

**Sturgis Library Archives
Town and Local History Collection**

Ambrose Everett Pratt Diaries
MS. 119

Extent: 1 box.

Scope and Content Note: The collection consists of nine handwritten diaries belonging to Ambrose Everett Pratt. The diaries represent the years 1920, 1923, 1925, 1927, 1928, 1929, 193, 1934, and 1936.

Historical and Biographical Information: Ambrose Everett Pratt was born February 29th, 1883, in Sandwich, Mass. He married Ida Louise Whittemore, born August 3rd, 1861, in Sandwich, daughter to Ebenezer Stowell and Mary Louise (Murray) Whittemore. Ida's father Ebenezer ran a very active legal practice with offices in Boston and in Sandwich on Cape Cod. He was very active in local politics and later in life was a driving force in the Cape Cod Historical Society. [Sturgis Library has the diaries of Ebenezer Whittemore in its archival collections, MS. 66.]

Ambrose Pratt removed with his parents to Lawrence Massachusetts. He learned the drug business, in which he became engaged, in 1881, at Sandwich, Mass. In 1886, he "took up" journalism, representing Boston and New York newspapers on Cape Cod. During the presidency of Grover Cleveland, he was stationed for four summers at Buzzard's Bay, "covering the movements of the President." From 1895 to 1901, he occupied the position of private secretary, at different intervals, to Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, and Congressmen Simpkins, Greene and Sprague. Starting in 1901 he was confidential secretary to Mrs. Edward D. Brandegee, formerly wife of Congressman Sprague. He was also an editor and publisher of the Brookline Press. Ida and Ambrose had two children, Lora and Everlard.

The diaries relate his everyday life, work, his family, traveling, including all around Cape Cod, ships and ship wrecks, weather and much more. Though many of the entries are factual in nature, he does take time for introspection as evidenced by this entry: "August 3rd, 1934. Ida's birthday. How happy we have been with all our trials. A devoted and loving wife to me all these years and I am afraid I do not appreciate this fact as much as I should."

Access: Unrestricted. Credit Sturgis Library Archives for publication purposes.

Acquisition: Purchased on ebay, December 2014 from seller named "Diaries."

Related collections: Sturgis Library Archives MS 66. Ebenezer S. Whittemore Diaries.

Processed by: Lucy Loomis, January 2015.

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