Jacob R. Elfreth Jr. diaries, 1861-1924
MC.975.01.020
Finding aid prepared by Kara Flynn

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April 20, 2016
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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## Summary Information

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<tr>
<th><strong>Repository</strong></th>
<th>Haverford College Quaker &amp; Special Collections</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creator</strong></td>
<td>Elfreth, Jacob R. Jr., 1837-1924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title</strong></td>
<td>Jacob R. Elfreth Jr. diaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date [inclusive]</strong></td>
<td>1861-1924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extent</strong></td>
<td>3.2 Linear feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language</strong></td>
<td>English</td>
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</table>

**Preferred Citation**

Jacob R. Elfreth Jr. diaries (MC.975.01.020), Quaker & Special Collections, Haverford College, Haverford, PA.
Biographical note

Jacob R. Elfreth (1837-1924), the son of Jacob R. Elfreth Sr. and Abigail Pierce Elfreth, was born on October 22, 1837 in Philadelphia, PA. He was a Quaker merchant, elder, and minister. Initially apprenticed for five years to J.R. Sowers & Co., dry goods, Elfreth started a carpet business with his brother, James Elfreth. Elfreth Jr. never married and died November 14, 1924 in Landsdowne, PA.

Scope and Content note

This collection is composed of 64 volumes of the bound, handwritten diaries of Jacob R. Elfreth, Jr. Early diaries, from 1861-1867, focus on military movement and battles during the Civil War, reactions to President Lincoln's assassination, and the political tensions during the aftermath of the war. The majority of entries detail day-to-day activities; family news, news of Elfreth's carpet business, attendance at Quaker meetings, social calls, accounts of weather, and births, deaths, and marriages within the Quaker community. In later entries, beginning in 1882, Elfreth discusses his work as the School Director for Darby Borough's schools.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections June 2015

Use Restrictions

Standard Federal Copyright Law Applies (U.S. Title 17).

Acquisition

Unknown.
Related Materials

Related Materials

• MC 975.01.019 Jacob R. Elfreth Sr. diaries
• MC 975.03.010 Elfreth family commonplace books
• MC 975.08.009 Jacob R. Elfreth account books
• MC 1221 Elfreth family papers

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

• Diaries.
• Quakers -- Diaries

Subject(s)

• Society of Friends -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia -- History -- Sources
• Education--United States.
• Society of Friends--Education
• United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865
• World War, 1914-1918
Collection Inventory

Vol. 1 1861

Vol. 2 1862

Scope and Content note

Discusses military movements and battles.

Vol. 3 1863

Scope and Content note

Hicksite meetings described. Records Rebel troops movements, particularly General Lee's troops. New York City draft riots. This volume includes a list of remedies at the back for "bite of mad dogs," "smallpox," "broken bones," and the "bite of rattle snakes."

Vol. 4 1864

Scope and Content note

Descriptions of Hicksite meetings, records civil war battles.

Vol. 5 1865

Scope and Contents note

Entries describe celebrations in the streets of Philadelphia when General Lee's army surrenders. Describes reactions to Lincoln's assasination, both personal reactions, and the reactions of the people.
of Philadelphia. This volume includes a typed, transcribed copy of the entry concerning Elfreth's initial reaction to Lincoln's assassination. Final entries describe the end of the war.

Vol. 6 1866

**Scope and Content note**

Includes "remedies" or "cures" for; neuralgia, hydrophobia, dyspepsia, and cholera, as well as a "cholera preventative."

Vol. 7 1867

**Scope and Content note**

Entries describe political upheaval after the end of the civil war, especially concerning new president Andrew Johnson. Legislation establishing rights for freed slaves.

Vol. 8 1868

Vol. 9 1869

Vol. 10 1870

Vol. 11 1871

Vol. 12 1872

Vol. 13 1873

Vol. 14 1874
Vol. 15 1875

Scope and Content note

Entries include discussions of Hicksite meetings.

Vol. 16 1876

Scope and Content note

Entries include discussions about issues within the local meeting, including increases in disownment. Volume includes paper cut out with the note; "given to me by Hannah Smith 4-21-1876."

Vol. 17 1877

Vol. 18 1878

Scope and Content note

European politics discussed, particularly as related to Russia.

Vol. 19 1879

Scope and Content note

Darby schools discussed, including books bought for the schools, supervising the building of new school houses.

Vol. 20 1880

Scope and Content note
Business related to schools, including vaccinating of school children.

Vol. 21 1881

Vol. 22 1882

Vol. 23 1883

Vol. 24 1884

Vol. 25 1885

Vol. 26 1886

Vol. 27 1887

Scope and Content note

Entries related to the Darby Home Protection Society and school taxes. Includes school tax notices for 1882, and a pamphlet with the "list of signers for license to sell liquors for year 1887, in the Buttonwood Hotel, Darby."

Vol. 28 1888

Vol. 29 1889

Vol. 30 1890

Vol. 31 1891
Scope and Content note

Included in this volume; funreal invitation, advertisement for a "ten minute headache cure."

Vol. 32 1892

Scope and Content note

Obituary for Morris Cope inside.

Vol. 33 1893

Vol. 34 1894

Scope and Content note

Entries discuss urban development and the disappearance of Smith's Island.

Vol. 35 1895

Vol. 36 1896

Vol. 37 1897

Vol. 38 1898

Vol. 39 1899

Vol. 40 1900

Scope and Content note
Entries related to foreign politics, including the Boer War, China, and Russia. Inside: Six pound note (1776), New Jersey, Fifty shillings (1773), Pennsylvania.

Scope and Content note

Entries discuss the rising popularity of the automobile and Elfreth's negative reactions to them.
Workers strike in Philadelphia.

Vol. 51 1911

Vol. 52 1913

Vol. 53 1913

Scope and Content note
Lock of hair inside, discussion of Quaker "seperation."

Vol. 54 1914

Vol. 55 1915

Scope and Content note
Entries discuss aging and events related to WWI.

Vol. 56 1916

Scope and Content note
Entries discuss WWI, the Peace Party.

Vol. 57 1917

Vol. 57 1917
Scope and Content note

Foreign politics- China, Russia.

Vol. 58 1918

Scope and Content note

Entries related to WWI, the American government's control of foreign trade.

Vol. 59 1919

Scope and Content note

Foreign politics, particularly Germany, Russia, and peace treaties. Inside volume; two "fractional currency" three cent bills, dated 1863.

Vol. 60 1920

Scope and Content note

Entries related to gardening.

Vol. 61 1921

Scope and Content note

Foreign politics, particularly Eastern Europe.

Vol. 62 1922

Vol. 63 1923
Scope and Content note

Entries related to gardening.

Vol. 64 1924