

Hiram Herring's Journal
MSS. Collection #116

1 Linear Foot

Scope and Content

The collection consists of a teal-green 19th-century hardcover journal with leather binding, written in one unknown hand, and Hiram Herring. Mention of Phebe Marison Serall in the beginning of the journal as a possible author, confirmation of identity unknown. There are 163 pages that reflect on themes of mortality, philosophy, religion, and virtue. Many journal entries focus on funerals and church sermons. The journal includes three lined notebook pages summarizing Hiram Herring's journal entries. The apparent author is the grandchild of Hiram Herring, whose individual identity is unknown. Most of the material dates within the range of 1843-1860. Hiram Herring's journal entries are from 1843-1861.

Dates

1811-1861

Creator

Over the spring semester of the 2025-2026 academic year, Rose Meihaus ('26) inventoried, transcribed, and arranged the Journal into a Finding Aid. Her work was a part of the St. Lawrence On-Campus Internship Program.

Availability

This collection is available for research.

Biographical note

Hiram Herring was born on January 17, 1817, in Denmark, Lewis County, New York, USA. He is the Son of William Herring (1782-1870) and Cynthia Buck Herring (1797-1885). At 17, he completed a common school education and was employed in the village of Oxbow, NY. He moved to Watertown, NY, to complete a 4-year apprenticeship with Jason Fairbanks, a leather maker. He resided in Rodman, NY, in 1841. In 1843, Hiram married Paulina Prosser of Monroe County. They had five children. His journal entries were written during his residence in Rodman beginning in 1843. His last journal entry is in 1861. Hiram Herring died in Rodman in 1881.

Extent

1 box, 1 linear foot.

Language of Materials

English

Processing Information

Processed by the St. Lawrence University Libraries Special Collections staff.

Repository Details

Part of the St. Lawrence University Library Manuscripts Collection.

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Collection Arrangement

Leaf(s) and Date(s)	Author(s)	Important Topics and Notes
1	Unknown	Calligraphy practice of repeated phrase: "Know Then This".
2	Unknown	Calligraphy practice of repeated phrase: "Learn to Act Just"
3	Unknown	Calligraphy practice of repeated phrase: "Morality is atta..."
4	Unknown	Calligraphy practice of repeated phrase: "True nobility is..."
5	Unknown	Calligraphy practice of repeated phrase: "Pronunciation is regulated by taste"
6	Unknown	Calligraphy practice of repeated phrase: "Question from..."
7	Unknown	Poem on the metaphor of falling leaves and human mortality

8	Unknown	Calligraphy practice of repeated phrase, "Ulysses was the father of Telemachus"
9-10	Unknown Hand 1	Essay condemning swearing on the ethical and religious grounds that is it vulgar
11	Unknown Hand 1	Calligraphy practice of repeated phrase: "Villainy has too safe an asylum"
12	Unknown Hand 1	Calligraphy practice of repeated phrase: "Worth makes the man"
13	Unknown Hand 1	Calligraphy practice of repeated phrase: "No pursuit like..."
14	Unknown Hand 1	Calligraphy practice of repeated phrase: "Pursue what is honorable"
15	Unknown Hand 1	Assortment of words and phrases
16-19	Unknown Hand 1	Essay opposing the consumption of Alcohol
20	Unknown Hand 1	General writing about language of condolences, particularly to other men, husbands and fathers
21	Unknown Hand 1	Calligraphy practice of the repeated phrase: "True fame is founded on virtue"
22	Unknown Hand 1	Calligraphy practice of the repeated phrase: "Use freedom in..."
23	Unknown Hand 1	Calligraphy practice of the repeated phrase: "Virtue alone is happiness"
24	Unknown Hand 1	Miscellaneous writings on a death of a man
25-26	Unknown Hand 1	"The Hermit", A poem on defeating darkness and loneliness
27	Unknown Hand 1	Calligraphy practice of the repeated phrase: "Whatever is contrary to virtue is."

