Voorhies, Athaliah, 1799-approximately 1893.

Athaliah Voorhies spiritual journal
1838-1844

Abstract: This spiritual diary and journal was kept by Athaliah Voorhies of Hamilton Square, New Jersey, from 1838-1844. Entries primarily are of a religious nature and feature meditations, biblical text, and comments on sermons delivered by a number of preachers. Brief entries also note community births, deaths, marriages, accidents, and events regarding family members.
Descriptive Summary

Identification: MSS 097, Item 116
Creator: Voorhies, Athaliah, 1799-approximately 1893.
Title: Athaliah Voorhies spiritual journal
Inclusive Dates: 1838-1844
Extent: 1 v. (48 p.) ; 25 cm.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

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Biographical Note

Athaliah Cubberly was born on August 7, 1799, the daughter of David and Elizabeth Mount Cubberly (Cubberley) of Hamilton Square, New Jersey. In 1820, she married Major Voorhies, a tanner.

Major Voorhies (Voorhees) was an active member of the Hamilton Square community and served as a town constable in 1845 and as member of the Township Committee in 1850 and 1855. Athaliah Voorhies had a strong interest in religious matters and was heavily involved in the First Presbyterian Church of Hamilton Square in addition to being a "member for life" of the American Bible Society. Athaliah died on November 24, 1893, and was interred in the graveyard of her Hamilton Square church.

Sources:


This spiritual diary and journal was kept by Athaliah Voorhies of Hamilton Square, New Jersey, from 1838-1844. Entries primarily are of a religious nature and feature meditations, biblical text, and comments on sermons delivered by a number of preachers. Brief entries also note community births, deaths, marriages, accidents, and events regarding family members.

Many of the entries made by Voorhies in her "journal of the mind" relate to sermons given by several preachers during Sunday church services. The predominant preacher from 1838-1840 was Henry Purkins, pastor of the united churches of Allentown and Hamilton Square, New Jersey. From 1840-1844 the majority of sermons were delivered by George Ely, "ordained pastor over Nottingham and Dutch Neck Church." Other preachers mentioned by Voorhies include Misters Stiles, Miclain, Henry, Deerewell, and Parker. The entries also are a set of religious meditations, often reflecting events and hardships faced by Voorhies and those around her. Spiritual teachings pervade Voorhies' entries and she frequently used religious language when relating events, especially deaths in the community, where she noted that individuals had "been lain in the cold and silent tomb there to remain until the morn of the resurrection."

Periodic entries were made regarding events such as visits from members of the Cubberly family, social calls with friends, society events (such as meetings of the Missionary Sewing Society), and other happenings in the community such as marriages, births, and extraordinary weather. Voorhies commented on her own health, both physical and emotional, as well as the status of her church, at one point listing the names of "sixty three persons added to the church."
Selected Search Terms

Personal Names

Voorhies, Athaliah, 1799-approximately 1893.

Topical Terms

Presbyterians--United States--History--19th century.

Spiritual life--Presbyterian Church.

Sermons, American--19th century.

Geographic Names

Hamilton Square (N.J.)--History--19th century.

Form/Genre Terms

Diaries.

Related Materials in other Repositories

Athaliah Cubberly Voorhies Religious journal, 1858 Jan. 1-1868 Nov. 1., Rutgers University Library Special Collections and University Archives.

Related Materials in this Repository

This item forms part of MSS 097 Diaries, Journals, and Ships' Logs collection.

Publication Note

Detailed Description of the Collection

Athaliah Voorhies spiritual journal, 1838-1844 [Item 116]

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