

Fort Smith Public Library

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Finding Aid For:	Mary Ann Lynch-Meritt-Castle
Dates:	1857 to 1870
Size:	2 folders; 0.06 linear feet
Creator/Collector:	Mary Ann Lynch-Meritt-Castle
Call Number:	Special Collection (SC)
Language(s):	English
Abstract:	<p>Mary Ann Lynch was born in 1836. She married John Graham Meritt in 1855 until his death in 1864. They had at least three children together. She then married Elihue C. Castle in 1870 and had at least one child. Mary died in 1879 and is buried at the Castle Cemetery in Newburgh, Indiana.</p> <p>The Mary Ann Lynch-Meritt-Castle collection ranges from 1857 to 1870 and contains correspondence, receipts, promissory notes, and a newspaper article..</p>
Subject Terms:	Lynch, Mary Ann Meritt, John G. Castle, Elihu C. Civil War Letters
Access Restrictions:	Collection is open for research.
Copyright:	Copyright restrictions may apply. For further information contact the repository.
Preferred Citation:	[Item], [Series], [Record Group], [Container #], [Collection Name], Fort Smith Public Library, Fort Smith, Arkansas.
Acquisition Information:	Unknown
Repository:	Fort Smith Public Library, Barbara Walker Genealogy and Arkansas History Collection, Fort Smith, Arkansas
Finding Aid Created By:	Rachel Sanford, 2023.
Processing Information:	The items in this collection were sorted into three categories: letters, John Meritt items, and Mary Lynch items. Letters were placed in acrylic polyester sleeves. The collection was processed by Rachel Sanford in July 2023.

Collection Details

Biographical:

1836 Mary Ann Lynch was born.

1855 Mary Lynch married John Graham Meritt in Warrick, Indiana on May 10.

1856 Charles Alphas Meritt was born to Mary and John. He died by 1860.

1858 Emily Meritt was born to Mary and John. She died by 1863.

1863 John Meritt was born to Mary and John.

1863 John Graham Meritt was imprisoned on December 23.

1864 John Graham Meritt died on November 15. John G. Meritt's letters state he was at the military prison in Alton, Illinois. However, Prisoner of War records indicate he was at Camp Douglas in Chicago, Illinois and buried at the Chicago City Cemetery. He might have been at both prisons at one point or another.

1870 Mary Ann Lynch married her second husband, Elihue C. Castle, on June 18 in Warrick, Indiana.

1872 Emma May Castle was born to Mary and Elihue.

1879 Mary Ann Lynch-Meritt-Castle died on April 22 and is buried at Castle Cemetery in Newburgh, Indiana.

Scope and Content:

The records of the Mary Ann Lynch-Meritt-Castle collection include correspondence, promissory notes, physicians receipts, leave of absence notes, passenger receipt, and a newspaper article. The strength of the collection are the letters from 1864 to 1870.

The "Correspondence" series ranges from 1864 to 1870 and includes correspondence with Mary. The letters start with her husband in a military prison. After her husband died, she moved back to Indiana and began receiving letters from friends back in Arkansas. She also received letters from two potential beaus, and one did become her second husband. Almost every letter lists out deaths and marriages along with general happenings in town.

The "Notes and Receipts" series are split into two sections; the biggest is for John G. Meritt, the second is for Mary. John's notes include promissory notes, leave of absence notes, and physician's notes. Mary's items include a passenger receipt and a newspaper article on the Newlands and Meritt Mine in Joplin, Missouri.

System of Arrangement:

This collection is organized into two series: "Series 1. Correspondence" and "Series 2. Notes and Receipts." The records of this series are filed chronologically. Unknown dates were placed in the back of the series.

Collection Inventory

Container 127: Mary Ann Lynch-Meritt-Castle, 1857 to 1870

Series 1: Correspondence, 1863 to 1870

- 1 Correspondence, 1864 to 1870
 1. Correspondence from John G. Meritt to Mary A. Meritt, 1864 June 19
 2. Correspondence from George A. Smith to Mary A Meritt, 1867 December 25
 3. Correspondence from T. G. Phillips to Mary Meritt, 1868 February 9
 4. Correspondence from Mattie Tipton to Mary Meritt, 1868 June 25
 5. Correspondence from T. G. Phillips to Mary Meritt, 1868 August 12
 6. Correspondence from T. G. Phillips to Mary Meritt, 1869 May 10
 7. Correspondence from T. G. Phillips to Mary Meritt, 1869 November 14
 8. Correspondence from Elihu C. Castle to Mary Meritt, 1869 December 8
 9. Correspondence from Elihu C. Castle to Mary Meritt, 1869 December 12
 10. Correspondence from Elihu C. Castle to Mary Meritt, 1870 January 6
 11. Correspondence from Elihu C. Castle to Mary Meritt, 1870 January 16

Series 2: Notes and Receipts, 1857 to 1865

- 2 Meritt Notes and Receipts, 1857 to 1865
 1. Promissory Note: John G. Meritt to G. M. Phelps and Son, 1857 January 19
 2. Promissory Note: John G. Meritt to Bethell and Roberts, 1857 April 4
 3. Promissory Note: John G. Meritt to R. H. Sporkman, 1859 March 1
 4. Promissory Note: John G. Meritt to R. H. Sporkman, 1860 January 2
 5. Promissory Note: John G. Meritt to A. C. Pones, 1961 March 11
 6. Physicians Receipt: John G. Meritt from Dr. R. H. Sporkman, 1861
 7. Promissory Note: John G. Meritt to R. H. Sporkman, 1862 January 1
 8. Physicians Receipt: John G. Meritt from Dr. R. H. Sporkman, 1862
 9. General Orders No. 15, 1863 February 24
 10. Note: From John G. Meritt to C. A. Thompson, 1863 April 24
 11. Leave of Absence Note: John G. Meritt from Andrew Dobbins, 1863 May 22
 12. Leave of Absence Note: John G. Meritt, 1863 October 20
 13. Physicians Receipt: John G. Meritt from Dr. S. S. Dawson, 186?
 14. Passenger Packet Receipt: Mary Meritt, 1865 July 5
 15. Newspaper clipping, Newlands and Merritt Mine, with photo, Joplin Missouri
 16. Envelope that had the newspaper clipping in it. Envelope includes two notes, one on the newspaper, the second about the items that are in this collection and how they were found in Mary's bible.
- 3 Pouch
 1. Leather pouch where everything in this collection was contained.

