleigh, North Carolina, mentioned the cultivation of alfalfa, lucern, and millet, and his engagement as of mid-May to be married to Frances Devereux. In a long letter of 1 December 1828, Leonidas Polk described to Sarah Polk a visit to Mount Vernon, Virginia.

In a letter dated 22 August 1833, Thomas Gale at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, wrote to Josiah Gale at Clinton, Hinds County, Mississippi, mentioning that the cholera outbreak was clearing, William Dudley Gale was in school with Mr. Black, the crops in Tennessee were in a poor condition, and that good reports were coming from plantations on the Yazoo River, Mississippi. John Hutchins at Woodbourne, Mississippi, in a letter dated 3 November 1838, mentioned to Thomas Gale that William Dudley Gale was doing well in Mississippi; he also described the small but "very good" cotton crop and abundant crops of corn and sugar in Louisiana. He asked where to acquire enough good quality timber for fencing.

Gale family letters for the years 1844 and 1845 include personal correspondence between William Dudley Gale near Satartia and Newark, Yazoo River, Mississippi, and his parents at Nashville, Tennessee, in which they chiefly discussed family matters, the weather, and Yazoo plantation work. In a letter dated 6 May 1845, William D. Gale reported to his mother the outbreak of diseases in the area of Vicksburg: "black tongue," scarlet fever, measles, and

whooping cough; he also mentioned the good cotton and corn crops, storm damage, hail, and runaway slaves. On 7 August 1848(?), Ann (Green) Gale and Thomas Gale at Louisville, Kentucky, wrote to Abner G. Gale at Cambridge, Massachusetts, about their trip to Cincinnati, Ohio, with comments about the Whig vote for Zachary Taylor in Kentucky and Mississippi.

There is a letter from William Dudley Gale at Holly Bend, Mississippi, to Abner G. Gale at Yazoo, Mississippi, dated 23 February 1857, in which he gave instructions for planting; he also described the ships on the Mississippi River and a trip to New Orleans, in which he heard the celebrity Jenny Lind sing.

Polk family correspondence and related materials in the 1840s and 1850s include the last will and testament of Leonidas Polk, at Lafourche, Louisiana, dated 14 November 1849; a letter from Leonidas Polk at New Orleans, Louisiana, to Kate Polk dated 4 September 1858, about her marriage to William Dudley Gale; and another dated 22 December 1858, from Frances (Devereux) and Leonidas Polk to Kate (Polk) Gale, in which mostly family matters are mentioned. In a letter dated 22 September 1859, Leonidas Polk at Hillsboro[ugh], North Carolina, wrote to Katherine Polk Gale (no location given) about her trip to England and Scotland, about visiting Swain (David Lowry Swain?) and the University of North Carolina (at Chapel Hill), and about members of the Polk family.

Civil War correspondence between Frances (Devereux) Polk and Leonidas Polk consist of six items. In a letter of April 15, 1861, Frances, at Sewanee, Tennessee, described in detail how the Polk home in Sewanee burned down. She wrote from New Orleans, Louisiana, on 24 April 1862, about the imminent capture of that city. She also wrote from Asheville, North Carolina, on 10 April 1863, mostly about family matters, rumors, and the effects of the war. Letters from Leonidas to his wife in this collection for the years 1861 to 1864 were from the following locations and dates: Columbus, Missouri, 9 December 1861; 26 March 1863; Demopolis, Alabama, 9 March 1864. These mention both family and military matters.

Other Polk letters and related materials for the Civil War period are: letters from Frances (Devereux) Polk at Shelbyville, Tennessee, 1862, to Kate (Polk) Gale; Frances (Devereux) Polk at Asheville, North Carolina, 17 December 1862?, to Kate (Polk) Gale about her establishing temporary residence in Asheville; from Leonidas Polk at Atlanta, 17 October 1863, to (?), regarding feelings in the Army of Tennessee against Braxton Bragg after the Confederate defeat at Chattanooga; and from Frances (Devereux) Polk at Asheville, 27 November 1863, to Harriet (?), in which there is a description of family events of the previous year, including their removal to Asheville. There are also orders and communications concerning the death of Leonidas Polk (on June 14, 1864) from Confederate generals Joseph E. Johnston, William J. Hardee, and John Bell Hood. A letter from Frances (Devereux) Polk at Asheville dated 14 May 1865, describes conditions in the final days of the war.

Letters from William Dudley Gale to his wife Kate (Polk) Gale in this collection are from the following locations and dates: Knoxville, Tennessee, 17 and 23 October 1862; Atlanta, Georgia, 24 January 1863; Shelbyville, Tennessee, 1 February and 1 and 26 March 1863; Chattanooga, Tennessee, 12 and 17 July 1863 and 1 and 10 August 1863; Lafayette, Georgia, 15 September 1863; near Chattanooga, Tennessee, 21, 25, and 28 September 1863; Atlanta, Georgia, 29 October 1863; Enterprise, Mississippi, 8 December 1863; Meridian, Mississippi, 3 January 1864; Demopolis, Alabama, 18, 25, 28 February 1864, 26 March and 7 and 29 April 1864; near New Hope Church, Georgia, 27 May 1864 (two letters); Atlanta, Georgia, 19 August 1864; near Atlanta, Georgia, 17 September 1864; near Nashville, Tennessee, 3 and 9 December 1864; Augusta, Georgia, [undated 1864]; near Tupelo, Mississippi, 14 and 29 January 1865; and

near Smithfield, North Carolina, 1 April 1865. They describe, among other things, the operations of Polk's Corps (renamed Stewart's Corps after Gen. Leonidas Polk's death on June 14, 1864) at the Battle of Chicakamauga, in the Atlanta Campaign of 1864, and at the battles of Franklin and Nashville. There is a sketch map of the Nashville battleground (14 January 1865) and also typed transcriptions of the long letters dated 14 and 29 January 1865. Comments are made about, among others, Confederate generals Braxton Bragg, Nathan Bedford Forrest, William J. Hardee, John Bell Hood, Joseph E. Johnston, and Leonidas Polk, as well as about Jefferson Davis.

In addition to Gale and Polk family correspondence, there is a mock official battle report, fictitiously attributed to Nathaniel P. Banks, entitled "La bataille des mouchoirs" ("The battle of the handkerchiefs"), dated 20 February 1863, satirizing the Union army in Louisiana.

There are several personal letters from Frances (Devereux) Polk to her children, all probably written between 1871 and 1876, in which she discussed mostly family matters.

There is a letter from Stephen Dill Lee (1833–1908) at Columbia, Mississippi, to William Dudley Gale, mostly about an article Lee wrote in response to an article by James Ronald Chalmers (1831–1898). There is a letter from Thomas Gale at Abydas, Yazoo River, Mississippi, 27 March 1881, to Anna M. Gale at Nashville, Tennessee, mostly concerning family and agricultural matters. There is a letter from Aaron Gale, apparently a freedman and former body servant, at Satartia, Mississippi, 3 July 1881, to William Dudley Gale, inquiring about his well being. In a letter of 17 January 1895 from Susan S. (Polk) Rayner, there is information about the Hawkins and Polk families.

