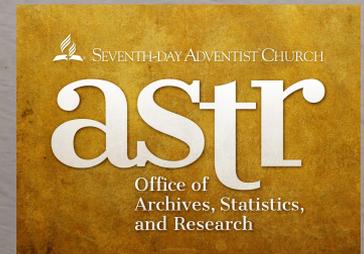


# Scanning and Sleuthing: Archives and Adventist Daily Life in the 1880s

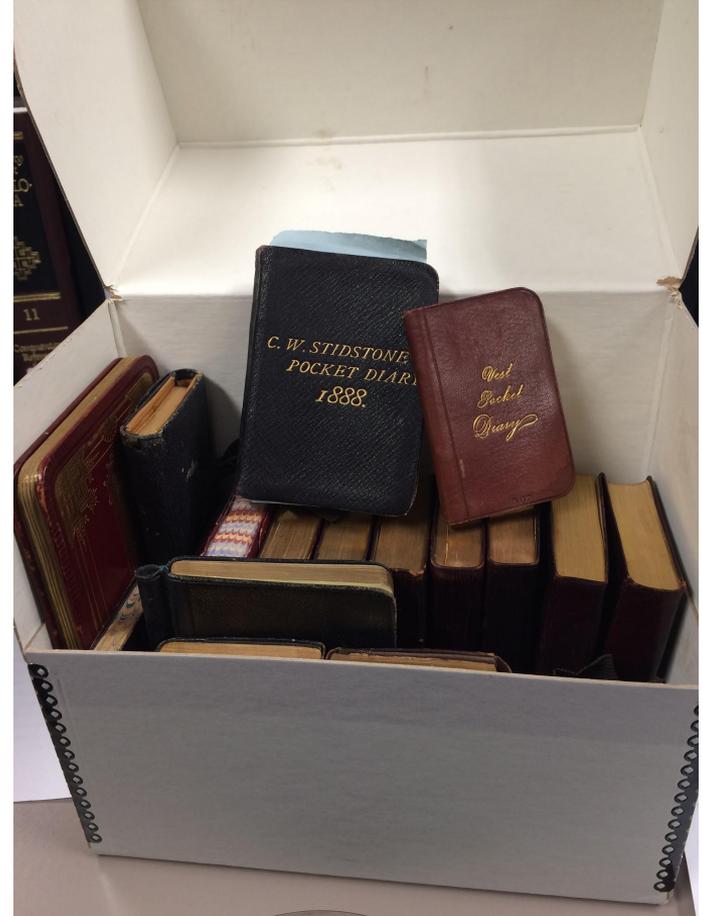
Ashlee Chism

Office of Archives, Statistics and Research  
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
June 26, 2017



# Thayer Collection

- Seventeen diaries and one autograph book belonging to Jennie Thayer (1853-1940)
- Material originally from the Gilbert Collection, initially donated by Miriam Tymeson
- The diaries all fit the palm of a person's hand--the one we're talking about today measures 9.5x12.5x1 centimeters.
- The 1887 diary was purchased at John Walker and Company, Farringdon House, Warwick Lane, E.C.





