

Allen, Josiah (1814-1895)

Diaries: *vol. 1*: Nov. 5, 1844-Sept. 30, 1847; *vol. 2*, Oct. 1, 1847-Aug. 9, 1855; *vol. 3*: Aug. 10, 1855-June 30, 1861; *vol. 4*: July 1, 1861-Sept. 30, 1865; *vol. 5*: Oct. 1, 1865-Apr. 30, 1873; *vol. 6*: May 1, 1873-Dec. 31, 1882; *vol. 7*: Jan. 2, 1892-March 8, 1895.
[Deerfield, Mass., 1844-1895]

7 vols. manuscript 15.5 to 21 cm

Note: A series of diaries kept by an educated farmer living in the Wapping section of Deerfield. The initial diary commences after the death of his father, Eliel Allen, in the same volume in which Eliel had kept as a diary (see entry for Eliel Allen for additional information). In addition to recording weather and discussing crops, Josiah Allen briefly comments on a wide variety of local events. Active in Deerfield cultural and social affairs, Allen attended lectures, concerts, fairs, and Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Assoc. meetings, and was active in the First Congregational Church. He noted such events as the ringing of church bells when Richmond was captured in April, 1865, the ceremony when the Indian House door was returned from Boston, the burning of the Connecticut River railroad bridge at Cheapside, and a demonstration of a new mowing machine in Greenfield. Allen frequently mentioned trips to Greenfield where he traded agricultural products for goods. As clerk and moderator of the Wapping School District in the 1860s and 70s, Allen often recorded matters connected with the school. Allen was the father of Frances S. and Mary E. Allen, the famous Deerfield photographers. The activities of the two women often appear in the diaries. He stated, for example, that his daughters had a severe case of the "mumps" in the winter of 1873 (possible contributing to their eventual deafness), and that he added a skylight to his house "for photography."