Eliza Chew Mason (1798 - 1874)

Separated by Choice and War

Growing up, Eliza Chew had all the comforts of wealth and status. The comfort continued when she married James Murray Mason (1798-1871), a wealthy and prominent proslavery politician from Winchester, Virginia, and started their family of eight children. During the Civil War, Mason's service for the Confederacy brought the family to England in search of British support for the Southern cause. After the war, the Masons fled the United States to Canada, living as exiles, separating Eliza from her siblings and placing the family under financial hardships. Correspondences between Eliza and her sister Anne Sophia Penn Chew (1805-1892) in 1866-67 illuminate a desire to be together again and sorrow and loss in the aftermath of the Civil War.

below: **1870 Census**

Page No. 33 — Inquiries numbered 7, 16, and 17 are not to be asked in respect to infants. Inquiries numbered 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 19, and 20 are [illegible] merely by an affirmative mark, as /.

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in Falls Church Township, in the County of Fairfax, State of Virginia, enumerated by me on the 7th day of July, 1870.

Post Office: Fairfax Co. House — J. M. Foster, Ass't Marshal.

	Dwelling-houses, numbered in the order of visitation.	Families, numbered in the order of visitation.	The name of every person whose place of abode on the first day of June, 1870, was in this family.	Description: Age at last birth-day. If under 1 year, give months in fractions, thus, $\frac{1}{12}$.	Sex.—Males (M.), Females (F.)	Color.—Whites (W.), Black (B.), Mulatto (M.), Chinese (C.), Indian (I.)	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male or female.	Value of Real Estate owned: Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.	Place of Birth, naming State or Territory of U. S.; or the Country, if of foreign birth.	Parentage: Father of foreign birth.	Mother of foreign birth.	If born within the year, state month (Jan., Feb., &c.)	If married within the year, state month (Jan., Feb., &c.)	Attended school within the year.	Education: Cannot read.	Cannot write.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	Constitutional Relations: Male Citizens of U. S. of 21 years of age and upwards.	Male Citizens of U. S. of 21 years of age and upwards, whose right to vote is denied or abridged on other grounds than rebellion or other crime.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
36	237	234	Mason James M	71	M	W	Farmer	9000	22000	D. C.									1	1
37			— Eliza	71	F	W	Keeping House	15000	5000	Penn.										
38			— Virginia	36	F	W	At Home			Va										
39			— Eliza	33	F	W	At Home			Va										
40			Binde Mary Agnes	21	F	W	Domestic Servant			Canada	1	1								
1			Patterson Jane	32	F	W	Seamstress			Ireland	1	1								
2			Somebey Hannah	35	F	B	Domestic Servant			Va							1	V		
3			Davis James	14	M	B	Domestic Servant			Va							1	V		
4			Dalglish James	30	M	W	Gardner			Scotland	1	1								1
5			Sebastian Richard	58	M	W	Farm Hand			Va									1	
6	238	235	— Anna M	54	F	W	Keeping House			D. C.										
7			— John W	17	M	W	At Home			Va					1					
8			— Robert Lee	8	M	W	At Home			Va										