Summary

Creator: Brown, William Little, 1789-1829

Title: William Little Brown diary

Date: 1805-1814

Size: .13 linear feet (2 volumes)

Abstract: William Little Brown kept this diary while living in the home of his father, Dr. Morgan Brown, at Palmyra, Montgomery County, Tennessee, and in Kentucky; later as a student at Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky (1810-1811); while studying law under Joseph H. Hawkins in Kentucky; and while practicing law in Tennessee from the autumn of 1812 until October 4, 1813, when he joined the army at Camp Beatie, Mississippi Territory, for a brief term, under the service of General Coffee Following his army service, Brown settled in Clarksville, Tennessee. The diary mentions assistance he gave his father in operating a grist mill, an iron furnace, and a farm; the names of bedfellows who passed the night in his home; the sale of medicine to patients; setting bird traps; playing cards; cock fighting; slavery - notably a conspiracy among the negroes in December 1810; his studies and general reading; and his law library Entries date from January 1, 1805 through November 22, 1814. In addition, the diary includes clippings from the Clarkesville Leaf-Chronicle weekly editions dated October 5, 12, 19, and 26, 1916, when portions of Brown's diary were published. A typed transcription of the diary is available for consultation

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: William Little Brown diary, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Key Terms

Subjects
Books and reading
College students -- Diaries
Law -- Study and teaching -- United States
Lawyers -- Diaries
Slavery -- Tennessee -- History -- 19th century

**Geographic Names**
Clarksville (Tenn.) -- Social life and customs -- 19th century
Kentucky -- Social life and customs -- 19th century
Montgomery County (Tenn.) -- Social life and customs -- 19th century

**Genre/Physical Characteristic**
Clippings (information artifacts)
Diaries

**Names**
Brown, William Little, 1789-1829
Brown, Morgan, 1769-1841
Coffee, John, 1772-1833
Hawkins, Joseph H., 1786-1823
Transylvania University
United States. Army