LaGrange County, Account Book from Mongo, Indiana, 1839

Karen M. Wood

The village of Mongo, Indiana, is situated in Springfield Township in the eastern part of LaGrange County. Among the manuscript collections of the William H. Smith Memorial Library at the Indiana Historical Society is a store account book from Mongo (BV 112) containing entries from January to August 1839.

The name of this account book’s owner may have been inscribed on the inside cover of this daybook, but because no cover now exists, we cannot know for certain. A man by the name of Drusius/Drusus Nichols ran a grist mill, distillery, and store as early as 1836. From 1844–1846, he exported over one thousand barrels of flour per year out of Mongo. County history reports that Nichols died in 1848, and that Robert Dykes, a merchant living in nearby Lima Township, took possession of the store after Nichols’s death. However, the 1850 U.S. census demonstrates that a Drusus Nichols was very much alive in Springfield Township and lists his occupation as a mill owner. By 1860 Robert Dykes and family were living in Springfield Township. It is therefore possible that Nichols may have died sometime after 1850 and before 1860.

The account book consists of four hundred pages of daily accounts for goods. Information about customers listed on the first twenty-six pages has been obscured by newspaper clippings glued to the pages. The clippings include local events (marriages and deaths), recipes, fictional serials, and poetry. From page twenty-seven on, the account book provides the date, the customer’s name, and the list and cost of their goods. Items bought from the store include whiskey, brandy, or wine (by the gallon, half-gallon, or pint), butter, flour, sugar, salt, coffee, wheat, corn, eggs, buttons, ribbons, gimlets, hides, lumber, door handles, cloth, and much more.

The names of Springfield Township’s founders (John B. Clark, Jesse Huntsman, Joseph and Benjamin Foos, William Seaburn, Benjamin Jones, and William S. Prentiss) appear in the
account book, suggesting they lived in or near Mongo. Other frequently listed names include Samuel Wellever, Thomas Elliston, Robert Wade, Otis Shephardson, Justus Hall, B. F. Sheldon, William Legg, Harvey Omstead/Olmstead, George Donaldson, and Edwin Davis.⁵

Housed with the bound volume is a typed transcript of the names by page number as well as a typed master name index (there is no record of who transcribed these names). With the exception of page fifteen, which is still legible, the first twenty-six pages were not included in the transcript. In an attempt to create a new master index, names in the typed transcript were verified against the account book. If a name appeared in more than one way, both spellings, separated by a slash mark (/), are provided here. First names abbreviated in the account book have been spelled out.

Notes


3. On a still-living Nichols, see 1850 U.S. census, LaGrange County, Indiana, Springfield Township, page 72 [stamped], Drusus Nichols household; on the Dykes family, see 1860 U.S. census, LaGrange County, Indiana, Springfield Township, page 62, dwelling 462, family 454, Robert Dykes household, NARA microfilm M653, roll 274.


Name Index for LaGrange County, Account Book from Mongo, Indiana, 1839

A
Ackerman, David
Allen, David
Anderson, Jane
Anderson, William
Andrus, Luman
Appleman, Leonard
Appleman, Samuel
Archer, John
Austin, John W.
Avaline/Aveline, F. S.
Avaline/Aveline, J. C.
Avaline/Aveline, S. F.
Avis, Samuel
B
B[ull]en, Roswell
Barber, Leonard
Barnard, Lewis
Barns, Daniel
Barns, George
Barns, Samuel G.
Barrett, Bartholomew
Barrett, S. A.
Barry, John, Jr.
Barry, John, Sr.
Bartlett, Samuel A.
Bass, Jason G.
Beecher, A. F.
Benham, John
Benham, Seeley
Best, Cha[rle]s
Bisbe[e]/Bisby, Alonza/Alonzo
Bodley, John
Boon, Joshua
Bradford, Samuel
Brian/Bryan/Bryant, Almond
Briggs, Job
Briggs, Joel
Brink, Abram
Britton, Alexander C.
Brockway, ______
Bromly/Brumley, William. P.
Brott, Michael
Brown, George
Brown, M.
Brown, Russell
Brundage, Abner
Brundage, Allen
Bunnell, Samuel
Bunnell, Thomas
Burly/Busby, John T.
Burnard, Lewis
Burnham, H. enry R.
Burnside, Lewis
Burnside, Samuel G.
Burr, ______
Butts, William
C
Cain, Simeon
Campbell, James
Campbell, Joel N.
Canfield, ______
Carpenter, Isaac
Case, Andrew P.
Case, Perry
Caswell, Joseph
Catton/Cotton, John
Champlain, Widow
Champlain/Champlin, Elihu C.
Champlin, Mrs. Martha E.
Chapman, Moses S.
Clark, Benjamin
Clark, Edward S.
Clark, J. B.
Clark, John T./Y.
Cleavland/Cleveland, Asaph
Cleavland/Cleveland, David
Cochran, William
Col[l]well, Joseph
Collins, Barton
Collins, Stephen/Steven
Comparet, Francis
Cope, Charles
Costleek/Costleek, Jacob
Cowarden, Samuel E.
Cowles, ______
Craig, Benjamin
Crane, ______
Crane, Arba
Croy, Jacob
Cumer/Currier, James
Curtis, Alanson
D
Daicinb[er]ry/Deusenbury/Dewsenbury, John
Dailey, Michael
Dallas, Gordon
Darrow, Nathan
Davidson, Daniel
Davidson, John

