

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

Name of collection:

B. & T.C. Hoppin, Account Book, 1813-1817; 1821

Location:

Octavo volumes "B"

Size of collection:

1 octavo volume (124 leaves, 31 blank)

N.U.C.M.C. number:

RLIN id: MAAR91-A1

Sources of information on collection:

For biographical data on members of the Hoppin family, see George F. Jones, Family Record of the Jones Family of Milford, Mass. and Providence, R.I. (Philadelphia: n.p., 1884), pp. 135-48. For an obituary of William Jones Hoppin, see Publications of the Rhode Island Historical Society, v. 4 (1896), pp. 55-6.

Source of collection:

Bequest of Michael Papantonio, 1978

Collection description:

Col. Benjamin Hoppin (1747-1809), of Providence, R.I., served as a commissioned officer during the American Revolution and later established himself as Providence's first auctioneer. The business was eventually taken over by two of his sons, Benjamin Hoppin (1777-1865) and Thomas Coles Hoppin (1785-1850), under the name B. & T.C. Hoppin. Several of their sons became successful (e.g., Benjamin's son, Rhode Island Governor William Warner Hoppin (1807-1890); and two of Thomas' sons: Augustus Hoppin (1828-1896), noted illustrator, and William Jones Hoppin (1813-1895), a successful New York attorney who for ten years served as First Secretary of the American legation to Great Britain).

This volume contains accounts, 1813-1817, of B. & T.C. Hoppin, auctioneers and merchants in the China trade, with the Providence Bank. They are records of sizable deposits and withdrawals and are listed under the names of the firm's debtors and creditors.

Toward the end of the volume are twenty-nine leaves of diary entries, 1821, made by William Jones Hoppin when he was eight years old. He commented on the weather, schoolwork, playing ball, arrivals of ships at Newport, R.I., and reports of shipwrecks, and accidents and fires in Providence. He also included references to moralizings of his father and a few political events of that era.