

**Collection  
SC 0027**

**Elizabeth Osborne Carter Diary  
1860-1872**

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Processed by  
Emily Hershman  
1 November 2007

**Thomas Balch Library  
208 W. Market Street  
Leesburg, VA 20176**

## **USER INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 item, 247 loose pages

COLLECTION DATES: 1860-1872

PROVENANCE: Oatlands Plantation, Leesburg, VA

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

USE RESTRICTIONS: All requests for copies must be directed to House Manager: Oatlands Historic House and Gardens, 20850 Oatlands Plantation Lane, Leesburg, VA 20175

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from Oatlands Historic House and Gardens (see above).

CITE AS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from Oatlands Historic House and Gardens (see above).

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBERS: 2007.0146

NOTES:

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Elizabeth Osborne Carter (1796-1885) ran Oatlands Plantation during and after 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, and Prince William Counties district. After his death, she married George Carter, great-grandson of wealthy Virginia planter Robert "King" Carter and founder of Oatlands. When George Carter, Sr. (1777-1846) passed away, she continued to 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.

Sources:

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

Vertical File, Elizabeth Osborne Lewis Carter, Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

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.

## CONTAINER LIST

One item, 247 loose pages