Undated materials consist of two Gale family letters and two maps of Gale property on the Yazoo River (one marks the location of Satartia).

#### Series 2. Diary and Recollections, 1873–1874 and 1895

The diary of Frances Devereux Polk consists of two volumes: one dated 1873 and one dated 1874. These diaries consist of brief daily entries about subjects such as the weather, the grandchildren (children of William Dudley Gale and Katherine (Polk) Gale) and their education, growing and picking strawberries, church and religious activities, health, socializing, birthdays and anniversaries, reading, knitting, and traveling. There are also appended memoranda including monthly expenses and notes. Some extraordinary events mentioned in the 1873 diary include: Mardi Gras in Nashville (25 February 1873); Katherine (Polk) Gale finishing correcting memoirs (1 March 1873); remembering Leonidas Polk's death on its ninth anniversary (14 June 1873); an outbreak of cholera in eastern Tennessee (2 August 1873); and the children opening their presents on Christmas Eve 1873. Some extraordinary events mentioned in the 1874 diary include: William D. and Katherine (Polk) Gale bringing back flowers from the Confederate memorial in New Orleans (14 April 1874); William D. Gale dining with John Bell Hood (23 June 1874); and taking the children to an ice cream parlor (13–14 July 1874). Occasionally there are entries of a more introspective nature (for example, those of 7 February, 4–5 April, and 25 and 31 December 1874).

The recollections of Katherine Polk Gale, dated 1895, are included in original form and in typed transcription. The volume is inscribed to her daughter Frances Polk Gale Ring and may have been copied in part from an earlier version mentioned above in the diary of 1873. In an intimate style, she describes details of her life in the Yazoo Valley of Mississippi, at Nashville, Tennessee, and at Asheville, North Carolina. Her recollections extend to events in the lives of her immediate ancestors, members of the Pollock, Devereux, Hawkins, and Polk families of North Carolina, and of the Gale family of Tennessee and Mississippi; of Leonidas Polk being

made Episcopal bishop of Louisiana; of family life there on a sugar plantation and of life in New Orleans; of Katherine Polk's marriage, in 1858, to William Dudley Gale, of Mississippi, a widower with one daughter, Mary, and their life at Holly Bend on the Yazoo River.

She writes of the outbreak of the Civil War, of families returning to Nashville, of men and boys in both family connections (Gales and Polks) entering the Confederate army, and of Bishop Polk being made a general. She describes her return to the Yazoo Valley, of Mrs. Polk going to New Orleans, of General Benjamin Butler's occupation of that city, and of the method of smuggling letters from New Orleans to and from Confederate soldiers. There are descriptions of cotton being burned to keep it from Yankee possession; the Yazoo Valley being flooded by the Yankees who cut the levee; and the Gale family taking refuge at "Poverty Hill," forty miles from the plantation, and near Jackson, Mississippi. There is a description of suffering caused by "buffalo gnats." There are discussions of the siege of Vicksburg, artillery fire being heard at the Mississippi retreat; of cutting carpet into soldiers' blankets; and of William D. Gale joining the Confederate army and serving on the staff of General Leonidas Polk, and later, as adjutant general on Major Alexander P. Stewart's staff. There are references to Mrs. Polk renting a house in Asheville, North Carolina, and Mrs. Gale and family joining her there, and a description of the trying journey by train and stage, and seeing dead and wounded soldiers at the depot in Atlanta. There are many references to Mrs. Gale's father, General Leonidas Polk, and an account of the aftermath of his death.

The greater part of the memoir tells of life at Asheville, mentioning the Episcopal Church and rector, the Reverend Mr. Jarvis Buxton; the scarcity of food, clothing, and other necessities; and hiding meat, jewelry, and other possessions. Katherine (Polk) Gale also described the wedding of her sister Elizabeth ("Lily") to William E. Huger, a trip made by Mrs. Polk to visit the Devereux family near the Roanoke River in North Carolina, and many friends, including Daniel Blakes, who lived eleven miles away from Asheville. She wrote of Captain Allen, who came to Asheville as a recruiting officer for the Confederate army and who was brutally murdered later by plunderers immediately after the end of the Civil War. There are descriptions of several old men going off to reinforce General Robert E. Lee in Virginia; the perilous journey of Mrs. Polk and her daughters returning to Asheville; the difficulties of assembling an equipage when needed; the end of the war, including depredations by Union soldiers; and the apparent loyalty of slaves during the war and of freedmen afterwards. At the end of the narrative, there are descriptions of the difficult journey by Katherine Gale, her husband, their children, and several others, returning to Nashville, and a recounting of how William Dudley Gale left his family in Nashville to go to Mississippi, disposed of his property there, and returned to Nashville to establish himself in business. There are references to St. Mary's School, Raleigh, North Carolina.

N. B. Four related collections among the holdings of the Southern Historical Collection are included in UPA's Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations from the Revolution through the Civil War, Series J. Part 8: Tennessee and Kentucky. These include the Polk, Brown, and Ewell Family Papers; the Polk and Yeatman Family Papers; the George Washington Polk Papers; and the Dillon and Polk Family Papers. Related collections among the holdings of the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, include the Leonidas Polk Papers and the Gale Collection.

## Reel 2 cont.

#### **Introductory Materials**

0177 Introductory Materials. 19 frames.

0619 Folder 8, Undated. 12 frames.

#### Series 1. Correspondence and Other Loose Papers

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0196 Description of Series 1. 3 frames
0199 Folder 1, 1815–1819. 25 frames.
0224 Folder 2, 1820–1839. 34 frames.
0258 Folder 3, 1844–1859. 90 frames.
0348 Folder 4, 1861–1863. 96 frames.
0444 Folder 5, 1864. 78 frames.
0522 Folder 6, 1865. 53 frames.
0575 Folder 7, 1871–1885, 1935, and 1940. 44 frames.
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#### Series 2. Diary and Recollections, 1873–1874 and 1895

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0631 Description of Series 2. 2 frames.0633 Folder 9, Volume 1, Frances Devereux Polk, Diary, 1873. 221 frames.0854 Folder 10, Volume 2, Frances Devereux Polk, Diary, 1874. 215 frames.
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## Reel 3

## Gale and Polk Family Papers cont. Series 2. Diary and Recollections, 1873–1874 and 1895 cont.

0001 Folder 11, Volume 3, Katherine Polk Gale, Recollections, 1895. 91 frames. 0092 Folder 12, Typed Transcription of Volume 3. 85 frames.

## Gibson and Humphreys Family Papers, 1846–1919, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana; also Kentucky, Montana, and Washington, D.C.

#### **Description of the Collection**

The Gibson and Humphreys families were residents of Live Oak and/or Oak Forest Plantation near Tigerville in Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana, and Sumner's Forest Plantation near Versailles, Kentucky. Prominent family members include Tobias Gibson (d. ca. 1870), plantation owner in Louisiana; his son Randall Gibson (1832–1892), lawyer and U.S. representative and senator from 1875 through 1892; his daughter Sarah Gibson Humphreys (fl. 1846–1885), fiction writer; and her son Joseph A. Humphreys, Jr. (fl. 1870–1898).

