

11-9-2012

## Whitaker, Matilda Lucretia, b. 1841 (MSS 434)

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### Recommended Citation

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*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 434    WHITAKER, Matilda Lucretia, b. 1841**

1/2 box. 5 folders. 5 items. 1862-1871. Photocopies.

SC2012.3.222

***BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE***

Matilda Lucretia Whitaker was born in 1841, the daughter of Benjamin Edwards (1797-1873) and Susan G. Whitaker (1811-1878). A native of Kentucky, Matilda lived with her parents at Grove Spring in Logan County. She attended Logan College in Russellville. Two of her brothers, Benjamin E., Jr. (1846-1871?) and William H. Whitaker (1843-1871), fought for the Confederate army during the Civil War. Matilda's death date and burial location is unknown. In 1880 she was living with her brother Joseph Brown Whitaker (1849-1927) at the family home. Her parents and several siblings are buried in the Whitaker Cemetery on Orndorf Mill Road, one mile south of Russellville.

***COLLECTION NOTE***

This collection consists of diaries kept by Matilda Lucretia Whitaker from 18 August 1862 through 1865 and 1871. The content of the diaries is primarily related to the Civil War in Kentucky, namely its effects on Russellville and south central Kentucky. Throughout the diaries, she mentions her concern for her brothers Benjamin E., Jr. and William H., who were prisoners of war. Whitaker also wrote poetry and enclosed songs and Bible verses throughout the diaries. She provided views of military life, church services, rumors and newspaper accounts of the war's progress, dealings with slaves, visits to neighbors, and finally the return of the brothers from union prisons. The final diary (1871) is chiefly related to Whitaker's life and is dedicated to her poetry.

The diaries appeared from 1961 to 1962 in fifty installments in Russellville's *News Democrat*. It was later typescripted and published by A.B. Wilhite in 1997; it can be found in WKU's Special Collections Library under the title: *Journal of Matilda Whitaker* (E 628 .W48 1997)

**SHELF LIST**

| <b>BOX 1</b> | <b>Diaries</b>  | <b>1862-1865; 1871</b> | <b>5 items</b> |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Folder 1     | Inventory       |                        | 1 item         |
| Folder 2     | Civil War diary | 1862-1863              | 1 item         |
| Folder 3     | Civil War diary | 1863-1864              | 1 item         |
| Folder 4     | Civil War diary | 1865                   | 1 item         |
| Folder 5     | Diary           | 1871                   | 1 item         |

**CATALOG CARD**

MSS WHITAKER, Matilda Lucretia 1862-1871  
434 b. 1841

Photocopies of the Civil War diaries of Matilda Lucretia Whitaker, Grove Spring, Logan County, Kentucky. Whitaker sympathized with the South and noted the activities of Confederate troops in Russellville. Poetry and songs are also included.  
½ box. 5 folders. 6 items. Photocopies.  
SC2012.3.222

**SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

Bragg, Braxton, 1817-1876 – Mentioned B1,F2,4  
Breckinridge, John Cabell, 1821-1875 – Mentioned B1,F2  
Civil War, 1861-1865  
Civil War, 1861-1865 – Bowling Green B1,F3  
Civil War, 1861-1865 – Campaigns, battles, military actions - Fort Donelson, Tennessee  
B1,F2  
Civil War, 1861-1865 – Clarksville, Tennessee B1,F2  
Civil War, 1861-1865 – Confederate soldiers  
Civil War, 1861-1865 – Murfreesboro, Tennessee B1,F2  
Civil War, 1861-1865 – Russellville  
Clarksville, Tennessee B1,F3,4  
Davis, Jefferson Finis, 1808-1889 – Mentioned B1,F2,4  
Diseases – Relating to B1,F5  
Dreams B1,F3,5  
Grant, Ulysses Simpson, 1822-1885 – Mentioned B1,F3

Hopkinsville B1,F3,4  
 Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865 – Presidents – Assassination – Mentioned B1,F4  
 Morgan, John Hunt, 1825-1864 – Relating to B1,F2,3  
 Poetry B1,F2,4,5  
 Prayer B1,F3,4  
 Sherman, William Tecumseh, 1820-1891 – Mentioned B1,F4  
 Songs B1,F2  
 Whitaker, Benjamin Edwards, 1846-1871 – Relating to  
 Whitaker, Willilam H., 1843-1912 – Relating to

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