Name of collection: Clapp, David, Journal, 1820-1824

Location: Misc. Mss. Boxes "C"

Size of collection: 1 folder, 1 item (36 pp.)

Finding aids:

For biography of Clapp, see Ebenezer Clapp, The Clapp Family in America (Boston: David Clapp & Son, 1876), pp. 249-52. The Mass. Historical Society possesses a privately printed (1904) diary of David Clapp, 13 May 1822 - May 1824. A copy of this work, which is entitled The Journal of David Clapp, Kept While Learning his Trade in the Printing Office of John Cotton..., is also in the AAS library.

Source of collection:
Purchased from Donald B. Homes, 1963

Collection description:

David Clapp, Jr. (1806-1893) was a resident of Dorchester, Massachusetts, until 1822 when he was apprenticed to John Cotton ( - ), a Boston printer. Clapp purchased that establishment in 1834 and devoted himself to general book and job printing and publishing. Among the items issued from his press were the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal and the New England Historical and Genealogical Register.

His journal, May 1820-June 1824, commences with his summer apprenticeship to James White ( - ) of Boston and contains brief entries concerning the weather, his wages, daily childhood activities (e.g., sleighing and visits to a zoo), his studies in Dorchester during the winter months, and his eventual apprenticeship to John Cotton, with references to his responsibilities with that firm.

The entries also refer to Boston election days, holidays, other city activities, and the extensive damage done by a hurricane in 1821. Included are fragments from Clapp's studies, such as an Essay on Disappointment and an account of the Battle of Marathon.

19 August 1992
7 November 1977