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## Joseph W. Estey Account Book

1809-1827

1 volume, 1 folder (0.25 linear ft.)

Call no.: MS 93



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Joseph W. Estey was the owner of a farm in Greenwich, Massachusetts with a grist and sawmill. The account book (started in Springfield and Ludlow, Massachusetts with his business partner Abner Putnam) documents business dealings, hired male and female help, personal and farm expenses (hiring tanners and blacksmiths), and a deed.

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### Background on Joseph W. Estey

Greenwich 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

Joseph W. Estey began this account book in Springfield and Ludlow, Massachusetts in 1809 when he bought a tavern and farm with a grist and saw mill. The mill was held in partnership with Abner Putnam who split expenses; hence Estey kept track of his expenses to be attributed to the business as well as his personal and farm expenses.

By 1811 he had bought a farm with grist and sawmills in Greenwich, Massachusetts. The majority of the 292 pages are about the Greenwich property. Only pp. 1-20 refer to Springfield and Ludlow, although references to Ludlow appear later in the book.

The Greenwich accounts were of Estey's grist and sawmill dealings, but also accounts of his hired male and female help. They usually lived with him, but took care of their own clothes and obtained their own spirits. Among his early 19th century workers were "Sam Lane's Negro" (p. 11), and "Lewis a Negro" or Lewis, Negro. Hired men were not paid for half-days taken off for military training.

The book is of personal as well as business dealings and so gives a graphic picture of rural life. Estey hires his mowing done, his tanning, his blacksmithing, and his pond cleaning. He occasionally puts his animals in others' pastures for a fee. He sells lumber for sizable construction projects which could be traced.

Some of the people, businesses, and places mentioned are:

Parson Clapp Tavern  
Gideon Howe, Greenwich  
Edward Howe  
Lewis, a Negro (p. 71)  
John Warner, blacksmith  
Benjamin Lincoln  
Laban Marcy, Greenwich  
Josiah Vaughan, Prescott  
John Oaks, New Salem  
Ware Manufacturing Co.  
Major John Warner, blacksmith  
W.A. Putnam (p. 238)  
Elihu Barnard, blacksmith

## Inventory

Deed, Eleazar W. Estey from estate of Joseph W. Estey--Pew and Horse Shed

Nov. 2, 1859

Box 1

Account Book, Joseph W. Estey, Springfield, Ludlow, Greenwich

1809-1827

Box 2

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## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

Acquired from Donald W. Howe, 1960.

### Processing Information

Processed by Ruth Owen Jones, October 1985.

### Language:

English

### Acknowledgments

Encoding funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

### Copyright and Use (More information )

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## Search terms

## Subjects

Agricultural laborers--Massachusetts--Greenwich  
Barnard, Elihu  
Domestics--Massachusetts--Greenwich  
Estey, Joseph W.  
Farmers--Massachusetts--Greenwich--Economic conditions--19th century  
Greenwich (Mass.)--Economic conditions--19th century  
Howe, Edward  
Howe, Gideon  
Lewis, Negro  
Lincoln, Benjamin  
Ludlow (Mass.)--Economic conditions--19th century  
Marcy, Laban  
Mills and mill-work--Massachusetts--Greenwich  
Oaks, John  
Parson Clapp Tavern  
Putnam, Abner  
Putnam, W. A.  
Quabbin Reservoir Region (Mass.)--Economic conditions--19th century  
Springfield (Mass.)--Economic conditions--19th century  
Vaughan, Josiah  
Ware Manufacturing Co. (Ware, Mass.)  
Warner, John, Blacksmith

## Contributors

Estey, Joseph W. [main entry]

## Genres and formats

Account books

## Link to similar SCUA collections

Farming and rural life  
Quabbin



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