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**Hiram Fries Papers**  
**Collection Number: 1321**

**ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** Collection is open to all researchers.

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*The diaries in this collection are fragile and should not be duplicated on a photocopying machine. Photographic reproductions are permissible if done with care. Please ask Archives Staff for assistance.*

**PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Processed by Lorna M. Loring. Last updated in April 2023.

**ACCESSION NUMBER(S):** 2023.024 THL

**EXTENT:** 1.5 linear feet; 1 item

**CREATOR:** Fries, Hiram, 1840-1904

**DATE:** 1867 - 1904

**LANGUAGE OF MATERIALS:** English.

**EXISTENCE AND LOCATION OF COPIES:** Photographs in this collection have been digitized and are available to view online through the PastPerfect online database: <https://handley.pastperfectonline.com>.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:** The Hiram Fries Papers is an incomplete series of diaries written by Mr. Fries between 1867 and 1899. There are twenty-four diaries in total, each one documenting Fries's daily routine as he managed his farm in Northwestern Frederick County near White Hall. The diaries include details about weather, farm accounts, crop and livestock prices, news of family and neighbors, and social events. Transcriptions of the diaries are available in Box 3 for the following years: 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1887, 1889.

The collection also includes a wooden box made by Fries to hold the diaries, notes on the diaries written by Robert Fries, two farm account books covering the periods January 1876 to December 1883 and January 1901 to November 1904 and photographs of the Fries family and their property.

**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL:**

Hiram Fries (1840-1904) was a child of Michael Fries and Catherine (Fries) Fries. The Fries family had settled in Frederick County in the 1780s, having emigrated from Pennsylvania. They made their home in the Green Spring area and, along with other families, established the Old Stone Church at Green Spring. Martin and

Catherine Fries, the original settlers, also leased land to establish a subscription school in 1812, which Hiram would later attend.

Hiram Fries lived in Green Spring his whole life, becoming a prosperous and well-respected farmer. He married Elizabeth Anne Fries (1844-1926) in November 1864. The couple had four children, three of whom survived to adulthood. Fries completed a diary for every year between 1867 and 1904, although some are now lost or in private hands.

**ACQUISITION INFORMATION:** Gift of Chris Fries.

**CONTAINER LIST:**

**BOX 1**

Diary, Hiram Fries, 1867 (transcription available in Box 3)  
Diary, Hiram Fries, 1868 (transcription available in Box 3)  
Diary, Hiram Fries, 1869 (transcription available in Box 3)  
Diary, Hiram Fries, 1870 (transcription available in Box 3)  
Diary, Hiram Fries, 1879 (transcription available in Box 3)  
Diary, Hiram Fries, 1880 (transcription available in Box 3)  
Diary, Hiram Fries, 1881 (transcription available in Box 3)  
Diary, Hiram Fries, 1882 (transcription available in Box 3)  
Diary, Hiram Fries, 1883 (transcription available in Box 3)  
Diary, Hiram Fries, 1884 (transcription available in Box 3)  
Diary, Hiram Fries, 1885 (transcription available in Box 3)  
Diary, Hiram Fries, 1886  
Diary, Hiram Fries, 1887 (transcription available in Box 3)  
Diary, Hiram Fries, 1889 (transcription available in Box 3)  
Diary, Hiram Fries, 1890  
Diary, Hiram Fries, 1891

**BOX 2**

Diary, Hiram Fries, 1892  
Diary, Hiram Fries, 1893  
Diary, Hiram Fries, 1894  
Diary, Hiram Fries, 1895  
Diary, Hiram Fries, 1896  
Diary, Hiram Fries, 1897  
Diary, Hiram Fries, 1898  
Diary, Hiram Fries, 1899

Fries Family File - news articles, map

Map of Hiram Fries house and surrounding area, prepared by Robert Fries

Notes on diaries made by Robert Fries, undated, 8 leaves

### **BOX 3**

Transcriptions of diaries for the following years: 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1887, 1889.

### **BOX 4**

Account book, January 1876 to December 1883

Account book, January 1901 to November 1904.

Loose papers found in account book, January 1901 – November 1904.

### **OVERSIZE**

Wooden box built by Fries to store diaries.

### **PHOTOGRAPHS**

- 1321-1 Hiram Fries and family, circa 1890
- 1321-2 Elizabeth Fries, circa 1855
- 1321-3 Elizabeth Fries & family, circa 1894
- 1321-4a Hiram Fries farm, 1996
- 1321-4b Hiram Fries house, 1996