

Baylies Collection, 1772-1790  
2017.5



**Old Sturbridge Village**  
**Research Library**

1 Old Sturbridge Village Road  
Sturbridge, MA 01566  
508-347-0204

**Collection Overview**

Repository: Old Sturbridge Village Research Library, Sturbridge, MA

Creator: Nicholas Baylies

Title: Baylies Collection

Dates: 1772-1793

Extent: 1 oversize box, approx. 0.5 linear ft.

Abstract: The Baylies Collection contains the account book of Nicholas Baylies and financial papers for Nicholas Baylies. Nicholas Baylies was the owner of the Baylies Iron Works Company of Taunton, Massachusetts.

Location: OSV Vault, as of March 2017

Language: English

**Biographical Sketch\***

The Boston firm of Bollen and Laughton (also spelled Bollen and Laughlin) set up a bloomery and forge in 1739 in Westville, in the western part of Taunton formally known as Andrew's Mills. Thomas Baylies (1723-1756) managed this iron works until the time of his death. In 1756, his brother Nicholas (1719-1807), after settling his brother's debts, arranged to manage the business which manufactured anchors and other tools. In 1776, the Tory loyalty of Bollen and Laughton caused the state to confiscate their holdings. Nicholas was able to save the Iron Works and purchased Andrew's Mills and a number of area farms. After the death of Nicholas, his son Hodijah took over the business where he continued to expand the company.

Hodijah is known for making the anchor for the frigate Constitution. He sold the business to John West in 1810 who established a paper mill.

Nicholas Baylies (1719-1807) was the owner of Baylies Iron Works. He was a Major in the French and Indian War. Nicholas married Elizabeth (Parke) and had eight children; Deacon Nicholas Baylies, Lt. Frederick Baylies (1741-1808), Dr. William Baylies, Adolphus Baylies, Sgt. Thomas Baylies, Gustavus Baylies, Hodijah (1756-1843) and an unknown daughter.

Lt. Frederick Baylies married Lucy (possibly Andrews) and Hannah (Brown). With Hannah, he had Frederick Baylies, Edward Baylies, Lucy Stead, Helen Searle, Clarissa Baylies, Nancy Philips, Abzillai Baylies, Sophia Truesdell, and an unknown daughter. With Lucy he had Gustavus Adolphus Baylies. His son Edward (1775-1853) married Hannah Searle (1780-1851) and had six children; Albert Baylies, Comfort Searle Baylies, Sophia S. Baylies, Bradford Baylies, George Baylies, and Hannah Ellen Smith. Bradford (1808-1868) married Florilla Freeman Baylies (1812-1876) in 1833. She is the daughter of Pliny Freeman the owner of OSV's Freeman Farm).

Judge Hodijah Baylies (1756-1843) married Elizabeth Lincoln and had William Baylies, Edmund Baylies, Benjamin Lincoln Baylies, and Amelia Wood. Edmund (1787-1878) is the presumed painter of a landscape painting in OSV's collection.

**\*Resources:**

Emery, Samuel Hopkins. *History of Taunton, Massachusetts; from its settlement to the present time*. Syracuse, NY: D. Mason & Co., 1893.

Hutt, Frank Walcott. *A History of Bristol County Massachusetts*. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1924.

Lane, Helen. *History of the Town of Dighton Massachusetts*. Dighton: Town of Dighton, 1962.

### **Scope and Content**

The ledger shows the credits and debits for the Baylies Iron Works, which along with iron products also appear to sell or trade household items. Merchandise listed includes shingles, sugar, coat buttons, rice, fabric, rye, beef, and corn. Some entries do not relate to store items and iron and instead deal with town issues. They include debts toward residents on behalf of other residents. For example, "overseeing the Woodlands and Defending them against intruders Before the war and Since" (page 214) and "paid Mr. Angier for advice Relative to Trespass in Mr. Bollan's part of the land" (page 214), "for supplies delivered to Benj. Jones' family, a Continental soldier" (page 168).

