

Hoyt, Epaphras (1765-1850)
Journal, Feb.-May, 1801

2 vols. manuscript 16 cm

Account of a journey from Deerfield, Mass. to Phelps, N.Y. and back; most of the journal was written in the Geneva-Phelps region.

Sheldon II:215-216

In Hoyt Family Papers, Papers of Epaphras Hoyt, Box 2

Note: A very important source for anyone interested in the Genessee County area and in central New York in the days before the major canals. From his New England Federalist-Unitarian perspective, Hoyt describes exhaustively the religious, agricultural, political, cultural and commercial life of the Genessee region. He also discusses origins of the settlers, suggesting for instance, a large number of immigrants from Conway. Hoyt made observations concerning the Sandemanians, lunar eclipse, and the cultural life and domestic economy of the local Indians. He was also an antiquarian describing early Indian earthworks and French forts. He collected shells from Seneca Lake for "the Museum at Deerfield." Hoyt also opened up a store in Geneva and seriously considered going into trade permanently in western New York.