

Pike, Sarah Franklin account book

Sarah Franklin Pike account book

1821-1825



Title Statement

Pike, Sarah Franklin account bookGuide to the Sarah Franklin Pike account book MSS.16949

Author: Eric Willersdorf, Student Accessioning Assistant

Publication Statement

Publisher: Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

P.O. Box 400110

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Charlottesville, Virginia 22904-4110

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Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-04-21 11:02:21 +0000.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS.16949

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/1900

Unit Date

1821-1825

Mixed Materials [X032762899]

1 (folder)

Language

English

Creator

Pike, Sarah Franklin, 1765-1832

Extent

0.03 Cubic Feet One letter-sized file folder Book measures 7.4" X 6"

Condition Description

Fair. Several pages have been cut out of the account book.

Repository

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

This collection has been minimally processed and is open for research.

Preferred Citation

MSS 16949, Sarah Franklin Pike account book, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia Library.

Content Description

This collection contains a vellum-bound account book with entries dating from 1821 to 1825, comprised of ninety-three manuscript pages. The book is a working household ledger and includes addresses, distribution of willed and gifted goods, town gossip of crime and thievery, family births and deaths, and Pike household accounting. The direction of notes and entries are sometimes erratically placed. While no author's name is explicitly written, the account book mentions the death of John Pike (1747-1822), suggesting the ledger belonged to Sarah Franklin Pike (1765-1832), his wife. Sarah had been married once before. Neither of her marriages bore children. During her husband's illness in 1821, Sarah's ledger notes are scattered as she begins to take over key household responsibilities that John once managed. One expense outlined in 1822 is John's funeral, followed by descriptions of bereavement from friends and family members. In the account book, the remainder of 1822 and 1823 were dedicated to disposing of John's properties in accordance with his will, paying annuities to several women in the Pike family, and establishing a more precise oversight of the home. Sundries are documented in this section, including clothing, umbrellas, bedclothes, and shoes; kitchen ingredients are accounted for; tradesmen are paid, including the butcher and brewer; and the service staff also receive their regular wages. Notable among the house staff is a woman named Martha, who by 1825 becomes the recipient of a portion of Sarah's library. Sarah notes on one occasion that she "gave Martha my Books" as well as a later note in the same year "I have given the most of my beloved Books to Mrs. Naish." Beyond these expenses, Sarah also documents charitable giving, including having "Collected for the Deaf & Dumb at Clapham" as well as gifts to The Free School, the Clothing Society, and Infant Friends.

Keywords

Account books