The collection includes correspondence, a few financial items, and miscellaneous items. The correspondence documents the period before the Civil War when the Gibson children were in school at the Phillips Academy, Yale, and traveling in Europe. One of the sons wrote about opposing views of North and South on slavery. After the Civil War, the correspondence chiefly documents the lives of the Humphreys family and their efforts to improve their financial situation. Among other things, it documents Sarah Humphreys's writing efforts and her support of women's causes, particularly suffrage; Joseph A. Humphreys, Jr.'s efforts to run a sheep ranch near Miles City, Montana; and the experiences of two women (cousins?) who obtained jobs

working at the Post Office and the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C. Letters from family and friends describing their activities are also included, as are a number of letters written by Randall Gibson on family and business affairs. Randall Lee Gibson's professional life is not documented, but there are numerous letters written by him on family and business affairs.

The collection is arranged as follows: Series 1, 1846–1849; Series 2, 1850–1860; Series 3, 1861–1865; Series 4, 1867–1872; Series 5, 1873–1879; Series 6, 1880–1885; Series 7, 1886–1919; and Series 8, Undated.

#### **Biographical Note**

The chief figures in these papers are Tobias Gibson of Live Oak and/or Oak Forest Plantation near Tigerville, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana; and his family, especially his daughter, Sarah, who married Joseph A. Humphreys of Kentucky; and her son, Joseph Humphreys.

Tobias Gibson and his wife, whose maiden name is not given, probably moved to Louisiana from Kentucky, and maintained close relations with relatives and friends there. He was a planter and owned plantations named Live Oak and Oak Forest (possibly the same place), and another plantation referred to as Holly Wood. Their children, in approximate order of their age, are listed below:

Preston, who studied medicine and was a planter, had a wife named Elodie and a son named Preston. There is not much in the papers about Preston Gibson, who died sometime between 7 April 1864, and 13 February 1867, and there are only brief references to his wife and son thereafter.

Randall Lee, the best known member of the family, served in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. He was born in 1832, graduated from Yale College in 1853, and studied law at the University of Louisiana (later Tulane). He became a brigadier general in the Confederate Army and after the war practiced law in New Orleans. He served as a representative, 1875–1883, and as a senator from 1883 until his death in 1892. He married Mary Montgomery of Kentucky, and had a son Montgomery and a daughter named Leila and perhaps other daughters. There are many letters from him in the collection, chiefly on family and business affairs, not politics. His family frequently refers to him as "Lee."

Sarah Thompson Gibson married Joseph A. Humphreys of Sumner's Forest near Versailles, Kentucky, probably in 1853. She wrote fiction and evidently had a few short stories published. The papers indicate that she also wrote a book, but she apparently did not find a publisher. She had three children, Lucy, Sarah Gibson (Sallie), and Joseph A., Jr. Her husband was in ill health, and although he probably did not serve in the Confederate army, he died sometime in the war years. Lucy married Lewis A. Johnstone; Sallie evidently never married (although Dr. Hamilton recalled that the donor of the papers was introduced to him as Mrs. S. G. Humphreys and was an elderly woman in 1944, it seems impossible that she could have been Mrs. Joseph A. Humphreys, Sr., and possible that she was actually Miss Sallie G. Humphreys). Sometime between 1888 and 1898, Joseph, Jr. married, but the only name given for his wife is Mary. They had a son named Joseph.

Claude was a student at Andover, Yale, and in Europe. He may have been killed during the Civil War.

Tobias studied at Andover, Yale, the University of North Carolina in 1857, and in Europe. He served in the Confederate army, studied law, and later lived in Louisiana and in Kentucky. His wife was named Eva. He is usually called Tobe or Toby in the correspondence.

Hart studied at Yale and became a planter at Hartland in Kentucky before the Civil War. He married Mary Duncan of Lexington, Kentucky, and had a son named Duncan.

John McKinley was called McKinley, Kin, or Kinny. He studied at Andover and in Europe, served in the Confederate army, lived in Kentucky after the war, was usually in ill health, and died in 1880.

Louisiana H., called Loulie, the youngest of the children, was sent to school in Paris during the Civil War. She married sometime in the mid-1870s (husband not named in the papers) and died in childbirth in 1877.

Less is known about the family of Joseph A. Humphreys. Joseph was the son of D. C. Humphreys, whose chief plantation seems to have been Waverly, in Woodford County, Kentucky. He had a brother named Samuel, and possibly sisters named Mary, Lucy, and Sue. D. C. Humphreys apparently died long before his wife, who continued to live at Waverly most of the time. The Humphreys children were frequently with her and refer to "Grandma" and "Aunt Mary." In later years Grandma traveled quite a bit in the north and visited relatives in New York, frequently accompanied by one of the Humphreys girls.

There are many letters from and references to relatives in Kentucky, where both the Humphreys and the Gibsons seem to have had widespread connections. Aunt Anne was Tobias Gibson's sister, but whether she was married and, if so, to whom, is not clear. Susan was a cousin of the Gibson family, married a Grigsby, and was a widow with several children, including Virginia and Hart, when she corresponded with Sarah Gibson Humphreys. Many other relatives cannot be identified at all.

#### Series 1. 1846–1849

This series consists chiefly of correspondence received by Sarah Thompson Gibson and Joseph A. Humphreys. Sarah received several letters from Ellen of Green Plains, Virginia, who was apparently a schoolfriend. Sarah also corresponded with Mrs. George L. Guion giving family news and news of the parish elections. Joseph also received several letters from friends.

#### Series 2. 1850-1860

This series consists chiefly of correspondence of the Gibson family including numerous letters from the Gibson children to their father and to each other while they attended various schools and traveled in Europe. Also included are a few letters to Joseph A. Humphreys who traveled in Europe in 1850 and 1851.

In 1849, Randall was accepted at Yale. In December 1850, Randall wrote his father telling him he would leave school and manage the plantation if his father intended to travel for his mother's health. Included this year are instructions for treating Mrs. Gibson written by Dr. Samuel A. Cartwright, a New Orleans physician. He believed she was suffering ill effects from an early menopause (Mrs. Gibson died sometime in the early 1850s).

In 1851, Joseph A. Humphreys was traveling in Europe. He received letters from his father, sending local news, and from his banker or man of business who assisted him with transferring money and forwarding mail.

On 21 October 1853, Randall Gibson wrote to his brother, Hart, while on a visit to the University of Virginia. He felt it compared poorly to Yale. Randall also mentioned that his sister, Sarah, and her husband, Joseph Humphreys, were at Sumner's Forest. This is the first indication of their marriage.

