

Allen, Mary Electa (1854-1941)

Diaries, May 1912-Sept. 1913; Oct. 1913-July 1914;  
April -Oct 1916; Oct. 1916-April 1918; April 7-Aug. 4, 1918. Deerfield,  
Mass.; Calif.; Oregon; Washington State; British Columbia.

5 vols.                      manuscript                      sizes vary

Diaries kept by a former school teacher during the latter half of her life in Deerfield. Along with her sister, Frances Stebbins Allen, Mary Allen became a well-known photographer. Her diaries frequently mention Frances and other family members, and discuss local events, social visits, "rides" she takes, their photographic work, and the weather. In 1912 and 1916, she participated in Deerfield pageants, held on the Allen's homelot. She makes note of meetings of the Village Improvement Society, Church remodeling, meetings of the Monday Club, local art exhibitions, reading to George Sheldon just before his death, the Presidential election of 1917, buying Liberty bonds and the formation of a Home Defense Committee, and the influx of tourists in the village. One diary, kept in 1916, records a trip to California and the West coast that she made with Frances, Louise Allen, and Clara Ziegler, then continues in Deerfield.

In Allen Family Papers, Box 3

See Suzanne Flynt, *The Allen Sisters* (2002) for information on her career as a photographer.