

PURVES NOTEBOOKS

MSS. COLL. # 91

SCOPE AND CONTENTS

This collection consists of two manuscript notebooks written by Thomas Purves of Lisbon NY donated to St. Lawrence in 1989 by Allegra Fortunati . The first is entitled “**Narrative of Thomas and Mary Purves, Giving an Account of What Happened to Them and Their Children During Their Voyage from Scotland to America Both in Providence and Grace.**” The journey took place in 1819.

The second book is entitled “A Shorthand Dictionary Consisting of Invented Characters for Words and Sentences.” Into it Purves has copied various poems and other short pieces and has written them in shorthand. He has also written out a chart for himself of words with their shorthand equivalents.

With the books is a transcription of the first from the files of the Ogdensburg Public Library.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Thomas Purves was born on September 28, 1785 at Whitebank, Scotland. He brought his family to the United States in 1819, hoping to work for the Parish family at their iron works in Rossie NY. He received a cold reception from Parish’s agent, however, and instead went to work for Gouverneur Ogden in Waddington NY as a gardener. He died on January 14, 1853, in Waddington.