In May 1854, Mr. L. H. Taylor at the Phillips Academy in Andover wrote to Tobias Gibson about the progress of his sons, Claude and Tobias. In September of that year, Claude wrote to his father about the various boys in school. Tobias and John McKinley were at Andover and Hart and Claude at Yale. On 26 March 1855, Hart at Yale, wrote about two speakers, Mr. (George?) Fitzhugh of Virginia and Wendell Phillips of Boston, who presented lectures to the students on their opposing views of slavery. In the late 1850s, Claude, Tobias, and John McKinley (Kin or Kinny), were traveling in Europe. Randall wrote Claude in 1859 advising him that he was too old and had neglected his studies for too long to take a German course. Randall sent advice and home news to the boys in Europe, insisting that they must know French well to work in Louisiana. Randall practiced law in Thibodaux, had a plantation in Lafourche Parish, and conducted all his business in French.

The youngest Gibson daughter, Louisiana (Loulie), was in school in New Orleans. On 15 May 1857, she wrote a very homesick letter to her father.

Other letters during these years include several from Randall to his father about the care of the plantation. Relatives and friends wrote to Sarah Gibson Humphreys whose two daughters were born in 1854 and 1855. In 1854, Brown Shipley & Co. of Liverpool wrote that they would handle for Joseph Humphreys the payment of passage for a Mr. A. Bode and an English gardener who were coming to work for the Humphreys. In 1857 and 1858 there are a few letters of introduction for Joseph Humphreys who was apparently traveling in Virginia.

#### Series 3. 1861-1865

This series consists of scattered correspondence during the Civil War years. The Gibson sons served in the Confederate army. Many of the letters were to Loulie from a schoolfriend in Paris. It appears that Loulie was also studying abroad at this time.

On 17 April 1861, Tobias Gibson wrote a gloomy letter to Mr. Guion about the boys getting ready for military service. In 1862, he wrote expressing ardent southern feelings. In June 1862, Hart wrote of the local political situation in Kentucky. He also mentioned his brothers Claude, Tobias, and Kin and their activities in the war. Toby wrote from Tennessee in August 1862, where he was with Bragg's army near Chattanooga.

Tobias Gibson wrote Sarah on 10 December 1863 telling her it might be dangerous for her to leave her property. He had been saved from ruin only by being on the plantation. On 7 April 1864, Toby sent Loulie news of all the family, telling her that Hart was a prisoner in the Ohio Penitentiary.

#### Series 4. 1867-1872

This series consists of a few scattered letters among the Gibson family. After the war, Randall practiced law in New Orleans and married Mary Montgomery in 1868. Several letters describe the activities of the various members of the family. Randall wrote in 1871 about his efforts to pay off his debts.

#### Series 5. 1873-1879

This series consists chiefly of correspondence directed to the Humphreys family, particularly to Sarah Gibson Humphreys. Many of the letters deal with their efforts to combat financial difficulties.

There are numerous letters from "Aunt Anne" and other unidentified female relatives. Sallie Humphreys sent schoolgirl letters to her mother. Mary Montgomery Gibson, wife of Randall, wrote several times, once about the death of Loulie, who died in childbirth in 1877.

In 1878, Sarah Humphreys wrote her son Joe about the yellow fever epidemic. John D. Shaffer also wrote to Joe about the yellow fever epidemic, news of Terrebonne Parish, and crops.

Sarah Gibson Humphreys was living at Oak Forest and apparently having financial difficulties during these years. She was involved in a disagreement with her brothers and seemed particularly angry at and distrustful of Randall. In 1879 there are several letters that mention the affair: Randall wrote to Kin about the distressing state his sister's affairs were in; on 5 October, Sarah Humphreys also wrote to Kin and expressed her great distrust of Randall; and on 17 October, Sarah wrote to Joe about a scholarship Randall could get him. She disliked the idea of accepting it but felt she ought to do everything possible to further Joe's education.

In 1879, Sarah Humphreys wrote to Joe while she was in Kentucky, Evansville, Indiana, and Hopkinsville, Ohio. In the summer, she returned to the plantation and Joe and Sallie went to Kentucky.

#### Series 6. 1880–1885

This series consists chiefly of correspondence of the Humpreys and Gibson families. Beginning in 1880, many of the letters are directed to Joe Humphreys who went to Montana in 1883 to start a sheep ranch with Hart Grigsby.

In January, Lucy wrote from Washington, D.C., where she was visiting the Randall Gibsons. She described her social activities, including a call upon Mrs. Hayes at the White House. There are several papers relating to Randall's efforts to get work for Joe with the Census Bureau and with the Mississippi River Commission. A friend of Joe's wrote him about his plans to go west. McKinley Gibson died this year and there are letters referring to his death.

In 1881 there are continued letters from the family and from Randall about the disposition of Live Oak. In the 1880s, Sarah's relationship with her brother Randall seemed to improve greatly. In March, Lucy wrote from West Point, New York, where she was visiting.

In 1882, the Humphreys family began spending most of their time at Sumner's Forest in Kentucky. They received several letters from Randall about financial arrangements and the settlement of McKinley Gibson's estate. There are letters from Louisiana neighbors describing recent floods, damage to crops, and a strike of farm laborers. In December, Sarah Humphreys wrote to Joe from Washington describing the very comfortable house the Randall Gibson's live in. It is believed that Sarah published a story during this year.

On 19 January 1883, Sarah Humphreys wrote from Washington, D.C., to Joe describing the property settlement she had made with her brothers, exchanging her interest in Live Oak for Magnolia, plus cash. She said that Randall expected to build up a sort of principality around Live Oak. He hoped to buy out Tigerville and change its name (he may have succeeded since the map now shows Gibson and no Tigerville). In this year, Joe apparently sold a portion of Sumner's Forest, possibly to give him cash to start the ranch in Montana.

On 10 June 1883, Sarah Humphreys sent a letter to Joe in Montana expressing her fears that his ranching plan would prove unprofitable. She also mentioned in this letter that Randall had obtained jobs for Susan and Virginia Grigsby in Washington, D.C., one at the Post Office and one at the Department of the Interior. A letter to Randall from Virginia had had a great effect on him, showing him that, "(a woman) could feel the same human necessities, to eat, to sleep, to be clothed and sheltered, and get ahead in the world, that he did." This is one of several references

that Sarah made in her letters during these years to her support of the women's movement, particularly of suffrage. She also mentioned her writing, stating that her friend at the "Weekly" had died and they had not accepted any of her stories since.

Susan Grigsby corresponded with Sarah and wrote her on 5 August 1883, about how tired she was from work and that she no longer had the energy to go to church on the Sabbath. There are several other letters from Susan Grigsby and her daughter Virginia, describing their experiences in Washington as they begin work in government offices, revealing their reactions to the experience of working outside the home.

A few letters written at the end of the summer of 1883 between Joe and his mother mentioned the possibility of Lucy and Sallie getting married. Lucy apparently did get married, because on 30 January 1884, Susan Grigsby wrote to Sarah about Lucy's impending marriage.

