

# A Guide to the Elizabeth Osborne Carter Diary, 1860-1872

Elizabeth Osborne Carter Diary 1860-1872  
1860-1872



A Collection in the Thomas Balch Library SC 0027  
Thomas Balch Library  
2006  
**Author:** Emily Hershman

## History

**Processed by:** Emily Hershman

## Title Statement

A Guide to the Elizabeth Osborne Carter Diary, 1860-1872

**Subtitle:** Elizabeth Osborne Carter Diary

**Collection:** SC 0027

**Author:** Emily Hershman

## Publication Statement

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**Publisher:** Thomas Balch Library

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## Profile Description

**Creation:** Machine-readable finding aid derived from MS Word, created by Beth Schuster, 19 February 2008

**Language Usage:** Description is in English

## Revision Description

**2013-11-21** Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

## Descriptive Summary

**Collection number**

SC 0027

**Language**

English

**Abstract**

The Elizabeth Osborne Carter Diary records various happenings at Oatlands Plantation throughout and after the Civil War.

**Creator**

Elizabeth Osborne Carter

**Extent**

1 item, 247 loose pages

**Repository**

Thomas Balch Library

## Administrative Information

**Access Restrictions**

Collection open for research use only and is not to be copied.

**Use Restrictions**

There are no restrictions.

**Acquisition Information**

Oatlands Plantation, Leesburg, VA

**Preferred Citation**

All requests for copies must be directed to House Manager: Oatlands Historic House and Gardens, 20850 Oatlands Plantation Lane.

## Accruals

2007.0146

## Alternative Form Available

None

## Adjunct Descriptive Data

## Related Material

None

## Bibliography

Elizabeth Osborne Carter Diary (SC 0027), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA. Vertical File, Elizabeth Osborne Lewis Carter, Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

## Other Finding Aid

None

## Biographical Information

Elizabeth Osborne Carter (1796-1885) ran Oatlands Plantation during and the turbulent years of the Civil War. She first married Joseph Lewis (d. 1834), who had served as a Representative in Congress of the Loudoun, Fairfax, Prince William Counties district. After his death, she married George Carter, great-grandson

of wealthy Virginia planter Robert "King" Carter and founder Oatlands. When George Carter, Sr. (1777-1846) passed away, she continued live on the plantation with her two sons during the 1850s and 60s.

Throughout the Civil War, Carter noted movements of troops, nearby battles, and the encampment of Confederate troops on Oatland's grounds in her diary. She continued to live in Loudoun County until her death in 1885.

## Scope and Content

The Elizabeth Osborne Carter Diary records various happenings at Oatlands Plantation throughout and after the Civil War. It is in overall good condition, but is subject to restrictions concerning photocopying-all copies must be obtained from Oatlands Plantation.

The diary begins with Carter's death notice, which praises her generosity during life and describes the circumstances surrounding her death. The first entries date from July 1860, and are particularly concerned with weather and wind direction, livestock sales and purchases, visitors, and trips to Leesburg and Upperville. The diary frequently mentions Carter's son, George Carter, Jr. (n.d.), Dr. Eliason (n.d.), and various members of both the Grayson and Carter families. The Civil War is first mentioned on April 14, 1861. In succeeding entries, she records names of friends and family who have joined the Company of Arlington Heights, making calico shirts for Confederate volunteers, bringing back runaway slaves, and the ransacking of Oatlands by "insolent Yankees." Also mentioned are the Battle of Balls Bluff (1861) and the Battle of Seven Pines (1862). Entries after the war are brief, mainly noting financial transactions and illnesses of family members. The last recorded entry is on October 31, 1872.

The diary is the only item in this collection.

## Contents List

### **Folder 1: One item, 247 loose pages 1860-1872**

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