

Hervey Brooks Collection, 1802-1944

2017.1



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: Hervey Brooks

Title: Hervey Brooks Collection

Dates: 1802-1944 (bulk-1802-1860)

Extent: Approximately 1 cu. Ft.

Abstract: A collection of account and day books personal receipts, papers, and travel logs of Hervey Brooks, Litchfield, Ct. Additionally there are two letters with information on the Brooks family.

Location: Vault, per OSV staff as of Jan. 2017; includes one box plus two phase boxes.

Language: English

Biographical Sketch

Hervey Brooks (1779-1873) was born in Goshen, CT. He moved to what is known as the "South End" in 1795. He began making pottery for Jesse Wadhams. He married Polly Taylor (1781-1858) and had two sons; Isaac (1804-) and Watts Hervey (1808-1886). Brooks was an officer (Deacon) of the Goshen Congregational Church where an inscription on a memorial window can be found.

Jesse Wadhams (1773-1872) was also born in Goshen, CT. He was a farmer and potter. He married Mary Hopkins. Around 1810, he moved to New York.

The Hervey Brooks Pottery shop is one of the region's few remaining original structures built for creating and firing red-ware pottery. Outside the shed, there is a large, reproduction brick "updraft bottle" kiln for firing pots. Constructed by farmer and potter Hervey Brooks, the

Pottery Shop still bears Brooks' initials on a small beam, upside down, near where Old Sturbridge Village's potters work today. The building was moved to the Village in 1962, the kiln was built in 1979.

The first year that Brooks built the shed he produced such a backlog of wares that he did not fire pottery again for eight years. From 1828 on he made and fired one kiln load each year, primarily producing milk pans, cooking pots, and jugs, which he stamped with his name. Brooks sold some of his red ware to country stores on contract, and he exchanged smaller lots with his neighbors for goods and services. Hervey Brooks also made the bricks for the Goshen, Connecticut, smoke house that now stands in the Village's Freeman Farm garden. However, increasing competition from tin ware and stoneware producers and local population decline gradually eroded demand for his goods. Brooks hung on long after virtually all of New England's red-ware potters had given up the craft, burning his last kiln in 1864 at 85 years old.

<https://www.osv.org/building/pottery-shop-kiln>

Scope and Content

The Hervey Brooks collection consists of account books and day books kept by Brooks. These books describe the daily transactions, including pottery sold, work completed, debits and credits to accounts. They detail information about his use of the kiln and how often and what items he was firing. There are legal papers referencing the clay pit and surrounding land. Papers such as receipts and notebooks tell of travel, purchases, and weather. Research added in 1944 contains references to family names.

This collection is organized into four (4) series:

Series I: Record Books, account and day books, 1802-1860

Series II: Legal Papers, surveys and deeds, c. 1818

Series III: Personal Papers, receipts, notebooks, 1830s

Series IV: Research, family and business research, 1940s

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.

Search Terms

Personal Names

Brooks, Hervey (1779-1873)

Buell, Pitt (1768-1830)

Richardson, Barnum

Wadhams, Jesse (1773-1872)

Wadhams, Seth

Geographic Names

Connecticut-Goshen
Connecticut-Litchfield
Connecticut-Salisbury

Subjects

Business
Pottery

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

Custodial History is listed in the private Donor Forms.

Processing information

Finding Aids:

Prepared by Amy Hietala, January 2017

This collection is organized in series with the accession number identifying the year of accession and order, series number, and item number.

Related Collections

Old Sturbridge Village maintains the Brooks Pottery Shop (moved to OSV in 1961) along with numerous pieces of Brooks pottery. (<https://www.osv.org/pottery-shop-kiln/>)

