

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY  
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

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**NAME OF COLLECTION:**

Bradbury, Ammi Ruhamah, Journal, 1872-1874

**LOCATION(S):**

Octavo vols. "B"

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**SIZE OF COLLECTION:**

one octavo volume

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**SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:**

For information on Bradbury, see *General Catalogue of Bowdoin College ... 1794-1912* (Brunswick, Me., 1912).

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**SOURCE OF COLLECTION:**

Purchased from Carmen D. Valentino, 2004

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**COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:**

Ammi Ruhamah Bradbury (1810-1899), Free Will Baptist minister and poet, and one of seven children of Samuel and Jane Gurney Bradbury, was born on 3 December 1810 in Minot (now Auburn), Me. He graduated in 1837 and received an A.M. in 1840 from Bowdoin College; attended Bangor Theological Seminary, 1837-1838, and Yale Theological Seminary, 1840-1843; and received a D.D. from West Virginia College in 1890. Bradbury became an ordained minister in 1838 and was a pastor in Portsmouth, N.H., and Biddeford, Me. He was also a teacher in Parsonfield, Me., and a principal at Smithville Seminary (later Lapham Institute), in R.I., and at Strafford Seminary in N.H. Bradbury eventually moved to Providence, R.I., where he pursued literary work. He died in Providence on 13 September 1899.

While at Smithville, Bradbury met Caroline Livermore Johnson, (1814-1896) the oldest daughter of Rev. Timothy and Abigail Johnson of Maine. Johnson was the principal of the female department of Smithville Seminary for eight years. They were married by her father on 20 February 1844 in Farmington, Me., and had four children: William Ammi Bradbury (1847-1872); Abby Jane Bradbury (1849-1918); Frederick Whittier Bradbury (1851-1930); and Samuel Johnson Bradbury (1853- ).

This collection contains one bound journal, entitled "Minister's Journal and Poems, 1872-74," in which Ammi Ruhamah Bradbury made weekly, and sometimes daily, entries about the speakers he heard each weekend at church and daily prayer meetings, and the speeches he himself gave. The journal spans the period from March 1872-April 1874. Bradbury was pastor of the Park Avenue Baptist Church in Providence. His journal shows that he made frequent trips to nearby towns in Rhode Island and