

Elijah Spencer Fuller (1827-1859)  
Farm Journal; Deerfield, MA, May 1857-August 1859

1 vol.            Mss.            32 cm

This journal chronicles farm work at “The Bars” in the Wapping section of Deerfield, and includes notes on crops, business transactions, family activities, and local news. Farm work was shared between the children of Aaron Fuller Sr., some of whom were adults in the 1850’s, and various farm hands. The farm hands mentioned include Edward Chappel, David Crowley, “Irish Dan,” Jim Allen, Mike Tainter, and Edward Childs. The Fullers grew many kinds of produce: potatoes, cabbage, carrots, pumpkins, broom corn, rye, oats, Indian corn, popcorn, water melon, and squash. Aaron Sr. introduced the cultivation of cranberries to the area. Everyday work on the farm consisted of sawing wood, planting crops, digging ditches, and constantly moving “muck” from the wetlands to the crop fields. Several entries discuss the price and use of guano as fertilizer, and experiments of applying it to various crops. Other entries discuss grafting apple trees.

Elijah Spencer Fuller (b. 1827) kept the journal until his death on January 13, 1859. One of his brothers continued the journal, and wrote a detailed description of Elijah’s later life and death. Elijah had been suffering from a “lung disease,” but had largely recovered after returning from a trip to New Mexico and Mexico in 1854-1855. Also noted throughout the journal is Aaron Fuller Sr.’s year-long battle with an illness that led to his death in June 1859.

Shelved in Fuller/Higginson papers, Box 125