

## **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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

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.<sup>4</sup>

The names of Springfield Township's founders (John B. Clark, Jesse Huntsman, Joseph and Benjamin Foes, 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.<sup>5</sup>

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

1. Ira Ford, et al., ed., *History of Northeast Indiana: LaGrange, Steuben, Noble and DeKalb Counties*, vol. 1 (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1920), 173, 176.
2. As “Drusus” in Ford, *History of Northeast Indiana*, 175–176, and in the 1850 U.S. census, LaGrange County, Indiana, Springfield Township, page 72 [stamped], dwelling 955, family, 961, Drusus Nichols household, NARA microfilm M432, roll 157; as “Drusius” in the 1840 U.S. census, LaGrange County, Indiana, Springfield Township, page 314, NARA microfilm M704, roll 163; *Counties of LaGrange and Noble, Indiana: Historical and Biographical* (Chicago: F. A. Battey & Co., 1882), 201–02; 1850 U.S. census, LaGrange County, Indiana, East Lima Township, page 190 [written], dwelling 1294, family 1301, Robert Dykes household, NARA microfilm M432, roll 157.
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.
4. Daybook, January–August, 1839, Mongo, Indiana (BV 112), Indiana Historical Society, 121–22, 125–27, 132, 135, 216.
5. Ford, *History of Northeast Indiana*, 173, 175; Daybook, January–August, 1839, Mongo, Indiana.

**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, Samuell  
Bunnell, Thomas

Burly/Busby, John T.  
Burnard, Lewis  
Burnham, Henry 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  
Costleck/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

Davidson, Joseph  
Davis, Abner  
Davis, Brinkley  
Davis, Daniel  
Davis, Edwin  
Davis, Harrison  
Davison, 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, Eben/Ebenezer  
Fish, Elijah  
Fish, Samuel  
Fish, William  
Fitch, William T.  
Fletch[er?], William P.  
Foos/Foose, Benjamin  
Foos/Foose, Joseph  
Fothengill, Mrs. E.

Fothergil, Elisha  
Fotheringill/Farthengill/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)  
Garderer/Gardne[e?]r, 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  
Ho[r]ker, E. M.  
Hobbs, Wm.  
Hodges, Daniel  
Hodges, Darius  
Hodges, Samuel  
Hol[b/?] [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[cks?], 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

Patrick, George Rick  
Patterson, \_\_\_\_\_  
Paxton, \_\_\_\_\_  
Peckham, \_\_\_\_\_  
Pelton, Thos.  
Perkins, Samuel  
Pickle, Richard  
Pitts, David  
Pollock, George K.  
Potter, William. P.  
Prentiss, William S.  
Price/Pierce?, Dr. Joseph  
Pritchen, Jackson

**R**

Randal/Randall, Enos  
Randal/Randall, Henry  
Rawls, James  
Reed, Benjamin  
Reed, Miss  
Relso, John  
Reynolds, Amos  
Rice, Richard  
Richards, Charles  
Richards, Jo  
Richardson, Joseph  
Richfield, John  
Richmond, Amos  
Rilbury, Andrew  
Rilbury, Robert  
Rillam, Ephraim  
Rlectt, Frederick  
Robbins, John  
Roberts, Esq. \_\_\_\_\_  
Roberts, George  
Robinson, William. M.  
Roop Joseph  
Roop, Christian  
Rose, E. G./L.  
Rowley, Ithamer  
Ruggles, James  
Rumsey, Seth  
Russell, \_\_\_\_\_

**S**

S[c]idmore, Solomon  
S[e]aring, J. W.  
Sams, David  
Saulsbury, Chester D.  
Sayer/Seyer, George  
Seaburn[e], William  
Seaman, Jonathan W.  
Searls, John  
Seeley, Ephraim

Shehan, Edwin  
Shelby, Charles R.  
Sheldon, B. F.  
Sheldon, B. P.  
Sheldon, Elisha  
Sheldon, William  
Shep[h]ardson, Otis  
Shepard, [Widow] Jane  
Sherman, \_\_\_\_\_  
Sherman/Shremer, Elizabeth  
Sherman/Shuman, Susan  
Sherwin, Bildad  
Sherwood, Lyman  
Shu[m/ns?]way, Nathaniel  
Slater, Isaac  
Smith, Ed., Estate of,  
Smith, Edward  
Smith, George W.  
Smith, Sally  
Smith, Widow Mary  
Smith, William  
Spears, Tunis  
Stanton, J. B.  
Ste[rn], William  
Stead, William  
Stimpson, S. B.  
Stio[v]ers, Michael  
Stocker, Chester  
Stocker, Leland H.  
Sturges, Erastus  
Sturges, Jacob  
Sweet, Alex L.  
Sweeting, William  
Sylva, Benjamin

**T**

Taylor, \_\_\_\_\_  
Taylor, Leonard  
Taylor, Thester  
Teal, Eli M.  
Thayer, Eben  
Thompson, Aaron  
Thompson/Thomson, George  
Totten, William. T.  
Truesdail, H.  
Turner, Charles  
Twitchell, Benjamin  
Twitchell, Jonas

**U**

Ulmer, George T.  
Underwood, \_\_\_\_\_  
Upson, Jonathan

**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  
Wolgammott, Isaac  
Wood, Harvey W.  
Wood, Robert  
Wright, Edward  
Wright, Jephtha  
Wright, Joel  
Wright, Samuel H.

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