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Prescott & Sherman Records

GEN MSS 1792



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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 1792

CREATOR: Sherman, Roger, 1768-1856

TITLE: Prescott & Sherman Records

DATES: 1804-1847

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2.68 linear feet (18 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Account books, daybooks, letter books, and other bound volumes documenting the efforts of merchants Benjamin Prescott and Roger Sherman, Jr. in the operation of their store, Prescott & Sherman, in New Haven, Connecticut, 1804-1847.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.prescottsherman>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.prescottsherman>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Roger S. White, 2nd, 1913; source unknown.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Prescott & Sherman Records is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Prescott & Sherman Records. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Beinecke Manuscript Unit Processing Manual.

Former call numbers: Z117 0135, MS Vault Sect 13 Drawers, Z117 0180f, Z117 0135c, Z117 0135a, Z117 00161b, MS Vault Shelves Prescott, Z117 00149, Z117 00148, Z117 0135d, Z117 00149d, Z117 00161e, Z117 0180, and Z117 216.

Prescott & Sherman

Merchants Benjamin Prescott and Roger Sherman, Jr. founded their store, Prescott & Sherman, in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1793. The firm traded in dry goods, groceries, tobacco, leather, and English and indigenous goods, with an extensive involvement in shipping and local real estate.

Prescott & Sherman remained in business through the death of Benjamin Prescott in 1839.

Benjamin Prescott (1757-1839)

Benjamin Prescott was born in Danvers, Massachusetts, on October 27, 1757. He was one of eight children born to Benjamin Prescott (1717-1778) and Rebecca Minot Prescott (1720-1761). His oldest sister Rebecca Prescott (1742-1813) married Roger Sherman (1721-1793) in 1763, and settled with him in New Haven, Connecticut.

Benjamin Prescott moved to New Haven in 1772 to live with his sister and family; in 1793 he formed a mercantile partnership with his nephew Roger Sherman Jr. He married twice, first to Hannah Blakeslie (1762-1824) and then to Jane Woodford (1788-1867).

Prescott remained a partner in Prescott & Sherman through his death in New Haven on October 23, 1839.

Roger Sherman Jr. (1768-1856)

Roger Sherman, Jr. was born in New Haven on July 16, 1768, to Roger Sherman (1721-1793) and Rebecca Prescott Sherman (1742-1813). He graduated from Yale College in 1787 and afterward studied law.

Sherman entered into the mercantile business with his uncle Benjamin Prescott in 1793, and served as a representative for New Haven in the Connecticut General Assembly in 1810 and 1811. He married Susannah Staples (1778-1855) in 1801.

Sherman remained in partnership with Prescott until 1839, and died in New Haven on March 5, 1856, at age 88.

Scope and Contents

Account books, daybooks, letter books, and other bound volumes documenting the efforts of merchants Benjamin Prescott and Roger Sherman, Jr. in the operation of their store, Prescott & Sherman, in New Haven, Connecticut, 1804-1847.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by format.

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Account book	1808-1819
b. 1, f. 2	Account book	1812-1831
b. 1, f. 3	Account book	1839-1841
b. 1, f. 4	Account book	1840-1841
b. 1, f. 5	Accounts of sales of lumber cargoes	1821-1829
b. 2, f. 6	Blotter	1823-1832
b. 3	Cash book for Roger Sherman, Jr.	1841-1846
b. 4	Claim book	1805-1836
b. 5	Daybook	1816-1818
b. 13	Daybook	1818-1821
b. 6	Daybook	1821-1823
b. 7	Daybook	1823-1828
b. 14	Daybook	1828-1834
b. 15	Daybook	1834-1840
b. 8	Expense account book for Benjamin Prescott	1827-1843
b. 9	Expense account book for Roger Sherman, Jr.	1827-1841
b. 10	Invoice and inventory book	1836-1838
b. 16	Leather and hide account book	1830-1835
b. 17	Leather and hide account book	1839-1840
b. 11	Ledger	1804-1839
b. 12	Ledger	1841-1847
b. 2, f. 7	Letter book	1823-1839
b. 2, f. 8	Letter book	1840-1844
b. 2, f. 9	Letter book	1840-1846
b. 2, f. 10	Memorandum book	1841-1843
b. 18	Sales of leather on account with Chester Tan Works	1812-1830

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.

Geographic Names

Connecticut -- Commerce
Connecticut -- Economic conditions -- 19th century
New Haven (Conn.)

Subjects

Businessmen -- Connecticut
Merchants -- Connecticut

Occupations

Businessmen -- Connecticut -- 19th century
Merchants -- Connecticut -- 19th century

Genres / Formats

Account books
Daybooks
Letter books

Contributors

Sherman, Roger, 1768-1856
Prescott, Benjamin, 1757-1839
Prescott & Sherman

Acquired From

White, Roger Sherman, 2nd, 1876-1941