

**A0968**

**Ellen Magill Papers, 1837-1887**

137 items

Processed by Melissa Pruneau, March 1999

**REPOSITORY**

Missouri Historical Society Archives

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**DONOR INFORMATION**

The collection was donated by Mrs. Francis L. Deane on July 29, 1975.

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Ellen Rose Magill, the daughter of Dr. Samuel and Rebecca Magill, was born circa 1834 in Missouri and died March 27, 1920. She lived in Florissant all her life. She died in the Old Folks Home located at 6600 Washington Avenue in St. Louis, and was buried at Fee Fee Cemetery at 11210 St. Charles Rock Road.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection consists primarily of letters written to Ellen Magill from family and friends, which mostly discuss family and local news regarding Florissant, St. Louis, and Mexico, Missouri. The collection also contains correspondence relating to a cousin, Lucy Sullivan, whose account at St. Vincent's Institution was paid for by Ellen and Jane Magill; receipts for items and money sent to St. Vincent's Institution; and an account book from a Florissant grocery store, dated 1877.

**The following abbreviations have been used in this finding aid:**

AL Autograph Letter unsigned (an unsigned letter in the hand of the author).

ALS Autograph Letter Signed (a letter entirely in the hand of and signed by the author).

ca. Circa

n.d. No date

n.y. No year

**Folder 1**

- 10 Sept 1837 ALS C. Sullivan, St. Louis, to Elizabeth Sullivan discusses family members and recent travel. 3 pages
- 8 Dec 1837 ALS C. Sullivan, Quincy, Illinois, to Elizabeth Sullivan discusses family members and travel plans. 3 pages
- 24 May 1838 ALS Cornelia Richardson, Rushville, Illinois, to Elizabeth Sullivan discusses her marriage, the death of Cousin Ellen, and family members. 2 pages
- 5 Dec 1842 ALS May Dunlap, Burlington, Iowa, to Elizabeth Sullivan discusses her marriage, her new baby, and family members. 3 pages
- 24 March 1845 ALS Susan Sullivan, Louisville, Kentucky, to David Thomas discusses mutual friends and inquires about information Mr. Thomas is to get regarding Ms. Hay. 2 pages
- 25 April 1845 ALS Betsy B. Sullivan, Pleasant Grove, to Susan Sullivan discusses family members, acquiring proof of Betsy's marriage, and financial matters. 3 pages
- 11 May 1845 ALS R.J. Gates, Louisville, Kentucky, to Susan Sullivan discusses a recent visit, callers who missed her, and family members. 2 pages
- 18 April 1847 ALS Liz Richards, St. Louis, to Aunt Susan Sullivan discusses travel plans, family matters, and the price at which beef is selling. 2 pages
- 27 Aug 1849 ALS R.J. Gates, Louisville, Kentucky, to Susan Sullivan discusses the leasing of lots and the interment of Captain Chambers. 2 pages
- 8 Nov [ca.1850] ALS Jane Magill, St. Louis, to Ellen Magill discusses marriages, Judge Farrar's re-election, Dr. Smith to be superintendent of the asylum, and family news. 4 pages
- 30 Nov 1850 ALS Henry S. Cauthorne, Vincennes, Indiana, to Susan Sullivan discusses the need to prove her marriage to Daniel Sullivan, his death, and the commencement of a suit on her behalf for a dower. 1 page
- ca. 1855 ALS Jane Magill, St. Louis, to Ellen Magill, Florissant, discusses friends and family and describes bonnets. 2 pages
- 26 Sept 1857 ALS C.H. Sullivan, Quincy, Illinois, to Elizabeth Sullivan, Pleasant Grove, discusses family members, plans for travel, and a wedding. 3 pages

**Folder 2**

- 10 March 1858 ALS Susan Hays, Manchester, to Ellen Magill, invitation to her wedding. 1 page

