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

Seventh-Day Adventist Church **Office of** Archives, Statistics, and Research

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.



JUNE TUESDAY 21. Very fine public day down and all while in the maring with of to the park this afternoon with Rescriction Brs. Hilliand, Brs. &picer, Brs. and An Boyd, and Well Bro. Boyd led our prayer meeting this we sha were nineteen present, and all took part but de

WEDNESDAY 22.

Still pleasant. Letter from dr. Sargent and line

from Eld. D. Finished Sr. Wagoonery cake " I do the boat for destructor She and She Wall and Richlam enil today for director Blue and she and Class, Sr. Alaron, Sr. Saw be Bo & the park. He all took the at Shi He.

THURSDAY 23.

Tavely day. Read peroof all the morning Went to Bro, Gresswell's to see the person Wrate Sr. Sargent and Emily Shart. Bre Lane, Bro. and Sr. Boyd, Bru. Stilliard and Spers went to Thornton Abbey. I went to see the Confire this we with the four Greenet Retired a little before midnig

by. Read percent and cleaned It. Robinson and wife, and Sre. Her-, and Alace came this afternoon Ald Hoffeell arrived on the 10:30 train. Eld. Boyd t allerly Ell. R. apole this are from Rom. 8:19-I that we have just an much of the openit of Dire for There were thirty for present, then the SATURDAY 25.

FRIDAY

1887.

Eld. It. spoke on Miccionary Reading the le and dallie by Bat down starry this work I dow of Eve with M. a the responsibility of this work of unaratelyes ? I wa

Placant. Good long visit with dr. Rolines called. Am afinid over Carrie! Eld. H. shak on Math. 5: 6. Thirty six precent. It and practical discourse

cusced the East nder's here, and the remark concern mber is my tongue erneres

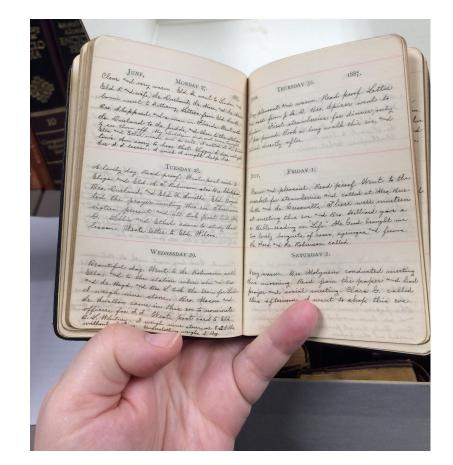
Both cloude and ann. Eld. St. apole on fech, 4: 6. about forty-five in attendance. Miscionary Reading in the ofternoon followed by assial meeting. Liggie was up a few momente, and Eld. R. and wife, also Carrie and Bertha d. made me a call. Eld. It. came up to consider the matter of Editing "P. J." Sr. Sreen and Class called this Eve and give a sal report concerning dice d., but I am not surficient They brought on L. a levely bougnet. Sr. A. wante to go to Africa. All took part in the meeting this afternoon but Al. & and dellie & Sat down stairs and visited this Eve with W. O the responsibility of this work! den I mysatifue? I want to consecrate all my powers of body and mind to him who gave them to me.

Pleasant. Good long visit with Sr. Robinson. Emily b. called. An aferia I was not cordial ne & should be. Poor Carrie! Eld. It. spoke this we on Math. 5: 6. Thirty-six precent. It was a very searching and feractical 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

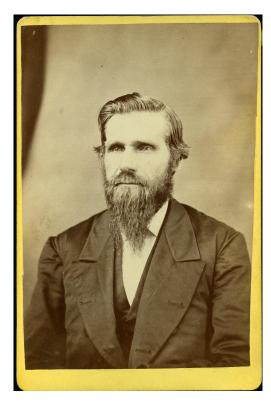


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JUNE, MONDAY 27. 1887. Clear and very warm. Eld. H. went to London and Eld. R. admife, Sr. Durland, Sr. Hace, and Sr. Arme.	Cipbeard Fit Paragraph Fit Styles G Edtag Image: Image	
brun went to Rettering. Lettere from Eld. Smith, Bro. Sheppard, and a man in Florida. Hent with	baum went to Kettering. Letters from <u>Eld</u> . Smith, Bro. Sheppard, and a man in Florida. What with	
Sr. Dusland to Sr. fiddle, 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. I will live. Am sorry to hear that Liqui S. down mat get her S. J. lecson, I wich I might help his.	 Sr. <u>Durland</u> 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. <u>Swal-low's</u>. Am sorry to hear that Lizzie S. does not get her S. S. lesson. I wish I might help her. 	
TUESDAY 28. A lovely day. Read proof. Wrote post carde to Elign and Eld. A. J. Robinson, also Bro. Shepped, Bro. Durland, "I Eld. U. Smiths. Eld. Boyd led the proyer-meeting this eve. These were eigteen present and all took part but He. B. Gillis and Ethel came to study their lesson. Wrote letter to Eld. Hilcor.	Tuesday 28. 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. Wednesday 29. Prostifiel day. Went to Sr. Pebinson's with	_
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Transcription



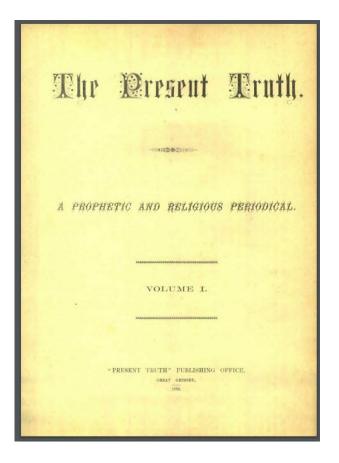
G. W. Amadon



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?