



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Joseph Pope Winslow Diary

NMAH.AC.0467

Grace M. Angle

1992

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	4

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Joseph Pope Winslow Diary
Date:	1876
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0467
Creator:	Winslow, Joseph Pope (farmer, carpenter) (Author)
Extent:	0.33 Cubic feet (1 box)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Xerographic copy of the diary of J. P. Winslow for 1876, and a typescript transcription of the diary. Several interesting and significant items have been included with the diary. Among them are the marriage certificate of Mary Winslow and Dan Grantham, copies of photographs of Joseph Pope Winslow and his family and of James Daniel Grantham and his, and copies of maps of the area where the Winslows lived.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by George W. Grantham, September 4, 1992.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Grace Angle, 1992.

Preferred Citation

Joseph Pope Winslow Diary, 1876, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research.

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Biographical / Historical

Joseph Pope Winslow, a farmer and carpenter, owned and operated a farm outside Sweet Home, Missouri. He was born on September 28, 1819 in Cumberland County, Maine. He and Leanna Ann Smith were married September 18, 1843 in Springfield, Illinois. There were ten children, three of whom "died young", and seven of whom were living in 1876, the year of the diary. Six of these children were born in Quincy, Illinois, the youngest, Ruth, was born in Sweet Home, Missouri, the location of the Winslow farm, in 1871.

It is evident from the diary that Mr. Winslow was an upright and well respected, active member of the community with close contacts with a wide circle of friends and neighbors. While the diary makes no direct reference to either financial hardship or wealth there is an overall impression of a reasonable standard of living for the time and place maintained by farming and Mr. Winslow's carpentry.

Scope and Contents

The collection encompasses a xerographic copy of the diary of J.P. Winslow for the year 1876, and a type script transcription of the diary. It was transcribed and indexed by George W. Grantham in 1991 and 1992. He is the great-grandson of Dan Grantham and Mary Winslow, Mr. Winslow's son in law and daughter, and the grandson of Richard Ernest Grantham, their son. Several interesting and significant items have been included with the diary. Among them are the marriage certificate of Mary Winslow and Dan Grantham, copies of photographs of Joseph Pope Winslow and his family and of James Daniel Grantham and his, and copies of maps of the area where the Winslows lived. George W. Grantham has also added several indices: of names appearing in the diary, of deaths mentioned, of places, things and events. A nine page excerpt of the Winslow genealogy traces J.P. Winslow's ancestry to Kenelm Winslow, born April 29, 1599 in Droitwich, Worcestershire, England.

The diary entries are strictly factual. There are daily descriptions of the weather, references to work performed by Mr. Winslow and other family members, and other activities such as visits to town for shopping or social affairs, church attendance, and prices for commodities and for labor. Despite the omission of references to feelings or emotions a clear picture of the everyday life of a devout, hard working, upright man loved by his family and liked and respected by friends and neighbors emerges.

The importance of the weather and seasonal variations in the tasks involved in farm operations are very clear. Each daily entry begins with the weather the wind direction and a description r.e. pleasant, raining, snowing, very cold. The record of shopping trips to Sweet Home or other nearby towns includes commodity prices, for example, 1 gal. oil 25¢, 3 lbs. soda 25¢, 100 lbs. flour \$2.80. Other entries include charges for carpentry (\$5.50 for a sink, \$5.75 for a coffin.)

Some entries are of special interest. Planting begins on April 1. On September 7 the property is assessed at \$930, the tax rate is \$1.00 per hundred. On September 20, Mary Winslow and Dan Grantham are married. The diary entry for that date is "WS cloudy in the forepart of the day but cleared up in the eve. I gathered peaches, Harvey came over in the p.m. We all went to the church at 5 o'clock to hear a lecture and see Dan and Mary married. 60 persons came here with us to supper. Had a good time." School starts on December 11 and closes March 11. There are more frequent mentions of church attendance at times other than Sunday during the winter months. The entry for Christmas day is "Wind NE snowed most of the day self and family went to meeting at 11 all the children here to dinner the boys finished hauling fodder this morning."

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Agriculture -- 1860-1870 -- Missouri
- Carpenters -- 1860-1870
- Carpentry -- 1860-1870
- Farmers -- 1860-1870

Names:

- Grantham, Dan
- Grantham, George W.

Grantham, James Daniel
Grantham, Richard Ernest
Smith, Leanna Ann
Winslow, Kenelm
Winslow, Mary

Places:

Missouri -- 1860-1870
Sweet Home (Mo.) -- 1860-1870

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	Xerographic copy of diary of J.P. Winslow, 1876
Box 1, Folder 2	Typescript transcription of diary with additions by George W. Grantham, 1876 Notes: Includes introductory note and epilogue; index of names, deaths and places, things and events mentioned in the diary; xerographic copies of diary entries for September 18 22, 1876; marriage certificate of Mary Winslow and Dan Grantham; copies of photographs of J.P. Winslow and his family and of Dan Grantham and his; four maps (of Missouri about 1870, of Nodaway County 1876 1880), a section from the 1893 plat book of Nodaway County after Mr. Winslow had died and the farm had been sold and a contemporary (1990 91) map of the Sweet Home area; nine pages of the family records of the Winslow family and their descendants; and a family record of Joseph Pope Winslow and his family.