

Collection ID: WCT007

Collection Name: Almanacs Collection

Dates: 1798 - 1893

Size: Three drop front boxes, 1 li. ft.

Name of Creator: Noah Fifield (for two) and other individuals

Biographical / historical note: Almanacs in colonial and early America were popular publications found in many households. Contents included forecasts, astronomical information, planting guides, folklore and medical remedies. Special interest almanacs published by Christian groups, temperance societies, and abolitionists as well as comic ones were produced by the nineteenth century.

The oldest still-published national almanac is *Thomas' The Farmer's Almanack*. (The title and spelling of almanac varied over the years and it is now known as *The Old Farmer's Almanac*). First published in 1792 by Robert B. Thomas, he remained its editor for more than fifty years.

Scope and Contents: This artificial collection contains a variety of almanacs, two of which belonged to Noah Fifield. The provenance for the others is unknown. None are stamped Fifield Collection.

The almanacs in the first two boxes are arranged by publication and in chronological order. The bulk are *Thomas' The Farmer's Almanac*. Its title and spelling varied over the years. Date range is 1798 to 1893; many are missing.

Following *The Farmer's Almanac*, there is one issue of *The Temperance Almanac* published by the Massachusetts Temperance Union (1842), *The Yankee Farmers' Almanac* by Spofford (1844), and two issues of *The Christian Family Almanac* published by the American Tract Society (1868 and 1869).

The third box contains a collection of disparate almanacs, sewn together and with a board serving as a back cover. The date range is 1797 to 1841. There is no indication to whom these publications may have belonged or why they were put together in random fashion. There are issues of the widely circulated *The Farmer's Almanac* as well as specialty almanacs which may be rare. They include temperance and Christian almanacs, a Davy Crockett almanac (1837) containing some stories about him and an engraving of river boatman Mike Fink, and one named for William Henry Harrison (1841). Harrison was elected President of the U.S. in 1840 and died in 1841. The almanac appears to be campaign literature and includes an illustrated biography.

Conditions governing access. The almanacs are in poor to fair condition and should be used with care. Use copies in other formats if possible.

Language: English

Source: Unknown individuals

Subjects:

Almanacs

American Tract Society

Crockett, Davy (1786-1836)

Harrison, William Henry (1773-1841)

Temperance

Location: Tufts Library, Weymouth, MA

Preparer: C.G. Swank, March 2016

Container List

Box	Folder	Name	Date	Notes
1	1	The Farmer's Almanack (Thomas)	1798	
1	2	The Farmer's Almanack (Thomas)	1804	Owned by Noah Fifield. Includes insert -- land lottery ticket, 1786.
1	3	The Farmer's Almanack (Thomas)	1806	Owned by Noah Fifield
1	4	The Farmer's Almanack (Thomas)	1840	
1	5	The Farmer's Almanack (Thomas)	1845	
1	6	The Farmer's Almanack (Thomas)	1847	
1	7	The Farmer's Almanac (Thomas)	1849	
1	8	The Old Farmer's Almanac (Thomas)	1852	
1	9	The (Old) Farmer's Almanack (Thomas)	1853	Inscribed Abraham Capen's Almanack given him by his son-in-law William D. Swan, Dorchester, January 1, 1853. Missing front paper cover. Note that Jenks, Hickling & Swan are the publishers.
1	10	The (Old) Farmer's Almanack (Thomas)	1855	
2	1	The Old Farmer's Almanac (Thomas)	1862	
2	2	The Old Farmer's Almanac (Thomas)	1864	
2	3	The Old Farmer's Almanac (Thomas)	1865	
2	4	The Old Farmer's Almanac (Thomas)	1866	
2	5	The Old Farmer's Almanac (Thomas)	1873	
2	6	The Old Farmer's Almanac (Thomas)	1875	Missing front cover, pages 1-2 but same format as previous ones. Annotated on lined sheet inserted between pages 6 & 7. Jan 20. Thermometer 7 degrees below zero and has been below for 10 days every morning
2	7	The Old Farmer's Almanac (Thomas)	1876	
2	8	The Old Farmer's Almanac (Thomas)	1880	
2	9	The Old Farmer's Almanac (Thomas)	1893	Front cover indicates sold by Ira H. Derby

Box	Folder	Name	Date	Notes
				South Weymouth, MA. Torn back cover indicates Derby's 25th year of selling the almanac
2	10	The Temperance Almanac of the Massachusetts Temperance Union for the year of our lord 1842.	1842	
2	11	The Yankee Farmers' Almanac (Spofford)	1844	
2	12	The Family Christian Almanac (American Tract Society)	1868	
2	13	The Family Christian Almanac (American Tract Society)	1869	
3	1	All almanacs are sewn together with board as back cover. Listed in order.		
3	2	The Christian Almanack, No V, Vol L American Tract Society	1825	
3	3	The New England Almanack and Masonic Calendar	1828	Published by Marsh & Capen, Boston
3	4	The Farmer's Almanac (Thomas)	1830	
3	5	Carleton's Almanack for the year of our lord 1797 by Osgood Carleton	1797	Published by Samuel Hall Boston The Farmer's Almanack
3	6	The Farmer's Almanack (Thomas)	1798	
3	7	The Farmer's Almanack (missing cover and first pages but likely this title)	1800	
3	8	The Farmer's Almanack (Thomas)	1801	
3	9	Segment that may be part of one listed above or another almanac	1801?	
3	10	Temperance Almanac partial (missing cover)	1834	
3	11	The Temperance Almanac for the year of our lord 1834 (pages identical to the ones in the partial almanac above)	1834	Prepared and published under the direction of the Executive Committee of the New York State Temperance Society
3	12	The Christian Almanac for New-England 1835	1835	Published for American Tract Society Lincoln, Edmands & Co. Boston

Box	Folder	Name	Date	Notes
3	13	Missing cover. Could be Comic Token or see next one	1835	
3	14	The National Comic Almanac for the year 1836	1836	Published by the President of the American Eating Club
3	15	The Farmer's Almanack (Thomas)	1836	Published and sold by Carter, Hendee and Co., Boston
3	16	The Farmer's Almanack (Thomas)	1837	Published & Sold by Charles J. Hendee, Boston
3	17	Davy Crockett's 1838 Almanack of Wild Sports in the west Vol 1. No 4	1838	Published by the heirs of Col. Crockett. Includes engraving of Mike Fink
3	18	1837 almanac (no cover) that looks like a Thomas one	1837	
3	19	The Farmer's Almanack for 1839 (Thomas)	1838	
3	20	The Harrison Almanac	1841	NY: Published by J.P. Giffing successor to Samuel Colman