

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

BASCOM, Mrs Ezekiel, née Ruth Henshaw

Leicester, Massachusetts 1772 – Ashby,
Massachusetts 1848

This New England artist made primitive profiles of family and friends using pencil, pastel and occasionally cut-out paper silhouettes. The œuvre seems to be almost entirely nineteenth century (and so not catalogued here), and is represented in numerous local collections; one estimate puts the number of portraits at over 1000. She maintained a diary from 1789 nearly to her death. She married Dr Asa Miles in 1804 and the Rev. Ezekiel Lysander Bascom in 1806 after her first husband's death.

Bibliography

Mary Eileen Fouratt, "Ruth Henshaw Bascom: itinerant portraitist", *Worcester Art Museum journal*, v, 1981–82, pp. 56–65