

George Stocking Account Book

1815-1850

1 volume (0.1 linear ft., 262p.)

Call no.: MS 486 bd

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The shoemaker George Stocking was born on May 23, 1784, on his family's farm in Ashfield, Mass., the second son of Abraham and Abigail (Nabby) Stocking. At 25, George married Ann Toby (1790-1835) from nearby Conway, with whom he had nine children, followed by two more children with his second wife, the widow Mary Jackson Shippey, whom he married on Dec. 16, 1840. George succeeded Amos Stocking, his uncle, in the tanning and shoemaking business at Pittsfield, Mass., where he died on Christmas day 1864.

George Stocking's double column account book documents almost 35 years of the economic activity of a shoemaker in antebellum Ashfield, Massachusetts. Although the entries are typically very brief, recording making, mending, tapping, capping, or heeling shoes and boots, among other things, they provide a dense and fairly continuous record of his work. They also reveal the degree to which Stocking occasionally engaged in other activities to earn a living, including mending harnesses and other leatherwork to performing agricultural labor. The book includes accounts with Charles Knowlton, the local physician who was famous as a freethinker and atheist and author of *Fruits of Philosophy*, his book on contraception that earned him conviction on charges of obscenity and a sentence of three months at hard labor.

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Background on George Stocking

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Scope of collection

George Stocking's double column account book documents almost 35 years of the economic activity of a shoemaker in antebellum Ashfield, Massachusetts. Although the entries are typically very brief, recording making, mending, tapping, capping, or heeling shoes and boots, among other things, they provide a dense and fairly continuous record of his work. They also reveal the degree to which Stocking occasionally engaged in other activities to earn a living, including mending harnesses and other leatherwork to performing agricultural labor. The book includes accounts with Charles Knowlton, the local physician who was famous as a freethinker and atheist and author of *Fruits of Philosophy*, his book on contraception that earned him conviction on charges of obscenity and a sentence of three months at hard labor.

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of John V. Calipari, 1994.

Processing Information

Processed by Dex Haven, August 2009.

Bibliography

Stocking, Charles Henry Wright, *The Stocking Ancestry: comprising the descendants of George Stocking, founder of the American family* (1903)

Language:

English

Copyright and Use (More information)

Cite as: George Stocking Account Book (MS 486 bd).
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Search terms

Subjects

- Ashfield (Mass.)--Economic conditions--19th century.
- Shoemakers--Massachusetts--Ashfield.

- Knowlton, Charles, 1800-1850.
- Stocking, George, 1784-1864.

Genre terms

- Account books.

Names

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