

Inventory of the

**Thomas J. Fearer**  
Pine Creek, Ogle County, Illinois

Diaries

In the

Regional History Center

**RC 343**

## INTRODUCTION

William Bailey, president of the Ogle County Historical Society/Museum donated the Thomas J. Fearer Diaries to the Regional History Center on May 28, 2015.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center, literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection. Photocopies will not be made from the original diaries but are allowed from the diary transcriptions.

Linear feet of shelf space: 3; 84 digital files (36.5 MB)  
Number of containers: 6  
Northern Illinois Regional History Center  
Collection 343

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Thomas Jenipher Fearer Diaries date from 1864 to 1910 and consists of family history, bookkeeping ledgers, diaries and their transcriptions. The diaries document Fearer's travels in Pine Creek, Ogle County, Illinois. The financial records contain payment of dues and costs for outings and food. There is also a transcription of George W. Young diary who was Thomas J. Fearer neighbor. Mr. Young writes about life on the farm, church, his neighbors, and nearby towns.

The collection is organized into three series: original diaries and ledgers, transcriptions, and CD-ROMs. The diaries, transcriptions, and CD-ROMs are organized chronologically within each series.

Copies of the CD files have been transferred to V:\ARCHIVES\RCElectronicArchives\RC 343 Thomas Fearer Diaries. Digital copies may be accessed in the Center's reading room.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Thomas Jenipher Fearer (1823-1910), was born January 15, 1823 in Garrett Co., Maryland. When he was 14 years old he moved west with his parent's family and lived for a few years in Bureau County, Illinois. In those early days Grand Detour, Ogle County was one of the principal trading points of the immediate neighborhood. This encouraged his family to leave Bureau County and move to a farm in Ogle County. Mr. Fearer was united in marriage February 6, 1849 to Margaret Dick, a resident of Pine Creek Township. They were married for more than fifty years until Mrs. Fearer died on May 16, 1902. They had nine children but five died in childhood. The four children that survived were: Mrs. Ellen A. Boswell, Mrs. Blanche Strong, Mrs. Jeanine Trueblood, and W.P. Fearer. In 1903, Mr. Fearer left the farm in Ogle County and moved to Oregon, Illinois where he lived on North 4th Street. However, Mr. Fearer heart was

centered in the old farm home so he enjoyed driving out there nearly everyday until stricken with a severe cold. He was unable to get rid of the cold, heart trouble followed, which terminated in a stroke of paralysis. He died on January 15, 1910 in Oregon, Ogle Co., Illinois. For more than 65 years he was a faithful member of the Mt. Zion United Brethren Church in Pine Creek. He was buried in the family plot in the cemetery adjoining Mt. Zion Church by the side of his wife and five children. His funeral was largely attended by neighbors and friends who always held him in high regard.

Mr. Fearer lived next to a gentleman named George W. Young. Mr. Young came to Oregon Township from Washington Co., Maryland in 1843. He taught school in the winter when he was not helping on the farm.

#### SUBJECT TRACINGS

Diaries, 1840-1869

Diaries, 1870-1909

Fearer, Thomas J.

Ogle County (Ill.)

Oregon (Ill.)

Pine Creek (Ill.)

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Series I. Original Diaries and Ledgers		
1	1	History of Fearer Family
	2-9	Diaries, Thomas Jenipher Fearer, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879
2	1-8	Diaries, Thomas Jenipher Fearer, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1885, 1886, 1888, 1889
3	1-6	Diaries, Thomas Jenipher Fearer, 1890, 1891, 1893, 1899, 1900, 1901
4	1-2	Diaries, Thomas Jenipher Fearer, 1902, 1903
	3-4	Bookkeeping Ledgers, 1864-1869, 1879-1888
Series II. Transcriptions		
	5-13	Diaries, Thomas Jenipher Fearer, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879
5	1-15	Diaries, Thomas Jenipher Fearer, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1885, 1886, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1893, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903
	16	Diary, George W. Young, 1867
Series III. CD-ROMs		
<u>BOX</u>	<u>CD-ROM</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
6	1-31	Diaries, Thomas Jenipher Fearer, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1885, 1886, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1893, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903
	32	Diary, George W. Young, 1867