



The New York Public Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

**John Bellamy arithmetic exercise book and ledger**

1788-1832

MssCol 24489

Processed by Susan P. Waide in 2018

## Summary

**Creator:** Bellamy, John, 1769-1834

**Title:** John Bellamy arithmetic exercise book and ledger

**Date:** 1788-1832

**Size:** .1 linear feet (1 folder)

**Source:** Purchased from C.F. Libbie & Co., 1919.

**Abstract:** John Bellamy (1769-1834), the son of John Bellamy (1734-1810) and Mary Burnham (1738-1814) of Kittery, Maine, was a woodworker. The collection comprises two volumes (1 folder) belonging to John Bellamy: a book of arithmetic exercises written by his tutor, with Bellamy's answers, 1788; and John Bellamy's ledger of accounts for carpentry and other work done locally, 1791-1832. The amounts are calculated in pounds sterling, changing to dollars roughly after 1800. Payment is often in kind, including agricultural products, dry goods, fish, shoes, timber, and weaving.

**Access:** Advance notice required.

**Preferred citation:** John Bellamy arithmetic exercise book and ledger, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Susan P. Waide in 2018

## Creator History

John Bellamy (1769-1834), the son of John Bellamy (1734-1810) and Mary Burnham (1738-1814) of Kittery, Maine, was a woodworker. He married Tamesin Haley (1769-1836) in 1791. They had eight children, including sons John H. Bellamy and Charles G. Bellamy.

## Scope and Content Note

The collection comprises two volumes belonging to John Bellamy: a book of arithmetic exercises written by his tutor, with Bellamy's answers, 1788; and John Bellamy's ledger of accounts for carpentry and other work done locally, 1791-1832. The amounts are calculated in pounds sterling, changing to dollars roughly after 1800. Payment is often in kind, including agricultural products, dry goods, fish, shoes, timber, and weaving. Blank space under credit accounts was often used for the accounts of another individual.

The arithmetic exercise book, bound in wrappers, contains John Bellamy's ownership note and the note "Farewell, John," dated 1788 February 13. The exercises, progressing from basic calculations to word problems, are generally mercantile and agricultural in nature. One problem mentions the distance from Kittery Ferry to Falmouth; another, computing time, refers to the age of a 19-year-old in minutes, with the problem below it referring to the present year of 1788.

His ledger of accounts, lacking its cover and without an index, records debits and credits for members of many Kittery families, including the Haley, Weeks, Gunnison, Cutts, Gerrish, and Billings families, as well as some for his own parents. Charges for woodworking and general labor include furniture-making and repairs, coffin-making, work on houses and ships, hauling timber, planting, hiring out his team of oxen, and working with his sons John and Charles.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Accounts -- Maine -- Kittery  
Arithmetic -- Problems, exercises, etc.  
Arithmetic -- Study and teaching -- Maine  
Carpenters -- Maine -- Kittery

### **Occupations**

Carpenters.  
Students.

### **Geographic Names**

Kittery (Me.) -- History

### **Names**

Bellamy, John, 1769-1834  
Bellamy family