

JAMES ALLISON (1830-1914)
DIARIES (1853-1914)
51 volumes

1978-043

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Born in Dublin, NH March 31, 1830, James Allison was a farmer and prominent in town affairs. He represented the Dublin area in the NH General Court. He was a selectman in all but three years from 1870-1886, and was moderator in 1878, 1880, and 1881. Allison also served on the school committee for a total of eighteen years, covering most of the period from 1886-1906.

March 9, 1854 he married Sarah Jane Darracott. They had nine children. She died in May of 1878 and he married Betsey Maria Darracott, Sarah's sister, in December of the same year. In March 1898 he sold his farm and rented the empty Unitarian parsonage while building a house in the village, which he occupied in June 1899.

It will be noted that there are no entries after March 24, 1914 (other than the temperature on the 25th and 26th). On March 25th James Allison got overheated while chopping firewood and got a chill which developed into pneumonia. He was too ill to make an entry for that day or the days following. He died on March 31, 1914.

The children are listed as follows:

William Andrew, b. May 14, 1855; d. Oct. 5, 1862
Annie Maria, b. March 7, 1859
Flora Gertrude, b. April 2, 1860, m. Edward Ropper
John Learned, b. Aug. 3, 1861, m. Emily Blanchard Ware
Emma Jane, b. March 1864, m. Frank H. Weston
James Francis, b. March 29, 1865
Henry Darracott, b. Feb. 2, 1869, m. Florence Mason
Edwin Sherman, b. Aug. 19, 1871
Mabel Persis, b. March 26, 1874, m. Percy S. Brayton

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The 51 Allison diaries begin in 1853 with entries recording the weather, quality and prices of crops, accounts, and problems of loosing weight. The volumes are small in size and the entries are brief, reflecting activities of importance to a successful farmer, town official, and father of nine children.

Entries relate frequent visitors to the farm, stages in adding to the house, and the progress of the hay crops. Allison ran a large maple syrup/sugar operation (1887 was a very good year).

He worked extensively on the roads, breaking out in the winter and surfacing and repairing bridges with oxen in the spring.

Allison noted frequent visits to Keene, to Doctor Loveland, the children's dentist. Most of his children were well educated with the girls going to Plymouth, one boy to Dartmouth and one to Bryant & Stratton Business College in Boston.