

Sheldon, George (1818-1916)

Diary, Apr. 2, 1860-July 12, 1867; "A Sort of a record of Farm operation Local events & Micelanus [sic] matters generally commenced on the day of Fathers death."

Deerfield, Mass., 1860-1867

1 vol. manuscript 40 cm

Sheldon II:300.

Note: Excellent source for Deerfield social, cultural and political history during the Civil War period. Primarily an agricultural diary with very detailed information on crops (oats, corn, wheat, rye, garden vegetables, tobacco), planting and harvesting, livestock, orchards, and farm tools. Diary shows Sheldon's activities as a Republican politician, insurance agent, surveyor, historian, and antiquarian. Includes a long account of his part in the struggle to prevent the annexation of Cheapside by Greenfield; information on interior and exterior repairs and renovation in the Sheldon house; use of Wapping school as a meeting place for political caucuses; decorations on the First Church at Christmas; Sheldon's relationship with the Reverend James K. Hosmer; and Sheldon's war-time activities. Some quotes: Nov. 30, 1862 "I am 44 years old today and feel 20 years older at least—which I never shall be." Dec. 22 & 23, 1865 "Moved into the south rooms. Moved bed down stairs."