



State of Tennessee  
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**Tennessee State Library and Archives**  
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Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**HOWELL, ISABEL ELLIOTT**  
**(1839-1868)**  
**PAPERS**  
**1850-1868**

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## INTRODUCTION

The Isabel Elliott Howell Papers (1850-1868) are centered around Isabel Elliott Howell (1839-1868) and other family members. The Isabel Elliott Howell papers are a gift from Katherine O. Adams, Jacksonville, Florida

The materials in this finding aid measure .42 linear feet. Single photocopies of the Isabel Elliott Howell Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Isabel Elliott Howell Papers containing approximately 100 items, spans the period 1850-1868. The collection consists of correspondence, genealogical data, newspapers, an obituary, printed materials, school records and writings.

Isabel Elliott (1839-1868), educated at female institutes in North Carolina and Virginia, was a teacher before her marriage in 1858 to Morton Boyte Howell (1834-1909), a member of the prominent Howell family of Virginia and Tennessee. The correspondence is largely from Isabel's uncle guardian, George W. Elliott (ca.1821-1868), an officer in the United States Navy. Serving on several American ships on the Great Lakes, in South American waters and in the Mediterranean, Elliott's letters describe various ports-of-call. Other correspondence is largely from other family members.

Genealogical data is on the Elliott family. *The Nashville Dispatch* and *Republican Banner* newspapers include death notices for Robert B. Crawford Howell, a son of Isabel and Morton Howell, in 1863 and Isabel (Elliott) Howell in 1868. The obituary is actually a death notice for George W. Elliott, previously cited. The school records of Isabel Elliott Howell generally consist of her essays, examinations and a set of school rules of Richmond (Virginia) Female Institute. Among the writings is a general listing of the correspondence in the collection.

Additional information on Isabel Elliott Howell may be found in the Morton Boyte Howell Papers, 1799-1960 in the Tennessee State Library and Archives (see Manuscript Accession numbers 68-8, 157, 477, 685, 687, 920, 1752, ).

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

### **ISABEL HOWARD ELLIOTT HOWELL**

- 1839 February 24, born in Hampton, Virginia, the daughter of Bailey T. and Susan Tabb Elliott
- 1853 Entered Chowan Female Institute, Murfreesboro, North Carolina
- 1855 Began teaching music at Rappahannock Institute, Brunington, King and Queen County, Virginia
- 1856 Entered Richmond Female Institute, Richmond, Virginia
- 1858 Resumed teaching at Rappahannock Institute
- 1858 November 18, married Morton Howell
- 1868 April 13, died in Nashville, Tennessee

## CONTAINER LIST

### **Box 1**

1. Correspondence -- \_\_\_\_\_, May Lizzie - Blackman
2. Correspondence – Elliott, George W.
3. Correspondence – Elliott, George W.
4. Correspondence – Elliott, George W.
5. Correspondence – Elliott, George W.
6. Correspondence – Elliott, John – Elliott, Malvina Tabb
7. Correspondence – Garlick
8. Correspondence – Howell, Belle (Elliott) – Howell, Morton B.
9. Correspondence – Manley - Vaughan
10. Genealogical data – Elliott family
11. Newspapers – *The Nashville Dispatch*, September 8, 1863
12. Newspapers – *Republican Banner*, April 14, 1868
13. Obituary – George W. Elliott (ca. 1821-1848)
14. Printed materials – Chowan Female Collegiate Institute, n. d. (copy)
15. Programs – Commencement – Richmond Female Institute, June 25, 1857
16. School records – Account – Elliott, Belle, 1857
17. School records – Essay – “Butler’s Analogy” – Elliott, Belle, n.d.
18. School records – Essay – “Christianity”-- Elliott, Belle, n.d.
19. School records – Essay – “Job 6:20” – Elliott, Belle, n.d.
20. School records – Essay – “Language” – Elliott, Belle, n.d.
21. School records – Essay – “Milton’s Lost Paradise” – Elliott, Belle, n.d.
22. School records – Examination – Algebra – Elliott, George B., 1857
23. School records – General rules of Richmond Female Institute, n.d.
24. School records – Mathematics – (Elliott, Belle ), n.d.
25. Writings – “The Belle, the Blue and the Woman” – Elliott, Belle, n.d.
26. Writings – Inventory of collection correspondence, n.d.
27. Writings – “.... Moral Discipline” – Elliott, Belle, n.d.
28. Writings – “Music” – Elliott, Belle, n.d.
29. Writings – “[Women’s Minds] – Elliott, Belle, n.d.
30. Writings – “Women’s Rights” – Elliott, Belle, n.d.

