

**American Antiquarian Society
Manuscript Collections**

NAME OF COLLECTION:

White-Forbes Family, Diaries, 1808-1902

LOCATION(S):

Octavo vols. "W"
Folio vols. "W"

SIZE OF COLLECTION:

ten octavo volumes; three folio volumes

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:

For biographical information concerning members of the White Family, see J. G. Carter and S. P. Holmes, *The Avery Family Record* (Plymouth, Mass.: Winslow W. Avery, 1893), pp. 62-74.

SOURCE OF COLLECTION:

unknown

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

Nancy Avery White (1783-1864?) was the daughter of Rev. Joseph Avery (1751-1824), minister of Holden, Mass. In 1807, she married William White (1782-1848) of Roxbury, Mass., and lived there for several years before settling in Westborough, Mass. In 1842, their daughter Catharine (1815-1902) married Ephraim Trowbridge Forbes (1815-), a Westborough mill owner who was active in town affairs. Their son, William Trowbridge Forbes (1850-1931), was a successful attorney who became Judge of the Court of Probate and Insolvency for Worcester County in 1888. He was the father of the notable author Esther Forbes.

Eight of the thirteen diaries in this collection were kept by Nancy Avery White and cover the period 1808 to 1863. The other five diaries were kept by Catharine White Forbes and cover the period 1846 to 1902. They are largely a record of daily chores performed by women at that time, as well as daily activities of their husbands, children, and grandchildren (e.g., visits, travel, record of births, baptisms, marriages, and deaths, and attendance at various social, religious, and charitable organizations). Nancy included entries concerning daily purchases and their cost; activities in the towns of Roxbury and Westborough; attendance at temperance lectures, sewing societies, and American Colonization Society presentations; and the passage through Westborough of Pres. James Monroe (1758-1831) in 1817 and the Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1834) in 1824. Several volumes also contain poetry.

In addition to daily household chores, Catharine detailed such activities as visits with the family of Eli Whitney (1765-1825) and other Westborough residents; attendance at lectures, freedmen's sewing circles, and Worcester concerts; and the work of her husband as a school committee member, as well as the active life of her son William. A photograph of Catharine has been transferred to the Graphic Arts department.

See Contents List.

**American Antiquarian Society
MANUSCRIPTS DEPARTMENT**

WHITE-FORBES FAMILY, DIARIES, 1808-1902
CONTENTS LIST

Nancy Avery White, Diaries, 1808-1863

- Octavo Volume 1: 1808 March 13—1809 November 12
- Octavo Volume 2: 1809 December 24—1820 September 9
- Octavo Volume 3: 1820 September 10—1822 February 8
- Folio Volume 1: 1822 February 9—1827 March 24
- Folio Volume 2: 1827 March 25—1833 May 18
- Octavo Volume 4: 1833 May 19—1843 December 13
- Octavo Volume 5: 1849 June 27—1857 May 19
- Octavo Volume 6: 1857 May 20—1863 November 13

Catharine White Forbes, Diaries, 1846-1902

- Octavo Volume 7: 1846 January 2—1849 November 6
- Folio Volume 3: 1849 November 7—1863 March 26
- Octavo Volume 8: 1872 December 15—1884 October 11
- Octavo Volume 9: 1884 October 12—1897 March 29
- Octavo Volume 10: 1897 March 30—1902 November 15