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 papers of the Berry family of Maries and Osage counties in Missouri. They include correspondence from family members in California, Missouri, and Tennessee, tax receipts, promissory notes, and land papers.

Folders 1 and 2 consist of correspondence among members of the family of John Berry and Matilda Carline Berry. Although most of the correspondence originated in Missouri, the earliest item in the collection is a letter written by John Berry to his family from the California gold fields in 1851. Berry complained of hard work and low yield, and hoped to return to Missouri as soon as possible. By 1855 Berry was living in Osage County, Missouri. The remainder of the correspondence is later in date, and is addressed to Berry’s sons and their descendants.

Folder 3 contains miscellaneous tax papers, receipts, and promissory notes, mostly pertaining to Nancy Giesler, a friend of the Berry family’s. The Rowden family is represented in the collection by a quit-claim deed to land in Maries County, given by the heirs of James E. Rowden to Nancy Jane Healey, 1889.

Folder 1: Correspondence, 1851.

John Berry, El Dorado County, California, to wife Matilda Carline Barry, 20 July 1851. Written in “Gregory’s Pocket Letter Book,” published by Gregory’s Express Company “to facilitate correspondence between ... California ... and all parts of the United States.” 21 pages, with typescript.

Folder 2: Correspondence, 1855-1911.

These letters were exchanged primarily among Berry family members in Missouri. 17 items.

Folder 3: Tax receipts, promissory notes, and miscellaneous business papers, 1856-1889.

Included are tax receipts for land in Osage County owned by Nancy Giesler and a quit-claim deed by the heirs of James E. Rowden to Nancy Jane Healey, Maries County. 18 items.
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