

Putnam, Elsie M. (1864-1949)  
Diary. South Deerfield, Mass., Jan. 1- Dec. 31, 1888

1vol. manuscript 21cm

Record of family matters, social activities, and church services.

Note: Putnam moved with her parents (Elbridge and Emily Melendy Putnam) from Cleveland, Ohio, to South Deerfield at the age of two. She lived the remainder of her life in the town. Her diary, kept while she was a single woman, primarily records family matters, social events, and church services. Putnam taught school at the Green River School in Greenfield at the time of the diary, but mentions it infrequently. She appears to also have worked as a laundress. Occasionally she traveled, and describes a trip to New York City and a visit to a cotton mill in Webster, Mass. Putnam led an active life. She was a member of the Congregational Church, the Women's Club, the Ladies Aid Society, and the Garden Club – although only her church activities appear in the diary. In 1902, she became a founding member of the South Deerfield Needlework Club, and served as its first Secretary/Treasurer. The Club's record book, kept by Putnam and others, is stored in the Deerfield Town Papers, Societies & Associations, Box 10. Putnam also served as correspondent for the *Springfield Republican* and *Springfield Daily News*. She married late in life, becoming Mrs. Edwin Fairbank in 1914. She is buried in Brookside Cemetery, South Deerfield.