

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

NAME OF COLLECTION:

Ames, Eleanor Huse, Diaries, 1828-1850

LOCATION(S):

Octavo vols. "A"

SIZE OF COLLECTION:

three octavo volumes

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:

For genealogical information on Eleanor Huse, see Harry Pinckney Huse *The Descendants of Abel Huse of Newbury (1602-1690)*, 1935, p. 254; see also *Vital Records of Newburyport, Massachusetts ... 1849*, 1911.

For biographical information of James Tyler Ames, see *DAB*.

SOURCE OF COLLECTION:

Purchased from Gately Bros., 1998

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

Eleanor (or Ellen, as she called herself) Huse Ames (1809-1902), the daughter of Samuel Huse (1766-1825) of Newburyport, Mass., was born on December 19, 1809. She married manufacturer and mechanic James Tyler Ames (1810-1883) on May 31, 1838 and moved to Cabotville, (later called Chicopee) Mass., where they had three children: William Tyler (1839-1839); Ellen Maria (1841-1865); and Sarah Tyler (1845-1902). She had a large family of at least six brothers and sisters, several of whom married and had children in Newburyport.

This collection contains three diaries that span the period November 17, 1828 to January 1850. The first diary starts in 1828 when Ames was eighteen years old, and ends thirteen years later. The years 1830-1833 have few entries, and the diary resumes semi-regular entries in 1834. She frequently summarizes religious sermons, lectures and lessons attended, what was said at prayer meetings, and speculates on religion. Brief accounts of when she leaves Newburyport for visits to local places such as Lowell and Andover, Mass., Mt. Auburn, Charlestown, and Cambridge are also included. A longer trip to a camp meeting on Cape Cod and a trip to Maine to see members of the Tyler and Ames family are also mentioned. She notes visiting with and getting letters from her future husband James Tyler Ames, whom she variously refers to as T.J.A. or A.J.T. or just J.T. in her writings. There is a ten month gap in Ellen's entries from the fall of 1837 through the spring of 1838. The diaries resume on her wedding night in Boston, and she writes from then on about moving to a new home in a new town, starting a