

# 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