



Sarah Cornelia Williams Diaries (S0177)

Collection Number: S0177

Collection Title: Sarah Cornelia Williams Diaries

Dates: 1845, 1863-1880

Creator: Williams, Sarah Cornelia Conn, 1817-1888

Abstract: The Sarah Cornelia Williams Diaries contains microfilmed daily diary entries by Sarah Cornelia Williams. The entries document everyday life as a mother and wife in St. Louis and references to the election of Abraham Lincoln, the Civil War, and the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

Collection Size: 1 microfilm roll
(8 volumes on microfilm)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Sarah Cornelia Williams Diaries* (S0177); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The diaries were loaned for microfilming to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Wayman Williams on June 11, 1984 (Accession No. SA2625).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Sarah Cornelia Williams Diaries can be found in the following collections:

Alice May Williams Diaries, (S0178)

Processed by: Processed by Rachael Heriford, October 2023

Biographical Note:

Sarah Cornelia Williams was born on November 30, 1817, to Hezekiah Conn and Isabella Richard Buck in Virginia. She married Frederick A. Williams, a grocery and notion store clerk, on March 6, 1838, in St. Louis, Missouri. The couple settled in Boonville, Missouri, and had their first two children: John C. Williams and Williams S. Williams. During the 1840s, the Williams family relocated to Worchester County, Maryland, and had four more children: Alice M. Williams (1848-1874), James L. Williams (1850-1930), Wayman P. Williams (1856-1909), and Cornelia Ann Williams. In the early 1860s, the family relocated to St. Louis City and had their last child, Lillie M. Williams. Sarah and Frederick Williams relocated to Montrose, Missouri, in 1880. On December 20, 1880, Sarah Cornelia Williams died in Montrose, Missouri.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged chronologically.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains eight daily diaries written by Sarah Cornelia Williams from 1845 and 1863 to 1880. Sarah's diaries primarily document her day-to-day life in St. Louis, including topics such as knitting clothes for her children, expressing her displeasure with the housekeeper's cleaning skills, and dining with family and friends. Aside from family life, the diaries also contain brief mentions of Union soldiers passing through St. Louis during the Civil War, the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1864, and how dusty and smoky St. Louis was in the aftermath of the 1871 Great Chicago Fire. The diaries have been microfilmed chronologically onto one reel.

Container List:

Roll 1	v. 1-8	Diaries, 1845, 1863-1880
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Index:

Index Terms	Medium
Boonville (Mo.)	v. 1
Boonville (Mo.)--Social life and customs	v. 1
Great Fire, Chicago, Ill., 1871	v. 5
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865	v. 2-3
Missouri--Saint Louis--Diaries	v. 1-8
Montrose (Mo.)	v. 8
Saint Louis (Mo.)--History--19th century	v. 1-8
Saint Louis (Mo.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	v. 2-3
Saint Louis (Mo.)--Social life and customs	v. 1-8
Williams, Alice May, 1848-1874	v. 2-8

Index Terms	Medium
Williams, Cornelia Ann	v. 2-8
Williams, Frederick A.	v. 1-8
Williams, James L., 1850-1930	v. 2-8
Williams, John C.	v. 1-8
Williams, Sarah Cornelia Conn, 1815-1880	v. 1-8
Williams, Wayman P., 1856-1909	v. 2-8
Williams, Williams S.	v. 1-8