

Stebbins, Benjamin Z. Jr. (1865-1950)
Journal 1881. Deerfield (Wapping Section)

Mss. 1 vol.

Diary for the year 1881, when Benjamin was 16 years old. He was the son of Benjamin and Marion (Childs) Stebbins.

His diary speaks of his school days at Dickinson Academy, the courses he took, his exams, and the books he bought. It also tells of his part helping his father do farm work, which included raising tobacco, corn, and potatoes, and the implements used as such tasks such as ploughing, carting, worming, haying, berrying and planting.

He speaks of attending church and Sunday School and the ministers who preached along with several events he attended like fairs, the circus, and the Wapping Farmer's club meeting. He goes on short trips to Greenfield and Northampton, fetches the mail, gets his hair cut, goes to the dentist and purchases some clothing. The weather is mentioned almost daily, which is prevalent in any farming journal.

Included are some funerals Benjamin attended, and the shooting of President Garfield recorded on Sept 2nd and his death on the 25th. He speaks of the death of his brother Fred, on Dec. 15th and elaborates on this in the Memoranda section of the diary. He tells of the shooting of a Catholic Priest on Dec. 4th along with the burning of the Cheapside R.R. Bridge on Sept. 20th. And lastly, he includes the officers elected to town in 1881, recorded in the Memoranda section.

Gift of David Svendsen

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Subject headings:

Education or school
Agriculture or Farming
Weather
Social Events
Deaths or disastrous events