

Crawford, Robert (1804-1896)

Diary, vol. 1:1879, Deerfield; vol. 2: Jan. 1, 1884-Oct. 19, 1896 Deerfield (Cheapside) and Clinton, Conn., 1879; 1884-1896

2 vol. manuscript 20 cm

Vol. 1 contains account of a sea voyage from Boston to England, May5-21, 1852.

Note: Minister at the "Orthodox Society" in Deerfield, an elderly gentleman who viewed the world from the perspective of an evangelical, conservative Congregationalist. Vol. 1 is most useful for Deerfield history. Crawford was active in politics, the temperance movement, and the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Assn. (frequently commenting on lectures heard). Attended an exhibit at Dickinson Hall where he saw a telephone, phonograph and microphone. Described a female temperance lecturer, saying she "would make a fine Lady Macbeth." Provides a lively and vividly descriptive account of the ocean voyage. Vol. 2 is chiefly interesting as a diary written by a very old, but active, retired minister; his reading habits, his conservative theology, his opinions of Henry Ward Beecher, Dwight L. Moody, the social gospel movement, etc. Includes interesting descriptions of evangelical churches in Franklin County, Champagne, Ill., and Topsfield, Mass. Diary concludes in Clinton, Conn. Very well-written throughout.

Sheldon II; 806-7.