In 1884, Joe made a trip home but returned to Montana. He and Hart decided to give up the ranch and in 1884 and 1885 he attempted, with Randall's help, to secure a government appointment in Montana. There are several letters in 1885 between Joe, Randall, and others, over Joe's efforts to be appointed U.S. marshal of Montana. Randall was confident Joe would get the place if Augustus H. Garland became attorney general, which he did, but Grover Cleveland insisted on giving the marshal's appointment to someone else. On 26 April 1885, Sarah wrote a letter to Joe saying she had tried to borrow money to send him but had been turned down because she was a woman.

Joe returned East and received a few disconnected letters from friends in Montana, including one from Washington Berry of the U.S. Land Office in Miles City, about his troubles as a land agent and the ranchers who were trying to get him fired. He enclosed a copy of his recent report, which he wanted Senator Gibson to read and endorse.

#### Series 7. 1886-1919

This series consists chiefly of correspondence of the Gibson and Humphreys families. After 1887 the letters are few and scattered. On 20 August 1886, Lucy wrote Joe saying she heard he was going to study law with Uncle Hart. In 1887 there were letters from Joe in Chicago and St. Paul where he went on business. He seems to have worked for a while for a friend, S. M. Magoffin, who was a real estate dealer in St. Paul.

In 1888 there are two letters to Montgomery Gibson, one from his father, Randall, at White Sulphur Springs, and one from his Uncle Tobias.

There are no more papers until 1898 when M. A. Spurr, who had been president of a bank in Nashville that failed, wrote to Joe. Charges had been brought against Spurr in the federal courts and he had been convicted, but at the time of his letter he was optimistic about the prospects for a new trial. He referred to Joe's wife Mary and to Joe, Jr. and sent remembrances to all at Sumner's Forest.

In 1916 there is a wedding invitation to Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Johnstone at Sumner's Forest, and in 1919 a letter to Lucy Humphreys Johnstone from a friend in New Orleans, discussing Christmas gifts, children, and servants.

#### Series 8. Undated

This series consists of undated letters and letter fragments, chiefly written and received by Sarah Gibson Humphreys and her children, Lucy, Sallie, and Joe. There are several letters from Aunt Anne to Sarah giving family news. One letter mentions flooding around Bayou Black in

Terrebonne Parish. Sarah wrote to Joe about plantation business. There are a few letters from other members of the Gibson family.

Also included are copies of advertisements run by Sarah Gibson Humphreys in *The Ohio Farmer* offering fruit farms for rent or for sale.

## Reel 3 cont.

#### **Introductory Materials**

0177 Introductory Materials. 17 frames.

Series 1. 1846–1849

0194 Description of Series 1. 1 frame. 0195 Folder 1, 1846–1849. 45 frames.

Series 2. 1850-1860

0240 Description of Series 2. 1 frame.

0241 Folder 2, 1850-1853. 58 frames.

0299 Folder 3, 1854-1855. 59 frames.

0358 Folder 4, 1856-1860. 60 frames.

Series 3. 1861–1865

0418 Description of Series 3. 1 frame.

0419 Folder 5, 1861-1865. 32 frames.

Series 4. 1867–1872

0451 Description of Series 4. 1 frame.

0452 Folder 6, 1867–1872, 36 frames.

Series 5. 1873–1879

0488 Description of Series 5. 1 frame. [Note: Frame 0488 is repeated.]

0488 Folder 7, 1873-1874. 51 frames.

0539 Folder 8, 1875–1876. 50 frames.

0589 Folder 9, 1877-1878. 33 frames.

0622 Folder 10, 1879. 79 frames.

#### Series 6. 1880-1885

0701 Description of Series 6. 2 frames. [Note: Frame 0701 is repeated.]

0702 Folder 11, 1880. 53 frames.

0755 Folder 12, 1881. 100 frames.

0855 Folder 13, 1882. 62 frames.

0917 Folder 14, January-June 1883. 77 frames.

## Reel 4

#### Gibson and Humphreys Family Papers cont. Series 6. 1880–1885 cont.

0001 Folder 15, July-December 1883. 59 frames.

0060 Folder 16, 1884. 72 frames.

0132 Folder 17, January-October 1885. 33 frames.

0165 Folder 18, November-December 1885. 30 frames.

#### Series 7. 1886–1919

0195 Description of Series 7. 1 frame.

0196 Folder 19, 1886-1887. 31 frames.

0227 Folder 20, 1888-1919. 36 frames.

#### Series 8. Undated

0263 Description of Series 8. 1 frame.

0264 Folder 21, Fragments. 26 frames.

0290 Folder 22, Fragments. 28 frames.

0318 Folder 23, Undated. 48 frames.

0366 Folder 24, Undated. 56 frames.

## Ellen Louise Power Diary, 1862–1863, East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana

#### **Description of the Collection**

Ellen Louise Power was born 11 December 1841, and lived in East Feliciana, Louisiana, near Port Hudson. She died 17 June 1917.

Ellen Louise Power (1841–1917) was a young woman preparing to marry at the time she began to keep this journal. Her ninety-five-page diary, kept in an account book, contains daily entries recording household activities, social affairs and local news. Power apparently resided in the country near Jackson, Louisiana, possibly on a large farm or plantation, as there are some references to servants, and a brief commentary on a "darkey's wedding." Entries largely contain references to music lessons, sewing, baking, visits and social affairs—or, as war approached, the lack thereof. Power mentioned many names of family members, friends, neighbors, and various guests, including Confederate soldiers in the area.

Many entries contain information relating to the impact of war on East Feliciana. Included are descriptions of civilian relief efforts, war shortages, the departure of slaves from neighboring plantations, and local activity as Union troops approached and attacked New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and nearby Port Hudson.

Power began the diary on New Year's Day 1862 while in bed with typhoid fever, which she feared she would pass on to her mother. Earliest entries document household and social activities; Power described making gloves, sewing dresses, dyeing threads, baking breads and "Confederate cakes," quilting, knitting, and sewing, as well as attending concerts, picnics and tableaux, and receiving a steady stream of guests at her home.

References to military activity increase in entries for the spring of 1862, when Union troops took New Orleans and proceeded to Baton Rouge. Topics include news of battles and casualties, civilian relief efforts, war shortages, and the departure of slaves from neighboring plantations. Of

particular interest are entries from May through July 1863 as the Union army attacked and captured Port Hudson, bringing the war to East Feliciana. Several entries record the Power family's efforts to aid Confederate soldiers; in June 1863, Union soldiers ransacked the Powers' home.

Both the original diary and a typed transcription are included.

## Reel 4 cont.

#### **Introductory Materials**

0422 Introductory Materials. 5 frames.

#### **Diary**

0427 Folder 1, Ellen Louise Power, Diary, 1862–1863. 97 frames. 0524 Folder 2, Typed Transcription of Diary, 1862–1863. 116 frames.

## Catherine McAlpin Wray Pritchard Papers, 1829, 1887–1899, New Orleans, Louisiana; also Great Britain

#### **Description of the Collection**

This collection consists of Catherine McAlpin (Wray) Pritchard's diary account of a trip from New Orleans to England and Scotland in the summer and fall of 1829, interspersed with occasional diary entries by her husband, George Washington Pritchard; and correspondence and legal papers relating to the war claim by Catherine McAlpin (Wray) Pritchard and her daughters against the U.S. government, 1888–1899.

