

C Roland, Laura Effie (1867-1957), Diary, 1883-1889  
4102 .2 cubic feet

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#### INTRODUCTION

The papers of Laura E. Roland contain small excerpts of her diary, not always in complete sentences, from the age of sixteen in 1883 up to and including her marriage at the age of twenty-two in 1889, all of which took place in or around Hannibal, Missouri, in Ralls County.

#### DONOR INFORMATION

The diary was donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Roberta Hagood on 30 November 1981 (Accession No. 2395).

#### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Laura E. Roland was born on April 24, 1867, and was the only child of Samuel Gregory Roland and Susan Mary Shulse. The Rolands lived around Hannibal, Missouri, in Ralls County and made their living off of the land.

Roland married Melvin Lee Norman on October 8, 1889, in Hannibal and honeymooned in St. Louis, Missouri. The Normans had six children, one boy and five girls (Rixie Clay, Stella Mae, Goldia Davilla, Cora Lee, Nellie Frances, and Annie Laura), between the years 1890 and 1907.

Melvin Norman died sometime before 1910. Laura followed her husband in death some fifty years later on July 18, 1957.

#### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The donated diary and corresponding, unabridged transcription contain details of the daily life of Laura Effie Roland from her sixteenth year in 1883 until her twenty-second year in 1889, at which time Laura was married. The diary mostly reflects upon Laura's time with her friends (who she spent the day with and what they did), and also notes that she went to school and attended prayer meetings regularly.

The main focus of the diary is Laura's love life. Laura recounts the time she spent with various male suitors in her life, including, William Decker, her first crush, Robert Wilson, who later went into the clergy, and Melvin Lee Norman, whom she later marries. By the time Laura begins writing about Melvin, the daily entries are much longer and more detailed. This diary ends directly after Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Norman attend their honeymoon in October 1889.

#### FOLDER LIST

- f. 1-2 Original Diary
- f. 3-6 Unabridged Typescript, 1883-1889

INDEX TERMS

Subject	Folders
Decker, William	1-6
Missouri, Ralls County, 1880s	1-6
Norman, Melvin Lee	1-6
Roland, Laura E. (1867-1957)	1-6
Wilson, Robert	1-6