

C Woods-Holman Family Papers, 1805-1906
191 .25 linear feet

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INTRODUCTION

Letters, documents, notebooks, accounts, and receipts of two southeast Missouri families. Papers concern family news, business, farming, livestock, religion, teaching, Indians, fur trade, economics, politics, Gold Rush, and Civil War and descriptions of California, Iowa, Kansas, and Texas.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Mrs. J.P. Holman on 7 August 1945 (Accession No. 260).

HISTORICAL SKETCH

William Woods (1777-1856), originally from Tennessee, settled in Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri, before 1807. In 1809 he married Elizabeth McMurtrey (1791-1864) and settled near Caledonia in Washington County. They had nine children: Harvey (1810-), John (1812-1858), James Monroe (c. 1819-), Joseph Orson, Justina Jane (-1869), Michael Marion, Green, William Duncan, and Zelia Ann.

During the Gold Rush, James, Green, and William traveled to California, returning in the early 1850s. The children settled throughout Missouri. Green, a preacher, also traveled to Arkansas. Justina taught at common schools throughout the area, but eventually returned to her parents' home to care for them. In 1854, Zelia married William Holman, after the death of his first wife, Nancy Barksdale. They lived in Eminence, Shannon County, Missouri.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Woods-Holman Family Papers contain correspondence, documents, notebooks, accounts, and receipts. More detailed descriptions of folder contents are in the folder list.

FOLDER LIST

- f. 1-6 Correspondence, n.d., 1807-1845. Earliest letters to William Woods. One from his father, Michael Woods, advising him to obtain esteem of friends (1807). Three from William H. McMurtrey regarding Indians, fur trading, cattle, and land claims (1824-1832). Others are Woods family letters concerning family news, local gossip, health, religion, farming, small pox, railroad, crime, school, teaching, Democratic Party politics, land speculation, and value of currency. Several from Green Woods, a preacher, and Joseph O., a student at Tusculum Academy. One letter (1 December 1844) refers to James K. Polk and Henry Clay.
- f. 7-12 Correspondence, 1848-1852. Holman letters begin. Concern crops in Tennessee, land speculation, slavery in Alabama, Texas, and family news. Letters from Justina Woods to Zelia Woods, concerning teaching, local gossip, family news, fashions, and living conditions. Letters concerning Gold Rush. Two from James M. Woods describing trip West (4 August 1850) and advising against going to California (19 June 1852). One from William Duncan Woods describing California (19 January 1851).
- f. 13-19 Correspondence, 1853-1859. Letters from Justina to Lelia Woods Holman concerning family news, health, teaching, local gossip, and fashions. Letters from other family members about land claims, farming, drought, politics, horse trading, and religion. Two letters (29 August 1856 and 1 June 1858) from Jonathan Glosup discuss life in Iowa.
- f. 20-23 Correspondence, 1861-1869. Letters from James M. Woods concerning Civil War in Missouri, guerrilla actions, burnings, purchase of rifles, Black Republicans, economics, and anti-war feelings. Letters regarding family news and religion. Michael M. Woods goes to Texas after serving in the Confederate Army.
- f. 24-26 Correspondence, 1872-1906. Three letters from James M. Woods (1872) to Zelia discussing crops, farming, and threshing machines and reporting on conditions in Kansas. Letter from Michael M. Woods (1882) concerning crops, prices, and conditions at Fort Worth, Texas. The 1906 letters are to Zelia from her daughter, Lizzie, in Kansas, and her granddaughter, Nellie, in Texas. They concern crops, local conditions, and family news.
- f. 27 Documents, 1808-1872. Power of attorney, 1808; articles of agreement concerning Woods' inheritance, 1808; two deeds to Bellview, Missouri, land, 1812; certificate that William Woods served as a private in the Mounted Militia, 1814; deed to Washington County, Missouri, land, 1817; legal document concerning the McMurtrey estate, 1834; two certificates to teach; oath of ownership of land, 1854; bill of sale for corn, 1869; and bill of sale for lumber, 1872.
- f. 28-30 Notebooks, Accounts, and Receipts, 1805-1877. Four records kept by William Woods. Notations of money due him, 1808-1812 (17 p.). Birth dates of parents, self, wife, and two children, and marriage date, n.d. (2 p.)

- Account book of Bibles sold for the Washington Bible Society, 1824-1829 (16 p.). Record of supplies and money given to sons, 1829-1849 (9 p.). Tax receipts, 1805-1858, and miscellaneous receipts and promissory notes, 1808-1877, of Woods, Holman, and McMurtrey families.
- f. 31-32 Miscellaneous Items, n.d., 1825-1863. Samples of printed texts; draft of constitution for lyceum at Caledonia, Missouri; printed constitution and membership list of Auxiliary Bible Society of Washington County, Missouri, 1825-1828; poetry signed by J. Bridges, 1852; printed advertisement for Arcadia High School, 1863, and writings and notations concerning superstitions, religion, and temperance.

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