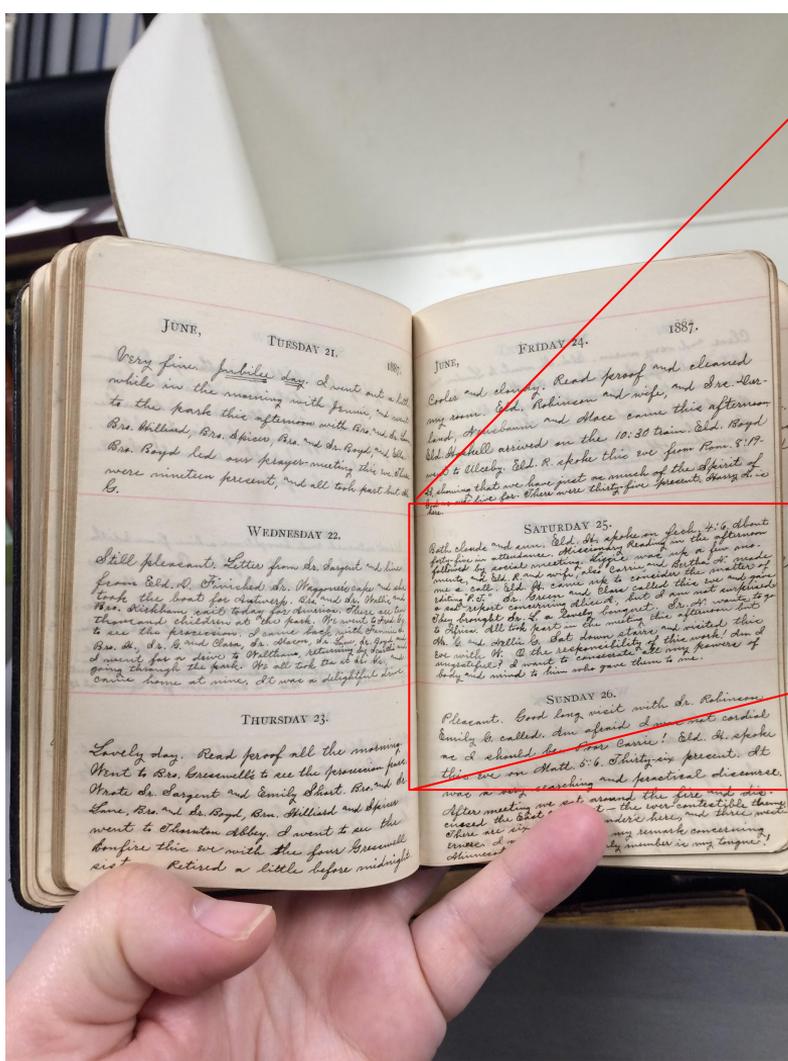
## Jennie Thayer

- Born September 20, 1853 in Buckland, Massachusetts
- Attended Battle Creek College 1877-1879
- Worked for the General Tract Society and the International Tract and Missionary Society
- Missionary to England in the 1880s
- Began and edited the *Atlantic Union Gleaner*
- Died September 12, 1940

# Thayer's 1887 diary

- 9.5x12.5x1 centimeters (3.75x5x0.5in)
- Includes a printed calendar for 1887, (listing bank holidays in England, Ireland, and Scotland), a list of postal regulations, a letter register, an addresses section, a dates section (for keeping record of birthdays and anniversaries), a financial ledger section, and a memoranda section
- In addition to her entries, Thayer kept notes in all of these sections, which could provide great details to researchers.





