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Samuel Henry Accounts

1813-1881

2 boxes (0.75 linear ft.)

Call no.: MS 13



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Justice of the peace, merchant, landowner, and entrepreneur from Prescott and Shutesbury, Massachusetts. Nine volumes contain descriptions of his duties as justice of the peace, a book of deeds and mortgages from local real estate transactions, account books of sales in his general store and from his palm leaf hat business, and notes of accounts with individuals.

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[Background on Samuel Henry](#)

Prescott was among the Western Massachusetts towns abolished in 1938 to allow the Swift River Valley to be flooded, thereby creating the Quabbin Reservoir to provide Boston with water.

Scope of collection

Samuel Henry was a justice of the peace, merchant, landowner, and entrepreneur in early nineteenth century Prescott, Massachusetts. Henry eventually moved to Shutesbury, Massachusetts in 1857. The nine volumes of accounts in this collection reflect his varied interests and responsibilities. His record of acknowledgements covers his duties as justice of the peace and show local real estate transactions from 1829 to 1857. His personal activity in real estate is reflected in his book of deeds and mortgages, covering the period 1813 to 1876. Henry also ran a general store and began a palmleaf-hatmaking business. The hat business was an extensive homework industry, which involved the braiding of hats (usually by women at home) in exchange for credit at Henry's store. Much of Henry's activity in the local economy similarly took place without the exchange of cash. The use of the account books, which also include extensive notes of accounts with individuals (1830-1881) help reconstruct the rural economy of nineteenth-century Massachusetts.

Inventory

Deeds and Mortgages

1813-1876

Box 1: 1

Record of Acknowledgements of Deeds and Other Instruments

1829-1854

Box 1: 2

Ledger No. 1 for Palm Leaf Hat Manufacture

1835-1838

Box 1: 3

Cash Book

1838-1854

Box 1: 3

Cash Book

1840-1862

Box 1: 4

Account of Cash Paid for Family Expenses

1854-1859

Box 1: 5

Memorandum of Agreements and Small Accounts

1854-1857

Box 1: 5

Account of Rents and Expenses on Tool Place

1857-1860

Box 1: 5

Account of Rents on Johnston Place

1858-1859

Box 1: 5

Record of Acknowledgements of Deeds and Other Instruments

1854-1857

Box 1: 5

Account of Cash to Be Loaned

1854-1860

Box 1: 5

Accounts with Individuals

1830-1838

Box 1: 6

Accounts of Notes and Cash on Interest

1846-1860

Box 1: 6

List of Notes that Belong to the Store

1829-1846

Box 1: 6

Accounts with Individuals

1834-1843

Box 1: 7

Accounts with Individuals

1856-1881

Box 2: 8

Accounts with Individuals

1835-1860

Box 2: 9

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Acquired from Donald Howe, 1960.

Processing Information

Processed by Ken Fones-Wolf, November 1984.

Language:

English

Acknowledgments

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Copyright and Use (More information)

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Search terms

Subjects

Henry, Samuel, fl. 19th century.

Massachusetts--Economic conditions--19th century--Sources.

Panama hat industry--Massachusetts--History--Sources.

Prescott (Mass.)--History--Sources.

Quabbin Reservoir Region (Mass.)--History.

Shutesbury (Mass.)--History--Sources.

Contributors

Henry, Samuel, 19th cent. **[main entry]**

Genres and formats

Account books

Link to similar SCUA collections

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Politics and governance

Quabbin



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