

Information Sheet

R **Whybark and Fisher store.**
104 **Account books, 1868-1870.**
 Three folders, photocopies.

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

These are financial records of a general store operated by Levi E. Whybark (ca. 1833-unknown) and Robert W. Fisher (1842-1908) at Marble Hill in Bollinger County, Missouri. Included are two ledgers, 1868-1870, and a daybook/journal, 1870.

Levi E. Whybark was a descendant of the Rev. Samuel Weiberg (later Whybark), a pioneer clergyman in southeastern Missouri. Col. Matthias Bollinger, for whom the county was later named, had brought Weiberg to the area about 1804.

By 1860 Levi and Samuel W. Whybark were proprietors of a store at Buchanan in Bollinger County. This business was interrupted by the Civil War, in which both men served as officers in the Union militia. After the war Levi opened a store in Dallas, the original name for Marble Hill.

Robert Waldemar Fisher (sometimes rendered as Fischer) was a native of St. Louis, Missouri. On 5 December 1867 he married Roena Whybark, and thereupon entered business with his brother-in-law, Levi. Fisher also was a brother-in-law of Albert S. Siegel of St. Louis.

Included in the collection are two ledgers (1868-1869 and 1869-1870) and a daybook/journal (1870). They record the usual transactions of a general mercantile store in a rural county seat. Although credit records noted that Whybark owned 54,000 acres of land in Butler County, Missouri, and that his "character and reputation" were good; and that Fisher was "honest," "industrious," and "prompt"; the firm was "played out & gone out of business" by December 1870, "leaving considerable debts." It might have been succeeded by W. B. Ford & Co., which likewise failed within the next year.

Whybark and Fisher were community leaders, the former being among the first trustees of Marble Hill (incorporated ca. 1868) and a charter member of the local Presbyterian church. Fisher became the leader of the Marble Hill Cornet Band, which entertained the GAR reunion of 1886 in that town. Fisher later "operated a combination sawmill, gristmill and carding machine on Hurricane Creek southeast of town." (*Bollinger County, 1851-1976*; p. 196).

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Shelf List

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Folder 1: Ledger, 1868-1869.

Folder 2: Ledger, 1869-1870 (indexed).

Folder 3: Daybook/journal, 1870.

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Whybark and Fisher store