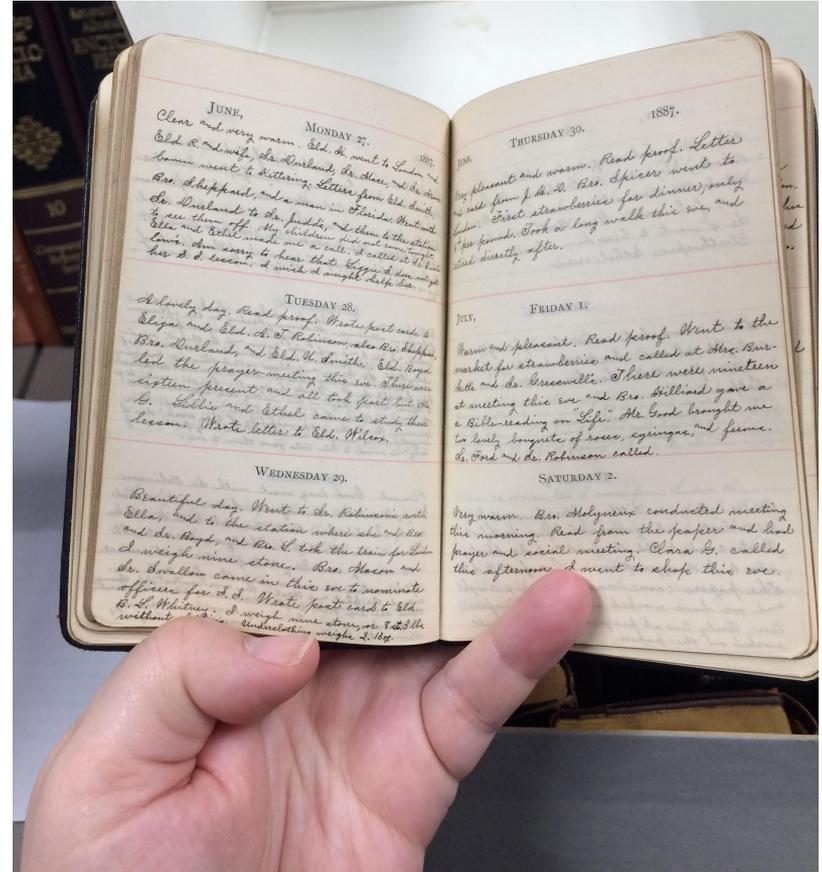
...  
SATURDAY 25.  
Both Claude and Ann, Eld. H. spoke on Acts, 4:6. About forty-five in attendance. Missionary Reading in the afternoon followed by social meeting. Lizzie was up a few moments, and Eld. R. and wife, also Carrie, and Bertha H. made me a call. Eld. H. came up to consider the matter of editing "P.T." Dr. Green and Clara called this eve and gave a sad report concerning Alice; but I am not surprised. They brought Dr. L. a lovely bouquet. Dr. H. wants to go to Africa. All took part in the meeting this afternoon but Mr. G. and Nellie G. Sat down stairs and visited this eve with W. @ the responsibility of this work! Am I ungrateful? I want to consecrate all my powers of body and mind to him who gave them to me.

SUNDAY 26.  
Pleasant. Good long visit with Dr. Robinson. Emily G. called. Am afraid I was not cordial as I should be. Poor Carrie! Eld. H. spoke on Matt. 5:6. Thirty-six present. It was a very searching and practical discourse.

- This particular diary has three entries per page
- Thayer's handwriting is fairly legible