- 21 Jan 1859 ALS Adeline Goss, St. Louis, St. Vincent's Academy, to Ellen Magill, Florissant, discusses marriages, family, and friends. 4 pages
- 4 July 1859 ALS Maggie M. Wherry, "The Wigwam," Boonville, to Mrs. Sullivan discusses the scarcity of beaux. 2 pages
- 27 July 1859 ALS S.E.B. Sullivan, Florissant, to niece discusses carnival, news of the boys in Denver looking for gold, and Dan Sickles restoring his wife to her former position. 4 pages
- 21 Aug 1859 ALS Jane Magill to Ellen Magill discusses relatives looking for gold around Pike's Peak and local news. 4 pages
- 27 Aug 1859 ALS Adeline Goss, Florissant, to Ellen Magill, Florissant, discusses community news and the construction of Brand's new store. 4 pages
- 19 Sept 1859 ALS Jane Magill, Florissant, to Ellen Magill, Mexico, Missouri, discusses social activities, wedding, friends, and the destruction of the Mullanphy house. 2 pages
- 1 Oct 1859 ALS Elizabeth Sullivan to niece discusses family and friends. 4 pages
- 19 Oct 1859 ALS Elizabeth Sullivan to Ella discusses family members and friends. 2 pages
- 1 Aug 1860 ALS Jane Magill, Florissant, to Ellen Magill discusses the Barret-Blair congressional campaign, a parade, the Wide-Awakes, and local news. 4 pages
- 2 Aug 1860 ALS Jane Magill, Florissant, to Ellen Magill discusses social calls, family news, and some children in town dying of brain-fever. 3 pages
- 5 Aug 1860 ALS Elizabeth B. Sullivan to Ella discusses the purchase of the Costello farm, Wherry-Scott case, and election activities. 4 pages
- 12 Aug 1860 ALS Jane Magill, Florissant, to Ella discusses local news and hotel fire. 2 pages
- 19 Aug 1860 ALS Jane Magill, Florissant, to Ellen Magill, Mexico, Missouri, discusses news of friends, family, and lack of rain. 4 pages
- 11 Sept 1860 ALS Elizabeth B. Sullivan, Apple Grove, to nieces discusses family news. 3 pages
- 21 Sept 1860 ALS Ella Magill, Audrain County, to aunt discusses family members, friends, Captain Harper's speech to the Prince of Wales, and travel plans. 4 pages

- 23 Sept 1860 ALS Jane Magill to Ella discusses her health and family members. 2 pages
- 27 Sept [ca.1860] ALS Rebecca Sullivan to nieces discusses Lucy's illness, marriages, and Ellen Martin's Academy. 2 pages
- 28 Sept [ca.1860] ALS Elizabeth Sullivan to nieces discusses grandma's illness and family. 4 pages
- 28 Oct 1860 ALS Jane Magill, Florissant, to Ella Magill, Mexico, Missouri, discusses family members, Judge Bowlin's canvassing for president, and crops. 4 pages
- Folder 3**  
ca. 1862 ALS A.J. Harper to Jane discusses preservation of the union, an invitation to visit, and family news. 2 pages
- 1 Jan 1862 ALS Jane Magill, Florissant, to Ella discusses New Year's activities, organization of a police force, curfew, and an eclipse. 6 pages
- 19 Jan 1862 ALS Jane Magill to Ella discusses social activities, weather, and the burning of Dr. Walker's Negro cabins. 4 pages
- 26 Jan 1862 ALS Jane Magill, Florissant, to Ella discusses the scarcity of paper and the abolishment of the pass system. 2 pages
- 16 June 1862 ALS Jane Magill, St. Ferdinand, to Ella discusses relatives and friends at Pike's Peak and marriages. 4 pages
- 27 Oct 1862 ALS L.E.R., Audrain County, to Ella Magill, Florissant, discusses the abuse of the church by soldiers, order regarding flags over all public buildings, marriages, food shortages, Judge Harrison running for legislature, and Lackland running for judge. 6 pages
- 24 Dec 1862 AL Ellen Magill, Audrain County, to Ella Magill, Florissant, discusses Christmas Eve activities and plans for a New Year's party. 4 pages
- 1 March 1863 ALS E.B. Sullivan, St. Louis County, to Ella Magill discusses high prices, family members, and friends. 4 pages
- June ca.1863 ALS L.E.R., Audrain County, to Ellen discusses grandma's health, high prices, and plans for a visit. 4 pages
- 17 Sept 1863 ALS L.E. Rose, Audrain County, to Ella discusses grandma's health and news of friends. 6 pages
- [18 Oct 1863] ALS M. Milburn, Fort Madison, Iowa, to Ella discusses the death of Betsy Sullivan and Canderburgh to Griswold College. 3 pages

