

Baker, C. Alice (1833-1909)

Journal of a Summer in the Azores, Aug.-Sept. 1879

Journal of Voyage on the Mississippi, June-Aug. 1879

2 vol. MSS. 20 cm.

Born in 1833 in Springfield, MA, C. Alice Baker (as she preferred), worked as a teacher, historian, and writer until her death in Boston in 1909. Her mother's family had ties to Deerfield, and after her father's death, Miss Baker began to spend time in Deerfield. In the early 1840s she attended Deerfield Academy, but also attended private schools in Greenfield and Charlestown, MA. In 1851 she traveled to Illinois where she taught school, returning to teach at Deerfield Academy in 1853. She again went west, and with her life companion, Susan Minot Lane, opened a school in Chicago in 1856. The women ran their school until 1864 when they moved to Cambridge, MA, to be with Miss Baker's sickly mother. Another school was opened in Boston which operated into the 1890s. Miss Baker's interest in history led to a number of articles and books; she also turned her hand to historic preservation when she purchased the Frary House, her ancestral home in Deerfield, and restored it. Spending her summers in Deerfield, she pursued antiquarian interests and became a principal member of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association (PVMA).

These two volumes were the basis of her 1882 book *A Summer in the Azores*. They contain some loose pages and notes of native plants of Azores

Shelved in the C. Alice Baker Papers, Box 5