

C Van Meter Family, Papers, 1834-1968
3242 9 folders

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

INTRODUCTION

The Van Meter family papers contain correspondence, financial and legal documents, diaries, and account books of a Saline County, MO, family. The papers deal, for the most part, with the family business, primarily accounts for goods and food sold. There is some material dealing with family matters, including a diary of a trip taken to Montana in 1865 by Abel J. Van Meter.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Ann Waldorf Stapleton and Virginia Waldorf on 11 February 1983 (Accession No. 2463).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers in the collection are not complete, with only a small number of items in any one series representing a large span of years. The correspondence, which deals primarily with business matters, dates from 1837 to 1872, with the exception of a postcard from 1968. The same is true of the financial documents, consisting of receipts, bills, and accounts that date from 1834 to 1871, with the exception of one card from 1902. The printed material and legal documents also consist of only a few items each. The account books are fairly complete for the years they represent (1853-1873), but deal with only a limited span of years in terms of the family business. The diary gives a good description of the trip to Montana and what river travel was like. The items in each series are arranged chronologically.

FOLDER LIST

- f. 1 Correspondence, 1837-1968. Letters to members of the Van Meter family from relatives and business associates, dealing with mortgages, contracts, rental agreements, bonds, business debts, and family matters. A letter from Montana in 1865 describes life in a mining town and the prices paid for food.
- f. 2 Printed material, 1861-1925. Includes Confederate war bonds, a ticket for a river steamer, reward and public sale posters, election returns from Saline County, and an obituary for David Peerce Van Meter.
- f. 3-4 Financial Documents, 1834-1902. Includes receipts; bills for food, supplies, and property; notes; and accounts. These documents are concerned primarily with the business dealings of Abraham and Abel J. Van Meter.
- f. 5 Legal Documents, 1872-1932. Includes a rental agreement, work contract, petitions, and a photocopy of a land deed.

- f. 6 Diary, 1865-1866. Written by Abel J. Van Meter, detailing his trip by steamer up the Missouri River from Saline County, Missouri, to Helena, Montana, 17 March to 13 June 1865. In the diary Van Meter lists the distance travelled each day and describes the voyage, the weather, the animals that were hunted for food, and the difficulties encountered in river travel. The few entries that were made during his stay in Montana, until 4 July 1866, are primarily concerned with the weather. The diary also includes accounts of supplies that were purchased and sold and instructions on the proper way to tan hides. A partial typescript of the accounts is included with the volume.
- f. 7-8 Account Books, 1853-1873. Records of accounts by Abel J. Van Meter that list goods, food, and animals sold, the prices charged and amounts of money borrowed. Also contain receipts for purchases and property and school tax lists.
- f. 9 Notebook, 1925. Contains miscellaneous scientific facts and information, plus some historical facts and quotes that were compiled by a member of the Van Meter family.

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