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This is a compilation of historical and genealogical material concerning the Harrison family of Phelps and Laclede counties in Missouri. Assembled by Florence J. Malaney, the material includes copies of family papers, 1860-1865, genealogical research on the family by Clair V. Mann, n.d., and correspondence with Robert K. Hooker, 1980.

James Berry Harrison brought his family to Missouri from South Carolina in 1817 or 1818, settling at the confluence of Little Piney Creek and the Gasconade River at what is now Arlington in Phelps County. Harrison (1788-1842) built the first log cabin in the area, which also served as county courthouse, post office, and community meeting point. Harrison, who was quite prominent politically, served as clerk of Crawford County, and was elected to the Missouri legislature in 1826 and 1832. His sons, John Brazil Harrison (1809-1860) and Benjamin Berry Harrison (1818-1886), helped establish county governments in Miller, Pulaski, and Laclede counties, as they were organized. They were also, respectively, co-founders of the towns of Tuscumbia and Lebanon. John Harrison married three times, last to Martha Lewellyn Hyer of Lake Spring in Dent County, Missouri.

The Harrison family history, compiled by Florence J. Malaney for the Laclede County Historical Society, incorporates copies of several documents that pertain to various members of the family. John B. Harrison’s will is included, as is a typescript of the Masonic rites held at his funeral in 1860. There is also a typescript of a letter written by Martha Hyer Harrison to her brother-in-law, Benjamin Harrison, after the close of the Civil War. Benjamin, who sympathized with the Confederacy, had moved his family to Red River County, Texas, when the war broke out. His sizable land holdings in Laclede County were later confiscated by a hostile county court. Martha Harrison was also fighting to keep the court from seizing her husband’s estate, and she reported in the letter on the machinations of the court. She also commented on the Union troops who passed through Lebanon, and whose officers boarded at her home.

The remainder of the Harrison family history is composed of genealogical and historical material written by the late Clair V. Mann, and correspondence with Robert K. Hooker of Washington, D.C. Hooker is the grandson of Joseph Thomas Hooker, John B. Harrison’s business partner in a general store in Lebanon before the Civil War.

Additional biographical information on the Harrison family can be found in the Goodspeed’s and Laclede County Historical Society’s histories. A daybook from the Harrison & Hooker store at Lebanon, 1853-1854, has been microfilmed as Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Rolla collection number R99.

24 March 1983 Laclede County Historical Society Loaned for photocopying

Index Cards

Arlington (Mo.)
Harrison, Andrew Jackson, 1815-1832
Harrison, Benjamin Berry, 1818-1880
Harrison, James Berry, 1788-1842
Harrison, James Prior, 1811-1877
Harrison, John Brazil, 1809-1860
Harrison, Lovisa Duncan, 1789-1863
Harrison, Martha Hyer, 1812-1891
Harrison, Pamela Maria, 1812-1873
Harrison, Robert B., 1810-1836
Harrison, William Perry, 1817-1856
Harrison family—Genealogy
Hooker, Robert K.
Hyer, Martha Lewellyn, 1812-1891
Hyer, Samuel
Laclede County (Mo.)
Lebanon (Mo.)
Lenox, Wilson Murro, 1843-1925
Malaney, Florence J.
Mann, Clair V. (Clair Victor), 1884-1974
Missouri—History—Civil War, 1861-1865
Phelps County (Mo.)