MARY LOUISE PEARRE HAMILTON (1834-1913)
DIARY, 1863-1864, AND PHOTOGRAPHS, 1896 and undated

Prepared by:
Gwynn Thayer
Date completed: May 26, 2010

Edited by:
Cathi Carmack
Date completed: April 19, 2017

Location: VII-M-2
Accession number: 2017-017
Microfilm accession number: 1957

MICROFILMED
SCOPE AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

The Mary Louise Pearre Hamilton diary (1863-1864) was originally loaned to TSLA by James Gordon Hamilton for microfilming as a consequence of the Looking Back at the Civil War in Tennessee digitization project in 2010. The diary was then donated in March 2017. TSLA also holds a transcription of the diary (accession number 2005-020). The photographs that were loaned for microfilming have not been donated and are available on microfilm only.

Mary Louise Pearre was born in 1834, likely in Middle Tennessee, to Joshua W. Pearre and Elizabeth Hulme Pearre. Graduating from the Franklin Female College in Williamson County in June 1858, she worked as a teacher at Mill Creek, Tennessee. Her diary, written during the Civil War and before she married, reflects the personal musings of an educated woman who was unabashedly pro-Southern. She harbored an intense dislike of President Lincoln, whom she claimed “violated the Constitution at every step, since he declared war. It makes my southern blood boil...” The diary offers a compelling commentary on life on the home front during the Civil War.

After the war, Pearre married John Hall Hamilton, who served in Company H, 7th Tennessee Infantry, CSA. 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. They had five children. Pearre died in Memphis, Tennessee, at the home of her daughter Ida, on December 24, 1913.

CONTENTS

1. Mary Louise Pearre Hamilton diary, 1863-1864
2. Photographs (available on microfilm only)
   a. Unidentified Pearre family home
   b. Unidentified Pearre family home
   c. Home of Eleazar Hamilton, Stewarts Ferry Pike
   d. Birthplace home of Mary Louise Pearre, Williamson County
   e. Photograph of Mary Louise Pearre
   f. Photograph of John Hall Hamilton
   g. Photograph of Mary Louise Pearre Hamilton with daughter Ida, June 1896
      (color photocopy is also located with original diary)