- ca. 1864 ALS L.E. Rose, Audrain County, to Ella discusses grandma's worsening health. 1 page
- 10 Jan 1864 ALS L.E. Rose to Ella discusses grandma's health, scarcity of wood, and social calls. 4 pages
- 12 May 1864 ALS L.E. Rose to Ella discusses grandma's health and social calls. 3 pages
- 21 May 1864 ALS L.E. Rose to Ella discusses the health of grandma and father and news of friends. 4 pages
- 25 June 1864 ALS E.H. Rose, Mexico, Missouri, to Captain Harper discusses arrangements for the upcoming visit of Mrs. Sullivan. 1 page
- ca. 1865 ALS Ella to Ellen discusses births, local news, lack of letters, and the new post office at Baden. 2 pages
- 12 June 1865 ALS Jane Magill, Audrain County, to Ella Magill, Florissant, discusses the suffering of the women in Southern states to supply their army. 3 pages
- 5 Nov 1865 ALS Ella, Florissant, to Ellen discusses marriages, family members, and scarcity of stamps. 3 pages
- 26 Nov 1865 ALS Ella, St. Louis, to Ellen discusses social activities, marriages, and local news. 3 pages
- 9 Dec 1865 ALS Ella, near Ferguson Depot, to Ellen discusses friends, family members, and the medicine man. 3 pages
- 31 Dec 1865 ALS Ella, Ferguson Depot, to Ellen discusses family members, her birthday, and the auction of their belongings. 3 pages
- 1 Jan 1866 ALS Ella to Ellen discusses New Year's activities, burning of Menke's Hotel, and plans to leave town. 2 pages
- 5 Feb 1866 ALS Jane Magill, Florissant, to Ella discusses going to school at the convent and local news. 3 pages
- 28 April 1866 ALS Ellen Magill, St. Louis, to Ellen discusses President Johnson in the papers, local news, deaths, and the weather. 3 pages
- 7 June 1866 ALS Ellen Magill, St. Louis County, to Ellen discusses deaths, news of Will in Pike's Peak, and the weather. 3 pages
- 4 Oct 1866 ALS Ella Magill, St. Louis, to Ellen discusses marriages, illnesses, deaths, social activities, and local news. 3 pages

**Folder 4**

- 15 Jan 1867 ALS Ella and Nannie Walker, St. Louis County, to Ellen discusses plans to visit and marriages. 4 pages
- 18 Jan 1867 ALS Ellen Magill to Ellen discusses the weather and illness. 3 pages
- 22 Feb 1867 ALS Ellen, Mexico, Missouri, to Ella discusses illness, setting up housekeeping, and church news. 4 pages
- 24 Sept 1867 ALS W.H. Lee, Mexico, Missouri, to Ellen Magill, Florissant, discusses an offer for a teaching position. 2 pages
- 15 Nov 1867 ALS L. Walker, St. Louis, to Ella discusses friends and plans for a visit. 2 pages
- 9 Jan [ca. 1868] ALS A.J. Harper, Ferguson, to Ellen discusses her trip to Cuba and news of family and friends. 2 pages
- 19 Jan 1868 ALS Maria, St. Louis, to Ellen discusses her health and city life. 4 pages
- 3 Feb 1868 ALS Jane, St. Joseph, to Ellen discusses life in St. Joseph, social activities, and friends. 4 pages
- 20 Feb 1868 ALS A.J. Harper, Desengano, to Ellen discusses the education of Andrew, activities in Cuba, and plans to visit Havana. 6 pages
- 1 March 1868 ALS Jane Magill, Florissant, to Ella discusses meeting of city council to decide about the railroad and streetlights, deaths, and plans for a telegraph. 4 pages
- 5 March [1868] ALS Jane Magill, St. Joseph, to Ella discusses the sending of some photos and a wealthy widower. 4 pages
- 28 April [ca. 1868] ALS A.J. Harper, Hazelridge, to Ellen discusses her trip from Cuba, plans to visit, and Jane's joining the Episcopal church. 4 pages
- 13 Dec [ca. 1868] ALS A.J. Harper, Ferguson, to Ellen discusses family and friends. 2 pages
- 12 Jan 1869 ALS Mary and Willie, St. Joseph, to Ella and note of Jane Magill to Ella discusses social activities in St. Joseph. 4 pages
- 28 March 1869 ALS Ellen, Mexico, Missouri, to Ella discusses life in Mexico, marriages, babies, and new banks. 2 pages
- 5 April 1869 ALS A. Bright, Audrain County, to Ella Magill, Florissant, discusses the offer of a teaching position. 2 pages