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Davidson, Joseph  
Davis, Abner  
Davis, Brinkley  
Davis, Daniel  
Davis, Edwin  
Davis, Harrison  
Davis, John  
De[pue?], Levi  
Deal, Coonrod/Conrod  
Diggins, Luke  
Dingman, William  
Donaldson, George  
Donaldson, Joseph  
Dunbar, Arthur M.  
Dunham, Mrs. ———  
Dunham, Widow William  
Dunham, William  
Dunn, Daniel  
Dunn, Harrison  
Dunn, William B.  
Dutch/Dutcher, Silas  
Dyer, Norman  

E  
Earl/Earls, Nelson  
Eastlick, Jacob/Ja’c  
Ellis, ______  
Ellison/Elliston, Thomas  
Elliston, A.  
Elya, Christopher  
Emerson, Avery  
Emerson, Hannah  
Emerson, Jane  
Emerson, John  
Emerson, John, Estate of  
Evans, A. G.  
Evans, J.  

F  
Falconer, William P.  
Feilds/Fields, John  
Field, David  
Filkins, John D.  
Fillmore, Cyrus  
Fish, Betsey A.  
Fish, Ebenezer  
Fish, Elijah  
Fish, Samuel  
Fish, William  
Fitch, William T.  
Fletch[er?], William P.  
Foos/Foose, Benjamin  
Foos/Foose, Joseph  
Fothergill, Mrs. E.  
Fothergill, Elisha  
Fothergill/Fothergill/Fothergill, Elijah  
Francis, Isaac  
Francis, Sally  
Franklin, Alexander  
Franklin, John  
Freeman, Rufus B.  
Freemantle, Taylor  

G  
Gage, Abram  
Gage, J[oe].  
Gage, Jacob  
Gage, Mrs. Langdon (alias)  
Gardner/Gardner, Cornelius  
Gifford, Job  
Gilbert, Austin  
Gilbert, Elias  
Glassgo, Peter  
Golden, Nathaniel  
Goodsell, Stiles  
Gove, Ebenezer  
Gray, B. D.  
Gray, D. B.  
Green, Charles  
Green, John V.  
Greenfield, Robert, Jr.  
Greenfield, Robert, Sr.  
Greenfield, Samuel  
Greenman, Anson  
Greeno, Jacob  
Greenough, John  
Greenough, Michael  
Grove/Groves, Jacob  

H  
Hale, Ambrose, Sr.  
Hall, John, Sr.  
Hall, Joseph  
Hall, Justus  
Hall, William  
Hall/Hull, Benjamin  
Hall/Hull, Charles  
Hamilton, Frederick  
Hammond, Luke  
Harding, George  
Hardy, Joseph  
Harris, Simon  
Hart, Ithel  
Hart, J[ohn] C.  
Hatch, Sylvanus  
Hawes, S. H.  
Henry, Marvin  
Hern, William, Jr.
Hern, William, Sr.
Herriman, David B.
Hewitt, Thomas
Highbarger, Cyrenus
Hill, Elam
Hill, Ira
Hor[er]ker, E. M.
Hobbs, Wm.
Hodges, Daniel
Hodges, Darius
Hodges, Samuel
Hol[b/ler] [ens?], E. M.
Hornell, Frederick K.
Hull, Malon
Hume, Robert
Hunt, Hiram P.
Huntsman, Jesse
Huntsman, Jesse, Jr.
Huron, William, Jr.