# Scanning and Transcribing

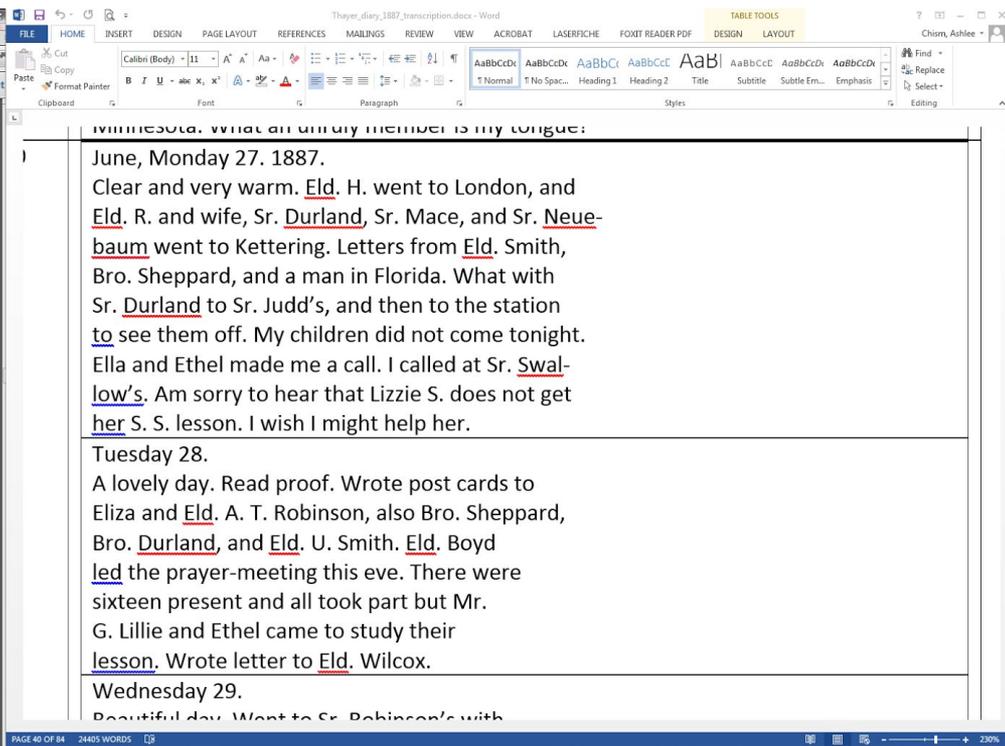
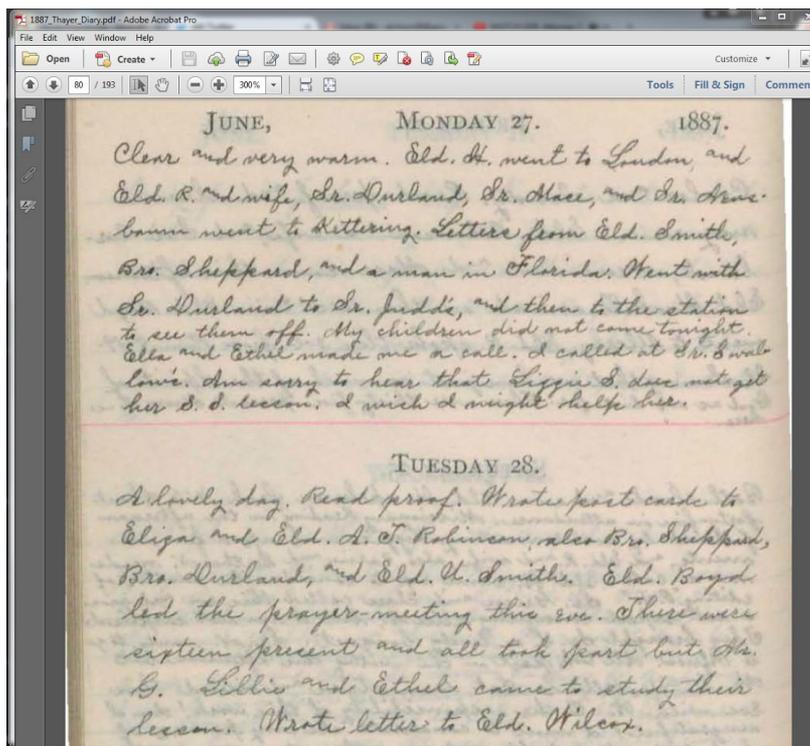
- Began the project in October 2015
- Each diary needs to be scanned, the scans made into a PDF, and then transcribed
- So far, I have scanned three diaries and transcribed two and a half diaries.



# Book scanner

- Zeutschel OS 15000
- Uses Omniscan software
- 'Preview' is the scan unless a re-scan is initiated
- Scanning time for the three diaries scanned so far = a day and a half

