This is a photocopy of “The Second Annual Report of the Trustees of the St. Joseph Lead Company, St. Francois County, Missouri, For the Year Ending May 10, 1866; Together With the Special Report of J. W. Foster, Esq., Geologist” (New York: 1866.).

The late Henry C. Thompson of Bonne Terre, author of Our Lead Belt Heritage, donated this copy of the St. Joseph Lead Company’s annual report for 1866 to the University of Missouri-Rolla library. Thompson’s penciled notation indicates that only one copy of the report is known, located at the company office in New York. The library copy was borrowed for photocopying.

The report is made up of two parts: a narrative on company finances and prospects, and a geological report by J. W. Foster of St. Louis. The narrative report includes a financial statement and an inventory of the company property at the mines. The geological report contains a sketch map showing the main openings on various tracts owned by the St. Joseph Lead Company, and a discussion of the geological strata as evidenced at several of the mines. In addition to on-site inspection, Foster talked to some of the older miners in the area, and reported their recollections of the shallow “bonne terre” diggings, where nearly pure masses of mineral were excavated very close to the surface. Mr. Foster ended his geological evaluation with an optimistic statement on the prospects of a long-term paying operation in the area by the St. Joseph Lead Company.