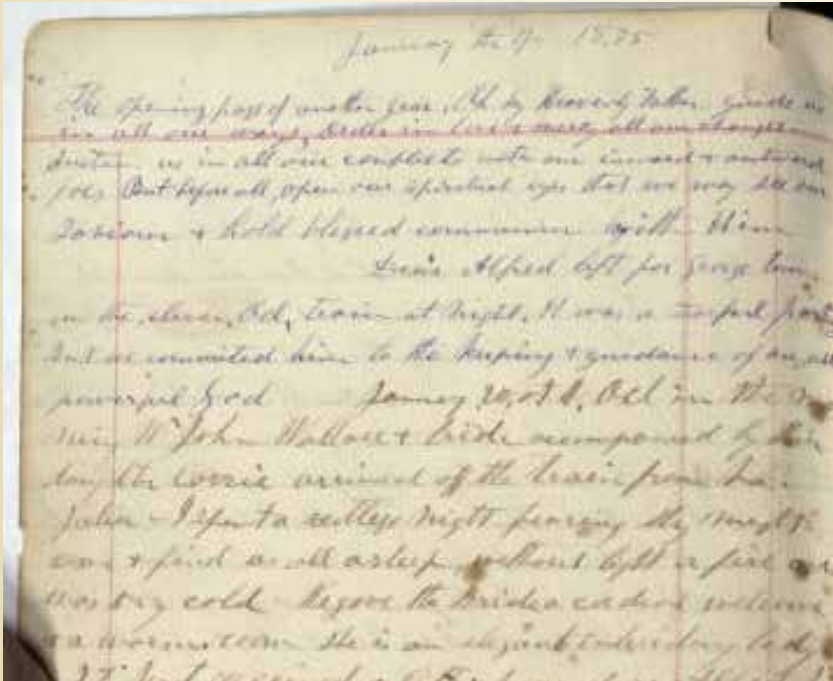


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CIVIL WAR TO CIVIL RIGHTS: ELLEN WALLACE (SLAVE OWNER)



Kentucky Historical Society collections

CHRISTIAN COUNTY — Ellen Wallace was a member of a slave-owning family from Christian County. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Wallace was pro-Union, as were many Western Kentucky slave owners. After the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, Wallace's sympathies turned toward the Confederacy, even though Lincoln's proclamation only applied to the rebelling states.

She chronicled her changing feelings and the lives of her slaves in her diary. Wallace recounted the feelings of her

slaves as they heard about the Emancipation Proclamation and their thoughts of freedom. Those feelings ranged from elation to trepidation, highlighting the uncertainty and promise which freedom held for so many.

Although filtered through the worldview of their white owner, Wallace's diary provides a window into understanding how some of Christian County's enslaved population reacted to the thought of their eventual freedom.

The Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) links Kentuckians with their past via archival collections that document people from every walk of life, reaching back to 1509. Letters, diaries, oral histories and photographs, as well as the first and second Kentucky Constitutions, are included. Find these and other KHS collections online at khscatalog.kyvl.org

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The Kentucky Historical Society is an agency of the
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