

C France, Charles B. (1835-1895), Papers, 1856-1890  
1012 10 folders

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#### INTRODUCTION

Correspondence, diaries, and papers of Charles B. France, a St. Joseph, Missouri, banker, and his family. Contains letter book of Overland Stage Lines.

#### DONOR INFORMATION

The Charles B. France Papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Robert D. France in June 1938.

#### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection offers insights into a St. Joseph, Missouri, family, which participated during the 1860s in the settlement of the West and the Civil War. As a young man Charles France was an agent in the Denver office of the Overland Stage Lines. He and his brothers lived in mining camps in California, Montana, and Denver and Central City, Colorado, and were actively involved in schemes to make money.

One of France's brothers lived in Mobile, Alabama, during the 1860s, and his letters discuss Reconstruction and the impact of the Civil War on the city. France's future wife was a southern sympathizer and her diaries describe life during the Civil War in an Andrew County, Missouri, community that had many Union supporters and was occupied by federal troops. Other areas of the collection describe student life in Macon and Fulton, Missouri, travel in the East, and family life in a rural Missouri community.

For additional information on the France family see the Martha M. and Sara M. France, Papers, 1878-1905 (C874).

## FOLDER LIST

- f. 1 Correspondence, 1857-1866, to Charles France from his brothers, fiancée Martha McDonald, and her relatives, describing family news, Civil War, and the freighting business between St. Joseph and Denver. Letters from one brother detail the South, freed blacks, and Reconstruction in Mobile, Alabama.
- f. 2 Correspondence, 1866-1885, to Charles Frances from his brothers in the California gold fields, medical school in Philadelphia, Mobile, Alabama, and Indiana. Also letters from his sons, Charles and Robert, attending schools in Macon and Fulton, Missouri.
- f. 3 Correspondence, 1886-1890, n.d., to Charles France from his son Charles at school in Macon and Fulton, Missouri, and during a trip to Washington, D.C., New York, and North Carolina. Additional letters from brother in Indiana.
- f. 4 Cards announcing lectures at the Medical Institute of Louisville, 1845-1846, for Christian M. France, and for the Peoples Home and Savings Association of St. Joseph, Missouri, C.B. France, treasurer.
- f. 5 Journal of C.B. France documenting trip by mule train from Denver to St. Joseph, May 1865, and financial accounts of Mayfield and France. Includes an edition of the Daily Rocky Mountain News, 31 October 1864.
- f. 6 Overland Stage Lines letter book, December 1863-August 1864. C.B. France was an agent in Denver. Letters are to Ben Holladay in New York and to agents in Atchison, Hannibal, Salt Lake City, and Central City, discussing records shipments and passengers.
- f. 7 Journal of Martha (Mattie) McDonald, 1859-1863. Contains a description of a trip with her father in 1860 to Chicago, Detroit, Niagara Falls, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C., and entries discussing people and church news.
- f. 8 Miscellaneous papers and drawings possibly belonging to Martha McDonald. Includes posters advertising the appearance of Tom Thumb in New York City, Shaw's Garden in St. Louis, raffle tickets, and a women's college in St. Joseph, Missouri.
- f. 9 Diary, 1856-1863. Most entries were written by Martha McDonald, who was a southern sympathizer. Entries contain comments on family news, the Civil War, battles, injuries and deaths, prisoners, and loyalty oaths. Also included are recipes, poems, and essays. A portion of the diary was written by a sister of Martha and details family and farm news in Andrew County, Missouri. Another unidentified entry describes camping along the Platte River with teamsters.
- f. 10 Use copy of the above diary.

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