

Field, Alfred R. (1815-1870)  
"Autobiography."

1 vol.            manuscript            26 cm

Brief (11 pages) reminiscence, covering the period 1815-1863, written by a well-known civil engineer. A note indicates that this personal account was begun in 1857. Born in Northfield, MA, Field describes working on his father George's farm, and his early education at common schools and Northfield Academy. He later taught school in Warwick and Concord, MA before taking a position in the Boston engineering firm of James Heywood. In 1839, Field traveled west to Danville, IL, where he worked with Arthur W. Hoyt of Deerfield, surveying for the railroad. Field was appointed assistant engineer for the Vermont & Mass. Railroad in 1845, and did surveys and other work for railroads throughout New England, New York and New Jersey. Field settled in Greenfield, MA, in 1849 where he lived for the remainder of his life. He mentions, but does not elaborate on, many of the public offices he held. These included selectman, assessor, Franklin Co. commissioner, and state representative (1858-1861). Field was killed in a railroad accident on June 9, 1870, roughly seven years after he discontinued his autobiography.

Diary Collection - Field