Reeves Family Diaries

1869-1905
MS.2012.003
http://hdl.handle.net/2345.2/MS2012-003
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Summary Information

Creator: Reeves, Dexter, Sr.
Creator: Reeves, Dexter, Jr.
Title: Reeves family diaries
Collection Identifier: MS.2012.003
Date [inclusive]: 1869-1905
Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet (3 boxes )
Language of the Material: English
Abstract: Diaries of a South Boston father and son. Included are accounts of the weather; household, garden, and neighborhood happenings; attendance at community, religious, music, lecture, and seance events; local and national news; reading habits; health, births, deaths, and marriages; visitors; as well as correspondence sent and received.

Preferred Citation

Identification of item, Box number, Volume number, Reeves family diaries, MS.2012.003, John J. Burns Library, Boston College.
Administrative Information

Publication Information

Processed by Lynn Moulton in 2017. This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace.

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Restrictions on access

Collection is open for research.

Provenance

Purchased from American Historical Manuscripts in 2012.
Biographical note: Dexter Reeves, Sr. (1800-1885)

Dexter Reeves, Sr. was born in East Sudbury, Massachusetts (now Wayland) on October 2, 1800, to Jacob Reeves and Elizabeth Robinson. The Reeves family ran a tavern and farmed. Dexter moved to Boston where he married Margaret Perry Trofater on June 27, 1833. She was born in Salem, Massachusetts about 1813. Dexter was employed in Boston as a clerk. Dexter and Margaret's son Dexter Reeves, Jr. was born in Boston September 19, 1834. The family lived on Silver Street in South Boston in the 1840s-1850s, at the corner of 2nd and P Streets from 1863-1872, and finally at 760 East Broadway from 1875 to 1905. Dexter Sr. died in 1885 and Margaret in 1905.

Sources:

Boston City Directories, 1855-1905.


Biographical note: Dexter Reeves, Jr. (1835-1905)

Dexter Reeves, Jr. was born to Dexter Reeves, Sr. and Margaret Trofater Reeves on September 19, 1834. Dexter Jr. married Maria Grindle, who was born in 1840 in Blue Hill, Maine. Maria, a tailor, was living in the Reeves's home in Boston in 1860 according to the US census. He and Maria had one son, Marcellus, born in South Boston March 31, 1863. Maria died of tuberculosis later that year, and Marcellus continued to live in his grandparents' home in South Boston with his father. Dexter Jr. worked as a bank teller and superintendent of the Foreign Money Department at the National Bank of Redemption on Devonshire St. in Boston. He was a member of South Boston's Broadway Universalist Church, interested in spiritualism, and was a life member of the Boston Handel and Haydn Society. He died July 3, 1905 in Boston.

Sources:

Boston City Directories, 1855-1905.


Scope and Contents

Diaries of a South Boston father and son.

Dexter Reeves, Sr. chronicled the last fifteen years of his life (1869-1884), including daily notes on weather; management of his household; reading, book purchases, and borrowing habits; attendance at
lectures at the Lowell Institute, Mechanics Institute, Woman’s Suffrage Baazar, and Universalist Church; leisure activities with family; and significant Boston area events such as the 250th Year of the Settlement of Boston, Great Boston Peace Jubilee celebration, and the Boston Fire of 1872.

The diaries of Dexter Reeves, Jr. begin in 1870, when he was 35, and continue until the time of his death at age 70. His entries document his Universalist faith; interest in spiritualism, including attendance at seances; passion for music, both as an organist/pianist and a "Life Member" of the Handel and Haydn Society; participation in fraternal societies (Adelphi Lodge, Roxbury Council of Royal and Select Masters, and the St. Omer Commandery of the Knights Templar); visits to Boston cultural events; book culture; travel in the northeastern United States; and political activities comprising Democratic, Republican, temperance, and suffrage events.

Arrangement

Arranged in two series. I. Dexter Reeves, Sr., and II. Dexter Reeves, Jr.
### Collection Inventory

#### Series I: Dexter Reeves, Sr., 1869-1884

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<th>Date Range</th>
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#### Series II: Dexter Reeves, Jr., 1870-1905

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