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### Belitha Powell papers, 1862-1875

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#### Recommended Citation

Belitha Powell papers, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

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# **Belitha Powell papers**

## **MS.000164**

**Finding aid prepared by the Arkansas State Archives**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

March 10, 2020

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Arkansas State Archives
<b>Title</b>	Belitha Powell papers
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1862-1875
<b>Extent</b>	0.4 Cubic feet 1 box
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Language of Materials</b>	Material entirely in English.

### Preferred Citation

Belitha Powell papers, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

## **Biographical/Historical Note**

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Belitha Powell was a noted Houston, Texas, physician who served as a surgeon and medical director for the Confederate Army during the Civil War. He was born May 3, 1832, in Berlin, Maryland, and died June 13, 1893, in Houston, Texas. As the son of a ship owner, he made several sea voyages to Central and South America before choosing to study medicine in Philadelphia. He received his degree in 1853 and moved to Monroe, Louisiana, during the height of a yellow fever epidemic. In 1857, he married the former Sallie E. Harvey of Louisiana, and they had three daughters and one son.

Dr. Powell enlisted at the outbreak of the Civil War and became a major in the 4th Battalion, Louisiana Infantry. He was transferred to the Trans-Mississippi Department in late October 1862 and charged with overseeing all hospitals in this theater (Missouri, Arkansas, Texas, the Indian Territory, and Louisiana); he was also promoted to medical director for a large military hospital in Mount Lebanon, Louisiana.

When the war ended, Powell relocated his family to Houston, Texas, and established a new practice in the midst of another yellow fever epidemic. He also served as the surgeon for the Texas Central Railroad after its establishment in 1879. He retired in 1892, died a year later, and is buried in Houston's Glenwood Cemetery.

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## **Scope and Contents**

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This collection contains Belitha Powell's Civil War diary with biographical data and other material. The diary reflects his period of enlistment from May 21- October 26, 1862, during which time he was stationed at Camp Mercer, Georgia; Camp Van Dorn, Georgia (located near Savannah); Charleston, South Carolina; and James Island, South Carolina.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Arkansas State Archives 02/12/2010

### **Conditions Governing Access**

This collection is open for research use.

### **Conditions Governing Use**

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### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Alice Powell Green, Little Rock, Arkansas.

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## **Related Materials**

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### **Separated Materials**

Photographs transferred to general photograph file #5256.

Artifact transferred to museum collection.

## Collection Inventory

1. Diary of Belitha Powell, Major, 4th Battalion, Louisiana Infantry, Confederate States Army, 1862  
May 21-October 26

2. Biographical information, Belitha Powell

3. "The Campaign of Walker's Texas Division" by J.P. Blessington, 1875