

Willard, Mary (1812-1895)

“Anecdotes and Reminiscences. A Small ‘Labor of Love,’ Undertaken for the Special Benefit of Mary Willard Lincoln by her Aunt, Mary Willard. The Pinckney, Boston, June 18, 1892.”

1 vol. manuscript 20 cm

Reminiscence roughly covering the period 1822-1870. Mary Willard, daughter of the Rev. Samuel Willard and Susanna Barker Willard, was born in Deerfield and spent nearly all of her life there. Miss Willard, who wrote articles and poems, kept a number of diaries that she unfortunately chose to destroy. Although not strictly a diary, her “Anecdotes and reminiscences ...” records a great deal of information about local events and people. Written for her niece, the volume’s contents primarily concern the members of Miss Willard’s family and their activities. Particular attention is paid to her father’s tenure as minister of the First Church of Deerfield (Brick Church), including a detailed description of the church interior, and sermons preached there. Miss Willard also comments on such diverse topics as stagecoaches, Deerfield houses, music, cats, and diseases. A transcription is also available.

In Willard Family Papers, Box 1, folder 3