SUMMARY INFORMATION

Title: James F. Esten’s Account Book and Journal
Dates: 1833-1837; loose items 1862, 1864 and undated
Accession #: 2017-002
Creator: Esten, James Francis, 1809-1885
        Esten, Emma Louisa Richmond, 1848-1930
Physical Description: 1 bound volume, 4 loose leaves
Languages: Collection material in English.
Collection Summary: Account book and journal of James F. Esten, involved in cotton manufacturing, that provides a detailed, observant account of a New England man’s role in the nuts and bolts of erecting the machinery and the mill—and of his life in the South.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition:
This account book was purchased from Garrett Scott Booksellers in 2017.

Biographical Sketch:
James Francis Esten was born on November 1, 1809 in Providence, Rhode Island to Esak Esten (1779-1842) and Sarah Jenks Esten (1782-1840).

Esten married Lucy Vose (1813-1851) in Sharon, Massachusetts on April 5, 1838. They had five children; Lucy Ormanda Vose (1839-1908), James William (1840-1842), Henry Baldwin (1842-1861), Julia Frances (1843-1864), and Emma Louisa Richmond (1848-1930).

City directories indicate Esten is living in Louisville, Ky in the 1860s and is listed as a cotton manufacturer. In the 1870s, he is still in Louisville and listed as an engineer with William L. Murphy (1821-1903), his son-in-law (husband to daughter Lucy).

Esten died on May 21, 1842 in Logan County, Illinois, while living with his daughter, Lucy, and son-in-law, W.L. Murphy.
INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Access Restrictions: None.

Preferred Citation: James F. Esten’s Account Book and Journal 1833-1837, Acc. 2017-002, Special Collections and Archives, Furman University, Greenville, S.C.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

[Taken in part from the bookseller’s description.]

This account book has 51 pages of text interspersed with blank pages, including 36 detailed pages of observations on travel to and through South Carolina, life in Columbia, and the building of the Saluda Mills, one of the earliest textile mills in South Carolina. Also included are brief financial accounts of working with a mill in New England, brief monthly or on occasion daily memoranda of his travels and work on mills in New England and Pennsylvania, a few other business-related notes, genealogical information, and an intriguing note on two books relating to family planning. Places mentioned are Sharon, Mass.; Canton, Mass.; Bridesburg [i.e., in Philadelphia]; Blockley Mill [Penn.?]; and the Saluda Manufacturing Co. outside Columbia, S.C., the bulk 1833-1837, with detailed entries for building the Saluda textile mill covering 1835-1837.

Laid in are two leaves with further manuscript family notes (names, births, deaths). Also laid in is a manuscript bill from Pearson & King Jr. dated Louisville, January 15, 1862 listing expenses from August 1861 for a “Coffin for Son,” use of a hearse, etc., and an 1864 billhead for L.D. Pearson, Undertaker in Louisville, Ky., for “Coffin for daughter” and use of a hearse. These are for his son, Henry Baldwin Esten who died August 1, 1861, and his daughter Julia Frances Esten who died October 1, 1864.

Subsequent pages are generally taken up with family records (births, marriages, deaths) including his own, suggesting another family member was responsible in part for a few of these entries. This is possibly Esten’s youngest daughter, Emma Louisa Richmond Esten, who was the last remaining member of her family, and who was a member of many hereditary and lineage organizations.

Bibliography:

- Louisville, Ky. City Directory, 1861, 1865, 1879, 1881
- U.S. Census: 1870, 1880
- Massachusetts, Compiled Marriages, 1633-1850
- Illinois, Wills and Probate Records, 1772-1999

COLLECTION INVENTORY

- Account book; 4 loose items