



State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives
403 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

MARY L. PEARRE
DIARY AND PHOTOGRAPHS
1863-1864, 1896, undated

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MICROFILM ONLY

INTRODUCTION

The Mary L. Pearre Diary (1863-1864) was loaned to TSLA by James Gordon Hamilton for microfilming as a consequence of the *Looking Back at the Civil War* Digitization Project in 2010. TSLA holds a transcribed copy of the diary (accession number 2005-020) in the collection, but did not have the original diary.

Pearre was born in 1838, likely in Middle Tennessee. Educated at the Franklin Female College in Williamson County in June 1858, Pearre worked as a teacher at Mill Creek, Tennessee. Her diary, written during the Civil War, reflects the personal musings of an educated woman who was unabashedly pro-Southern. She harbored an intense dislike of President Lincoln, whom she claims “violated the Constitution at every step, since he declared war. It makes my southern blood boil...” Pearre’s diary offers a compelling commentary on life at the home front during the Civil War.

After the war, Pearre married John Hall Hamilton, who served in the 7th Tennessee Volunteer Infantry, Company H, C.S.A. He had previously proposed to Pearre in 1860, but she did not take his hand in marriage until 1865. The couple started a family in Clinton, Kentucky, but soon returned to Middle Tennessee. Pearre died in Memphis, Tennessee, at the home of her daughter Ida on December 24, 1913.

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