

Wilson, Mary (Hoyt) (1809-1841)
Diary, Aug. 17, 1826-Mar.15, 1828. Deerfield, Mass.

1vol. manuscript 19.5 cm

Sheldon II:389

Note: Diary of the 17-year-old daughter of Col. John Wilson, one of Deerfield's leading citizens. A rich social portrait, particularly of the activities of young women from Deerfield's social aristocracy (particularly Susan Willard). Describes social and domestic life at the Wilson home in East Deerfield. Mentions singing school, the Reading Society, and social events at Dr. Goodhue's, Dr. W. S. Williams's, Rev. Willard's, Ephraim Williams's, and Col. Stebbins'. Describes a semester at the Academy. "Papa told me this morning that if I was a mind to I might begin and go to the academy tomorrow which I readily assented to...." She studied chemistry, astronomy and painting. Various books that she read are mentioned, including Benjamin Silliman's *Tour*. The diary includes several interesting entries such as Louise Tenney's school at Bloody Brook, Governor Lincoln's visit to review the militia, and a description of a crowded steamboat (the "Barnet"?) plying its way up the Connecticut, with "a bugle a playing." Mary boarded at the home of Widow Lucy Wells (wife of Quartus), when in Deerfield Center.

Wilson Family Papers, Box 1 folder 11a