



**State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
Tennessee State Library and Archives**

**MICAH ANN GLEAVES TABLER  
DIARY, 1941-1946**

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**COLLECTION SUMMARY**

**Creator:**

Tabler, Micah Ann Gleaves, 1854-1946

**Inclusive Dates:**

1941-1946

**Scope & Content:**

One handwritten volume spanning the period 1941-1946. Typescript is included. It is a narrative of the life of Wilson County native Micah Ann Gleaves Tabler. The journal was a gift from her son, Jesse Trigg Tabler. A date is printed at the top of each page, though it may not reflect the actual date that Micah made an entry. The diary is not chronological; entries for 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, and 1946 occur randomly between the 1941 accounts. Some of the entries for 1945 and 1946 were written by Marie T. Freeman, Micah's granddaughter. Copies of two newspaper clippings (Mrs. Tabler's obituary and an auction notice for the estate of Jesse T. Tabler) are taped in the front of the volume.

While the manuscript was penned during the time of the Second World War, Mrs. Tabler muses more about the American Civil War than the current conflict. When she does discuss World War II, she often compares it to the War Between the States. An example of this can be seen in her entry of January 22, 1941:

We Guys wife & I listened to the inauguration of President Roosevelt for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time on the 20<sup>th</sup> of Jan was pleased tho it must be a fearful undertaking & I believe he realizes it, - I feel he is better informed than an outsider to keep us out of war I hope he relies on the Prince of Peace for guidance more than his oponents & that yet this United States may feel freedom from & not be

unprepared if when war does come to one who recolects tho dimly of the war of the states 1863 when the soldiers were so poorly fed & many of Grey uniforms made at home for I recolect in mothers room when they were made & fit if they could come & the gray cloth "wool jeans" it was called was spun & woven on the farms all around the country. Often lots of soldiers would come miles at night to get a good hot meal and believe me they got it but soon the Yanks came in big numbers & we saw no more of our soldiers...

Tabler also recalls the death of her half-brother, Billy Baird, who was killed at the Battle of Manassas. She was about ten years old when he died.

The main focus of the journal is Mrs. Tabler's memories of home and family life, including how she met her husband (bumping her head on stair steps), her husband's work as a physician, and the births of her children. An entry dated January 26, describing her mother's acceptance of her husband, is especially poignant:

When I visited Wilson Co once in 1834 [1934] I met only a few of my school friends the railroad station Mt Juliet had grown one store post office a mill black smith shop & the school in 1872 I left Mt Juliet taking up a new life, my parting was not a gay & happy one but less than a month Dr. Tabler was called back to a very sick child of an older brother the next farm to mothers & I could not resist going home tho Ide said Ide come when both of us were invited he only took me to the yard as the child was so sick & died after which we went to Ky above Cincinnati for year & half tho Ide been home for a visit went home Dec 1873 and Guy was born Dec 10 - 73 and by this time mother was pleased with her son in law.

The transcription (Box 1, v. 2) is not verbatim as some spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors have been corrected. Dates have been modified to reflect the scribe's actual meaning rather than the written word. Some prose has also been omitted.

The memoir gives insight into the dynastic life of a woman who lived through several wars. Information within its pages could be beneficial to students or researchers studying civilian life in times of war and/or female social roles in the late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Physical Description/Extent:**

1 microfilm reel; 16mm

**Accession/Record Group Number:**

Mf. 2031

**Language:**

English

**Permanent Location:**

Mf. 2031 (available only on microfilm)

**Repository:**

Tennessee State Library and Archives, 403 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee, 37243-0312

**Administrative/Biographical History**

Micah Ann Gleaves was born in Wilson County, Tennessee, on March 3, 1854. She was the daughter of Trigg and Julia (Jennings) Gleaves. According to the 1860 federal census, Trigg was a well-to-do farmer in the Rural Hill community. Five children were living in the Gleaves home: Margaret, John, Micha [sic], Bennett, and Jesse. Micah attended college in Manchester, Tennessee. She married Dr. Jasper Newton Tabler (1842-1917) in Wilson County on August 28, 1872. The couple had four children: Guy Thomas, Eugene, Jesse Trigg, and Mayme A.

During her lifetime, Micah lived in various locations including Nashville, Tennessee; St. Louis, Missouri; Royce City, Texas; Atlanta, Georgia; Alhambra, California; Decatur, Georgia; and Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. She was a member of the Baptist Church. Mrs. Tabler survived her husband, who died in 1917, and all four of her children. At the time of her death, she was residing with her granddaughter, Mrs. Harvey Freeman, in Mt. Juliet. She died on September 3, 1946, at the age of 92. Micah Tabler is buried in the Gleaves Cemetery at Mt. Juliet.

Source: Information in the biographical note was gleaned from various items within the collection and from the following sources:

Tennessee Death Records, 1908-1959. Microfilm. Tennessee State Library and Archives, Roll 9.

Tennessee State Marriages, 1780-2002. Microfilm. Tennessee State Library and Archives.

United States Federal Census, 1860. Microfilm. National Archives and Records Administration, M653.

## **Organization/Arrangement of Materials**

The arrangement of the collection is alphabetical.

## **Conditions of Access and Use**

### **Restrictions on Access:**

No restrictions.

### **Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:**

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## **Index Terms**

### **Personal Names:**

Tabler, Jasper Newton, 1842-1917

Tabler, Micah Ann Gleaves, 1854-1946

### **Subjects:**

American diaries -- 20<sup>th</sup> century

Women -- United States -- Diaries

### **Geographic Names:**

Tennessee -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

United States -- History -- World War, 1939-1945

Virginia -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

### **Document Types:**

Diaries

## **Acquisition and Appraisal**

### **Provenance and Acquisition:**

This collection was loaned to the Tennessee State Library and Archives by J. R. Freeman of Nashville, Tennessee, on September 18, 2012. The collection was microfilmed by TSLA and returned to the lender.

## **Processing and Administrative Information**

### **Preferred Citation:**

Micah Ann Gleaves Tabler Diary, 1941-1946, Tennessee State Library and Archives

### **Processing Information:**

Processing completed by Lori D. Lockhart in October 2012.

### **Existence and Location of Originals:**

Held privately.

### **Electronic Location and Access:**

<http://www.tennessee.gov/tsla/history/manuscripts/findingaids/mf2031.pdf>

## DETAILED COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

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### CONTAINER LIST

| Contents/Item Title | Date      | Box | Volume |
|---------------------|-----------|-----|--------|
| Diary               | 1941-1946 | 1   | 1      |
| Transcript          | 1941-1946 | 1   | 2      |