28	Unknown Hand 1	Calligraphy practice of the repeated phrase: "Heroes, Prophets, and a vast host"
29	Unknown Hand 1	Calligraphy practice of the repeated phrase: "Youth is the only time for useful improvement"
30	Unknown Hand 1	Calligraphy practice of the repeated phrase: "Zoroaster formed"
31	Unknown Hand 1	Poem on the Hymen and virginity- Mortality and sexual experience and the tension between the two
32	Unknown Hand 1	Calligraphy practice of the repeated phrase: "A man's pride shall bring him bring him love"
33	Unknown Hand 1	Calligraphy practice of the repeated phrase: "Be preserving in laudable pursuits"
34	Unknown Hand 1	Responsorial Psalm: "Come sound his praise"
35	Unknown Hand 1	Calligraphy practice of the repeated phrase: "Decency becometh all"
36	Unknown Hand 1	Calligraphy practice of the repeated phrase: "Envy and vanity are detestable"
37	Unknown Hand 1	Calligraphy practice of the repeated phrase: "Fortune favors the just"
38	Unknown Hand 1	Calligraphy practice of the repeated phrase: "Govern with discretion"
39	Unknown Hand 1	Recipe for Number cake
40	Unknown Hand	List of Effusions on the murder of miss Hamiton
41	Unknown Hand 1	List of household inventory
42-43	Unknown Hand 1	A prayer to God for chastity, dated 1815
43	Unknown Hand 1	Drawing of a flower diagram with text, below, a recipe to cure a fresh cut

44 Approx. 1845	Hiram Herring	Diary entries on winter and "honesty is the best policy";
45 11-15-1845	Hiram Herring	Reflection on the funeral of Miss Brigham; acceptance of faith and death
46 Approximate November 16-17th 1845	Hiram Herring	Discussion on death; purpose as a passage from earthly life to heaven. Entry on the weather of a pleasant afternoon and the ordinary affairs in a man's life
47 Approximate November 20-25 th , 1845	Hiram Herring	Happiness, like the threads and fiber that make up a garment, is like the traits which the human life is made up of.
48-49 11-25-1845	Hiram Herring	Reflection of a northern winter; question on granting liquor licenses in the county
50 12-27-1845	Hiram Herring	Discussion with Dudley B. Post on the shortness of life. Church attendance and commentary about Christianity.
51 12-28 -1845	Hiram Herring	The condition of the state of New York and new legislature under Governor Silas Wright
52 01-11-1846 02-01-1846	Hiram Herring	Question of the ownership of the Oregon Boundary. Reflection on the death of Charles Strong.
53 02-7-1846	Hiram Herring	Winter weather producing sunny days
54-55 05-24-1846	Hiram Herring	Entry hard to read, ink faded on pages
56-57 11-01-1846	Hiram Herring	Long gap in time; Mexican territories
58-59 11-04-1846	Hiram Herring	Electoral race between Silas Wright and John Young. Question of Negro Suffrage was 2-1
60 11-08-1846	Hiram Herring	Defeat of Silas Wright in New York State Elections. Death of John Uttley.

61 11-013-1846	Hiram Herring	Reflection on a candidate for the presidential chair of the country
62 01-31-1847	Hiram Herring	Mild Winter Weather. Opinion on the Mexican War becoming unpopular.
63 02-04-1847	Hiram Herring	Reflection on if Capital Punishment justifiable?
63-64 02-06-1847	Hiram Herring	Comment on life's routines and repetitions
65 02-21-1847	Hiram Herring	Reflection on the death of N. L. Wardell, Surrogate of Jefferson County. Died at 33 years of age. Writes about losing oneself to death and how man is ready for change.
66 03-13-1847	Hiram Herring	Attended funeral service of Mrs. George West, aged 22 years
67 03-21-1847	Hiram Herring	Reflection on a remedy for melancholy. Hypocrisy of man; despair caused by a man's betrayal of his fellow man.
68 03-30-1847	Hiram Herring	Reflection on the death of a man and funeral sermon on power
69 04-1847	Hiram Herring	Weather is pleasant. Attended American Bible Society.
70 04-11-1847	Hiram Herring	Reflection on warm weather despite frost from the night before. Essay on men who stand out for their morals and ideals of service to make this society great.
71 06-10-1847	Hiram Herring	Addressed absence of writing. Reflection on death of two close friends and honorable men, Edmund Watts and John Hutchinson.
72 08-1847	Hiram Herring	Reflection on the death of Governor Silas Wright
73 10-31-1847	Hiram Herring	Annual election of the state and opinion on the democratic party being in contest with the Whig party.

