

C Hager, Archibald Little (c. 1814-c.1887), Diary, 1844-1887
896 .4 linear feet

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INTRODUCTION

Photocopy of a diary kept by a farmer in a rural community in Perry County, Missouri. Diary records daily events such as births, marriages, and deaths, the weather, social occasions, and agricultural tasks. Gaps may exist in diary.

DONOR INFORMATION

The diary was purchased by State Historical Society of Missouri from Ned Cashion on 14 October 1963 (Accession No. 194).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Archibald Little Hager was born in North Carolina in approximately 1814. The end of the diary, kept faithfully for over forty years, probably marks his death in 1887. The Hager family moved to Perry County, Missouri, in 1826. They formed a rural community with other families who moved out from Virginia and North Carolina in the 1820s. The names of many of these families--Cashion, Killian, Farrar, Faherty, Abernathy, and O'Mara--appear in the diary kept by Hager.

A.L. Hager, who never married, lived with his mother, Sarah, and sister, Martha, on a farm in Cinque Homme Township in Perry County. In addition to farming, he built houses, farm buildings and fences, cleared land, built and repaired gun stocks, raised animals, and went hunting and fishing. His brother, William, shared in many of these activities.

A.L. Hager kept a record of events that happened to the Hager and Cashion families, who were related by marriage, and to other families in the community. He recorded births, marriages, and deaths; separations and family arguments; and trips for business, pleasure, and for helping out in times of illness. The community must have been a close-knit one. The families were involved in mutually supportive activities such as quilting bees, candy pullings, work frolics, grubbing, fence making, threshing, log rolling, and other tasks that became communal projects. There were also balls, picnics, and social visiting.

Horses and guns were important to the men of the settlement. They swapped horses and had horse races, which often involved large amounts of money. They went hunting and fishing and had frequent shooting matches.

Hager recorded the planting and harvesting of crops such as corn, wheat, oats, and Irish and sweet potatoes. He noted property sales and the prices received for selling land. People in the community raised pigs, horses, beef cattle, and sheep, whose wool was taken to a nearby carding machine and then woven into cloth, often by Hager's sister, Martha. Slaves were kept by some of the residents of Perry County, and Hager wrote about the sale of slaves and about runaway slaves.

Hager described local events and institutions such as the local school, elections, and county court sessions. Crimes were committed in the area, and men were sent to the county jail in Perryville, from which they often escaped, or to the state penitentiary.

Mention of state or national events was infrequent. Men from Perry County volunteered to fight in the Mexican War in 1846. The Civil War had an impact on the county, with some battles being fought in the area and many men joining the army. A.L. Hager served in the state militia for the Union for several months during the winter of 1861-1862. Hager also noted who went to and returned from Santa Fe, California, Oregon, and Colorado. He briefly mentioned the deaths of Presidents Lincoln and Garfield.

The Hager diary is a valuable historical document for those studying the social history of nineteenth century rural Missouri. It provides a remarkably complete picture of community relations and activities, agricultural tasks, and family events. It is an important document for those studying the history of the Hager, Cashion, and other families in Perry County.

FOLDER LIST

- f. 1 1844-December 1846
- f. 2 January 1847-September 1849
- f. 3 October 1849-December 1851
- f. 4 January 1852-April 1854
- f. 5 May 1854-April 1856
- f. 6 May 1856-December 1857
- f. 7 January 1858-August 1859
- f. 8 September 1859-February 1861
- f. 9 March 1861-September 1862
- f. 10 October 1862-October 1863
- f. 11 November 1863-November 1864
- f. 12 December 1864-February 1866
- f. 13 March 1866-January 1867
- f. 14 February 1867-December 1868
- f. 15 January 1869-July 1870
- f. 16 August 1870-March 1872
- f. 17 April 1872-June 1873
- f. 18 July 1873-September 1874
- f. 19 November 1874-March 1876
- f. 20 April 1876-May 1877
- f. 21 June 1877-September 1878
- f. 22 October 1878-January 1880
- f. 23 February 1880-August 1881
- f. 24 September 1881-June 1883
- f. 25 July 1883-May 1885
- f. 26 May 1885-June 1887

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