- 11 April [1869] ALS Ellen Rose, Mexico, Missouri, to Ella [Magill] discusses improvements to the house. 4 pages
- 16 April 1869 ALS Ellen, Mexico, Missouri, to Ellen discusses new styles, local news, and a hairpiece. 4 pages
- 11 Nov [1870] ALS Jane Magill, St. Louis, to Ella Magill, Mexico, Missouri, discusses family news. 2 pages
- Folder 5**
- 5 Feb 1871 ALS Ellen, Mexico, Missouri, to Ella Magill, Florissant, discusses friends, dresses, and an invitation to visit. 4 pages
- 30 Oct 1871 ALS Ellen Rose, Mexico, Missouri, to Ella discusses weddings, a divorce, deaths, and local news. 4 pages
- 24 Nov 1871 ALS Ellen, Mexico, Missouri, to Ella Magill, Florissant, discusses sickness in the community, Methodist meeting, and deaths. 4 pages
- 1 Jan 1872 ALS Ella Rose to Ella Magill, Florissant, discusses lawsuits filed against the Sullivan estate and weddings. 4 pages
- 28 Sept 1872 ALS Ellen, Mexico, Missouri, to Ella discusses plans to go to the St. Louis Fair, local news, and many deaths of children. 4 pages
- 15 Feb 1873 ALS Adaline, Bridgeton, to Ellen, Florissant, discusses smallpox in Florissant, beaux, family, and local news. 3 pages
- 5 March 1873 ALS Ellen Magill, Florissant, to Cousin Mary discusses sickness, deaths, plans for a railway from Florissant to St. Louis, and a wedding. 3 pages
- 16 May 1873 ALS M.E. Smith, Fulton, Missouri, to Ellen discusses plans to visit. 4 pages
- 15 July 1873 ALS M.E. Smith, State Asylum, Missouri, to Ellen Magill, Florissant, discusses cholera in St. Louis, improvements to the asylum, and details of a trip. 4 pages
- 22 April 1874 ALS L.E. Rose, Audrain County, to Ellen [Magill] discusses news of friends and family. 4 pages
- 18 July 1875 ALS Ellen, Mexico, Missouri, to Ella discusses weddings and social activities. 2 pages
- 16 Dec 1875 ALS M.E. Smith, Fulton, Missouri, to Ellen discusses family news, Andrew going to Kemper School, deaths, and Luther as bookkeeper of the asylum. 2 pages

- 20 Aug 1876 ALS M.E. Smith, Fulton, Missouri, to Ellen Magill, Florissant, discusses invitation to visit and other visitors. 4 pages
- 1877 Account book of Ellen and Jane Magill with Chas. Griese, dry goods and grocery store, Florissant. 21 pages
- 13 May 1877 ALS Ellen, Mexico, Missouri, to Ellen, Florissant, discusses family news and plans for a visit. 4 pages
- March 1879 Bill of St. Vincent's Institution to Ellen Magill for the care of Lucy Sullivan. 1 page
- 18 March 1879 ALS Sister M. Julia, St. Vincent's Institution, to Ellen Magill discusses Lucy's need for clothing and the status of her account. 1 page
- 15 May 1879 ALS Sister M. Julia, St. Vincent's Institution, to Ellen Magill, receipt for payment and request to settle her account. 1 page
- 15 Aug 1879 ALS Sister M. Julia, St. Vincent's Institution, to Ellen Magill, receipt for payment on her account. 1 page
- 18 Sept 1879 Union and Kansas Pacific Express receipt for Ellen Magill for currency sent to Madam Maria Julia, St. Vincent's Insane Asylum, St. Louis. 1 page
- 19 Sept 1879 ALS Sister M. Julia, St. Vincent's Institution, to Ellen Magill, receipt for payment on her account. 1 page
- 30 Oct 1879 ALS Ellen, Mexico, Missouri, to Ellen, Florissant, discusses a recent visit, weddings, and family news. 3 pages
- 11 Nov 1879 Union and Kansas Pacific Express receipt for Ellen Magill for currency sent to Madam Maria Julia, St. Vincent's Insane Asylum, St. Louis. 1 page
- 12 Nov 1879 ALS Sister M. Julia, St. Vincent's Institution, to Ellen Magill, receipt for payment on her account. 1 page
- 5 Jan 1880 Union and Kansas Pacific Express receipt for Ellen Magill for currency sent to Madam Maria Julia, St. Vincent's Insane Asylum, St. Louis. 1 page
- 29 Jan 1880 Union and Kansas Pacific Express receipt for Ellen Magill for currency sent to Madam Maria Julia, St. Vincent's Insane Asylum, St. Louis. 1 page
- 13 March 1880 Union and Kansas Pacific Express receipt for Ellen Magill for currency sent to Madam Maria Julia, St. Vincent's Insane Asylum, St. Louis. 1 page
- 15 March 1880 ALS Sister M. Julia, St. Vincent's Institution, to Ellen Magill, receipt of payment for her account. 1 page



