

# Guide to the **Louisa St. John Diary**

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## COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

This collection contains the typed transcription of a diary written by Louisa St. John of Ithaca from 1852 to 1867. Louisa, born in 1839, was a young woman of a prominent family who in later life became a music teacher. Her family moved several times during her early years, from Ithaca to Philadelphia, to Brooklyn and other places, and back to Ithaca. She was the sister of Henry Ancel St. John, a prominent civil engineer who became the fourth mayor of the City of Ithaca. The diary is interspersed with autobiographical information (e.g. Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, 1852, p.3; Family genealogy [added by county historian] after p.14, etc.) and contains some references to the Civil War.

The original diary was bought by an art dealer from California, who approached an Ithaca historian, (who later became the Tompkins County historian), to edit it for publication in 1982. This copy was donated to The History Center's collection by the county historian.

## CONTAINER LIST

Correspondence of Tompkins County Historian and others concerning diary	Folder 1
Tompkins County Historian's notes on St. John and others	Folder 2
Louisa St. John diary transcript (1852-1860)	Folder 3
Louisa St. John diary transcript (1860-1867)	Folder 4