



Country Store Daybook

1825-1827

1 volume (0.25 linear ft.)

Call no.: MS221

Collection overview

Country store in the village of Titicut in Middleborough, Massachusetts, owned by members of either the Clark or Pratt families of the village. Includes goods for sale (groceries, cloth, hardware, and liquor), the method and form of payment (cash, rags, straw, wood, brick, and produce), customers' names, and ways that families and women earned credit (producing braid or carting goods for the owners).

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Scope of collection

This daybook from the village of Titicut (Middleborough, Massachusetts) includes accounts of a country store from September 1825 to March 1827. Although there is no clear indication of who kept the daybook, it may have been the property of either Amos and Robert Clark, or Jared and Isaac Pratt, both of whom ran stores in the village. Members of both the Clark and the Pratt families appear in the accounts.

The business was very general, selling groceries, cloth, hardware, and liquor. The owners accepted rags, straw, wood, brick, and produce in payment, in addition to cash, and many of the customers earned credit with the store by producing braid, particularly (but not exclusively) the women. Jane Capen, for example, exchanged 150 yards of braid on October 25, 1825, for \$1.75 in credit. Three days later, Clarinda, Sybil, and Benjamin Richmond exchanged braid worth \$5.10, the largest amount credited to Benjamin's account.

The other principal method of earning credit at the store was by carting goods for the owners. The Alden family, Seth Easton, and Azel Perkins all provided this service for the store, including shipments from as far away as Boston.

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Acquired from Charles Apfelbaum, 1987.

Processing Information

Processed by Ken Fones-Wolf, September 1988.

Language:

English

Acknowledgments

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Copyright and Use (More information)

Cite as: Country Store Daybook (MS 221). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

Search terms

Subjects

- Barter--Massachusetts--Middleborough--History--19th century--Sources.
- Braid--Massachusetts--History--Sources.
- Freight and freightage--Massachusetts--History--Sources.
- General stores--Massachusetts--Middleborough--History--19th century--Sources.
- Middleborough (Mass.)--Commerce--History--19th century--Sources.
- Middleborough (Mass.)--Economic conditions--19th century--Sources.
- Middleborough (Mass.)--History--19th century--Sources.
- Titicut (Middleborough, Mass.)--Commerce--History--19th century--Sources.
- Titicut (Middleborough, Mass.)--Economic conditions--19th century--Sources.
- Titicut (Middleborough, Mass.)--History--19th century--Sources.

Genres and formats

- Account books.

Link to similar SCUA collections

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