



## Phineas Hemenway Daybook

1818-1828

1 volume (0.1 linear ft.)

Call no.: MS 627 bd



Collection overview

The tanner Phineas Hemenway was born in Bolton, Worcester County, Mass., in September 1794, the fourth of six children born to Simeon and Mary (Goss) Hemenway, but he resided nearly his entire adult life in the Franklin County hill town of Shutesbury. Although little is known about his life, Hemenway appears to have married twice, to a Polly or Mary Gray in about 1816, and to the widow Mary Sears of Prescott in April 1838. Hemenway died in Shutesbury on December 21, 1850.

With approximately 150 pages of brief, but closely written records of daily transactions, the Hemenway daybook documents the range of activities of rural tannery in antebellum Massachusetts. Along with the names of clients, the date and amount, and a brief notation on whether the work was for dressing, tanning, currying, or (apparently) the sale of finished product, Hemenway records work in a variety of leathers, from calf to sheep, hog, and horse and from sole leather to upper leather, sometimes specified as for shoes. The daybook also includes credit entries for labor performed, the purchase of hemlock bark or hides, or more rarely for cash to settle accounts.

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**Massachusetts (West)**

Trades

### Background on Phineas Hemenway

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### Scope of collection

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Laid into the front of the volume is a copy of a letter to the Overseers of the Poor for the town of Shutesbury, Nov. 1, 1823,

requesting reimbursement for support given to Ebenezer Burpee and family following Burpee's illness, along with a loose leaf of paper containing some calculations.

## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

Acquired from Dan Casavant, 2002.

### Processing Information

Processed by Dex Haven, August 2009.

### Bibliography

Hemenway's marriage to Mary Sears is recorded in Lillie Pierce Coolidge, *The History of Prescott, Massachusetts* (s.l., ca.1952).

### Language:

English

### Copyright and Use (More information )

*Cite as:* Phinehas Hemenway Daybook (MS 627 bd). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

## Search terms

### Subjects

Shutesbury (Mass.)--Economic conditions--19th century.

Tanners--Massachusetts--Shutesbury.

Tetrahymena--Genetics.

### Contributors

Hemenway, Phinehas. **[main entry]**

Hemenway, Phinehas, 1794-1850.

### Genres and formats

Daybooks.

### Link to similar SCUA collections

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