

Information Sheet

R Bryan and Morrison (Cahokia, Ill.).
176 Daybook, 1806-1807.
One volume.

MICROFILM

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

This is a fragment of a daybook attributed to a general store operated by Bryan and Morrison at Cahokia in St. Clair County, Illinois. Among the customers were William Biggs, Shadrack Bond, August and Pierre Chouteau, Antoine Girardeau, and Nicolas Jarrot.

A few miles below present-day East St. Louis, Illinois, Cahokia was founded by the French in 1699 and was the first permanent settlement in southern Illinois. Followed by Kaskaskia in 1703 and Fort Chartres in 1719, the three small communities were important posts in the economic and military network of the French, which stretched from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. Ceded to Great Britain in 1763 and captured by Virginians during the American Revolution, the Cahokia area was eventually organized as St. Clair County under terms of the Northwest Ordinance of 1789. It was reduced in size by the creation of Randolph County in 1795. Illinois Territory was organized in 1809 and was granted statehood in 1818.

This daybook contains records of business at Bryan and Morrison's store in Cahokia from 8 July 1806 through 28 October 1807. Most of the transactions were small purchases of powder and lead, linen, cotton and other fabrics, and whiskey. Barter was commonplace, illustrated particularly by many payments in "peltrie."

Bryan and Morrison operated general stores at Cahokia and Kaskaskia, ca. 1797-1814, and this volume, although unidentified, is consistent with that business. Other records from the firm are in the Pierre Menard collection at the Illinois Historical Library in Springfield.

Bryan and Morrison did business during the early American period in Illinois, operating from the previous French settlements of Cahokia and Kaskaskia. Antoine Girardeau, Nicolas Jarrot, and the Chouteaus of St. Louis, all members of the colonial commercial gentry, had accounts with the firm. Other prominent customers were Shadrack Bond (first Governor of Illinois) and William Biggs (later a representative to the territorial legislature).

An index to the accounts is available. The collection was originally cataloged as "Illinois, Cahokia. Daybook," and was recataloged in April 1993.

r205 10 December 1983 Ste. Genevieve Museum Loaned for microfilming

Index Cards

Biggs, William, 1755-1827
Bond, Shadrack
Bryan and Morrison (Cahokia, Ill.)
Business records—Illinois—Saint Clair County
Cahokia (Ill.)
Chouteau, Auguste, 1750-1829
Chouteau, Pierre, 1789-1865
General stores—Illinois—Saint Clair County
Girardeau, Antoine

Illinois—History
Jarrot, Nicholas, 1764-1820
Kaskaskia (Ill.)
Randolph County (Ill.)
Saint Clair County (Ill.)