74 11-28-1847	Hiram Herring	Statement on the fickleness of principle
75 12-26-1847	Hiram Herring	Comments on the past year and future aspirations for society in the new year
76 01-02-1848	Hiram Herring	Sharing hopefulness to the new year; comments on man's secular affairs
77-78 08-25-1848	Hiram Herring	Journal entry in light blue ink, unable to transcribe
79 01-29-1849	Hiram Herring	Small writing about God's wrath and deliverance of sinners over the the devil. Reflection on sermon that afternoon. Signed H.H.
80 07-06-1851	Hiram Herring	Accounts moving into a new home. Stresses importance of engaging the mind with literature.
81 07-10-1851	Hiram Herring	Praises the life of a farmer as a life filled with equal labor and love.
82 07-13-1851	Hiram Herring	Thoughts on the changing world and the change within us. Acknowledges the passing of time.
83 07-16-1851	Hiram Herring	Writes of his brother leaving for Canada
83 07-20-1851	Hiram Herring	Reflection on Sunday Lecture about Pharaoh and Moses in the Old Testament.
83 07-31-1851	Hiram Herring	Attended funeral service of Alonzo Wood, 20 yrs of age, grandson of the first physician in the town
84 08-01-1851	Hiram Herring	Boasts the World's fair in London as a great event uplifting the hearts and minds of men.
84-85 08-23-1851	Hiram Herring	Reflection on the return of Reverend Mr. Dullor to offer a sermon after 18 years. Recollection of another sermon by Rev. Mr. who manifested great energy in his presentation.

86 08-08-1851	Hiram Herring	Statement on human experience
87 09-20-1851	Hiram Herring	State Fair at Rochester. Took the train and complimented fine lodging in the city. Attended a show and saw fine cattle and horses.
88 02-22-1852	Hiram Herring	Attended funeral service of Timothy Grimsley. Aged 84 yrs. Praises him for being a rather remarkable man.
89 08-24-1852	Hiram Herring	Comments on an uneventful Sunday sermon, calling it "dry".
90 10-24-1852	Hiram Herring	Reflection on 4 th visit to New York City. Praises the city as the "new world" and the center for money and fashion.
91-92 12-19-1852	Hiram Herring	Happy record of mild winter weather. Compares it to a "gentle spring". On bottom half of page, a short conversation writing to a reverend about the will of God.
93 08-27-1853	Hiram Herring	Reflection on the passing of seasons and transition from summer into autumn
94 Undated	Unknown	Recipe for Shampoo
95 11-15-1857	Hiram Herring	Death of Dadley B. Post.
96-97 11-1858	Hiram Herring	Death of Cr. Cooley
98 02-26-1860	Hiram Herring	Cheerful sermon from Reverend from Vermont
98-99 03-21-1860	Hiram Herring	Funeral service of Rev. Pitt Morse, weather stormy and unpleasant did not prevent crowds of attendees
100-104	Unknown	Newspaper cutouts of poems and domestic columns
110-111 11-13-1868	Unknown	Death of Rev David Shaw

113 05-06-1861	Unknown	Practice response to letter from unknown sender. Discusses attending school.
127 Undated	Unknown	Unable to transcribe
131 Undated	Unknown	Appreciation for Life's little moments and how there is no place like home
135 Undated	Unknown	Opinion on state of the Union in America. Stresses the importance
136-137 Undated	Unknown	Evils of slavery, demand that it be abolished
138-139 Undated	Unknown	Continuation on the abolishment of Slavery. Questions what the country stands for.
140-141 Undated	Unknown	Speculation into the peopling of the earth.
142 Undated	Unknown	"Our Glorious Country" (glorious strike through) Continuation Christian influenced speculation of the origin of the earth
143 Undated	Unknown	Short writing on a love story
144 Undated	Unknown	Comments on Napoleon and his respectable career
146 Undated	Unknown	Leger of bills
147 Undated	Unknown	Leger continued
148 09-21-1841	Unknown	Letter to a dear friend
150 Undated	Unknown	Sales Leger
151 Approximate 1858	Unknown	Sales Leger
152 Undated	Unknown	Contemplation about money
153-154 Undated	Hiram Herring	Letter on family Finances
155 Undated	Unknown	Letter on reminiscing on older times and memories once forgotten

156 Undated	Unknown	Reflection on snowy weather and longing for a dear friend
157-158 Undated	Unknown	Reflection of the Biblical telling of Brothers Cain and Able
159 Undated	Unknown	Comment on Mankind's sin's descending from a perfect God
160 03-09-1854	Unknown	Statement on beauty, dignity, and moral excellence to be called God's noblest works
161 Approximately 1853	Unknown, possible hand by William Rodgers	Top half of page contains a leger of sales. Bottom half contains the expectations of a man.
162 Undated	Unknown Hand	The achievements of man and the actions he bestows to society
163 Approximately 1853	Signed William P. Herring	Sales Leger