The second child of attorney George J. Tucker and his first wife, Eunice, Mary E. Tucker was born in Lenox, Mass., ca. 1835, and raised there with her elder brother Joseph and sisters Maria, Harriett, and Sarah. Mary died at a tragically young age on August 20, 1855. She is buried with her father and sister Maria in the town’s Church on the Hill Cemetery.

As small as the volume is, it is a complex book, consisting of two main parts, neither with certain authorship. Approximately the first third of the volume is comprised of brief notes on sermons delivered by Congregational minister Edmund K. Alden and others, 1854-1862, while the rest is a well-organized receipt book kept in a different hand. The receipts are arranged in sections devoted to bread and cake, soups, fish, meats, vegetables, pastry, puddings, other desserts, cake, preserves and jellies, miscellaneous, and pickles and sauces. Several recipes are attributed to other writers, including the well-known cookbook author Juliet Corson.

Although the book is signed on the front end paper by Mary E. Tucker, her death in 1855 precludes her from being the author of the volume. There is a partially erased inscription immediately above Mary’s inscription reading “Hattie’s book,” suggesting the author may be Mary’s younger sister Harriett (b. ca. 1846), however there two distinctly different hands are represented in the volume, and Harriett was too young to have written the comments on sermons. A poem written on the page before the cookery section is signed by Owen Meredith, who has no clear relation to the Tuckers.
**Administrative information**

**Provenance**

Provenance not recorded.

**Processing Information**


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**Search terms**

**Subjects**

- Cooking, American--Massachusetts--Lenox
- Lenox (Mass.)--History--19th century
- Sermons--Massachusetts--Lenox

**Names**

- Alden, Edmund K.

**Genre Terms**

- Cookbooks