

Sturgis Library Archives

William W. Sturgis Daybook, 1853 – 1856 MS. 155

Extent: 1 folder in multi-folder box

Scope and Content Note: The collection consists of the small leatherbound daybook of William W.[Winship] Sturgis, with entries from 1853 to 1856. He includes notations about debts owed and paid, information about his livestock, and other entries. He lists the names of many other locals with whom he did business.

On the inside endpaper there is writing in a different hand dated 1801 about pasturing livestock. The first 10 or so pages of this daybook are missing. It may be that the book originally belonged to William W. Sturgis' father, and William removed the earlier pages so that he could record his own business transactions.

Historical and Biographical Information: William Winship Sturgis was born in Barnstable in the area now known as Cummaquid in 1800. His father was Eben Sturgis. They resided in the historic Sturgis Homestead, built in 1690 by John Dimmock and acquired in 1709 by Samuel Sturgis. He was a farmer by trade and was an award-winning livestock man. (In 1883 he raised an ox that weight over 1,300 pounds.) Sturgis lived to be 91, and was said to be “as bright and chipper as much younger men.” He died of pneumonia of January 21. 1891.

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

Acquisition: Donated by Glen B. Skillin of Brunswick, ME in 2016.

Processed by: Lucy Loomis, Library Director, November 2019.

Contents:

- 1 leather-bound daybook in folder in multi-folder box.
- Map indicating location of 1690 Sturgis Homestead
- Images of the homestead
- Excerpts of articles from the Barnstable Patriot and Yarmouth Register regarding William W. Sturgis