The financial papers include Nicholas Baylies' personal debts, receipts, and records of work. One document states "Amount of Work on the Homer Shaft 1773" and begins "June 28<sup>th</sup> Daniel Wetherel 1 day", notices of settlements of which Nicholas is the administrator of an estate, and the index of a ledger (does not match with this account book) many receipts are

from persons requesting for another to be paid. These receipts were all found piled together in the ledger and have been separated out and organized chronologically. Many of the documents appear to have been used as scrap paper for the account book.

This collection is organized into two series:

Series I: Account Book (1772-1789)

Series II: Financial papers (1763-1793)

### **Restrictions**

This collection is open for research. Use is limited to available Library hours and staff. Copies and scans are done at the discretion of the library staff and condition of materials, fees may apply.

### **Search Terms**

#### Personal Names

Baylies, Frederick, 1741-1808

Baylies, Hodijah, 1756-1843

Baylies, Nicholas, 1719-1807

#### Family Names

Baylies

#### Geographic Names

Andrews Mills (Mass.)

Dighton (Mass.)

Taunton (Mass.)

#### Corporate Names

Baylies Iron Works

Bollan and Laughton (Bollen and Laughlin)

#### Subjects

Homer Shaft

Iron-works

#### Genre

Account Book

Receipts

## Administrative Information

### Preferred Citation

Item, Collection Title, Collection number (accession number with extensions for box and folder numbers). Old Sturbridge Village Research Library, Sturbridge, Massachusetts. Date Accessed.

### History of the Collection

The collection was donated by the descendants of Nicholas Baylies. The Account book was sent for conservation in July 2018.

### Processing information

Collection processed by Amy Hietala, March 2017

Finding Aids prepared by Amy Hietala, March 2017

## Contents

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>Series I: Account Book (1772-1789)</u>			
1		2017.5.1	Account Book of Nicholas Baylies, Baylies Iron Works, 1772-1789
<u>Series II: Financial papers (1763-1793)</u>			
1	1	2017.5.2.1	Recording of work beginning 1763 and ending 1776
		2017.5.2.2	Receipt of service, 1769
		2017.5.2.3	Receipt of service, 1772
		2017.5.2.4	Listing of work done on the Homer Shaft, names include Daniel Wetherel, Isaac Lincoln, Richard Mayberry, Caleb Snow, 1773
		2017.5.2.5	Receipt, 1773
		2017.5.2.6	Receipt, 1773
		2017.5.2.7	Receipt for work done, 1773 through 1775
		2017.5.2.8	Receipt. 1773
		2017.5.2.9	Account between Elisha Linkon and Nicholas Baylies, 1769-1780
		2017.5.2.10	Letter of debt of Wilbore, addressed to Elijah Dean from Nicholas Baylies, 1774
		2017.5.2.11	Receipt, 1774
		2017.5.2.12	Receipt, 1774
		2017.5.2.13	Receipt, 1774, allowing Peter Walker to have money from Ebenezer Walker

