

**PARDEE, MARY ALLISON, 1841-1889
DIARY, 1871**

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Mary Allison Pardee was born on October 30, 1841, in Catlettsburg, Kentucky, the daughter of James Willitts Allison and Mary McClelland Boal. In 1860, on her nineteenth birthday, she married Ariovistus ("Ario") Pardee, Jr. in Sugarloaf, Pennsylvania. Nicknamed "the General," Ario was a Civil War veteran who had ascended the ranks to brigadier general by the end of his service. After the war, Ario returned to Hazleton, Pennsylvania and worked in the family coal business, A. Pardee & Company, along with his father and brother Calvin. However, Ario had contracted dysentery during the war which compromised his health for the rest of his life, preventing him from taking a more active role in the running of the family business.

Ario's health continued to deteriorate and on a doctor's recommendation, Mary and Ario embarked on their first extensive trip abroad in May 1868. Their travels took them throughout Europe, to countries including England, Scotland, France, Switzerland, Germany, and Italy, among others. The Pardees returned to Hazleton in July 1869 but Ario's health failed to improve and two years later, his doctors suggested another trip abroad. Mary and Ario departed New York for the second time in May 1871, setting sail for Queenstown, Ireland, accompanied by Ario's sister Alice, her husband James Earle and their son Edgar. Mary and Ario travelled throughout Ireland and England, spending a month each in Warwick and Torquay. From there, they traveled to Paris, Geneva, Spain, Morocco, and the French Riviera, returning to New York in 1873.

Four years later, Mary and Ario moved to Cheltenham Hills in Philadelphia where Ario served as the local representative for A. Pardee & Company. The couple never had any children. Mary died at Cheltenham Hills on September 23, 1889 at age 47 and was survived by her husband who died in 1901.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of a single volume diary kept by Mary Allison Pardee recording part of her travels in Europe with her husband Ario Pardee from May 10-August 27, 1871. The leather-bound volume contains 182 pages. Photographs purchased by Mary during her travels are integrated into the handwritten account with the images inserted into notches carefully cut into the pages. There are a total of 91 photographs and one engraving. The inscription "Florence, Italy - 1869" is handwritten on the first page of the diary which may have been obtained during Mary and Ario's first trip abroad in 1868-69. Mary used the inside back cover of the diary to keep a list of the letters she sent to friends and family back home.

On May 10, 1871, Mary and Ario departed New York aboard the Steamer "Java," landing at Queenstown, Ireland after an eight-day voyage. They were accompanied by James and Alice Earle and the couple's 4-year-old son Edgar. The group traveled throughout Ireland to Cork, the Lakes of Killarney, and Dublin, crossing the sea to Chester in England on June 12. On a rainy day in late June, the Pardees moved to Warwick and visited its famous castle but the mood was

dampened by Ario's health as well as the weather. Concerned about his health, Mary writes that "Ario seems no better today, and I feel really anxious about him he is so weak. I am sure if we could have a few warm bright days he would be better and I too." Throughout the trip, both Mary and Ario suffered periods of poor health which limited their ability to travel.

The diary contains both Mary's mundane observations on the weather and the suitability of food and lodging as well as descriptions of the beautiful landscapes and architecture she observed during her travels. At times she laments that neither photographs nor her writings can adequately capture the beauty of a place she has visited. When she felt well enough to attend, Mary went to church on Sunday and spent her free time reading, writing letters, sewing, and taking walks with her husband.

Mary and Ario settled at Warwick for six weeks while the Earle family set off for Scotland. During their stay at Warwick, the Pardees headed to nearby Leamington for shopping and sightseeing. They visited such attractions as Shakespeare's Tomb and Anne Hathaway's Cottage during a day-long excursion to Stratford-on-Avon, Shakespeare's birthplace. In early August the Pardees spent a few days touring several of Oxford's many colleges and visited several towns on their way to Wales. Moving south, they stopped at Bristol and Exeter before arriving at Torquay, a seaside town on the English Riviera, on August 23. The diary ends four days later but the Pardees would continue their travels until May 17, 1873, the conclusion of their two-year stint abroad.

INVENTORY

Diary: May 10, 1871 - August 27, 1871

RELATED COLLECTIONS AT LAFAYETTE

Lafayette College Special Collections contains collections related to Ario's younger brother, Calvin Pardee, and his half-brother, Israel Platt Pardee. The Calvin Pardee Papers consist primarily of letters from Calvin's family and friends, including Ario, during his time spent at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. The Israel Platt Pardee Diaries record Israel's tour of Europe as a teenager.