Correspondence, 1892–1899, concerns the claim of Catherine McAlpin (Wray) Pritchard and her daughters Catherine Mary (Pritchard) Rogers, Cora Rosina Pritchard, and Georgine (Pritchard) Rainey, against the U.S. government for property damages suffered in New Orleans during the Civil War. Correspondents include U.S. representatives Adolph ("Ad") Meyer (6 February 1892) and Robert Charles Davey (14 February 1898). Included is a letter from Alexander Porter Morse to Judge Frank McGloin, and a letter to McGloin from attorney John C. Dougherty at Memphis, 19 September 1899. Legal materials relating to this claim include eight sworn affidavits in support of the claim; a brief by Alexander Porter Morse given to the U.S. House of Representatives Commission on War Claims, 19 January 1888; a petition to the Senate and House, ca. 1888; and printed Court of Claims and congressional documents. Damage included destruction of a grove of live oak trees at the property on the corner of Camp and Thalia streets.

A diary written by Catherine McAlpin (Wray) Pritchard, with entries by her husband, George Washington Pritchard, dated 1 July–24 December 1829, concerns a trip to England and Scotland. Details include descriptions of the sea passage from New Orleans to Liverpool on board the ship *Tally Ho;* brief descriptions of the Irish coast, Liverpool, Shrewsbury, Oxford, Glasgow, and Edinburgh; fuller descriptions, including references to social life and customs, especially of friends and relatives, at Meole (County of Shropshire) and London; and the return home on board the ship *Jane*. Entries include notes about the weather and, during the sea voyages, the location of ship by longitudinal and latitudinal coordinates.

A typed transcription (45 pages) of the Pritchard diary made by the staff of Southern Historical Collection, ca. 1948, also is included.

#### **Biographical Note**

Catherine McAlpin (Wray) Pritchard (1811–1888) was born and died in New Orleans, Louisiana. She married George Washington Pritchard (d.1860), who had relatives in England, sometime before mid-1829. The Pritchards traveled to England and Scotland from July to December 1829. During the Civil War, Catherine McAlpin (Wray) Pritchard remained in New Orleans. After the war, she filed a war claim, petitioning the U.S. government for payment of damages caused by elements of the U.S. army during their occupation of her house from 1863 to 1865. Her daughters, Catherine Mary (Pritchard) Rogers (fl. 1842–1899), Cora Rosina Pritchard (fl. 1899), and Georgine (Pritchard) Rainey (fl. 1845–1899), proceeded with the petition after her death.

Other persons mentioned in connection with the Pritchard war claim include John G. Dougherty (fl. 1888–1899), assistant attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice at New Orleans and Memphis; Frank McGloin, a New Orleans judge (fl. 1898–1899); and Alexander Porter Morse (fl. 1887–1899), an attorney working in Washington, D.C.

*N. B.* A related collection among the holdings of the Southern Historical Collection is the Rainey and Wren Family Papers.

#### **Introductory Materials**

0640 Introductory Materials. 8 frames.

#### Correspondence, Legal Materials, and Diary

0648 Folder 1, Correspondence, 1892–1899. 19 frames.

0667 Folder 2, Legal Materials, 1887–1899. 77 frames.

0743 Folder 3, Volume 1, Catherine McAlpin Wray Pritchard, Diary, 1829. 46 frames.

0789 Folder 4, Volume 2, Typed Transcription of Diary, 1829. 50 frames.

## Reel 5

## Sarah Lois Wadley Papers, 1849–1886, Ouachita and Tangipahoa Parishes, Louisiana; also Mississippi and Georgia

#### **Description of the Collection**

Sarah Lois Wadley (b. 1844) was a daughter of William Morrill Wadley (1812?–1882) and Rebecca Barnard (Eviringham) Wadley (fl. 1840–1884). She lived with her family in homes near Amite, Tangipahoa Parish, Monroe, and Oakland, Ouachita Parish, Louisiana, and near Macon, Georgia.

The diary in this collection was kept by Sarah Lois Wadley from August 1859 to October 1865, with occasional additional entries through 1886. Entries in the diary document in significant detail opinions and events in the life of an articulate and alert young woman living with her family near Monroe, Louisiana, just before and during the Civil War. Early entries include a detailed description of a family trip from Amite, Louisiana, to visit relatives in New

Hampshire. Extensive entries during the Civil War describe reactions to war news, especially federal efforts to take Vicksburg, Mississippi, by Wadley and others, social life in the vicinity of Monroe, Oakland, and Homer, Louisiana, including comments on freedmen and federal troops, and some activities of Wadley's father who managed the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Texas Railroad and served in an official capacity for the Confederate government. After the war there are scattered entries, written mostly at Georgia residences, chiefly concerning Wadley family matters. One of the diary volumes includes miscellaneous accounts of William Worrill Wadley in Georgia, 1849–1850. Entries for 1859 and the first part of 1860 concern trips and moves of the Wadley family. From late 1860 onwards, Wadley's entries are flavored by her strong convictions about the righteousness of the South and the Confederacy; after the war her entries became more scattered, eventually ceasing altogether in 1886 after the death of her father, William Morrill Wadley. Frequently mentioned are details of social life in the beleaguered Confederacy, with occasional details of the activities of her father, who served as superintendent of the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Texas Railroad and railroad manager for the Confederate government, and of her brother William Wadley, who performed quartermaster duty for the Confederate army in Louisiana. A typed transcription of the diary also is on file.

In addition to the diary, there are ten miscellaneous items, including three Civil War items relating to a branch of the "Women's Volunteer Aid Society" near Monroe, Louisiana, an 1869 letter from Sarah Lois Wadley to her mother describing her meeting with Robert E. Lee at Lexington, Virginia, and an undated essay by Wadley on manners.

The collection is arranged as follows: Series 1. Diaries and Series 2. Miscellaneous Materials.

#### **Biographical Note**

The son of Dole Wadley (who had changed the spelling of his surname from Wadleigh), William Morrill Wadley (1812?–1882) was born in Brentwood, New Hampshire, moved to Georgia around 1834, and subsequently worked for the Central Railroad of Georgia. He married Rebecca Barnard Everingham (fl. 1840–1884), and together they had a number of children, including Sarah Lois Wadley (b. 1844), Mary Millen ("Miss Mary") Wadley, William ("Willie") Wadley, George Dole Wadley (b. 1857), and John Eviringham Wadley (b. 1860). After living near Monroe, Louisiana, before and during the Civil War, William Morrill Wadley moved his family back to Georgia in late 1865. Other relatives mentioned in these papers are Sarah Lois Wadley's uncles, David Wadley (d. 1883) and Dole Wadley. Mary Millen Wadley married William Greene Raoul (1844–1913) after the Civil War.

Sarah Lois Wadley was the author of two published works: A Brief Record of the Life of William M. Wadley, Written By His Eldest Daughter (1884), and In Memory of Rebecca Barnard Wadley (1906). There are biographical sketches of William Morrill Wadley in The National Cyclopedia of American Biography, I, 201, and in The Biographical Dictionary of the Confederacy, 422–423.