I
Indersoll, Walter
Ireland, Jess
Ireland, King

J
Ja[i/b?]bor?, Alexander
Jackway, Orasmus/Erasmus
Jones, Benjamin
Jones, David K.
Jones, L. G.
Jones, Milo
Jones, R. P.

K
Kelham, Ephraim
Kelly, John B.
Kelso, John
Kilbury, Andrew
Killbury, Robert
Kniffen/Niffen, James P.
Kromer, John

L
La[d]sbury, Chester D.
Lackey, Jehu
Lame?, Amos
Lathrop, Mrs. ———
Lathrop, Widow
Latta, William
Lazenby, Thomas
Leaburn, W[illiam].
Lecker/Le[ckerks?], James
Leeper, James

Legg, William
Leonard, Jonathan W.
Leyer, George
Litchard, Adam
Litchard, Silas
Locke, Joseph
Long, John
Lotz, Henry
Lounsbery, J. C.
Lyman, Elijah

M
Manon, Joseph
Marthers, ———
Martin, Samuel
Maudy?/Mundy?, Seth W.
McClish, Isaiah
McCollum, William
McNeil, Matthias
McNeil, William A., Sr.
McNeil, William, Jr.
McVane, George
Michals, David
Miller, Widow Naoma
Miller, William
Murphy, Benjamin
Murray, S. W.

N.
Nelson, ———
Newbury, L. E.
Newman, B.
Newman, Daniel J.
Newman, Gary P.
Newman, Nicholas B.
Newman, William S.
Nichols, ———
Nichols, John
Nichols, Thaddeus
Niles, Jonathan
Noble, Jedidiah
Nostrand, F.

O
Odle, William
Olmstead/Omstead, Elijah
Olmstead/Omstead, Harvey
Olmstead/Omstead, Jacob
Orton, Darius

P
Palfryman/Palphryman, Hugh
Palmer, Stephen/Steven D.
Parmlee, Catharine
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<th>Name</th>
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V
Vanantwert/Vanantwerp, Daniel
Vanantwert/Vanantwerp, Daniel, Estate of,
Vanantwert/Vanantwerp, E., Estate of,
Vance, Lewis
Vandevanter, Jacob
Vandevanter, Peter
Vaughn, John

W
Wade, John
Wade, Robert
Wallace, Alexander T.
Wallace, Seth
Warneck, Reuben
Waterhouse, B. B.
Waterhouse, Freeman
Waterm[an], David
Webb, John
Wein, Elijah
Wellever, Samuel
Wilcox, Job[e]
Williams, Horace B.
Williams, Samuel
Williams, Sheldon
Win[d]sor, Abner
Win[n/m?] ans, _______
Winans, Nicholas
Wolcott, George
Wolgamott, Isaac
Wood, Harvey W.
Wood, Robert
Wright, Edward
Wright, Jeptha
Wright, Joel
Wright, Samuel H.

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Mongo is an unincorporated community in Springfield Township, LaGrange County, Indiana. The population in 2010 was 105. Mongo was originally called Mongoquinong, and under the latter name was laid out in 1840. Mongoquinong was later shortened to Mongo. Although An Illustrated Historical Atlas of LaGrange County, Indiana (1874) translates the native name as "Big Squaw Village", it is thought to be a corruption of the Miami-Illinois maankwahkionka, meaning "In the Loon Land". Mongo, Indiana, LaGrange, America/Indiana/Indianapolis. United States. 41.665500. -85.267600. If you find your zip code, please tweet, google+ or like this website ;-) Thank you! Mongo is an unincorporated community in Springfield Township, LaGrange County, Indiana. The population in 2010 was 105.[3] History[edit]. Mongo was originally called Mongoquinong, and under the latter name was laid out in 1840.[4] Mongoquinong was later shortened to Mongo. Although An Illustrated Historical Atlas of LaGrange County, Indiana (1874) translates the native name as "Big Squaw Village", it is thought to be a corruption of the Miami-Illinois maankwahkionka, meaning "In the Loon Land".[5]. The John O’Ferrell Store was listed in the National Register of Histor