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INTRODUCTION

Typescript photocopy of diary of a woman from Miami, Missouri, including descriptive observations on the themes of home, family, and religion, as well as the impact of the Civil War on life in her own community and region.

DONOR INFORMATION

The diary was donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Scott Jones and Mrs. Donald V. Riddle on 31 October 1974 (Accession No. 1102).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

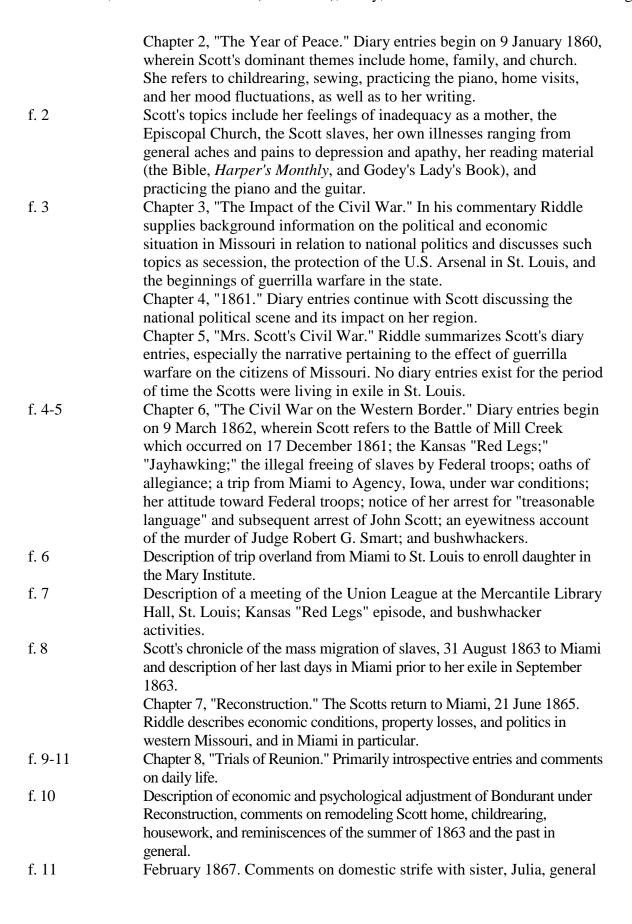
Elvira Scott was born Elvira Ascenith Weir on 22 September 1821, near Charles Town, Indiana, the second daughter of James Weir and Jane Dinwiddie, formerly of Virginia. Elvira received her formal education at the Washington County Seminary in Salem, Indiana. Later, in 1840, the Weir family moved to Iowa Territory settling near Agency. In March of 1844 Elvira Weir married John P. Scott in Iowa. Shortly thereafter she and John moved to Missouri, settling in Miami where their two daughters were born-Eva, nicknamed "Pet", in 1845 and Hebe in 1855. There, except for a period of exile during the Civil War, they remained until John Scott's death in 1888 and Elvira's in 1910.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Scott diary was transcribed by Donald W. Riddle and is entitled A Diary of the Civil War on the Missouri Border. Riddle has arranged the typescript into ten chapters and has supplied additional material in the form of background information and notes. The strength of the diary lies in the immediacy and frequency of Scott's entries in closeness to the time of the actual event. It is written by an informed writer with strong Southern leanings, in a readable, descriptive style. A major drawback is that it is a typescript and is not a full transcription of the original five-volume set, e.g., a note by Riddle indicates that volume four (30 March 1868 through 31 December 1874) was not transcribed; therefore, a major gap exists in the narrative. In addition, intermittent entries in the later years leave additional gaps in time. Further, Riddle's notes indicate that wages paid to Scott's household servants, formerly slaves, have not been included in this transcription.

FOLDER LIST

f. 1 Chapter 1, "Westward from Virginia." D.W. Riddle's introductory chapter supplies genealogical background information pertaining to the Weir, Scott, and McDaniel families who migrated to Missouri from Virginia prior to the outbreak of the Civil War.



household duties, trip to St. Louis, cholera, and death.

f. 12-13 Entries include trip to Iowa.

Chapter 9, "Winter is on My Head." Summary and editorial comments by

Riddle on the contents of volumes four and five of diary.

Chapter 10, "But Eternal Spring is in My Heart." Entries begin New Year's

Eve, 1874, with family matters primarily discussed.

f. 13 Entries include a trip to Washington D.C. and Philadelphia for the Centennial

Exposition of 1876 and reminiscences of a general nature.

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