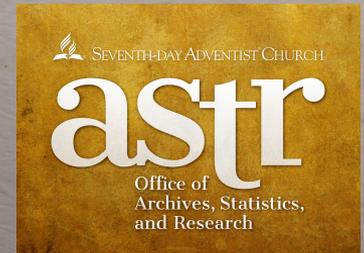


Scanning and Sleuthing: Archives and Adventist Daily Life in the 1880s

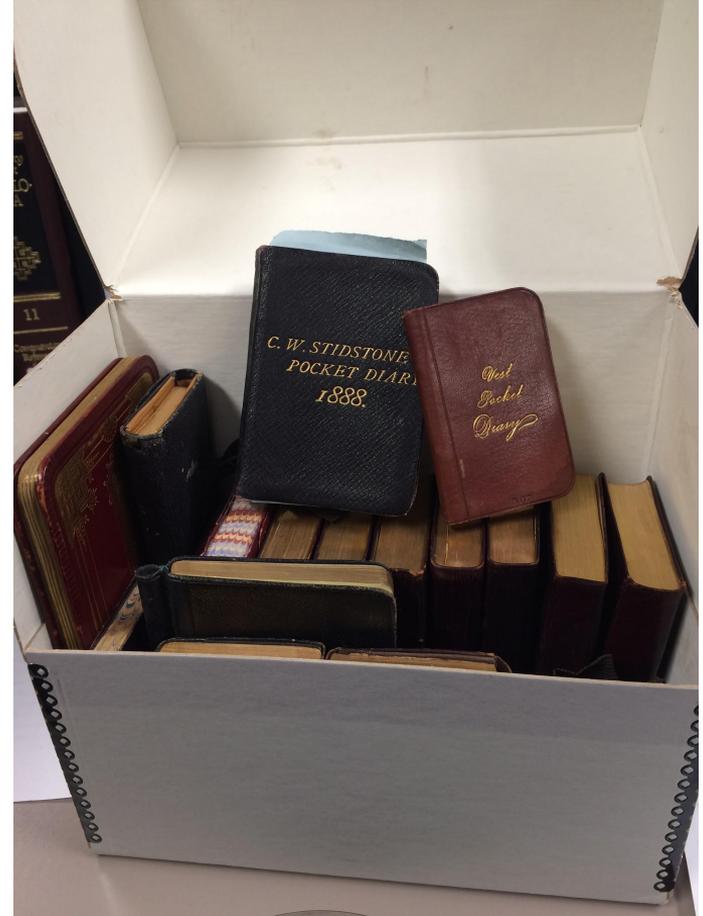
Ashlee Chism

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.





