

## James Duncan, Jr. Papers, 1784-1821

### Collection Summary

<b>Reference Code:</b>	MRQ, US.
<b>Repository:</b>	Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
<b>Call Number:</b>	MSS 78
<b>Creator:</b>	Duncan, James, 1756-1822
<b>Title:</b>	James Duncan, Jr. Papers
<b>Dates:</b>	1784-1821
<b>Size:</b>	.417 linear feet (1 box, 1 volume)
<b>Language(s):</b>	Collection materials are in English.
<b>Abstract:</b>	This collection consists of 25 annual almanacs, some containing personal notations, and an account book that belonged to James Duncan, Jr., merchant of Haverhill, Massachusetts.

### Biographical Sketch

**James Duncan, Jr.** was born on 22 April 1756 in Haverhill, Massachusetts, to James Duncan (1725-1817) and Elizabeth Bell (1725-1779). His father had established a very substantial trading business by owning ships and importing English and West Indian goods. He sent these goods up to New Hampshire and brought back hides, pot and pearl ashes, flax, cooperage, cheese, salt beef, and pork which could be used as exports.

James Jr. joined his father and the firm of James Duncan and Son became well known in New Hampshire and Newburyport, Massachusetts, which was their port of entry from abroad. After the Revolutionary War, James Jr. began to expand the trading business extensively. In 1796, he built the ship *Rebekah* and was the sole owner. He also owned land throughout southern and western New Hampshire and in many locations in Haverhill. At his death, he held shares in the Chester Turnpike, the Haverhill Aqueduct, the Concord Bridge, and the Haverhill Bridge. James Jr. was a major in the local militia, although he never served during the Revolution.

On 26 January 1790, he married Rebekah White (1754-1838) and they had two sons, Samuel White (1790-1824) and James Henry (1795-1869). As late as 1798, James Jr. and Rebekah were still renting the house of David Marsh which stood to the north of his parents' house on Main Street in Haverhill. In 1802, James bought the house and lot belonging to James McHard of Hopkinton, New Hampshire, which was on the south of his parents' home on Main Street. He occupied the house he created on the McHard lot until his death. He bought and refurbished

the Saltonstall house on Water Street for his elder son, Samuel. Called "Buttonwoods," this was later transferred to the Haverhill Historical Society in 1904.

James Jr. died in Haverhill on 5 January 1822 and is buried in Pentucket Cemetery.

## Arrangement

Series 1. Diaries and Account Book, 1784-1821

## Scope and Content Note

This collection contains 25 annual almanacs, some containing personal notations, and an account book, that belonged to James Duncan, Jr., merchant of Haverhill, Massachusetts.

## Administrative Information

<b>Preferred Citation:</b>	[Item Identification], James Duncan, Jr. Papers, MSS 78, Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
<b>Custodial History:</b>	Unknown.
<b>Acquisition Information:</b>	The almanac/diaries of James Duncan, Jr. were donated to the Haverhill Public Library by the Duncan estate. The provenance of the account book is unknown.
<b>Processing Information:</b>	Processed by Tamara Gaydos, 2021.
<b>Access Rights:</b>	Collection is open for research.
<b>Phys. Access Restrictions:</b>	None.
<b>Tech. Access Restrictions:</b>	None.
<b>Copyright:</b>	Copyright has not been assigned to the Haverhill Public Library. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Board of Trustees. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Haverhill Public Library as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the researcher.
<b>Related Collections:</b>	Samuel W. Duncan Family Papers, MSS 77
<b>Separated Material:</b>	None.
<b>Conservation Notes:</b>	The account book has been damaged by fire and is fragile.
<b>Subjects:</b>	Account books Almanacs Duncan, James, 1756-1822 History—Massachusetts--Haverhill Merchants

## Collection Inventory

### Series 1: Diaries and Account Book, 1784-1821

This series contains 25 annual almanacs, some containing personal notations, and an account book that belonged James Duncan, Jr., arranged by type and then chronologically.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Fleets' Pocket Almanack/diaries, 1784, 1789, 1790	1	1
Fleets' Pocket Almanack/diaries, 1792-1794	1	2
The Farmer's Almanac/diaries, 1787, 1791, 1810-1812, 1814	1	3
The Farmer's Almanac/diaries, 1817-1819	1	4
<i>Curtis's Pocket Almanack/diary, 1800; The Massachusetts Register and United States Calendar, 1803-1804</i>	1	5
Account book, November 1804-December 1813	Volume 1	
<i>The Massachusetts Register and United States Calendar, 1805, 1807; Curtis's Pocket Almanack and Register of New Hampshire, 1807</i>	1	6
<i>The Massachusetts Register and United States Calendar, 1809, 1810, 1817</i>	1	7
<i>The Massachusetts Register and United States Calendar, 1821</i>	1	8