#### Series 1. Diaries, 1859–1886

Volume 1 covers the period 8 August 1859–19 June 1861. The diary begins with a description of a trip from Amite, Louisiana, by ship and train to New Hampshire and return to Vicksburg, Mississippi. A number of places are described in varying degrees of detail: Vicksburg, Mississippi; St. Louis, Missouri; Chicago, Illinois; Niagara Falls, New York; Boston,

Massachusetts; passage through Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina; the old homestead in Georgia; New Orleans; Jackson, Mississippi; and return to Vicksburg.

Social life and customs are mentioned, including daily events in the life of a young woman and special events including Christmas and Santa Claus (p.36–39); a Jewish wedding (7 March 1860, p.44); and the birth of John Everingham Wadley (6 April 1860). Politics are first mentioned in an entry at Vicksburg dated 26 October 1860, regarding the upcoming election and the perfidious abolitionists (p.98–100). "I shudder to contemplate a Civil War," Wadley wrote (p.98); and on 4 December 1860, she described reading and hearing about Presbyterian clergyman Benjamin Morgan Palmer's Thanksgiving sermon at New Orleans, which advocated secession (p.109–112). She also described a stay at Amite, Louisiana, mentioning family life and socializing there (29 December 1860–14 January 1861) and at Terry, Louisiana (14 January–6 February 1861).

Wadley mentioned the completion of the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Texas Railroad link from Vicksburg to Monroe, Louisiana, in the entry of 6 February 1861. In the entry for 16 February 1861, she mentioned the election of Jefferson Davis and Alexander Stephens as president and vice-president of the Confederacy. Also mentioned is the appointment of William Morrill Wadley as superintendent of the Vicksburg, Shreveport, and Texas Railroad and the attack on Fort Sumter (18 April 1861; p.174).

Other aspects of life mentioned in the diary include reading Sir Walter Scott novels (p.115 and 27 March 1861), a detailed description of the furnishings in the Wadley household near Monroe, Louisiana (19 June 1861), and Sarah Lois Wadley's philosophy of life (p.120).

Volume 2 covers the period 23 June 1861–17 April 1863. Wadley recorded descriptions of the daily life of a young woman and special events, such as men of various ages leaving to join the Confederate army and the formation of a "military sewing society" with Sarah Lois Wadley as elected secretary (14 July 1861), which was later called the "Ladies Volunteer Aid Society" (17 July 1861). Mention is made of church communion, given first to whites, then to blacks (14 July 1861; p.20–21).

Rumors of the war are frequently mentioned, including initial news of the First Battle of Manassas (22–28 July 1861); the Battle of Shiloh (called by Wadley, "Corinth": 13; 30 April 1862); an erroneous report that generals Robert E. Lee and Joseph E. Johnston were killed at Yorktown, Virginia, and that President Jefferson Davis was personally in command (4 May 1862); and scattered news of Union attempts to capture Vicksburg. William Morrill Wadley predicted that the war would last through Lincoln's administration (15 September 1861), which caused Sarah Lois Wadley to grimly contemplate "four long years of war." She described an incident at Amite involving foreigners in the Confederate army (21 September 1861) in which a civilian's house was burned down. Conscription of men eighteen to thirty-five years of age is mentioned (20 April 1862) as are Sarah Lois Wadley's concerns for her brother William Wadley's safety.

Wadley mentioned (18 December 1861) that William Morrill Wadley was appointed confederate superintendent of railroads by President Jefferson Davis, with the rank of colonel and assistant adjutant general. There is also mention of an Indian mound located just north of Bayou de Leard (23 March 1863).

During Union operations against Vicksburg, the area around Monroe and Oakland, Louisiana, where Sarah Lois Wadley lived with most of her family was frequently in danger of being raided by elements of the Union army. Wadley wrote often of activities involving soldiers and civilians of both sides; she wrote critically of General Albert Blanchard, who was for a time

in charge of Confederate troops defending Monroe. (For example: "[I]f we only had a man here for a General instead of the effeminate creature we have..." (28 December 1862; p.147).

Volume 3A covers the period 16 May–28 August 1863 and Volume 3B covers the period 29 August 1863–11 February 1864. Volume 3B also includes miscellaneous accounts of William Morrill Wadley in Georgia, 1849–1850. In entries of July 9 and 12, 1863 (Volume 3A, p.26), Sarah Lois Wadley wrote of reports that Vicksburg had fallen. She wrote, "it is all the fault of General Pemberton...our pride, our bulwark is gone, this is the end of our confidence and boasting." In an entry dated 2 September 1863, Wadley mentioned a meeting in Marshall, Texas, in which General E. Kirby Smith was given broad powers to control the Confederate Trans-Mississippi Department, which had been cut off from the rest of the Confederacy by the surrender of Vicksburg. In September, William Morrill Wadley took his family and many of their belongings by wagon to southern Louisiana, where they hoped to cross the Mississippi and resettle in Georgia. There are long detailed descriptions of this journey, which, after unsuccessful efforts to cross the Mississippi, ended in the family's return to their house near Monroe, Louisiana, in October 1863.

Descriptions of military activities in early 1864 include, in an entry dated 4 January 1864, the murder of a young boy in Monroe by a Mexican member of a Texas regiment; and, in an entry dated 30 January 1864, William Wadley joining the Confederate cavalry but subsequently performing mostly quartermaster work.

Volume 4 covers the period 16 February 1864–13 May 1865. Once again, this volume provides a record of the daily life of a young woman. Particular topics include people having lost their patriotism (25 March 1864); federal troops in the vicinity of Monroe, Louisiana (9–10 April 1864); freedmen bartering and seeking protection with the federal forces (11–15 April 1864); Sarah Lois Wadley's stay in Homer, Louisiana (8 June 1864); Wadley's renewed hope for peace and confidence in General Robert E. Lee, as Lincoln's administration seemed near ending (18 June 1864 entry); destruction of the Oconee railroad bridge, which her father had built (15 August 1864); the fall of Atlanta and hopes that General John Bell Hood had saved his army (16 September 1864); mention of a friend having tea with General Prince Polignac (24 September 1864); appointment of Raoul as superintendent of Confederate railroad car works (27 September 1864); the diarist's distaste for ideas of reconstruction (27 October 1864); the reelection of Lincoln (28 November 1864): "Nothing remains for us now but to fight bravely..."; and her confidence in defeating Sherman during his march from Atlanta to Savannah, Georgia: "how I wish I were a man and in Georgia...Sherman's audacity is unequalled..." (20 December 1864). Mention is made of a skirmish between William Wadley's unit and "Luke Earle's robber band" in Tensas Parish, Louisiana (14 January 1865). Other topics include Hood's "shameful defeat" near Nashville, and General Joseph Hardee's necessary evacuation of Savannah (14 January 1865; p.112); the diarist's pride in her brother for serving in the Confederate army (25 January 1865); the fall of Fort Fisher, North Carolina, but refusal to concede defeat (3 February 1865); a Union raid at Monroe (11 February 1865); rumors that both Lee and Johnston had surrendered (20 April 1865); Lincoln's assassination (26 April 1865); rumors that only Lee's rearguard had surrendered, but that Johnston had won a major victory over Sherman in North Carolina (1 May 1865); and eventual realization of defeat. The volume ends with a long lamentation over the defeat of the Confederacy (13 May 1865).

