

C King, Eleanor Ann (1839-1884), Papers, 1856-1898
1862 2 folders

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 papers of Eleanor Ann King contain letters written to Eleanor Ann King after she was arrested as a Confederate Spy, and imprisoned in the Female Prison at St. Louis, MO. The collection also contains photographs of Eleanor Ann, her first and second husbands--J.M. King and William Pennington Ferrell--and her children.

DONOR INFORMATION

The collection was donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Alma Lee McCowin through Stella Palmer Hotz on 20 March 1974 (Accession No. SUNP1077).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Eleanor Ann Keithly was born January 11, 1839, to Eleanor Ann Robertson and Simon Keithly of St. Charles County, Missouri. At the age of seventeen she married J.M. King, also of Missouri. They made their home in St. Charles County.

Eight years later, well into the Civil War, Eleanor Ann was arrested and imprisoned by Union forces for spying. She remained in the Female Military Prison at St. Louis until about 1866, when her innocence was proved and she won her release. Mr. King died shortly after Eleanor Ann's release, succumbing to the poor health that had incapacitated him since 1861.

Eleanor Ann married William Pennington Ferrell on December 18, 1868. They left St. Charles County soon afterwards, traveling down the Mississippi River by steamboat to Tampa, Florida. From there they traveled by wagon to Bartow, Polk County, Florida, where they settled. She died there on January 28, 1884.

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