## NAME INDEX

This is a name index of the correspondence in the Isabel Elliott Howell Papers with dates of the letters and information regarding their contents. The figures in parentheses denote the number of letters, if more than one. The last numbers refer to the box and folder in which the materials are to be found.

- \_\_\_\_\_, May Lizzie to George B. Elliott, n.d., re: Bailey's death, 1-1
- Blackman, T. L. to "Mrs. Elliott," 1868, re: friendship and family news, 1-1
- Elliott, George B. (8) to Belle (Elliott) Howell, 1855-1859, re: personal and school news from Hampton, Virginia and the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, 1-2
- Elliott, George B. (3) to Susan Elliott, 1868, re: his travels from Nashville to Canada via New York and Niagara Falls, 1-3
- Elliott, George W. (50) to Isabel (Elliott) Howell, 1851-1862, re: urging her to consult dictionary to improve spelling; cruising around the Great Lakes on a naval ship; pleased to learn Belle is in Chowan Female Institute at Murfreesboro; mentions his chronic bad health; received report from Mr. Garlick, the schoolmaster; storm at sea and frightening voyage around Valparaiso; change of ships from *John Adams* to the U. S. frigate *Independence*; the beauty of the ladies of Lima, Peru and the city; sailing into Hilo, Hawaii; viewing the hideous sights of the volcano; learned of anxiety at home thinking his ship was lost at sea; advice on Washington navy yard; visited the city of Washington; devastation of Hampton, Virginia due to the looting and vandalism during the war; transferred to the ship *Macedonia*; visiting various ports in the Mediterranean; desire to send Lizzie a slave; difficulties with her mother Susan; ready to turn his interest of the estate over to Mr. Howell; happy to learn that Belle is comfortably situated at housekeeping in Nashville; received a letter from Crow at the University; Italian ladies ready to accompany him to America; carnival noise in the Catholic countries; sightseeing in Naples; arrived at Portsmouth, N. H.; now at home; hopes to get John a machine shop in Philadelphia; describes destruction of roads and bridges on return trip from Nashville; waiting for decision of Virginia to secede from Union; concern for family and friends; news of John Tabb's death; detached from steamer *Michigan* to U. S. *Cayane* to Panama; in Valparaiso, Chile, having not received any mail for months; ill with dyspepsia and sore throat; almost killed in a bad fall; receipt of family letters describing difficulties and destruction of war; now in Panama, New Granada; learns that brother Frank now home from war; sent money to Frank and brother John to buy supplies and a draft of \$100. to Belle, 1-4
- Elliott, George W. to George B. Elliott, 1867, re: refers to Belle's illness; the death Bailey, "a great fatality among the horses' in the country, 1-5
- Elliott, John H. to Isabel (Elliott) Howell, 1860, re: family and personal news, 1-6

Elliott, Melvina (Tabb) (2) to Isabel (Elliott) Howell, 1869, re: death of George W. Elliott, her beloved uncle, 1-6

Elliott, Melvina (Tabb) to Susan (Tabb) Elliott, 1868, re: death of Susan's daughter, Isabel (Elliott ) Howell, 1-6

Garlick, J. R. (4) to George W. Elliott, 1853-1855, re: Belle's progress in school at Chowan's Institute and Rappahannock, 1-7

Howell, Belle (Elliott) (2) to George B. Elliott, 1860, 1861, re: thanks for nice picture; family news, 1-8

Howell, Isabel (Elliott) to (Susan Tabb Elliott), n.d., re: family news; expresses concern about her mother's health, 1-8

Howell, Morton B. to Mrs. Susan Elliott, 1861, re: her impending trip to Nashville to visit with Belle, Mr. Howell and their two children; prices are inflationary; family news, 1-8

Manly, B., Jr. to Susan (Tabb) Elliott, 1857, re: tuition payment mistakes, 1-7

Taylor, Elizabeth to Susan (Tabb) Elliott, 1856, re: family news, 1-9

Vaughan, Alex to Susan (Tabb) Elliott, 1868 re: sympathy at Belle's death, 1-9