



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

John Eastmond papers

1803-1848

MssCol 3503

Processed by Susan P. Waide in 2018

Summary

Creator: Eastmond, John, 1772-1856

Title: John Eastmond papers

Date: 1803-1848

Size: .14 linear feet (1 volume, 1 folder)

Source: Acquired from Armstrong, 1933.

Abstract: John Eastmond (1772-1856) was a New York City businessman specializing in accounting and insurance. He was born in England and died in Middletown, New Jersey. The collection comprises John Eastmond's journal of personal and household accounts, with some business entries, 1803-1807; his business letter book, 1827-1828; and a notebook, 1818-1848, documenting expenses and household clothing. A few letters are in shorthand. Volumes include transactions with the family of his first wife Susanna Thorne, and document his business connections with members of the Van den Heuvel family.

Preferred citation: John Eastmond papers, 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 Eastmond (1772-1856) was a New York City businessman specializing in accounting and insurance. He was born in England and died in Middletown, New Jersey. He married first, Susanna Thorne (died 1820); second, Margaret Lawrence, in 1822; and third, Eliza Swartwout, in 1836.

Scope and Content Note

The collection comprises John Eastmond's journal of personal and household accounts, with some business entries, 1803-1807; his business letter book, 1827-1828; and a notebook, 1818-1848, documenting expenses and household clothing.

The journal, 1803 January 1-1807 January 1 (1 volume), lists his assets, debts, debits, and credits regarding his house in New York City and other property holdings. Accounts (36 pages) are summarized by type at the end of each year. A leaf with 2 pages of manuscript mathematical tables is inserted at end. Items include transactions with the family of his first wife, Susanna Thorne, in Cornwall, New York, and the purchase of a female slave named Nell, 1806 June 30 (page 31), with terms of her employment and possible emancipation. House expenses include the purchase of furniture and books. Entries in 1804 document the end of his employment with J.C. Van den Heuvel to start a partnership with Benjamin Armitage. The journal also records his activities as a bird fancier, identifying the number and kinds of birds purchased and sold or given away, and transactions with bird seller Henry J. Hassey.

His letter book (with some loss of text), 1827 June 6-1828 November 7, contains copied business letters to local clients and those living abroad regarding transactions conducted on their behalf. Recipients include members of the Van den Heuvel family. An incomplete letter at end to John Hart, dated November 7, 1828, advises him of deaths in his own family, and their impact on his faith in God. A few letters are in shorthand. A notebook contains his expenses, 1818-1828, and a listing of household clothing, dated 1848. The letter book and notebook (in 1 folder) are unbound.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Account books
Letter books
Shorthand

Subjects

Accounts -- New York (State) -- New York
Bird breeders -- New York (State) -- New York
Businessmen -- New York (State) -- New York
Real property -- New York (State)
Slavery -- New York (State) -- New York

Occupations

Businessmen.

Names

Eastmond, John, 1772-1856
Thorne family
Vanden Heuvel family