Volume 5 covers the period 18 May 1865–27 August 1886. After an entry written at Oakland, Louisiana on 18 May 1865, describing life in the wake of the Confederacy's downfall, the journal recommences with an entry dated 26 September 1865, with the same theme. The

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diarist then described her family's moving from Louisiana to Georgia in a journey that took over a month to complete (November to December). They traveled by a small wagon train to the Mississippi River, then Sarah Lois Wadley and most of the family went by steamboat to New Orleans. By rail they traveled to the Raoul household in southern Louisiana, where William Morrill Wadley and others formed the partnership of Raoul, Lory, and Wadley (11 December 1865 at Columbus, Georgia). The family continued via Mobile, Alabama, to Columbus, Georgia.

In an entry dated 30 January 1866, the diarist wrote that her father had been made head of the Georgia Central Railroad. After this entry, the diary has only occasional entries, some long but most very brief, recording mostly births, marriages, and deaths. There is a discussion of a fire at Mary (Wadley) Raoul's home (10 July 1873); indication that William Morrill Wadley had bought "Colaparchee," a home fourteen miles from Macon, Georgia (4 November 1873); a description of Christmas at Colaparchee (30 December 1873); and the unveiling of a statue of William Morrill Wadley at Macon (18 June 1885).

Volumes 6 and 7 comprise a typed transcription of Volumes 1–5.

#### Series 2. Miscellaneous Materials, 1859–1871 and Undated

Miscellaneous materials consist of ten items that were formerly inserted in the diaries at random. These items are dated 1859–1871 and undated.

There is a letter dated 8 September 1859, from A. F. Simpson at New Orleans to Rebecca (Everingham) Wadley at [Amite, Louisiana?], requesting assistance from William ("Willie") Wadley to number and value cattle she wanted to sell. Simpson was probably Adelia (Forsyth) Simpson, wife of Andrew P. Simpson. The Wadleys were probably living on or near the Simpson property in the vicinity of Amite.

There is a summary dated 26 February 1860, written by Sarah Lois Wadley, of the sermon preached by Dr. William Lord, pastor of the Episcopal Church at Vicksburg, Mississippi, earlier that day. She was very favorably impressed by the sermon.

There are three items relating to the "Ladies Branch Society of the Pine Hills," part of the "Ladies Volunteer Aid Society" constituted to assist Confederate soldiers during the Civil War. All three items were written or transcribed by Sara Lois Wadley, secretary of the Branch Society. The first is a draft of a letter to Captain Marks of the Vicksburg (?) Blues, ca. 1861, about knitting socks and clothes for the troops.

There is a letter dated 25 August 1866, from Mary [Stephens?] at Monroe, Louisiana, to Sarah Lois Wadley, about their friendship and her social life. In a letter dated 14 July 1869, Sarah Lois Wadley describes for her mother the town of Lexington, Virginia, and the pleasure of meeting Robert E. Lee and going to tea in the Lee home with her father.

There is an engraving of two children taken from *Peterson's Magazine*, inscribed on verso: "Mrs. Wm. M. Wadley, Macon, Georgia, Feb. 15, 1871."

There is an undated homeopathic cure. There is an untitled essay on manners, comprising twenty-four small manuscript pages written by Sarah Lois Wadley for her oldest niece, who was also her goddaughter, discussing general etiquette and table manners.

*N. B.* A related collection among the holdings of the Southern Historical Collection is the William Greene Raoul Autobiography. Another related collection is the William Greene Raoul Papers, Emory University.

### **Introductory Materials**

0001 Introductory Materials. 14 frames.

Part 3 Reel Index

#### Series 1. Diaries, 1859–1886

- 0015 Description of Series 1. 4 frames.
- 0019 Folder 1, Volume 1, August 8, 1859–June 19, 1861. 202 frames.
- 0221 Folder 2, Volume 2, June 23, 1861-April 17, 1863. 155 frames.
- 0376 Folder 3, Volume 3A, May 16-August 28, 1863. 52 frames.
- 0428 Folder 4, Volume 3B, August 29, 1863–February 11, 1864 (with Accounts of William Morrill Wadley, 1849–1850). 139 frames.
- 0567 Folder 5, Volume 4, February 16, 1864–May 13, 1865. 144 frames.
- 0712 Folder 6, Volume 5, May 18, 1865-August 27, 1886. 55 frames.

### Reel 6

### Sarah Lois Wadley Papers cont. Series 1. Diaries, 1859–1886 cont.

0001 Folder 7, Volume 6, Typed Transcriptions of Volumes 1–2. 271 frames.

0272 Folder 8, Volume 7, Typed Transcriptions of Volumes 3–5. 401 frames.

### Series 2. Miscellaneous Materials, 1859–1871 and Undated

0673 Description of Series 2. 1 frame.

0674 Folder 9, Miscellaneous Materials, 1859–1871 and Undated. 42 frames.

## Mary Susannah Winans Album, ca. 1836–1854, East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana; also Mississippi

### **Description of the Collection**

Mary Susannah Winans (1812–1892) was born in Centreville, Mississippi, and lived in Clinton, Louisiana. She married Isaac Wall.

The collection consists of an album comprising a schoolgirl's autograph book. It contains poems and loving messages to Mary, as well as newspaper clippings. The entries in the album may have been made at the time of graduation from an unidentified school. The volume itself is not dated, but a clipping in the volume is dated 1836 and one loose item in it is an 1854 program for anniversary exercises at Centenary College, Jackson, Louisiana; one of the speakers at this event was William Winans Wall of Clinton, Louisiana.

### **Introductory Materials**

0716 Introductory Materials. 5 frames.

#### **Album**

0721 Mary Susan Winans, Album, ca. 1836–1854. 49 frames.

# **SUBJECT INDEX**

The following index is to the major subjects and persons found in *Southern Women and Their Families in the 19th Century: Papers and Diaries, Series A*, Holdings of the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Parts 1–3. The roman number I refers to Part 1; the numeral II refers to Part 2; and the roman numeral III refers to Part 3. The arabic number before the colon refer to the reel numbers and the four-digit arabic numbers after the colon refer to frame numbers. Thus the entry II 1: 0022–0253 refers to the Series or subseries of documents that begin on Frame 0022 on Reel 1 of Part 2 (II). Researchers can find the description of the material by referring to the appropriate section of the Reel Index for the part.

To give researchers a sense of chronology, family members' names are often accompanied by dates, some using the abbreviation fl., signifying a particular period when the person flourished or was in a state of activity or production as identified in this microfilm collection.

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Aeronautics

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