



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Julia Anna Hartness Lay diaries

1851-1878

MssCol 1702

Summary

Creator: Lay, Julia Anna Hartness, 1818-1879

Title: Julia Anna Hartness Lay diaries

Date: 1851-1878

Size: .25 linear feet (3 v.)

Source: Gift of, Mr. Charles Downing Lay, 1941

Abstract: Julia Anna Hartness (1819-1879) of Albany, N.Y. married George C. Lay (1815-1881) of Lyme, Conn., a businessman, in 1841; five of their children survived to adulthood. The Lay family resided in New York City. Diaries kept by Julia Anna Hartness Lay, 1851 Aug. 9-1878 Jan. 20, record her thoughts and daily activities concerning family and household matters; her children's health and upbringing; attendance at lectures, concerts and church services; evangelical and charitable work as a member of the Presbyterian Church; social and recreational activities; and weather conditions. Local and national events mentioned in passing include the Atlantic Cable celebration in 1858, and incidents of the Civil War, including the Draft Riots. The diaries contain pasted newspaper clippings and memorabilia, and a small amount of sketches, memorabilia and family correspondence in pockets.

Alternative Form Available: Available on microfilm; New York Public Library; *ZL-450

Preferred citation: Julia Anna Hartness Lay diaries, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Julia Anna Hartness (1819-1879) of Albany, N.Y. married George C. Lay (1815-1881) of Lyme, Conn., a businessman, in 1841; five of their children survived to adulthood. The Lay family resided in New York City.

Scope and Content Note

Diaries kept by Julia Anna Hartness Lay, 1851 Aug. 9-1878 Jan. 20, record her thoughts and daily activities concerning family and household matters; her children's health and upbringing; attendance at lectures, concerts and church services; evangelical and charitable work as a member of the Presbyterian Church; social and recreational activities; and weather conditions. Local and national events mentioned in passing include the Atlantic Cable celebration in 1858, and incidents of the Civil War, including the Draft Riots. The diaries contain pasted newsclippings and memorabilia, and a small amount of sketches, memorabilia and family correspondence in pockets.

Key Terms

Subjects

Children -- United States -- History -- 19th century -- Sources
Women in church work

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Diaries
Sketches

Geographic Names

New York (N.Y.) -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Personal narratives
New York (N.Y.) -- Social life and customs -- 19th century

Names

Lay, Julia Anna Hartness, 1818-1879
Hartness family
Lay family