

Brooks, Elizabeth Albee diary

Elizabeth Albee Brooks Diary

1865

Title Statement

Brooks, Elizabeth Albee diaryGuide to the Elizabeth Albee Brooks diary MSS 16890

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS 16890

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/1769

Unit Date

1865

Mixed Materials [X031674512]

BW 59 (box)

Container

001 (folder)

Language

English

source

Whitmore Rare Books

Creator

Brooks, Elizabeth Albee, 1830-

Extent

.03 Cubic Feet 1 letter folder

Condition Description

Good

Repository

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is minimally processed and open for research.

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Preferred Citation

MSS 16890, Elizabeth Albee Brooks Diary, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia Library.

Biographical / Historical Description

Elizabeth Albee Brooks (1828-1869) was born to Rev. Charles Brooks and Cecilia Williams. She had one brother, Charles Wolcott, who survived to adulthood. She lived in the Boston suburb of Medford for her entire life. She attended art classes and academic lectures in Medford before they were disrupted by the Civil War. Elizabeth returned to art classes when they resumed at the conclusion of the war in April 1865. Brooks also attended lectures and classes at the Boston Historical Society, Normal School, and the Athenaeum. She died of consumption in 1869 at the age of forty-one.

Source New England Historic Genealogical Society; Boston, Massachusetts; Massachusetts Vital Records, 1840-1911. (Accessed through Ancestry) Dudley, Dean. History of the Dudley family: with genealogical tables, pedigrees, &c.: Dudley, Dean, 1823-1906 . Wakefield, Mass.: D. Dudley publisher, 1886. (Accessed through Ancestry)

Content Description

This collection contains the diary of Elizabeth Albee Brooks (1828-1869) from 1865. Brooks was an artist in training who lived in Medford, Massachusetts. The diary has an inscription in the front endpaper that reads "With many happy new years from her loving Auntie. Medford." The diary contains 124 entries handwritten in pencil graphite. It documents and gives insights into the experiences of adult, single women in suburban Northern communities as the Civil War came to a close. The diary documents her life, the resumption of art classes, notes of appointments with friends to attend performances, exhibits, and lectures, and grappling with a decision to travel to California with her brother Charlie or not. She notes friends having babies, losing husbands to the war. She also notes her travel which increases with the end of the war. Which includes trips to Boston, New York, and Newport, Rhode Island. Notable events in her diary include attending the Unitarian Convention of 1865 and the assassination of President Lincoln which she notes on April 15, which marked significant changes for her personally and nationally.

Keywords

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Personal narratives

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