		2017.5.2.14	Account record, 1774
		2017.5.2.15	Account of sundries bought, 1774
		2017.5.2.16	Receipt, 1774
		2017.5.2.17	Receipt of Nicholas Baylies as administrator of the estate of Hanah Place for digging the grave, 1774
		2017.5.2.18	Receipt of Joseph Gifford, 1774
		2017.5.2.19	Receipt, 1774
		2017.5.2.20	Receipt, Joseph Reed, 1774
		2017.5.2.21	Receipt, 1774
		2017.5.2.22	Account record, Nicholas Baylies to Robert Calowell, 1775
		2017.5.2.23	Receipt signed by Joseph Gifford, 1775
		2017.5.2.24	Receipt signed by Nicholas Baylies, 1775
		2017.5.2.25	Receipt signed by Benjamin Pegs (?), 1775
		2017.5.2.26	Receipt for Zechriah Austen from Benjamin Pagsley, 1775
		2017.5.2.27	Receipt to Nathaniel Pratt in regards to Ebenezer Jones, 1775
		2017.5.2.28	Receipt of settlement with Freeman Lincoln, 1776
		2017.5.2.29	Receipt from John M. Louth, 1776
		2017.5.2.30	Receipt for Abiatheiar Lee, 1776
		2017.5.2.31	Receipt for E. Andrews, 1776, 1776, 1777
		2017.5.2.32	Receipt for Daniel Barrus, 1777
		2017.5.2.33	Notice of prosecution, Honorable George Leonard, esq., giving notice to prosecute trespassers on the Laughton's land, 1777
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	2017.5.2.34	Receipt to pay Captain John Reed, 1778
		2017.5.2.35	Receipt for Dr. Baylies to pay Elijah Shaw, 1778
		2017.5.2.36	Account settlement between Freeman Lincoln and Nicholas Baylies, 1778 - 1779
		2017.5.2.37	Receipt to Silvester and Jeremiah Richmond, 1778-1779
		2017.5.2.38	Receipt from Joseph Laughton, 1778
		2017.5.2.39	Receipt for Col. Sylvester Richmond, 1778
		2017.5.2.40	Request for plow share mould and crow barr from Henry Laughton, 1779
		2017.5.2.41	Receipt from Joseph Laughton, 1779
		2017.5.2.42	Receipt, 1779
		2017.5.2.43	Account, 1779-front lists names and locations, back has listing of household supplies

2017.5.2.44	Receipt for wood delivered to the family of a confederate soldier, signed John Townsend, 1779
2017.5.2.45	Account of Richard Mayberry, 1781
2017.5.2.46	Receipt, 1782 back has an account list
2017.5.2.47	Receipt to settle balance on account, 1783
2017.5.2.48	Account to Richmond and Ware, 1783
2017.5.2.49	Small daybook, 1783
2017.5.2.50	Account for David Cobb, 1783
2017.5.2.51	Receipt of William Burt, administrator on the estate of Daniel Bebee, 1783
2017.5.2.52	Receipt from Samuel Tobey, 1784
2017.5.2.53	Receipt of settled account with Thomas Pool, 1784
2017.5.2.54	Receipt from Stephen Pond, 1784
2017.5.2.55	Account of work and supplies, 1785
2017.5.2.56	Receipt from James Andrews Jr., 1785
2017.5.2.57	Receipt from William Brown, 1786
2017.5.2.58	Receipt from Abner Lincoln, 1787; reverse has receipt from 1784-1786
2017.5.2.59	Receipt for settling account with Henry Burt, 1787
2017.5.2.60	Receipt between Eliezer Mirick and Ephraim Allen, 1788
2017.5.2.61	Receipt to Edward Thayer requesting Ephraim Atwood to have flour, Nicholas Baylies will pay in iron, 1788
2017.5.2.62	Receipt from Gilbert Walker, 1788
2017.5.2.63	Receipt between Nickies Baylis and David Hoard, 1790
2017.5.2.64	Receipt from Reuben Daggett, 1790
2017.5.2.65	Receipt from Jonathon Williams, 1793
2017.5.2.66	Account book index, does not match with book in this collection, no date
2017.5.2.67	Receipt, no date
2017.5.2.68	Account for William Gifford, no date
2017.5.2.69	Receipt for Simeon Williams to receive iron from George Williams' account, no date
2017.5.2.70	Receipt for Thomas Lee to receive iron from Frederick Baylis' account, ca. 1780 (date indecipherable)
2017.5.2.71	Account of charges towards building a new forge belonging to N.B. (indecipherable)

	and L.W. Bay, Newport Rhode island, no date
2017.5.2.72	Receipt, no date
2017.5.2.73	Receipt from Isaac Lincoln, no date
2017.5.2.74	Receipt from David Cobb, no date