Guide to the Caleb Baldwin Papers

MS 53

compiled by Susan Grigg

September 1979

Yale University Library
P.O. Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520-8240
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 53
CREATOR: Baldwin, Caleb, 1772-1844
TITLE: Caleb Baldwin papers
DATES: 1774–1871

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2.5 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Schoolmaster, postmaster and town clerk in Newtown, Connecticut. The papers relate to Baldwin’s various occupations and consist largely of account books, legal documents and miscellaneous items recording, among others, the cost of education, charges for lots in the Burying Ground and aid to the poor. Of particular interest are two documents concerning slaves and one concerning an illegitimate child.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0053

Requesting Instructions
To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0053.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Purchased in 1945 from Marjorie Earle and in 1949 from the Americana Shop as part of the Huntington Family Collection.
Conditions Governing Access
The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain. There are no restrictions on use. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation
Caleb Baldwin Papers (MS 53). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical
Caleb Baldwin, was born in Newton, Connecticut, October 15, 1772. He died in Newton on December 10, 1844. Schoolmaster, postmaster (1800-1811), innkeeper, and town clerk of Newtown, Connecticut; agent for several publishers.

Source: The Baldwin Genealogy from 1500 to 1881 by Charles Candee Baldwin.

Scope and Contents
The Caleb Baldwin Papers, 1774-1871, consist of letters, financial records, legal documents, and miscellaneous papers of Caleb Baldwin (1772-1844), several members of his family, and other residents of Newtown, Connecticut. Most of the papers relate to Baldwin’s work as schoolmaster, postmaster, innkeeper, and town clerk in Newtown. His account book as schoolmaster, 1793-1795, names his students and records their attendance, their tuition payments, and his expenses for wood for the schoolroom and room and board. Three folios of accounts, 1800-1820, show the number of letters received at Newtown by place of origin and method of payment for postage. The correspondence related to the postmastership, 1800-1811, shows Baldwin’s activities as an agent for several publishers. A volume of accounts spanning from 1800 to 1846 shows his charges and receipts for clerical services, liquor, farm produce, and lots in the Burying Ground Cemetery.

There are also several documents that may be useful to social historians: an agreement, 1792 Apr 16, concerning compensation for the services of a hired slave who had run away; an agreement, 1794 Apr 16, to free a slave after six years’ additional service; an agreement, 1793 Mar 28, signed by Charity Rose of Stratford, accepting £30 from Caleb Baldwin to settle her claim for breach of promise and fathering her illegitimate child; indentures, 1793-1834, between the selectmen of Newtown and various individuals for support of the town poor.

The Caleb Baldwin Papers were purchased from Marjorie Earle (1945) and the Americana Shop (1949, as part of the Huntington Family Collection).
Collection Contents

Inventory

Caleb Baldwin (1728-1804)

| b. 1 | Miscellaneous papers | 1774–1796 |
| b. 1 | Papers re: the settlement of his estate | 1798–1806 |

Caleb Baldwin (1772-1844)

| b. 1 | Correspondence | 1800–1844 |
| b. 1 | "School Book" | 1793–1795 |
| b. 1 | Postal receipts | 1800–1820 |
|       | Accounts of mail received at Newtown by place of origin and method of paying postage | 1800–1820 |
|       | See: Inventory Box 3 |
| b. 2 | Account book as innkeeper and town clerk | 1800–1846 |
| b. 2 | Miscellaneous papers | 1793–1844 |
| b. 2 | Henry Baldwin (1807-): miscellaneous papers | 1845–1860 |
| b. 2 | Newtown, Selectmen: indentures for the support of the poor | 1793–1834 |
| b. 2 | Agreements re: slaves | 1792, 1794 |
| b. 2 | Letters to unidentified persons | 1869–1871, undated |
| b. 2 | Deeds | 1780–1855 |
| b. 2 | Miscellaneous papers | 1792–1842, undated |
| b. 3 | Folio Oversize | 1800–1823, undated |
Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects
Education
Educators
Illegitimacy
Postmasters
Slavery

Geographic Names
Connecticut
Newtown (Conn.)

Genres / Formats
Account books

Occupations
Town clerks

Names
Baldwin, Caleb, 1728-1804
Baldwin, Caleb, 1772-1844
Baldwin, Henry, 1807-