

Sturgis Library Archives

Genealogy and Personal Manuscripts Collection

Diary of a Nantucket Woman (Mary Coffin?), 1877-1880

MS. 38

Extent: 1 item (diary)

Scope and Contents Note: Brown leather-bound diary with marbled boards, 8 1/16 x 6 5/8 x 1/2", 108 pages; daily entries handwritten in graphite, with some in blue pen and ink. First entry is January 1877 and last entry is December 1880. Entries describe weather, vegetable gardening, visitors, family and friends, and family events (funerals and marriages). The person most frequently referred to is "Ed," which may have been the author's husband, but others include Avis Macy, Uncle Edward Hussy, Aunt Delia, Herbert Coffin, Dr. Coffin, Uncle Reuben, and Etta. Author mentions New Bedford and New York City connections, as well as the Baptist Church, Water Street, Sean Foam House (restaurant), and the Methodist Rustic Cottages, among other subjects. The source of the Mary Coffin identification is from the auction house, and is not confirmed.

Access: Unrestricted. Credit Sturgis Library Archives for publication.

Acquisition: Purchased at auction, Robert Eldred Auctioneers, Dennis, MA, July 1994.

Processed: Judy Farrar, February 2006.