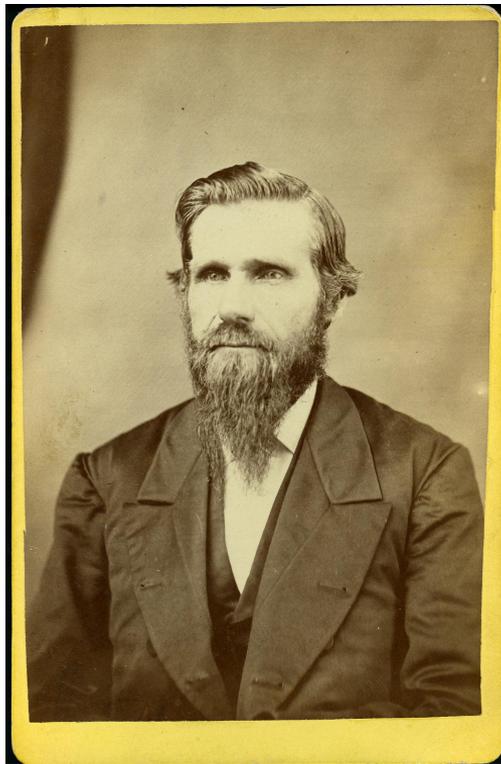




# Transcription



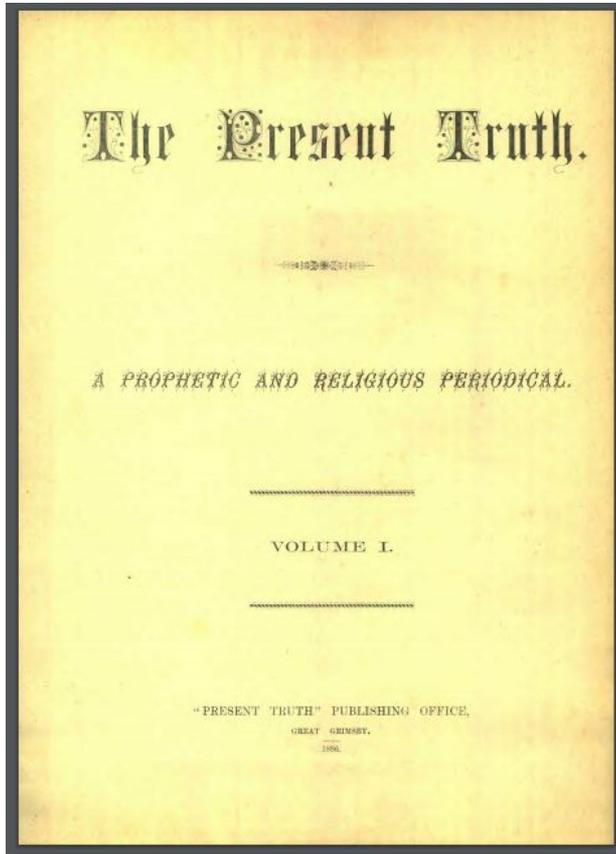
G. W. Amadon



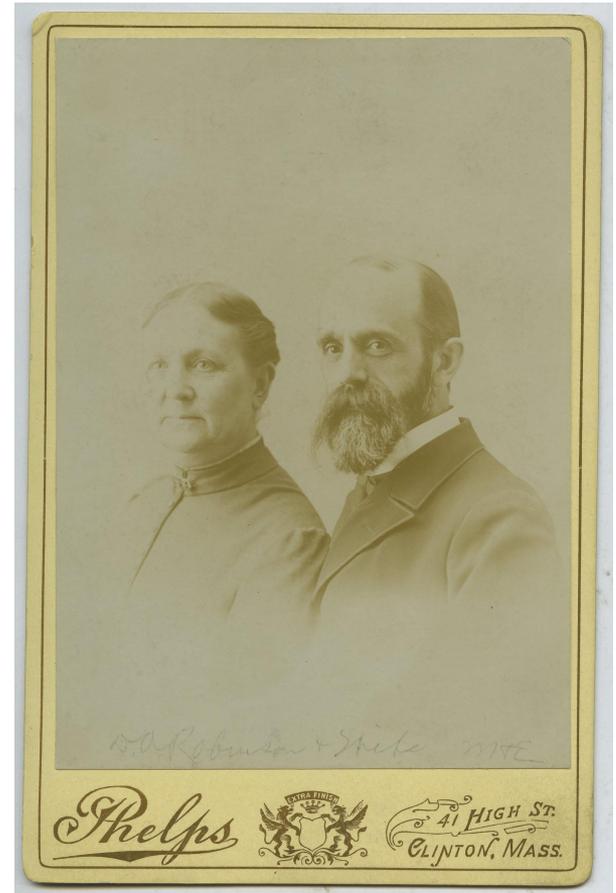
S. N. Haskell

W. A. Spicer





Cover of first issue of *Present Truth*, 1884



D. A. and Edna Robinson



## How are diaries useful to researchers?

- Metadata as entry points to research--who did she know? who did she interact with?
- Details, details, details--from what Scriptures were expounded on to the cost of strawberries
- Physical and personal object to create 'connection' with the researcher--who hasn't had a journal or diary of some sort?



Questions?