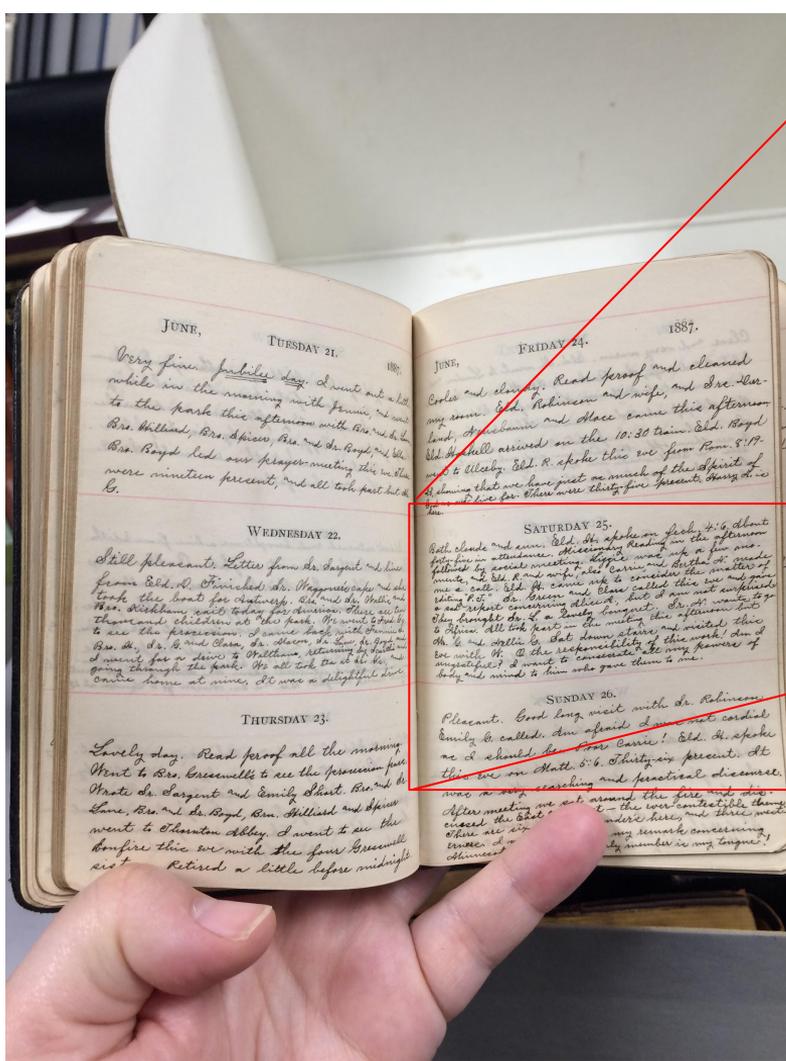
Jennie Thayer

- 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.





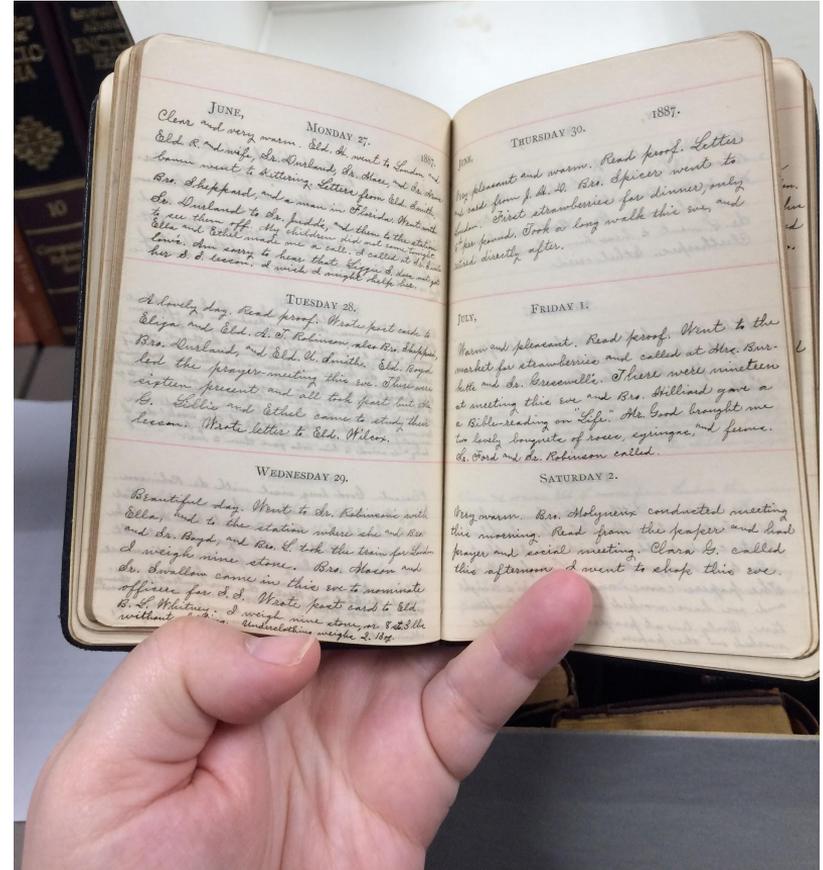
...
SATURDAY 25.
Both Claude and Ann, Eld. H. spoke on John. 4:6. About forty-five in attendance. Missionary Reading in the afternoon followed by social meeting. Lizzie was up a few moments, and Eld. R. and wife, also Carrie and Bertha H. made me a call. Eld. H. came up to consider the matter of editing "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



