

C Mine La Motte Estate, Madison County, Missouri, Records, 1875-1897
1260 1 volume

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INTRODUCTION

Miners' register including two sets of mining rules and regulations and the signatures of miners employed.

DONOR INFORMATION

The records were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Henry Clay Thompson on 2 August 1976 (Accession No. 2024).

HISTORICAL SKETCH

According to a 1945 entry in the Ramsay Place Names File (C2366), the Mine La Motte is probably the oldest mine in Missouri. The mine was public property from 1738 to 1740. In 1763 it was worked by members of the Valle family from Ste. Genevieve. Later, in 1800, J.B. Pratte, St. Gemme Beauvais, and Francis and J.B. Valle purchased the mine from the Valles to whom the Spanish government had granted it. The grant was confirmed by the U.S. government in 1827. In 1838 the 24,000 acre tract was sold to C.C. Valle, L.F. Linn, and E.E. Pratte. The new group of owners then leased the land to miners in 40 acre tracts. Since that time the property has changed owners many times. In the 1940s it was owned by the Fredericktown Mining Company.

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