

Parker, W. A.

Diary, Oct. 3, 1882-Sept. 23, 1888. Lowell and Tewksbury, MA

7 vols. mss 13 cm

Diaries written by a single woman, a schoolteacher in the Lowell area in the 1880s. A detailed and readable first-rate source for women's history. The author is a desperate, lonely person who, between occasional work as a teacher, seeks employment at the mills, works as a store clerk, dressmaker's assistant, female companion, and pea-picker. Continually moving from one boarding house to another, she spends her spare time attending gospel tent revivals, prayer meetings, temperance lectures, circuses, balloon ascensions, and even blunders into a spiritualist meeting. Also provides some insights into local education during the 1880s.

Shelved in the Diary Collection