Contributing Institution: The Huntington Library
Title: Henry Jones diaries
Creator: Jones, Henry, 1816-1910
Identifier/Call Number: mssHM 83955-83964
Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet(1 box)
Date (inclusive): 1837-1871
Abstract: Diaries of Henry Jones, a Quaker farmer and abolitionist, of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania from 1837-1871.
Language of Material: Materials are in English.

Biographical / Historical
Henry Jones (1816-1910) was a Quaker farmer and abolitionist from Upper Dublin, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Jones' parents, Henry Jones and Jane Lewis, were descendants of Welsh Quakers who settled in the area in the 1680s. Jones was the youngest of four boys, born five months after the death of his father in October 1815. His brothers were: Lewis (b. 1806), Clement (b. 1808), and John L. (b. 1811). In 1821, the family relocated to Mrs. Lewis' parents' three farms in Three Tuns in Montgomery County. After their mother's death in 1840, Lewis took over his father's homestead and the other brothers remained in Three Tuns, dividing the three farms between them. Henry in partnership with his brother, Clement, managed the Upper Dublin farms, operated a mill, and kept a general store in Gwynedd, Pennsylvania. In the late 1850s, Henry gave up the store and devoted himself to farming; he later sold the farm. He married Margaret Yerkes Shoemaker (1828-1896) in 1850. The couple had no children. As a committed abolitionist, Jones regularly attended anti-slavery meetings. He was also a member of the Hicksite Society of Friends. In 1870, he obtained an appointment to run a trading post in Nemaha, Nebraska and returned to Pennsylvania in the mid-1870s, where he remained until his death.

Scope and Contents
This collection consists of seven diaries kept by Henry Jones from 1837-1871. Jones' daily entries, often accompanied by philosophical reflections, sentiments, and opinions, begin in November 1837 and continue largely uninterrupted until the end of 1858. Entries for the year 1860 consist of only a few in December. The diary resumes in 1864 and continues until July 1870, when Jones departs for Nebraska. In his diaries, Jones' presents a detailed account of his personal life and his relationship with friends and family, along with the life of the Quaker communities in Gwynedd, Upper Dublin, Montgomery Township, and other villages in Pennsylvania. He relates information on the antebellum and Civil War era because of his frequent trips to Philadelphia, Maryland, New York, and New Jersey. Also included are three cartes-de-visite: one of Henry Jones and two of Mary Yerkes Shoemaker.

Jones meticulously documents the local, state, and national abolitionist meetings, conventions, lectures, including women's organizations, that Jones attended for almost 30 years. He writes about his ties with Hicksite Quaker preachers, leading non-Quaker abolitionists, and social reformers, including Lucretia Mott, Frederick Douglass, Thaddeus Stevens, Charles Sumner, and John Mercer Langston. He describes political meetings and conventions between 1838 and 1896, including temperance meetings, festivals, the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention of 1838, the Whig, and then Republican party nominating conventions. He reveals his opinions on economic and political issues, revivalism, phrenology, "animal magnetism," telegraph, alternative medicine, and spiritualism. He also lists books read, including the writings of Frederick Douglass, Lydia M. Child, and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Processing Information
Processed by Gina C Giang in February 2020.
The diaries are arranged chronologically, followed by the cartes-de-visite.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
Abolitionists -- Pennsylvania -- Archives
African Americans -- Pennsylvania -- History -- Sources
Antislavery movements -- United States -- History -- 19th century -- Sources
Books and reading -- United States -- History -- 19th century -- Sources
Hicksites -- Pennsylvania -- Archives
Quakers -- Pennsylvania -- Archives
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)
Society of Friends -- Pennsylvania -- History -- Sources
Women -- Pennsylvania -- Montgomery County
Maryland -- Description and travel
New Jersey -- Description and travel
New York (State) -- Description and travel
Montgomery County (Pa.) -- History -- Sources
Pennsylvania -- History -- 19th century -- Sources
Philadelphia (Pa.) -- History -- 19th century -- Sources
United States -- History -- 19th century -- Sources
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Sources
Diaries
Cartes-de-visite (card photographs)
Douglass, Frederick, 1818-1895
Langston, John Mercer, 1829-1897
Mott, Lucretia, 1793-1880
Stevens, Thaddeus, 1792-1868
Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society
Philadelphia Female Anti-slavery Society

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**Diaries 1837-1871**

**Box 1, Folder 1**
HM 83955 1837 December-1844 December
Physical Description: Four stitched gatherings, no cover.

**Box 1, Folder 2**
HM 83956 1845 January-1850 July
Physical Description: Stitched gathering, faded blue paper covers.

**Box 1, Folder 3**
HM 83957 1850 August-1853 September
Physical Description: Unstitched gathering inserted between marbled cardboard ledger.

**Box 1, Folder 4**
HM 83958 1853 September-1856 August
Physical Description: Unstitched gathering inserted between marbled cardboard ledger.

**Box 1, Folder 5**
HM 83959 1856 September-1858 February
Physical Description: One stitched gathering, no covers.

**Box 1, Folder 6**
HM 83960 1860 November-1867 December 1864 March-1867 December
Physical Description: Unstitched gathering inserted between marbled cardboard ledger.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 7</th>
<th><strong>HM 83961 1868 March-1871</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: Unstitched loose pages inserted between marbled cardboard ledger.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pasted on the inner front cover: Newspaper clipping and note about the “Omaha and Winnebago reservations, December 15, 1871.”</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 8</th>
<th><strong>Cartes-de-visite HM 83962-83964 1864-1882</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One photograph of Henry Jones and two photographs of Mary Yerkes Shoemaker.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>