

Mabel Lila Wait diaries, 1899-1917

MSS. COLL. NO. 026

.75 linear feet

Biographical Note

Mabel Lila Wait was born in Canton, N.Y. on October 2, 1876. After her parents death she managed the family farm alone until she married Fred Roberts in 1901. Mabel and Fred continued to live on the Wait farm throughout their lives. They had one daughter, Gladys, born in 1908. In addition to doing farm work, Fred taught school in the Brick Chapel district. They both attended Grange functions in Crary Mills, and Mabel was active in the Presbyterian Ladies' Aid Society at Brick Chapel. Gladys attended the Brick Chapel primary school and high school in Canton and graduated from St. Lawrence University in 1929. Fred died in 1933 and Mabel in 1936. They are buried in the Wait family plot in the Brick Chapel cemetery. The Wait farmhouse was destroyed by fire in 1938.

Scope & Content

The collection consists of four diaries (1901, 1906, 1908 and 1917) and four photocopies of diaries (1899, 1900, 1902 and 1903). The diaries include accounts of Mabel's daily activities and a report on the weather of the day. The 1899, 1900, 1901 and 1902 diaries also contain detailed lists of daily expenses of the household, with monthly and yearly totals. The diaries are an excellent source of information about life in Canton and St. Lawrence County, NY.

Also included in the collection are transcriptions of January 1 through January 5 of the 1901 diary and six pages of narrative family history written by Catherine Davis, the granddaughter of Mabel Roberts.

The diaries for 1901 and 1902 have been published as:

Dear Home: the 1901 and 1902 diary of Mabel Lila Wait / edited by Susan Ward,
Canton, NY: Friends of the Owen D. Young Library, Syracuse Univ. Pr. 1996 HQ1438.N7 W3 1996

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DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

Box 1 Original manuscript diaries of Mabel Wait Roberts: 1901 1906 1908 1917

Box 2 Photocopies of diaries: 1899 1900 1902 1903

Narrative family history written by granddaughter, Catherine Davis.

Partial transcript of 1901 diary (Jan. 1-Jan. 5)