This is a daybook of an unidentified mercantile operation at Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, perhaps that of Evariste F. Pratte. The entries begin on 29 October 1819 and continue through 8 December 1825. An index of the customers is available.

The daybook is not clearly identified, but there is enough contextual evidence to suggest a connection with the Prattes of Ste. Genevieve, and particularly with Evariste F. Pratte. The name E. F. Pratte occurs at random in several places in the volume, and the inside rear cover bears the notation, “Evariste’s book.” E. F. Pratte is also noted as a member of a partnership with Manuel Pratte. There are seven different Prattes represented in the daybook, comprising the largest number of entries of any surname in the volume.

Almost all of the daybook’s entries involve the general merchandise business. The only exceptions occur in October 1821, when entries were made which involved the lumber trade or a sawmill. The remainder of the transactions commonly involved groceries, medicines, clothing, and hardware. Evidence of a connection with the salt trade exists in several entries in 1825 for the “Salt Company,” also identified as Jones, Martin & Company. Occasionally barter was indicated by notations of credit for “beef” hides, lead bars, and services, such as hauling to and from landings on the Mississippi River.

The volume also contains a student’s copybook of lessons in mercantile arithmetic. The instructions and lessons are identified as a system adapted to the commerce of the United States by St. Thomas College of Kentucky in 1818. The arithmetic text has not been microfilmed.

Index Cards

Business records—Missouri—Sainte Genevieve.
General stores—Missouri—Sainte Genevieve.
Pratte, Evariste F.
Sainte Genevieve (Mo.).
Sainte Genevieve County (Mo.).