

C Hickman Family, Papers, 1827-1890
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INTRODUCTION

This collection contains the business accounts, tax receipts, correspondence, legal documents, deeds, and miscellaneous papers of the Hickman family of Boone County, Missouri.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were deposited at the State Historical Society of Missouri by Paul Q. Sapp in 1944. Additions to the collection were made by Mrs. Albertise Coon Reppy of Hillsboro, Missouri on 23 June 1955, and Mrs. Ruth Rollins Westfall on 21 September 1973 (Accession no. 1033).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

David M. Hickman (1788-1851) first visited Missouri in 1817, returning to Bourbon County, Kentucky where he married Eliza Johnston, the daughter of William and Rachel Johnston, also of Bourbon County, in 1818. David Hickman and his wife emigrated to Boone County, Missouri in 1822 along with his father-in-law, William Johnston, and other relatives and slaves.

Hickman purchased property and established his family in what is now southern Columbia. The Hickman's welcomed three sons into the family: William T., born 2 September 1819, David Henry, born 11 November 1821, and James, born in 1824. Eliza Johnston Hickman died on 14 June 1827 at the age of 24. Twenty months later, Hickman married Cornelia Bryan, another Kentucky émigré. The couple added four sons and one daughter to their family.

In 1829, Hickman and some of his neighbors in the southern Two Mile Prairie area organized the Bonne Femme Academy for male students on the north bank of Bonne Femme Creek, about six miles south of Columbia. He represented Boone County in the Missouri General Assembly for two terms, from 1838 to 1842. During this time, he was instrumental in having the University of Missouri established in Columbia.

David M. Hickman died 14 June 1851. His descendants remained prominent in Boone County for many years. One son, David Henry Hickman, operated a successful ferry on the Platte River for Oregon Trail immigrants during the 1850s. He later became a Columbia businessman and educator, serving as the first president of the Board of Curators for Stephens College and as a curator for the University of Missouri in 1860. Hickman High School in Columbia is named in his honor. Another son, Thaddeus Bryan Hickman, was educated at the Bonne Femme Academy, graduating in 1849. He married Louisa Hickman on 1 May 1860 in Rapides Parrish, Louisiana and raised thoroughbred short horn cattle in Boone County.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is loosely arranged according to type of document and by family member. Accounts, receipts, and tax documents pertaining to the business affairs of David M. Hickman

and Thaddeus Bryan Hickman comprise the bulk of the collection. The remainder of the collection consists of family correspondence focusing primarily on post-Civil War economic conditions and political realities, and legal documents.

Please see [C45 Hickman-Bryan Family, Papers, 1796-1920](#) for related materials.

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