July 1880 Bill of St. Vincent's Institution to Ellen Magill for the care of Lucy Sullivan. 1 page

28 Oct 1880 Union and Kansas Pacific Express receipt for Ellen Magill for currency sent to Madam Maria Julia, St. Vincent's Insane Asylum, St. Louis. 1 page

11 Dec 1880 ALS Sister M. Julia, St. Vincent's Institution, to Ellen Magill receipt of payment for her account. 1 page

10 Feb 1881 ALS J.H. Britton, National Bank of the State of Missouri, St. Louis, to Ellen Magill discusses money she will get from Arthur J. Harper's estate. 1 page

15 Feb 1881 ALS J.H. Britton, National Bank of the State of Missouri, St. Louis, to Ellen Magill discusses the money she will get from the estate of Arthur J. Harper. 1 page

26 Feb 1881 Union and Kansas Pacific Express receipt for Ellen Magill for currency sent to Madam Maria Julia, St. Vincent's Insane Asylum, St. Louis. 1 page

28 Feb 1881 ALS Sister M. Julia, St. Vincent's Institution, to Ellen Magill, receipt of payment for her account. 1 page

13 Dec 1881 ALS Sister M. Julia, St. Vincent's Institution, to Ellen Magill discusses the need to transfer Lucy to the State [city] Asylum due to the poor status of the account. 2 pages

4 March 1882 ALS Sister Rosalia, St. Vincent's Institution, to Ellen Magill discusses Lucy's clothing. 1 page

7 Jan 1883 ALS Ellen, St. Louis, to Ella Magill, Florissant, discusses marriages and local news. 2 pages

20 Dec 1883 ALS Jane Magill, St. Louis, to Ella discusses her work at St. Vincent's. 2 pages

1 Jan 1884 ALS Ellen to Ella discusses city life, illness, and plans to move. 2 pages

6 Jan 1884 ALS Ellen, Estill, to Ella discusses a job offer she is passing on. 1 page

13 July 1884 ALS Ellen, Estill, Howard County, to Ella discusses fires in Mexico, Missouri, and a teaching job in Kansas. 2 pages

9 Nov [1884] ALS Ellen, St. Louis, to Ella discusses bad living conditions for a teacher in Kansas and election excitement. 4 pages

29 Aug 1885 ALS L.E. Rose, St. Louis, to Ellen discusses the Grant procession, news of her job and family, and local news. 4 pages

- 27 Sept 1885 ALS L.E. Rose, St. Louis, to Ellen Magill, Florissant, discusses going to the exposition, Gilmore Band, and family news. 2 pages
- 15 Jan 1887 ALS Jane Magill, St. Louis, to Ella discusses Dr. Outten and Dr. Walker's plans to build a private hospital and news of friends. 4 pages
- 17 March 1887 ALS Jane Magill, St. Louis, to Ella discusses St. Patrick's Day parade and that St. Louis did not get the convention this year. 4 pages
- 17 June 1887 Receipt of St. Vincent's Institution to E. Magill and E. Rose, includes the funeral expenses of Lucy Sullivan. 1 page
- Folder 6**
- 8 Jan n.y. ALS M.F. Smith, St. Louis, to Ellen discusses an invitation to visit. 2 pages
- 27 Feb n.y. ALS Jane Magill, Florissant, to Ella discusses a funeral at College Church and local news. 2 pages
- 3 July n.y. ALS E. Sullivan, Ferguson Depot, to Ella discusses illness of ma and plans for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. 4 pages
- 5 July n.y. ALS Jane Magill, Audrain County, to Ella discusses the exposition, social activities, and local news. 7 pages
- 27 July n.y. ALS Jane Magill, Audrain County, to Ella, St. Louis, discusses local news and deaths. 3 pages
- 12 Aug n.y. ALS A.J. Harper, Hazelridge, to Ellen discusses family members and plans for a visit. 2 pages
- 23 Nov n.y. ALS A.J. Harper to Ellen discusses plans for a visit. 2 pages
- n.d. AL to Mr. G. Gates, Louisville, Kentucky, discusses land deals. 2 pages
- n.d. ALS A.J. Harper to Ellen Magill discusses an invitation to visit. 2 pages
- n.d. Manuscript verses titled "A Dress of the Queen" and "To the Blessed Virgin." 2 pages