

Dickinson, Rebecca (b. 1738)

Diary, July 22, 1787-Apr. 5, 1795 [extracts]. Hatfield, Mass., 1787-1795

1 gathering of loose sheets manuscript 25 cm

Extracts of diary by "Aunt Beck" (Rebecca Dickinson of Hatfield) copied by Margaret Miller. In envelope in Margaret Miller Papers; photocopy in diary box
For further information, see Daniel Wells' *History of Hatfield*, p. 390; Marla Miller, "*My part Alone*": *The World of Rebecca Dickinson, 1787-1802*.

Note: Excellent source, even in extract form, for late 18th-century social, cultural and architectural history in Hatfield. The diarist, who is usually discursive for the period, describes marriages, funerals, musical events, a hanging, clothing and accessories (she wore spectacles, for instance) and religious activities. She was a lonely, introspective single woman (a gown-maker) who reflects on her own unhappy love life, respective roles of men and women, former amours, even dreams... "this morning was more lonesome than a cat how wee are made for sosity." Diary includes descriptions of ministers such as Timothy Woodbridge and Joseph Lyman, and other prominent figures, including Col. Israel Williams and Oliver Partridge. Material also includes excerpts from the diary printed in the *New York Evening Post*, Jan. 9, 1892.