



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

John Bellamy arithmetic exercise book and ledger

1788-1832

MssCol 24489

Processed by Susan P. Waide in 2018

Summary

Creator: Bellamy, John, 1769-1834

Title: John Bellamy arithmetic exercise book and ledger

Date: 1788-1832

Size: .1 linear feet (1 folder)

Source: Purchased from C.F. Libbie & Co., 1919.

Abstract: John Bellamy (1769-1834), the son of John Bellamy (1734-1810) and Mary Burnham (1738-1814) of Kittery, Maine, was a woodworker. The collection comprises two volumes (1 folder) belonging to John Bellamy: a book of arithmetic exercises written by his tutor, with Bellamy's answers, 1788; and John Bellamy's ledger of accounts for carpentry and other work done locally, 1791-1832. The amounts are calculated in pounds sterling, changing to dollars roughly after 1800. Payment is often in kind, including agricultural products, dry goods, fish, shoes, timber, and weaving.

Preferred citation: John Bellamy arithmetic exercise book and ledger, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Susan P. Waide in 2018

Creator History

John Bellamy (1769-1834), the son of John Bellamy (1734-1810) and Mary Burnham (1738-1814) of Kittery, Maine, was a woodworker. He married Tamesin Haley (1769-1836) in 1791. They had eight children, including sons John H. Bellamy and Charles G. Bellamy.

Scope and Content Note

The collection comprises two volumes belonging to John Bellamy: a book of arithmetic exercises written

by his tutor, with Bellamy's answers, 1788; and John Bellamy's ledger of accounts for carpentry and other work done locally, 1791-1832. The amounts are calculated in pounds sterling, changing to dollars roughly after 1800. Payment is often in kind, including agricultural products, dry goods, fish, shoes, timber, and weaving. Blank space under credit accounts was often used for the accounts of another individual.

The arithmetic exercise book, bound in wrappers, contains John Bellamy's ownership note and the note "Farewell, John," dated 1788 February 13. The exercises, progressing from basic calculations to word problems, are generally mercantile and agricultural in nature. One problem mentions the distance from Kittery Ferry to Falmouth; another, computing time, refers to the age of a 19-year-old in minutes, with the problem below it referring to the present year of 1788.

His ledger of accounts, lacking its cover and without an index, records debits and credits for members of many Kittery families, including the Haley, Weeks, Gunnison, Cutts, Gerrish, and Billings families, as well as some for his own parents. Charges for woodworking and general labor include furniture-making and repairs, coffin-making, work on houses and ships, hauling timber, planting, hiring out his team of oxen, and working with his sons John and Charles.

Key Terms

Subjects

Accounts -- Maine -- Kittery
Arithmetic -- Problems, exercises, etc.
Arithmetic -- Study and teaching -- Maine
Carpenters -- Maine -- Kittery

Occupations

Carpenters.
Students.

Geographic Names

Kittery (Me.) -- History

Names

Bellamy, John, 1769-1834
Bellamy family