

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Manuscript Collections

<p>Name of collection:</p> <p>Blacksmith (unidentified). Diary, 1869-1870</p>	<p>Location:</p> <p>Octavo volumes "B"</p>
<p>Size of collection:</p> <p>1 octavo volume, 74 leaves, with 4 loose items</p>	<p>N.U.C.M.C. number:</p> <p>N.A.</p>
<p>Finding aids:</p> <p>For information on the Cushman & Baker Company, see William S. Tilden, ed., <u>History of the Town of Medfield, Mass.</u> (Boston: George H. Ellis, 1887), p. 367</p>	
<p>Source of collection:</p> <p>Purchased from Peter Glazier, 1979</p>	
<p>Collection description:</p> <p>The apprentice-blacksmith who kept this diary, January 1869 to June 1870, was born in 1849 and probably raised in Hudson, Mass. On October 11, 1868, he was apprenticed for three years to Henry Daniels (-), a Medfield, Mass., blacksmith who was affiliated with the Cushman & Baker Company, wheelwrights and carriage-makers of Medfield.</p> <p>The diary contains daily entries for a 17-month period during his apprenticeship in Medfield. The writer recorded his relationship with Henry Daniels and his co-workers, and daily occupational chores, e.g., mending wagons and "velo-sepedes," making nails, helping railroad installers weld rods, and general "jobbing." His busy social life included evening lectures, declamations, lodge meetings, church choir rehearsals, parties, dances, sing-alongs, card-playing, croquet games, skating, sleighing, and other outings, frequently with members of the Bruce and Ellis families of Medfield.</p> <p>The writer also returned home several times per year to visit his parents, his brother, Simon, his sister, Lydia, and his "darling Sara," a schoolteacher in West Acton, Mass., who was born in 1849. Details of their courtship appear throughout the diary.</p> <p>The volume also contains cash accounts for the month of May, 1870, and occasional references to his wages. There are also four loose items: two miniature photographs of a young woman (probably Sara); a warrant for jury duty, 1873, addressed to Charles N. Murdock (-) of Hudson, Mass.; and a letter, 1863, written by Patience _____ of Dorchester, Mass., to her sister concerning her attitude towards the Civil War.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">17 September 1979</p>	