

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Manuscript Collections

<p>Name of collection: Bates Family, Business Papers, 1799-1866</p>	<p>Location: Folio volumes "B" Misc. mss. boxes "B"</p>
<p>Size of collection: 2 folio vols.; 1 folder, 77 items</p>	<p>N.U.C.M.C. number: N.A.</p>
<p>Finding aids: For biographical information, see the mimeographed sheets in the collection's folder</p>	
<p>Source of collection: Gift of Andrew J. Bates, 1984</p>	
<p>Collection Description:</p> <p>Alanson Bates (1772-1842) was the son of Capt. John Bates, a yeoman farmer in Webster, Mass., who saw action during the Revolutionary War. His son, Alanson, continued farming his father's large holdings in Webster while he ran a tavern called the "Fox and Hounds" in the farmhouse. Bates also was active in civic affairs, serving as Webster selectman, 1833 to 1837. His son, Nelson Bates (1801-1889), closed the tavern and operated the land as a prosperous farm, well into the 1880s. He was a prominent figure in Webster during the nineteenth century. To this day, the Bates farmhouse is owned by direct descendants of Alanson Bates.</p> <p>This collection consists of two folio account books and one folder of loose farm accounts and a few legal documents for the same time period. The first folio volume contains the farm accounts, 1799-1849, of Alanson Bates, while the second volume, 1826-1866, holds the farm accounts of his son, Nelson. The entries concern specific farm produce and meat sold, to whom and at what cost; labor costs paid to hired hands; cutting and selling of wood; and the manner of payment made by their debtors.</p>	