

# Guide to the Caleb Baldwin Papers

MS 53



compiled by Susan Grigg

September 1979

Yale University Library  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**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: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0053>

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## 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 <https://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](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  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased in 1945 from Marjorie Earle and in 1949 from the Americana Shop as part of the Huntington Family Collection.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

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

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## 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.

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## 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).

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## Collection Contents

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" English	1793-1795
b. 1	Postal receipts	1800-1820
	Accounts of mail received at Newtown by place of origin and method of paying postage <a href="#">See: Inventory Box 3</a>	1800-1820
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, f. 14-15	Newtown, Selectmen: indentures for the support of the poor A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	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-