The image displays a transcription software interface. On the left, a scanned page of a handwritten diary is shown. The text is written in cursive and includes the date 'JUNE, MONDAY 27. 1887.' and the following paragraph: 'Clear and very warm. Eld. H. went to London, and Eld. R. and wife, Sr. Durland, Sr. Mace, and Sr. Neubaum went to Kettering. Letters from Eld. Smith, Bro. Sheppard, and a man in Florida. Went with Sr. Durland to Sr. Judd's, and then to the station to see them off. My children did not come tonight. Ella and Ethel made me a call. I called at Sr. Swallow's. Am sorry to hear that Lizzie S. does not get her S. S. lesson. I wish I might help her.' Below this is the date 'TUESDAY 28.' and another paragraph: 'A lovely day. Read proof. Wrote post cards to Eliza and Eld. A. T. Robinson, also Bro. Sheppard, Bro. Durland, and Eld. H. Smith. Eld. Boyd led the prayer-meeting this eve. There were sixteen present and all took part but Mr. G. Lillie and Ethel came to study their lesson. Wrote letter to Eld. Wilcox.'

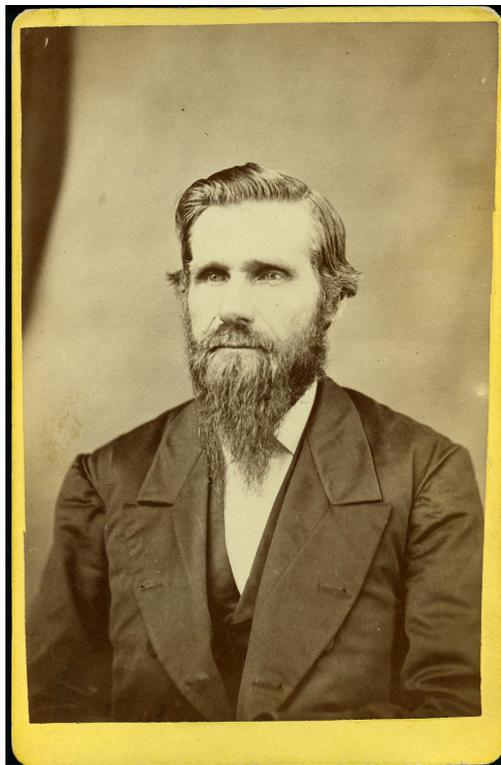
On the right, the typed transcription of the diary page is shown in a text area. The text is formatted with underlines for names and dates. The transcription reads: 'June, Monday 27. 1887. Clear and very warm. Eld. H. went to London, and Eld. R. and wife, Sr. Durland, Sr. Mace, and Sr. Neubaum went to Kettering. Letters from Eld. Smith, Bro. Sheppard, and a man in Florida. Went with Sr. Durland to Sr. Judd's, and then to the station to see them off. My children did not come tonight. Ella and Ethel made me a call. I called at Sr. Swallow's. Am sorry to hear that Lizzie S. does not get her S. S. lesson. I wish I might help her.' Below this is the date 'Tuesday 28.' and another paragraph: 'A lovely day. Read proof. Wrote post cards to Eliza and Eld. A. T. Robinson, also Bro. Sheppard, Bro. Durland, and Eld. U. Smith. Eld. Boyd led the prayer-meeting this eve. There were sixteen present and all took part but Mr. G. Lillie and Ethel came to study their lesson. Wrote letter to Eld. Wilcox.'

