



## The Sarah Cockrell Collection

A.43.40

### Finding aid

#### Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** The Cockrell family

**Title:** Sarah Cockrell Collection

**Dates:** 1850-1945

**Quantity:** 1 box

**Abstract:** The Sarah Cockrell Collection contains an assortment of personal and professional correspondence, photographs, and newspaper clippings.

**Identification:** A.43.40

**Location:** The archives at the Dallas Historical Society

**Language:** The materials are in English.

**Repository:** Dallas Historical Society

#### Biographical Sketch

Known as Dallas's first capitalist, Sarah Horton Cockrell was born in Virginia on January 13, 1819, to Enoch and Martha Horton. In 1844, Sarah moved to Texas, and after her marriage to Alexander Cockrell in 1847, became a resident of Dallas County. Alexander's business endeavors included a construction business, sawmill, gristmill, and rental space for business firms – all of which Sarah contributed to by maintaining the records, managing the finances, and handling correspondence.

After her husband's death in 1858, Sarah took over his many businesses, and in 1859 she opened the St. Nicholas Hotel, which later became the St. Charles. Sarah's most significant contribution to the city of Dallas was arguably the construction of an iron suspension bridge across the Trinity River in 1872. At the time, the bridge connected Dallas with all major roads south and west.

Throughout the rest of her life, Sarah's various entrepreneurial ventures would include buying and selling real estate to railroads, businesses, churches, and individuals residing in Dallas. By 1892, Sarah owned approximately one-fourth of downtown Dallas, as well as several thousand acres in Dallas County and smaller properties outside the county. In 1868, Sarah became a member of the Dallas County Agricultural Mechanical Association, one of only four women among its 100 or so male members.

Sarah Horton Cockrell died on April 26, 1892. Today, she is remembered not just as a leader in business, but also as a mother known for her generous and charitable

contributions to many charitable causes including the building of the First Methodist Church at Ross Avenue and Harwood Street in Dallas.

Source: Enstam, Elizabeth York, "Cockrell, Sarah Horton (1819-1892)", *Handbook of Texas*, accessed on April 25, 2022,  
<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/cockrell-sarah-horton>

### Scope and Contents Note

This collection contains documents pertaining to the life of Sarah Horton Cockrell. Files include handwritten and typed correspondence, both personal and professional, as well as an assortment of legal documents and relevant newspaper clippings. There are also original photographs and copies, birth records, stock certificates, deeds, and funeral notices.

### Arrangement

The collection is (mostly) in chronological order.

### Restrictions

#### Access Restrictions

The Collection is open for research, by appointment only.

#### Use Restrictions

Standard copyright restrictions apply.

### Related Material

M.43.40  
A.43.40.os

### Separated Material

A.43.40.os

### Other Finding Aids

NA

### Index Terms

**Subjects (Persons):** Sarah Cockrell and family

**Places:** Dallas Texas

**Document Types:** Archival, maps, and photographs

<b>Administrative Information</b>
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**Preferred Citation**

The archives of the Dallas Historical Society

**Acquisition Information:**

The collection was a Donation.

**Processing Information:**

Finding aid authors; Yaima Villarreal and Chris Bohannon

<b>Description of Series</b>
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The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection/papers/records.

Box #	Folder #	Title/Description	Date
1	A.43.40.1	Frank M. Cockrell at Bryan Springs (photos)	1930
	A.43.40.2	Sarah Horton Cockrell's Bridge	
	A.43.40.3.1	Record of births	
	A.43.40.4	Correspondence	1860s
	A.43.40.5	Correspondence, deeds, and contracts	1890s
	A.43.40.6.1	Newspaper clippings	1900s
	A.43.40.7.1	Funeral notices	
	A.43.40.8	Deeds	1880s
	A.43.40.9	Miscellaneous envelopes	
	A.43.40.10	Photostat of J.N. Bryan Letter to A. Cockrell	1856
	A.43.40.11	Copies of photos and correspondence	1945
	A.43.40.12	Correspondence, funeral notices, and accounting records	1850s-1860s
	A.43.40.13	Newspaper clippings	
	A.43.40.14	Information concerning George W. Guess memorandum of Alex Cockrell I and Desc.	
	A.43.40.15	Deeds, correspondence, and accounting records	1870s
	A.43.40.16	Promissory note	1862
	A.43.40.17	Newspaper clippings and correspondence	1880-1900s, undated
	A.43.40.18	Funeral notices and accounting records	1870s

	A.43.40.19	Photostats used in "History of Early Dallas"	
	A.43.40.20	Dallas Bridge papers	1850s-1870s
	A.43.40.21	Newspaper clippings from 20s and 30s • Re: Beemans, 1860 Fire, Cattle, Schools	
	A.43.40.22	Photographs – remnants of abutment of Alexander Cockrell's 1854 bridge across the Trinity River	Taken in 1929
	A.43.40.23	Envelopes with color illustration of New State House hotel, Waco	1912
	A.43.40.24	Correspondence and newspaper clippings	
	A.43.40.25	Correspondence	1929-1933, undated
	A.43.40.26	Correspondence	1850s-1860s, 1927
	A.43.40.27	Cockrell Photos – used in Frank Cockrell's book History of Early Dallas	
	A.43.40.28	Letter of explanation concerning kettle	1944
	A.43.40.29	Fire insurance	
	A.43.40.30	List of changes in History of Early Dallas	
	A.43.40.31	Newspaper clippings	
	A.43.40.32	Legal records and correspondence	
	A.43.40.33	Questionnaires	
	A.43.40.34	Todd Milling Co. stock certificates	
	A.43.40.35	Legal records, correspondence	1932, undated
	A.43.40.36	RR Stock	
	A.43.40.37	Sarah Horton Cockrell's Bridge (this is a copy, not an original)	
	A.43.40.38	Standard Club booklet	