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### MSS0045. Agnes Wyatt Tucker autograph book finding aid

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**University of Memphis Libraries**  
**Preservation and Special Collections Department**

126 Ned R. McWhorter Library  
Memphis, TN 38152 - 3250  
Phone: (901) 678 - 2210  
E-mail: lib\_sc@memphis.edu

## Agnes Wyatt Tucker autograph book

**Title:** Agnes Wyatt Tucker autograph book  
**Collection No:** MSS.45  
**Extent:** 0.25 cubic feet  
**Inclusive Dates:** 1864-1866

**Abstract:** The collection comprises an autograph album belonging to Agnes Wyatt Tucker (1846-1866) which includes messages from classmates at St. Agnes Academy, Memphis, Tennessee, in 1865, and other people at the time of her confirmation the following year, as well as remembrances after her death.

**Processed by:** John Terreo, January 1980; Gerald Chaudron, April 2015  
**Access:** Open to all researchers.  
**Language:** English  
**Preferred Citation:** Agnes Wyatt Tucker autograph book, Preservation and Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

**Publication date:** April 2015

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## Biographical information

Agnes Wyatt Tucker was born in La Grange, Fayette County, Tennessee, on March 19, 1846, the daughter of Adolphus Fenton Tucker (1815-1879) and Mary Eliza Ruffin Tucker (1818-1846), both originally from Virginia. Agnes was the youngest of six children: Margaret (1835-1857), Sally Ruffin (1838-1906), William, Mary Eliza (1842-1878), and Adolphus Fenton, Jr. (1844-1913). The family appears to have lived in Panola County, Mississippi, during the 1840s because Mary and Adolphus were born there. Agnes possibly attended St. Agnes Academy in Memphis, Tennessee. She died on September 30, 1866, at the home of her brother-in-law, John Donelson Coffee (1838-1874) in Memphis, and was buried in Elmwood Cemetery. Her grandfather, Major William Ruffin (1797-1857), was one of the cemetery's original investors.

Coffee, the grandson of Brigadier General John R. Coffee, Andrew Jackson's Chief of Cavalry during the Indian Wars and the War of 1812, had married Sallie Tucker in 1858. Coffee moved to Panola County, Mississippi to practice law in 1860. After serving in the Civil War, he moved to Arkansas, and died at his plantation, Surrounded Hill, near De Valls Bluff, in Prairie County, in 1874, from gunshot wounds suffered in an argument over attaching some livestock. Sallie subsequently married her sister Mary's husband, Jacob Scudder Galloway (1838-1919), judge of the Probate Court and second circuit court of Shelby County, Tennessee, after Mary died during the Yellow Fever epidemic of 1878.

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## Scope and contents

The autograph album was given to Agnes Tucker by her brother-in-law, John Coffee, in 1864, and seems to have been used by her the following year, possibly when she graduated, to collect autographs and messages from her classmates at Memphis' St. Agnes Academy, including tokens and pressed flora. She also collected illustrations of the wives of British King Henry VIII. There are also messages at the time of her confirmation in 1866. After her death, John Coffee wrote a remembrance of Agnes and included a piece on the history of Elmwood Cemetery by a Mrs. Ford.

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## Subject terms

Autograph albums--United States.  
Tucker, Agnes Wyatt, 1846-1866.

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## Inventory

### Box 1

Autograph album: Belonged to Agnes Wyatt Tucker, 1864-1866.