



The New York Public Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

**Increase Matthews and John Matthews daybooks**

1801-1804

MssCol 1913

Compiled by Susan P. Waide, 2017

## Summary

**Creator:** Mathews, Increase, 1772-1856

**Title:** Increase Matthews and John Matthews daybooks

**Date:** 1801-1804

**Size:** .08 linear feet (1 volume)

**Source:** Donated by Mrs. E. W. Matthews, 1939

**Abstract:** Increase Matthews and John Matthews, early Ohio settlers, were merchants in Zanesville and Springfield, Ohio. The collection of Increase Matthews and John Matthews daybooks, 1801-1804, consists of two volumes (bound in one) recording transactions at Zanesville and Springfield, Ohio for sugar, coffee, tea, farm products, cloth, whiskey, gunpowder and lead, and general merchandise. Accounts for animal pelts and charges for cartage to and from Marietta, Ohio are also listed.

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**Preferred citation:** Increase Matthews and John Matthews daybooks, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

**Processing note:** Compiled by Susan P. Waide, 2017

## Creator History

Increase Matthews and John Matthews, early Ohio settlers, were merchants in Zanesville and Springfield, Ohio. By profession Increase Matthews was a physician and John Matthews was a surveyor. They were the sons of Daniel Mathews and Huldah Putnam of New Braintree, Massachusetts, and the nephews of General Rufus Putnam, a founding partner of the Ohio Company and first Surveyor General of the United States. Increase Matthews was one of the founders of the town of Springfield, renamed Putnam in 1814. It was incorporated into Zanesville in 1872. The family name, typically spelled Mathews but sometimes Matthews, usually appears in this collection as Matthews, and sometimes as Mathews.

## Scope and Content Note

The collection of Increase Matthews and John Matthews daybooks, 1801-1804, consists of two volumes (bound in one) recording transactions at Zanesville and Springfield, Ohio for sugar, coffee, tea, farm products, cloth, whiskey, gunpowder and lead, and general merchandise. Accounts for animal pelts and charges for cartage to and from Marietta, Ohio are also listed.

Daybook entries also reflect, to a lesser extent, Increase's work as a physician and John's work as a surveyor. Entries for "John Matthews surveyor" are distinguished from "John Matthews, millwright" or "miller."

Entries in the first volume are dated 1801 March 31 to 1802 February 15 at Zanesville, apparently kept chiefly by Increase Matthews. There are a few entries for medicines (not specified) sold by him. Entries in the second volume, "John and Increase Matthews Day Book 1803" are dated 1803 January 1-1804 January 7, at Springfield. There are expenses at end under "John Mathews private affairs" and "Expenses on town and lot Springfield." The volumes include cash withdrawals by both men and charges for their own transactions.

There are occasional entries for Isaac Zane, Rufus Putnam, and Levi Whipple; partnerships mentioned include Sproat & Matthews, Increase Matthews & Company, J.F. Munro & Company, and Springhill Company. Some customer names are common to both volumes.

## Key Terms

### Genre/Physical Characteristic

Account books  
Daybooks

### Subjects

Accounts -- Ohio -- 19th century  
Dry-goods -- Ohio -- 19th century  
Fur trade -- Ohio -- 19th century

### Occupations

Merchants  
Physicians  
Surveyors

### Geographic Names

Zanesville (Ohio) -- History -- 19th century

### Names

Mathews, John, 1765-1828