Contents

Series I: Record Books

Box 1	2017.1.1.1	Hervey Brooks Day Book, 1802-1837 Contains one loose folded account for Isaac Pratt to Hervey Brooks (pages 210-211), blotter papers Have been left in, some papers removed and have been incorporated into other files-those items have been identified. Book begins with notes for grafting fruits trees and recipes, an index follows. Entries cover services and goods.
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Box 2		2017.1.1.2	Hervey Brooks Account Book, 1836-1872 Book begins with medicinal cures and a few quick notes. Entries cover debits and credits for good and services.
Box 3	Red Box	2017.1.1.3	Shop Book No. 1 st Hervey Brooks Day Book, 1822
		2017.1.1.4	No. 2 nd Hervey Brooks Day Book, 1823
		2017.1.1.5	Hervey Brooks Shop Book, or Blotter for 1824 no. 3 rd
		2017.1.1.6	Hervey Brooks Shop Book, or Blotter for 1825 no. 4
		2017.1.1.7	Hervey Brooks Shop Book, or Blotter for 1826 no. 5
		2017.1.1.8	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1827 no. 6
		2017.1.1.9	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1828 no. 7
		2017.1.1.10	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1829 no. 8
		2017.1.1.11	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1830 no. 9
		2017.1.1.12	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1831 no. 10
		2017.1.1.13	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1832 no. 11
		2017.1.1.14	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1833 no. 12
		2017.1.1.15	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1834 no. 13
		2017.1.1.16	Hervey Brooks Blotter, 1835, Thomasville, Georgia
		2017.1.1.17	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1835 no. 14
		2017.1.1.18	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1836 no. 15
		2017.1.1.19	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1837 no. 16
		2017.1.1.20	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1838 no. 17
		2017.1.1.21	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1839 no. 18
		2017.1.1.22	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1840 no. 19
		2017.1.1.23	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1841 no. 20
		2017.1.1.24	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1842 no. 21
		2017.1.1.25	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1843 no. 22
		2017.1.1.26	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1844 no. 23
		2017.1.1.27	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1845 no. 24
		2017.1.1.28	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1846 no. 25
		2017.1.1.29	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1847 no. 26
		2017.1.1.30	Hervey Brooks Blotter, 1848 no. 27 and 1849 no. 28
		2017.1.1.31	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1850 no. 29
		2017.1.1.32	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1851 no. 30
		2017.1.1.33	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1852 no. 31
		2017.1.1.34	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1853 no. 32
		2017.1.1.35	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1854 no. 33
		2017.1.1.36	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1855 no. 34
		2017.1.1.37	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1856 no. 35
		2017.1.1.38	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1857 no. 36
		2017.1.1.39	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1858 no. 37
		2017.1.1.40	Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1859 no. 38

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| | | 2017.1.1.41 | Hervey Brooks Blotter for 1860 no. 39 |
| Folder 1 | | 2017.1.1.42 | Hervey Brooks account against Jesse Wadhams, 1807-1819
"Thursday May 22 nd 1807. Began turning for Jesse Wadhams", books lists items and work including small platters, milk pans, glazing, large pots, gallon jugs, setting the kiln, chamber pots, painting, and digging. |
| | | 2017.1.1.43 | Travel Log, 1835
No name; begins "left Thomasville for home." |
| | | 2017.1.1.44 | Hervey Brooks' notebook, 1835-1859
Travel log, financial notes, leather bound |

Series II: Legal Papers

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| Box 3 | Folder 2 | 2017.1.2.1 | Copy of the Survey Bill of Jesse Wadhams, Clay Ground in a deed from Pitt Buell to Seth Wadhams, no date |
| | | 2017.1.2.2 | Deed, Jesse Wadhams to Hervey Brooks; ¼ acre Goshen, 1818 |

Series III: Personal Papers

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| Box 3 | Folder 3 | 2017.1.3.1 | listing of books in the United Library in Litchfield, personal notes and tallies on back |
| | | 2017.1.3.2 | Receipt for Mr. Brooks, 1829
Purchased from Barnum Richardson, Salisbury (found in account book 2017.1.1.2) |
| | | 2017.1.3.3 | Receipt for W.H. Brooks, 1834
Furniture bought from Dewey and Bulkey |
| | | 2017.1.3.4 | Receipt for Mr. Hervey Brooks, 1854
(found in account book 2017.1.1.2) |
| | | 2017.1.3.5 | Receipt for Dea. Hervey Brooks, 1864
(found in account book 2017.1.1.2) |
| | | 2017.1.3.6a-g | Receipts for Litchfield Enquirer, 1851-1865
Sent to I.P. Brooks
(.6f found in account book 2017.1.1.2) |
| | | 2017.1.3.7 | Coupon, "The Kathairon Bank"
Twenty-five cents toward a bottle of Lyon's Celebrated Kathairon |
| | | 2017.1.3.8 | Letter from Samuel Taylor to Mr. Brooks, 1830
request for boards and notice that Mr. Dayton has taken the head stones |
| | | 2017.1.3.9 | Notice for medicine, no date
(found in account book 2017.1.1.2) |

2017.1.3.10a-h receipts, 1933
a-list of grocery items
b-h-receipts for Torrington Public Market for J.N.
Brooks
(found in account book 2017.1.1.1)

Series IV: Research

Box 3	Folder 4	2017.1.4.1	Typed letter with handwritten notes, no date Information on family history and Brooks pottery, c. 1944, signed "B"
		2017.1.4.2	Handwritten, unsigned letter; Greenland Nov. 4, 1944, generalized letter but the last paragraph mentions the Brooks family members