Information Sheet

Union Independent Academy (Lake Spring, Mo.).
Records, 1856-1859.
One volume, with typescript.

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.

Included here are minutes of meetings of the directors, a list of stockholders, and the constitution of the Union Independent Academy at Laketon (now Lake Spring) in Dent County, Missouri.

The Union Independent Academy was a short-lived attempt to establish a permanent educational institution in an area that, with the exception of the Maramec Iron Works, had only small, private subscription schools. The Academy was incorporated at Laketon, now Lake Spring, in the northwest corner of Dent County, Missouri. Residents of Dent and neighboring Phelps County had associated in 1856 to begin planning a non-sectarian school, which was to be built on a ten-acre site donated by Dr. John Hyer, a prominent physician and politician who lived at Lake Spring. David Lenox was elected president of the association, which was granted a charter by the state on 25 February 1857.

Construction of the two-story frame building began the same year. Although the directors were troubled with unreliable contractors, construction proceeded until halted by a lack of funds in 1859. However, the lower floor had been completed and the directors authorized its use for a primary school in the summer of 1858.

The final meeting of the directors contained in these minutes ended with a call for a meeting of all the stockholders of the Academy to raise funds for finishing the building. Evidently the efforts were successful, for Goodspeed’s history indicates that as many as eighty students attended the school until its bankruptcy in 1860 or 1861. Dr. Hyer purchased the building on the Academy’s insolvency, but the school never re-opened.

The records of the Union Independent Academy include minutes of meetings from 2 May 1856 through 1 September 1859, a list of members and stockholders, and the constitution of the school. The records were interspersed in a volume that also included the records of the Lake Spring Cemetery Association and the Lecoma Mill Company at Lecoma, Missouri. Only those pages pertaining to the Academy have been microfilmed in this collection; the mill and cemetery records have been cataloged by their own titles. Light blue paper and faded ink have left some of the Academy’s records very difficult to read, and a typescript has been prepared and microfilmed with the original volume.

r142  11 October 1982   Mrs. Joe Ed Bowles   Loaned for microfilming

Shelf List

Included here are minutes of meetings of the directors, a list of stockholders, and the constitution of the Union Independent Academy at Laketon (now Lake Spring) in Dent County, Missouri.

The records of the Union Independent Academy were entered in a volume that also contained other, later records from different concerns. Only the following pages, pertinent to the Academy, have been filmed in this collection. The typescript copy precedes the originals.

Pages 1-30: Minutes of meetings of the board of directors, 2 May 1856--1 September 1859.
Pages 601-602: List of members and stockholders, n.d.

Pages 606-608: Constitution of the Union Independent Academy, 25 February 1857.

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Wilson, James H.
Wishon, Benjamin