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

The collection contains the papers of Lizzie Powell Hereford, a Confederate sympathizer from near Palmyra, Missouri, who was imprisoned during the Civil War. The papers include her prison diary and correspondence along with transcriptions. Also included are family photographs, miniature portraiture, jewelry, miscellaneous artifacts, family genealogy, and the papers of her daughter, Stella.

Biographical Sketch

Elizabeth “Lizzie” Mildred Powell was born in 1840, and lived on a farm near Palmyra, Missouri. She and her friend, Maggie Creath, were Southern sympathizers and the Federal Army arrested them in 1862 for influencing young men to join the Confederate forces. She was eventually locked up in Hannibal in the “Railroad House,” a building that had been used to hold slaves awaiting the auction block. While imprisoned, Powell caught diphtheria and almost died. Under conditions that are not quite clear, she was released and later moved west after getting a teacher’s certificate.

Powell moved to Austin, Nevada, where she met Alfred Hereford, a young lawyer. The two married on March 16, 1864. They moved to St. Joseph, Missouri, for a brief time before settling in Denver, Colorado. The Herefords had two children who survived until adulthood: William and Stella. Lizzie Hereford died in 1877 from an injury sustained after being thrown from a runaway carriage.

Box List

Box 1
Biographical sketch
Pre-Civil War letters
Prison diary of Lizzie Powell, 1862
Transcription of diary and letters of Lizzie Powell
Letters and transcriptions, 1862-1877 (2 folders)
Family photographs
Pages from Hereford family Bible
Hereford and Ball family genealogy
Miscellaneous correspondence of Stella Hereford Ball; “Shirk: A Biography of a Dog” by Robert E. Ball; “One Line of the Ball Line”; Ball family photographs

Box 2
Artifacts
Miniature portraits—Civil War era (16)
Silver napkin rings (4)
Mother-of-pearl baby rattles (2—one is missing rattle)
Silver spoon, 1833
Unidentified small toolkit in green case

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION
8/9/2013
Orange hat pin
Brooch made of three shells from the Isthmus of Panama
Gold bracelet
Set of unidentified gold jewelry (possibly cuff links)
Necklace with three pink glass balls
Single cuff link with head of Roman soldier