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005 Small Manuscripts Collection
006 Fairbanks Papers
140 William H. Fairbanks Diaries
200 1861
210 1865
220 1861, 1863, 1865.
240 0.07 cf.
241 1 @ 0.47 box
261 Three diaries belonging to William H. Fairbanks, a Delaware farmer during the Civil War.
270 Three pre-printed memorandum books (1861, 1863, 1865) include calendars and financial ledgers. The first diary is from 1861 and has a blue cover. Entries in this diary primarily address the weather and Fairbanks' business transactions. Fairbanks occasionally mentions troop movement, succession news, battles, riots, railroad conditions and the security of banks. He mentions Baltimore, Fort Sumter, Manassas and Harpers Ferry before his entries abruptly stop at the end of July, 1861.

There are many blank pages and entries that were later added, written upside down in opposition of the format of the diary. According to these entries, alternately written by Fairbanks and an unidentified person, he suffered from typhoid fever for four months and was unconscious for approximately nine weeks of that time. He resumes regular writing in November. The later entries discuss his cousin, M. P. Lodge, Fairbanks' ongoing illness and the weather. Financial notes and a slip of paper discussing crop pricing are found in the back of the book.

The black-covered diary from 1863 primarily discusses weather, family and farm business. There are a few, brief mentions of the war. Finally, the black self-closing diary from 1865 contains pre-printed tables with notable historic events, including Civil War battles, for each month. Also included are population numbers by state (based on the 1860 census), which make a distinction between "free" and "slave" citizens. These entries also refer to family life, business, weather and have detailed notes about crops and prices.

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310
329
330 Arranged chronologically within diaries.
331 No index
332 Handwritten.
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360 Fair - poor condition. Acid, dirt, storage damage.
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430
990 October 26, 2011
995
sbd