

C Trimble Family, Papers, 1876-1948
4269 0.25 cubic feet (4 folders)

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at research@shsmo.org.

INTRODUCTION

The papers of the Trimble family contain clippings related to the Trimble and Duncan families, correspondence between the families, and the diary from 1876 to 1879 of Susan Duncan, the mother of Martha Duncan who married into the Trimble family.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Susan S. Boice on 1 August 1977 (Accession No. 2093).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

George W. Trimble (misspelled "Tremble" in some items in this collection) was born in Randolph County, Missouri, around 1839. In 1867 he married Martha Duncan, a native of Columbia, Missouri, in one of the first church weddings in Columbia. George was a well-liked merchant in the city and treasurer for Boone County. George passed away in 1924 in Columbia. He had two children with his wife, Susan and Margaret.

George's wife Mary was born May 2, 1843, to Dr. William Henley Duncan of Amherst County, Virginia, and Susannah Woods Harris Duncan of Madison County, Kentucky. Martha's father had moved to Columbia in 1831 was closely involved with the University of Missouri from its beginnings, serving as the university's first treasurer and one of the earliest members of its board of curators. Dr. Duncan encouraged higher education for his daughters as well, and Martha graduated from Stephens College in 1863. Martha also became a prominent member of the First Baptist Church in Columbia.

Susan Trimble was born in 1870 in Columbia, Missouri. Like her mother, Susan received unprecedented educational opportunities for women at the time and graduated from the University of Missouri. Susan was renowned for her intelligence, and in particular received praise from out of town visitors for her skill with the German language. Susan married Lieutenant Samuel Smoke (who would eventually become a major) in the late 1880s. Susan had a son, Samuel, and a daughter, also named Susan. When Susan's husband passed away in 1921, she moved to Arcadia, Florida, with her children where she lived the rest of her life. Susan passed away in Arcadia in 1948 at the age of 78 and was buried in Columbia, Missouri.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

These papers contain a scrapbook, obituaries, correspondence, and the diary of Susan Duncan from 1876 to 1879. The scrapbook includes a collection of clippings related to the Trimble family. The majority related to the eldest daughter Susan, recounting social functions Susan had hosted and attended and invitations and reports of Susan's wedding to then Lieutenant Samuel Smoke. The scrapbook also contains funeral information for Susan and William Duncan.

The obituaries contain clippings from newspapers related to Martha Trimble's death, but most of the obituaries are about Susan Smoke and come from both Missouri and Florida newspapers. The correspondence includes a letter from Martha Trimble to her niece (whom she does not name) and from the Trimble family to the Duncan children. The diary of Susan Duncan (Martha Trimble's mother) contains Susan's daily writings on the minutia of her day-to-day life as a mother whose children had all left home.

FOLDER LIST

f. 1	Scrapbook
f. 2	Obituaries
f. 3	Correspondence
f. 4	Susan Duncan Diary 1876-1879

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