Kosciusko County, Names Compiled from Robert Smith’s Account Book, 1851–1852

Natalie Burriss and M. Teresa Baer

Account books are valuable to genealogists for the names listed in them, placing people in a specific location at a specific time. The particular account book featured in this article belonged to Robert Smith, who ran a business in Palestine, Kosciusko County, Indiana. While we have no personal information about him, the few notes of “beef,” “apples,” and “lumber” in his ledger point to a general store.¹ We can also see that he catered to a fairly large number of surrounding residents and that he kept meticulous records of the transactions he made.

Perhaps of more import and interest is the provenance, or place of origin, of Smith’s account book. It is obvious that it originated in Palestine, Indiana, as labeled by Smith himself. However, on locating this town on a map of Indiana, we can see that there are, or were, multiple similarly named towns in the state besides in Kosciusko County. While the collection guide states that Kosciusko County is the correct location, no evidence on the account book itself indicates a specific county. In an attempt to determine the correct location, we researched several names found in the account book in the closest census, which was 1850. We selected the names at random and determined that this account book did in fact originate in Kosciusko County.² This particular Palestine, Indiana, in southern Harrison Township, became a town in 1837 and thrived until the laying of a railroad through neighboring towns, but bypassing Palestine, led to its eventual decline.³

Below is a list of names found at the beginning of Smith’s account book as they appear there—loosely alphabetized—in Smith’s customer index. Each name corresponds to a page found later in the book that indicates each person’s business with the store, from the end of 1851 and continuing into 1852.

Notes


### Names Listed in Index to Robert Smith’s Account Book, Palestine, Kosciusko County, 1851–1852

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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Hartman, John
Hatfield, Martin
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Lettrel, Elizabeth
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Milburn, Hiram
Magnen, William
McShary, Fredric
Minear, John
Mozesinga, Joseph
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Mezckick, John
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Myers, Jacob
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Melter, Andrew
Millenha[---], William
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Miller, George
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Munch, Jonthan
Meredith, Thomas
Martimore, David
Munby, Samuel
Moaer, Aberham
M[---], William
Kosciusko County, Names Compiled from Robert Smith’s Account Book, 1851–1852

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Nebb, Isaac
Nellon, Mark
Norris, Morriss

Offeneer, Georg
Overstreet, Thomas

Price, Elijah
Pascton, John
Passcels, John
P[---]num, John
Parcels, Joseph

[Parcton?], N. S.
Parker, Wilson
Pollson, John

Rackhill, Ellis
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Reed, William

Smith, Robert S. M.
Sarben, Daniel
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Severs, Aberham
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Sell, Peter
Smith, Joseph
Swartslander, George
Steffe, Jacob
Slife, Fredrick

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Steward, Samuel
Smith, George
Smith, Jacob

Sticklur, Joseph
Sarber Smart, William
Stoffer, Samuel
Sarber, William
Sturgen, Martin

Smith, Ja[---]
Smith, Henry
Selious, [Cedell?]
Smith, Le[---]
Sarber, John
Smith, M[---]
Sarber, William
Sticklan[---], Jacob
Smeell, Philip
S[---], Joseph
Scott, Jeremiah
Teel, Adam
Teel, David
Teagardner, George
Ubry, George
Velston, George
Vendark, Jeremiah
Vendarnen, Miren
Vendarnen, Philo
Vendarnen, Nathaniel
Whieteman, Jesse
Wood, Abner
Washam, William
Warron, John William
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Willbellem, Martin
Warton, Mr.
Wooten, George
Whiteman, William
Wiley, George
Worren, David
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Warren, Seth
Wardenbarger, George
Winbegler, Henry
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Young, John