

C France, Martha M. and Sara M., Papers, 1878-1905
874 14 folders, 1 volume

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

INTRODUCTION

Diary of Martha M. France, wife of St. Joseph, MO, banker, Charles B. France, Jr. Diary, mementos, and photos of her daughter, Sara M. France, a student at Ogontz School near Philadelphia, PA, from 1889-1892.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by the University of Missouri Library on 31 July 1946 (Accession No. 2862).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Martha McDonald France was the wife of a St. Joseph, Missouri, banker. She had four children: Sara, Charles, Robert, and Albert. She kept a diary, but seldom wrote in it. A few of the entries give information about her family, especially her great sorrow at the death in 1893 of her twenty-five-year-old son, Charles. Much of the diary consists of poems and religious writings dealing with death and suffering.

Between 1889 and 1892 Sara M. France was a student at Ogontz School in Ogontz, Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia. The diary that she kept during her first year at school tells of her homesickness, classes, friends and roommates, student life, and social events. She kept in her diary dance cards, concert programs, art exhibit catalogs, cards, and other mementos of her student life. A second scrapbook contains newspaper clippings in French about Ireland, Hungary, and the Russian czars.

The most valuable parts of the collection are the photographs taken while Sara was at Ogontz. The numerous photos of Sara and her classmates are valuable records of the fashions of the 1890s, showing dress styles, fabric, accessories, hats, and hairstyles. Other valuable photos are of the students' bedrooms and depict late nineteenth-century furniture and interior decoration, including the photos, souvenirs, and other things that students placed around their rooms. The photos are generally in excellent condition with the details in sharp focus.

Related to this collection is collection [C1012](#) which contains journals and correspondence of the France family, specifically Charles B. France and Martha McDonald France.

FOLDER LIST

- f. 1-2 Diary, notes and clippings of Martha M. France, 1889-1994, 1905
- f. 3-5 Diary with mementos of Sara France: diary, 1889-1890; mementos, 1888-1893, 1905, n.d.; and obituary of Jay Cooke, banker, who lived in Ogontz.
- f. 6-9 Scrapbook of newspaper clippings in French about Ireland, Hungary, and the Russian czars, 1878-1902.

- f.10-14 Photographs of students and their rooms at Ogontz School; portrait of Jay Cooke, c. 1890-1892.
- v. 1 Photo album kept by Sara France at Ogontz School. Photos of Sara, her classmates and teachers, school and leisure activities, countryside and houses near Ogontz, and student rooms, c. 1891.

INDEX TERMS

Subject	Folders	Other	Image
Beds, 1890s	13,14	v. 1	y
Bridges		v. 1	y
Calendars, 1890	3		
Carriages and carts		v. 1	y
Chairs, 1890s	13,14	v. 1	
Chests, 1890s	13,14	v. 1	y
College and school drama		v. 1	y
College students	10-13	v. 1	y
Colleges and universities--Buildings		v. 1	y
Commercial art	3		y
Cooke, Jay (1821-1905)	5		
Cooke, Jay (1821-1905)	14		y
Costume, 1890s	10-13	v. 1	y
Diaries--Student	3		
Diaries--Women's, 1880s	1,3		
Diaries--Women's, 1890s	1,3		
Drug stores, 1890s		v. 1	
France, Charles B. (1868-1893)	1, 3		
France, Martha M.	1-3		
France, Sara M.	10-14	v. 1	y
France, Sara M.	1, 3-14	v. 1	
Furniture, 1890s	13, 14	v. 1	y
Hair and hairdressing	10-13	v. 1	y
Hats, 1890s	10-13	v. 1	y
Interior decoration, 1890s	13, 14	v. 1	y
Ironwork		v. 1	y
Lace and lace making	10-14	v. 1	y
Lamps, 1890s	13, 14	v. 1	y
Mills and millwork		v. 1	y
Musical instruments	13, 14	v. 1	y
Ogontz School, Ogontz, Pennsylvania	3-5		
Ogontz School, Ogontz, Pennsylvania	10-14	v. 1	y
Photograph albums		v. 1	y
Picture frames and framing	13, 14	v. 1	
Rugs, 1890s	13, 14	v. 1	y

Subject	Folders	Other	Image
Student life	3-5		
Student life	10-14	v. 1	y
Students, Societies	10-13	v. 1	y
Tennis, 1890s		v. 1	
Women students	10-14	v. 1	y
Women, 1880s	1-5		
Women, 1890s	1-5		
Women--Education	3-9		
Women--Friendship, 1890s	3-5		
Women's clothing, 1890s	10-13	v. 1	y