Information Sheet

Lake Spring Mercantile.
Records, 1866-1941 (bulk 1866-1905).
Seven volumes.

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.

These are account ledgers and daybooks of a general store at Lake Spring in the northwestern corner of Dent County, Missouri. The business was operated, first, by John Hyer and John R. Flora, and, then, by Alexander C. Donnan.

The store at Lake Spring was established in 1856 by Dr. John Hyer, a physician and one of the earliest settlers in the area. Located at a junction of roads leading to Rolla, Salem, Licking, and the Maramec Iron Works, the site was well-suited for business, and a small village grew up which included not only Hyer's store and cabin, but also Dent County’s first post office. The Civil War ended business temporarily, but Dr. Hyer and John R. Flora re-opened the store in 1866. They had previously collaborated as directors of the short-lived Union Independent Academy at Lake Spring. The extent or duration of Flora’s involvement in the firm, styled as “Hyer & Flora,” is unknown, but Hyer remained connected with the store until his death in 1890. Hyer’s son-in-law, Alexander C. Donnan, a prominent banker and politician in Rolla and Salem, then took over the business and styled it as “A. C. Donnan & Co.”

The records of the store at Lake Spring consist of standard daybooks and account ledgers, most of which pertain to business from 1866 through 1905. There are a few miscellaneous entries in Volume 2 which deal with farm and business matters in 1941. Volume 1 includes records of both the store and Dr. Hyer’s medical practice. Most of the transactions in the daybooks are itemized, and most of the account ledgers have name indexes.

Shelf List

These are account ledgers and daybooks of a general store at Lake Spring in the northwestern corner of Dent County, Missouri. The business was operated, first, by John Hyer and John R. Flora, and, then, by Alexander C. Donnan.

Volumes 1-4: Ledgers, 1866-1941.

Volume 1: Ledger, 1866-1869.
This volume includes entries for medical services rendered by Dr. Hyer.

Volume 2: Ledger, 1886-1890, 1941.
A brief subject index to this volume has been pasted on the front cover. A few miscellaneous entries for 1941 have been recorded at the end of the volume.

Volume 3: Ledger, 1895-1898.
The front cover of this volume bears the legend, “A. C. Donnan & Co.” The volume is indexed.

Volume 4: Ledger, 1901-1905.
A name index is in the front of the volume. A few miscellaneous farm records for 1901-1905 have been entered at the end of the ledger.

Volumes 5-7: Daybooks, 1870-1888.

Volume 5: Daybook, 1870-1871, and tax ledger, 1869-1895.
Some of the daybook entries have been covered over with Dent and Phelps counties tax receipts pasted on the pages. The volume bears the notation “Hyer & Flora” inside the front cover.

Volume 6: Daybook, 1886-1888.

Volume 7: Daybook, 1887-1888.

Index Cards

Business records—Missouri—Dent County
Dent County (Mo.)
Donnan, Alexander C., 1860-1951
Flora, John R.
General stores—Missouri—Dent County
Hyer, John, 1810-1890.
Hyer and Flora
Lake Spring (Mo.)
Lake Spring Mercantile (Lake Spring, Mo.)