

C Harris, James (1798-1882), Papers, 1806-1918
2669 .2 linear feet

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INTRODUCTION

Papers of James Harris, farmer and justice of the peace, Clay County, MO, and family. Contains personal correspondence from friends and family and miscellaneous financial and legal documents such as receipts, contracts, court orders, inventories, land deeds, and wills.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were loaned for copying to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Franklin D. Harris on 10 February 1983 (Accession No. 2464). Originals are in the possession of the donor.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

James Harris was born in 1798 and died in Clay County, Missouri in 1882. Harris farmed a 1200 acre tract of land in Clay County and served as a justice of the peace in the 1860s. His sons also farmed in Clay County as well as in Texas. Harris apparently was well-respected and trusted in the community and served as administrator of at least four estates.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

These papers are mainly those of James Harris; there are a small number of documents of his children and friends. The papers include personal correspondence to James Harris and family from 1850 to 1917. They are arranged chronologically. Financial and legal documents comprise the bulk of the material and are also arranged chronologically.

Through the use of inventories, contracts, receipts, and other legal and financial papers, a general idea about business and economic conditions in the Clay County, Missouri, area from 1830 to 1918 can be gained. Also covered generally are conditions in Texas from 1858 to 1861, including Indians, cattle production, and the early Civil War period. Personal correspondence during the Civil War period contains some comments on conditions in Missouri and Kentucky, but is rather sketchy.

FOLDER LIST

- f. 1-2 Personal Correspondence, 1850-1917. Personal correspondence to James Harris and family from other Harris family members and friends. Correspondence mainly pertains to family affairs, mixed with legal and financial requests and concerns. Letters from family members in Texas in late 1850s show some general conditions in that state. Letters dated in 1861 refer to conditions during the early Civil War period.
- f. 3 Miscellaneous, n.d. Contains five recipes for potions and cider. Also, a

- "no trespassing" warning.
- f. 4-13 Financial and Legal Papers, 1806-1918. Includes miscellaneous receipts, inventories, indentures, contracts, and court orders relating to Harris family and friends and to James Harris as justice of the peace.
- f. 7 Last will and testament of Garret Groomer (1786-1860).
- f. 12 Last will and testament of James Harris (1798-1882).

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