

Ledger reveals insight into private lives

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Because the inventory of Winder's personal estate exists, it is possible to see how they lived on their Bloomsbury estate in Somerset County in the early 1800s.

In addition to the inventory of their home at the time of Winder's death in 1819, bits and pieces of Winder history can still be found.

An old ledger, purchased by the Maryland Historical Society in 1934 offers another insight into the private lives of the Winder family. The ledger is known as the *Watkins Account Book*, and belonged to a tailor in Anne Arundel County and covers the years 1812 through 1815.

The business may have been in Annapolis, almost a second home to Winder during his political years.

Watkins was often called upon by Winder to tailor clothes for his family. Watkins was apparently trusting of Winder as he was extended well beyond \$200 in credit.

In October 1813 Winder placed an order for "1 pair best Hochinett Pantaloons (tight fitting pants fastened below the calf) complete for \$15.

Watkins charged Winder \$4.50 for "making 1 fashionable frock coat for serv.," and \$1.25 for "1 doz. buttons 25, making 1 pair pantaloons for Serv."

Winder also provided his house servant, Horace, the same man who it is said was at his bedside in

Baltimore when Winder died, with a vest made by Watkins.

The account book also lists charges for silk thread, "a button mould 12½ cents" and cotton cloth.

In October 1814 Winder purchased "2 yards superfine black cloth for son Edward for \$32," as well as "1¾ yards blue cloth for son Sidney at \$8 a yard."

Watkins made "round jacket and pantaloons for son Sidney" and sold Winder "1¾ yards Bottle Green Cloth at \$17.75 a yard," and completed "1 pair pantaloons, best double milled Cassimere complete for son Edward, \$18."

In November of that year Winder paid Watkins \$3.75 for "making round jacket, vest and pantaloons for son Sidney."

It appears that Winder took some material back to Monie with him for the servants and his wife and daughter to use.

Not included in this one account book are orders and bills for clothing for Winder's wife and daughter, which remains a mystery.

It may be too that the women to the family dealt with a seamstress of their choosing, but it is safe to assume that they were as well dressed as the men.

From her portrait in the Baltimore Museum of Art it is evident that Mary Stoughton Sloss Winder was very much involved with the fashions of the day.