

Hoyt, Elihu (1771-1833)

Journal, Nov. 11, 1820-Jan. 10, 1821. Boston, 1820-1821.

1vol. manuscript 20 cm

Kept during the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention of 1820.

Sheldon II:216

In Hoyt Family Papers, Elihu Hoyt Papers, Box 6

Note: A journal in which the daily proceedings of the constitutional convention were informally, but carefully recorded. The journal conveys as much of the scene, the tedium and excitement, the ladies at the gallery, as the substance. Hoyt's efforts to defend the interests of Deerfield, a small declining town, are recorded. The journal also describes his life outside the convention, attending and commenting on all the great pulpit orators, Everett, Channing, Ward, and Palfrey. The great men at the convention are described: John Adams – "looks old and venerable"; Daniel Webster – "discovered powers of speech beyond my faculty to describe." Appended is a May 23, 1821 list recording the popular vote on the 14 articles submitted to the people.