

**MARY J. ABERLE
Collection**

(Coll. 755: 1 box)
(MICROFILM: MF-)

Mollie Aberle's Day Book. 1874-1876.

A.MS., [30]p. (with photocopy and transcript (typewritten), 20f. (photocopy))

Processed by: Staff, Monica Oliver (intern)

Date: 1996

The day book of Mary J. Aberle (later Walker), a farm girl living near Troy, Kansas, was given to the Kansas State Historical Society by Robert W. King in 1988.

Linear feet of shelf space occupied: .219 (2 $\frac{1}{8}$ in.)

No. of items: 2

There are no restrictions on access to these diaries.

Literary rights have been deeded to the Kansas State Historical Society.

This collection has been arranged to the folder (document) level, described as a single series, listed to the folder (document) level, and cataloged to the collection (series) level. A folder list is appended to this register. This collection has been microfilmed as part of the American Women's Diaries--Western Segment project undertaken by the Academic & Research Library Division of Readex (NewsBank) (MF-).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Relatively little is known about Mary J. Aberle and her family. She was born in Maryland in 1855 to John and Elizabeth A. (perhaps Ann) Aberle. The family probably came to Kansas sometime between June 1859 and June 1860 and settled in Centre Township, Doniphan County, near Troy. Mary--nicknamed "Mollie" and "Mammie"--was one of eight children, the others being Will, Annie, John, George, Franklin, Sarah (Sallie), and Emma. Mammie married Frank Walker and, with her sisters Sarah and Emma, moved to Oklahoma around 1911. The three women bought farms in western Oklahoma between Hydro and Hinton. Frank & Mammie Walker had no children.

Information provided by the collection's donor varies somewhat with the above, which is taken from 1860-1875 census records that are consistent from year to year. According to family tradition, the family's surname was *Eberle*--probably a later spelling--and John Eberle's wife was named Mary Ann; daughter Mary's middle name was Elizabeth, she was born in 1865, and she had four siblings: Will, Annie, Sarah, and Emma. If correct it would make Mary only nine years of age when she began writing the diary; this appears implausible from the journal's handwriting and content.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS

The diary begins in late 1874 and continues through 1876. Though lacking a formal title, the words "Mollie Aberle's Day Book" are inscribed at the top of the second page, giving credence to this spelling of her surname. In it Mary describes the typical farm life in Kansas, including responsibilities and hardships. She writes about the weather and illness and the daily routine and visitors. She includes the recipes for making lye soap and her father's favorite cake. She mentions the Grange and Sunday School as her social activities. On occasion, Mary includes a personal comment on a certain gentleman she fancies or she mentions the fact she is plain and will become an old maid.

The death of her father on March 3, 1876, is one of the final entries. A page entitled "Sayings" concludes the diary.

The original of "Mollie Aberle's Day Book" has been removed and placed in secure storage. A photocopy has been made for reference use.

The other copy of the Day Book is a typewritten transcript on which "Diary of Mammie Eberle [*sic*]" has been inscribed.

Both the original and typescript are included on the microfilm of the collection.

A selected portion of the diary has been published in the article "Grandma May Have Been A Lady but She Worked Like A Dog. So Did Her Daughters! (1874-1876)" in C. Robert Haywood, ed., "A Funnie Place, No Fences" ([Lawrence, Kans.] University of Kansas Division of Continuing Education, ©1992), pp. 131-52 (Kansas State Historical Society Library call number SP 378 Z C767fp p.131).

SUGGESTED CITATION

The suggested citation form for this collection is:

Mary J. Aberle, *Mollie Aberle's Day Book, 1874-1876*, Kansas State Historical Society microfilm

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Folder List

ADDRESS	LOCATOR	DESCRIPTION	DATES	#
	COL. B. F			
	755	1. [MOLLIE ABERLE'S DAY BOOK]	1874-1876	2
078-06-05-01	755.S.S	a. [ORIGINAL]	1874-1876	1
008-14-04-03	755.1.1	b. [PHOTOCOPY]	1874-1876	1
008-14-04-03	755.1.2	2. MAMMIE EBERLE'S DIARY [TRANSCRIPT (TYPEWRITTEN) OF DAY BOOK] ...	1874-1876	1

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS: Col. = collection, B = box, F = folder, # = number of items.

NOTE: S in the box and folder columns indicates the item has been removed to secure storage.

MICROFILM
MF-

[Walker,] Mary J (Aberle), 1865-

Mollie Aberle's day book. 1874-1876.

A.Ms., [30]p. (with transcript (typewritten), 20l. (photocopy))

Microfilm of original in: Mary J. Aberle manuscript collection (no. 755)

Farm girl; of rural Troy, Kan.

Descriptions of farm life, including responsibilities and hardships. Also included are descriptions of the weather, illnesses, the daily routine, visitors, & her social life; recipes; personal comments; and "sayings."

Entries arranged chronologically.

Gift of Robert W. King, 1988.

Information on literary rights available in the repository.

Finding aids available in the repository.

Partially published in: Grandma may have been a lady but she worked like a dog. ... in C. R. Haywood, ed., "A funnie place, no fences" ... 1992. p.131-32 (in *LIBRARY: SP 378 Z C767jp p.131*).

Title from heading above p.[2]. Title on transcript: Diary of Mammie Eberle.