



Guide to the James Allison Diaries, 1853-1914

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

James Allison Diaries, 1853-1914

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

Collection Number:

1978.043

Author of Finding Aid:

Unidentified; reformatted by Nancy J. Keane

Creator:

Allison, James, 1830-1914

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

52 volumes in 3 boxes ; 1.04 linear feet

Abstract:

James Allison was born on March 31, 1830. James was a farmer and prominent in town affairs. He represented the Dublin area in the New Hampshire General Court. His diaries begin in 1853 and deal with everyday problems, such as the price of crops and losing weight.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The James Allison Diaries were a gift of Theodore Brayton on November 21, 1978. The 1879 diary was a gift of the Dublin Historical Society on January 17, 1997.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by an unknown person at an unknown date. The finding aid was written by an unknown person at an unknown date and reformatted by Nancy J. Keane in February 2020. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Access Restrictions:

Available for research.

Location:

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

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Preferred Citation:

Item title, James Allison Diaries, 1978.043. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH.
Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

Born in Dublin, NH, on March 13, 1830, son of Eli and Persis (Learned) Allison, James Allison was a farmer and prominent in town affairs. He represented the Dublin area in the New Hampshire General Court in 1873 and 1874. He was a selectman in all but three years from 1870 to 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 1886-1906 period.

On March 9, 1854, he married Sarah Jane Darracott, daughter of William and Julia (Johnson) Darracot, born May 27, 1837 in Dublin, NH. They had nine children. She died on May 1, 1878 and he married Betsey Maria Darracott, Sarah's sister, in December of the same year. Betsey died July 10, 1880 in Dublin. 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 became 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. October 5, 1862
Annie Maria, b. March 7, 1859; d. 1944
Flora Gertrude, b. April 2, 1860, m. Edward Roper
John Learned, b. August 3, 1861, m. Myrtle Aurilla Pratt
Emma Jane, b. March 1864, m. Frank H. Weston
James Francis, b. March 29, 1865, m. Emily Blanchard Ware
Henry Darracott, b. February 2, 1869, m. Florence Mason
Edwin Sherman, b. August 19, 1871, m. Anna Isidore Clark
Mabel Persis, b. March 26, 1874, m. Percy Shields Brayton

Collection Scope and Content Note:

James Allison's diaries begin in 1853 with entries recording the weather, quality, and prices of crops, accounts, and problems losing 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. 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 and to Doctor Loveland, the children's dentist. He also discusses his children's education with the girls going to Plymouth, one boy to Dartmouth, and one to Bryant and Stratton Business College in Boston.

Arrangement:

The materials in this collection are arranged chronologically.

Contents List

Box 1

Volume 1 Memorandum, 1853, 1854, 1855
Volume 2 Memorandum, 1856-1857
Volume 3 Memorandum, 1858
Volume 4 Diary, 1861
Volume 5 Diary, 1864
Volume 6 Diary, 1865
Volume 7 Diary, 1869
Volume 8 Diary, 1870
Volume 9 Diary, 1871

Box 2

Volume 10 Diary, 1872
Volume 11 Diary, 1873

Volume 12 Diary, 1874
Volume 13 Diary, 1875
Volume 14 Diary, 1876
Volume 15 Diary, 1877
Volume 16 Diary, 1878
Volume 17 Diary, 1879
Volume 18 Diary, 1880
Volume 19 Diary, 1881
Volume 20 Diary, 1882
Volume 21 Diary, 1883
Volume 22 Diary, 1884
Volume 23 Diary, 1885
Volume 24 Diary, 1886
Volume 25 Diary, 1887
Volume 26 Diary, 1888
Volume 27 Diary, 1889
Volume 28 Diary, 1890
Volume 29 Diary, 1891
Volume 30 Diary, 1892
Volume 31 Diary, 1893

Box 3

Volume 32 Diary, 1894
Volume 33 Diary, 1895
Volume 34 Diary, 1896
Volume 35 Diary, 1897
Volume 36 Diary, 1898
Volume 37 Diary, 1899
Volume 38 Diary, 1900
Volume 39 Diary, 1901
Volume 40 Diary, 1902
Volume 41 Diary, 1903
Volume 42 Diary, 1904
Volume 43 Diary, 1905
Volume 44 Diary, 1906
Volume 45 Diary, 1907
Volume 46 Diary, 1908
Volume 47 Diary, 1909
Volume 48 Diary, 1910
Volume 49 Diary, 1911
Volume 50 Diary, 1912
Volume 51 Diary, 1913
Volume 52 Diary, 1914

Subject Terms

People:

Allison, James, 1830-1914

Subjects:

Diaries

Education

Farm life

Medicine--Practice

Slavery

Locations:

Dublin, NH

Occupations:

Farmer

Politician

Related Materials

Library

Allison, Henry Darracott. *Dublin Days, Old and New: New Hampshire Fact and Fancy*. New York : Exposition Press, [1952]. Call number: 977.8b D8146aL

McCollester, Sullivan Holman. *Reminiscences Connected with the Life of James Allison*. Cambridge, Mass. : The University Press. Call number: 920 A4384