The software interface includes a menu bar at the top with options like 'FILE', 'HOME', 'INSERT', 'DESIGN', 'PAGE LAYOUT', 'REFERENCES', 'MAILINGS', 'REVIEW', 'VIEW', 'ACROBAT', 'LASERFICHE', 'FOXTX READER PDF', 'DESIGN', and 'LAYOUT'. There is also a 'TABLE TOOLS' section. The status bar at the bottom indicates 'PAGE 40 OF 84' and '24405 WORDS'.

Transcription



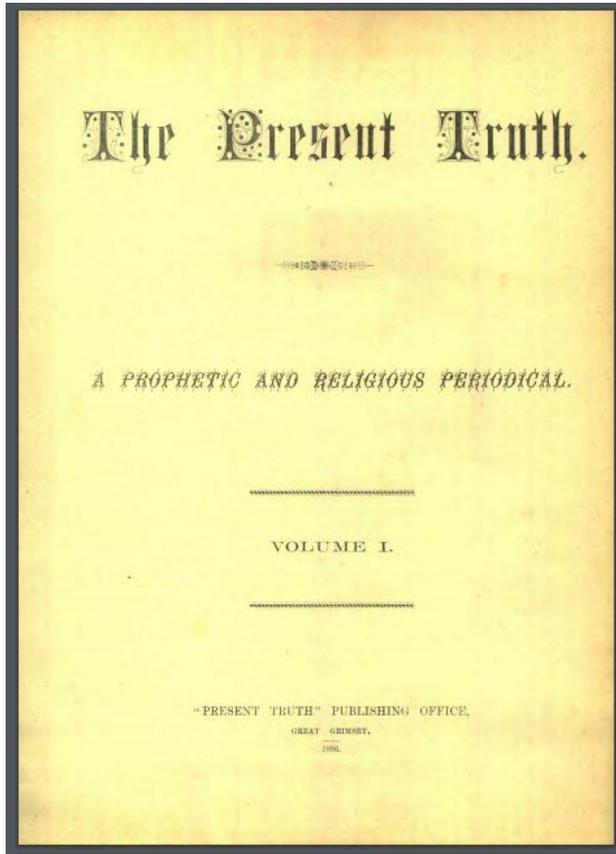
G. W. Amadon



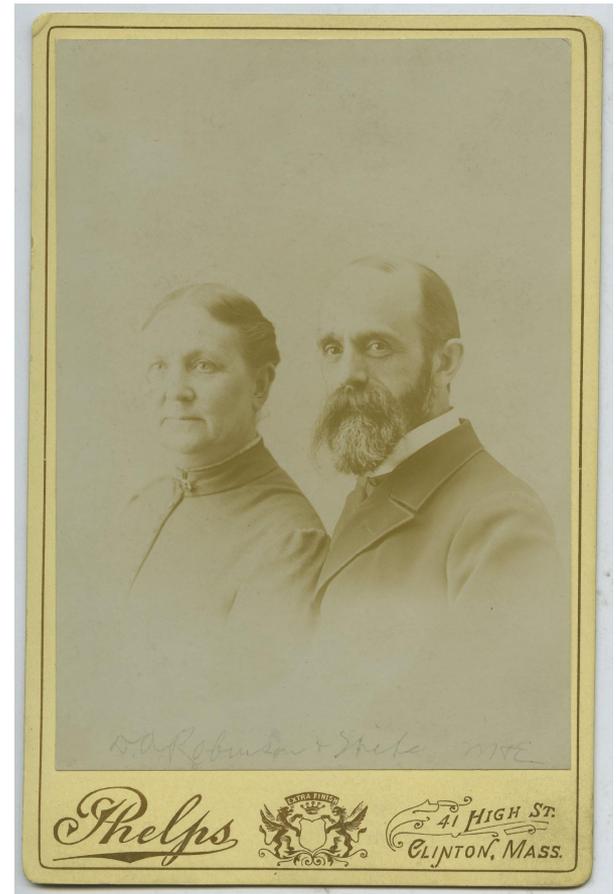
S. N. Haskell

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?