

C      Lead Mining Companies, Washington County, Missouri, Records, 1809-1954  
3893            20 linear feet on 29 rolls of microfilm

## MICROFILM

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## INTRODUCTION

This collection contains business records of lead mining companies and company stores in Washington County, Missouri, from 1809 to 1954. The companies include R. Smith and Company; Stone Manning and Company; Manning, Smith and Company; the Missouri and Pennsylvania Lead Company; the Palmer Lead Company; and the Renault Lead Company.

## DONOR INFORMATION

Please consult reference staff for donor information.

## HISTORY

Since territorial days, the Washington County area has had the distinction of being a leader in Missouri lead production. Most early lead mining was surface or shallow shaft mining and, before the advent of the railroads, lead was hauled to Ste. Genevieve where it was transported on the Mississippi River.

"New Diggings," south of Potosi in the Mine à Breton area, was discovered in 1806. The Fourche à Courtois Mines opened in 1814 and were named for a nearby stream. These mines were in Liberty township near what came to be known as Palmer, Missouri.

Palmer, Missouri, was laid out in 1830 and, from 1830 to 1867, was a post office known as "Harmony." The village was located in Harmony township, 15 miles southwest of Potosi. The village was also known as "Webster" during this time. The site was purchased by Courtland Palmer, Jr. of New York in 1870, and it was later owned by the Palmer Lead Company. The post office was re-established under the name of Palmer on December 9, 1875. By 1876 Palmer had become a thriving mining center.

The Palmer Lead Company was a manufacturer of pig lead and a dealer in general merchandise. The company store was located in Palmer. The store's predecessors included E.T. Stickney, J. Block and Company, and J. T. Hesser and Company. The company also utilized the land they owned by engaging in farming, stock raising, horticulture, and timber sales.

The Palmer Lead Company was incorporated November 26, 1875, by Walter B. Reynolds, John J. Feazel, and brothers Donald McNair Palmer and Courtland Palmer. Donald McNair Palmer was superintendent and general manager. In 1890 J. A. Ainsworth of Toledo, Ohio, was president and treasurer of the company; A. Harrison, superintendent; and R. Cummings, secretary. The corporation was dissolved on August 1, 1899.

The Missouri and Pennsylvania Lead Company was located in "Harmony," Missouri, and had mines of lead and other ores and minerals in Washington and Crawford counties. The company was incorporated on February 11, 1864, and managed by Hugh McKittrick, William North, G. W. Chadbourne, A. A. Bassett and Jacob P. Tirrill. G. W. Garnett signed the company's time books in the 1860s and 1870s.

R. Smith and Company; Stone Manning and Company; and Manning, Smith and Company were located in "Webster", Missouri. R. Smith and F. Manning were the principals in these firms which received ore and sold general merchandise and staples. After R. Smith's death in 1840, the R. Smith and Company became the Stone Manning and Company; and, in 1845, Manning, Smith and Company.

The Renault Lead Mining Company, possibly named for Philip Renault, Director General of the Company of the West mines in the Louisiana Territory, was incorporated September 29, 1877, by David H. King, Henry L. Carver and George W. Bailey. On July 16, 1898, the Renault Lead Company was incorporated by Harry J. Cantwell, Arthur Thacher, Allan T. Simpkins, Ralph Simpkins, G. G. Pollard and W. M. Chauvenet. The company's principal office was in St. Louis, Missouri; its mine was at Palmer, as was its company store. T. F. Blount was superintendent of the Renault Lead Company and the Washington Land and Mining Company in Palmer. Upon incorporation of the Renault Lead Company, promissory notes of \$42,000 were executed to the Palmer Lead Company. A judgment of forfeiture was issued against the Renault Lead Company on September 23, 1912.

#### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains 155 volumes and one folder of business records from lead companies and company stores in Washington County, Missouri. The Palmer Lead Company records make up the bulk of the collection.

This collection covers all the business phases of lead mining including production, distribution, management, finances, personnel, accounting, and plants; and is an excellent source for researchers interested in business, labor, lead mining and mineral industries, and local history. Pictures of miners and mining life emerge through study of the early company store records, prices, wages, hours worked, and mining permissions books. Agriculture/agribusiness is another topic for study. The unique names of the mines themselves offer another avenue of study.

The collection is divided into five series, four of which represent the various mining companies. Arrangement within these series is by type of record, and is primarily chronological. The fifth series contains unidentified record books.

The records, dating from 1809 to 1954, consist of daybooks; ledgers; blotters; cash books; general journals; employee time books; records of ore hauled, received, smelted, sold and shipped; company store inventories; accounts; invoices; and miscellaneous records. Some record books contain the records of more than one company.

The **R. Smith and Company; Stone Manning and Company; and Manning, Smith and Company** series consists of fourteen daybooks and a four page fragment from a daybook, two ledgers, and a combination daybook/mineral book. The records date from 1831 through 1852. Company names are used interchangeably throughout the records. Volumes 1-8 contain R. Smith and Company records with volumes 1 through 4 being records from Cold Spring. Volumes 9 through 15 include Stone Manning and Company records, and volumes 8 and 16 include Manning, Smith and Company records. The daybooks date from 1831 through 1845; the ledgers from 1834 through 1841. A name index in volume 18 is helpful as a guide to the itemized accounts in the preceding daybooks.

The daybooks contain general merchandise and labor accounts. Volume 8 is a combination daybook/mineral book. The book opens July 8, 1839, with two unnumbered pages containing H. M. Long and Company accounts. Eight numbered pages of itemized accounts and work

accounts follow, and date through July 9, 1840. The accounts are for hauling, hides, and boarding work hands. The mineral book was opened August 1, 1845, by Manning, Smith and Company. It is a record of ore hauled, received, and smelted. Names, pounds of mineral received and the price paid are given. There are a few women's names. Some individuals sent their "black boys" or "black women" to pick up pay. There are no entries from January 7, 1847 through October 15, 1849. Employee records for H. M. Long and Company and miscellaneous entries complete this volume.

See also volume 19 in the Missouri and Pennsylvania Lead series. The first half of this volume was used as a daybook, dating from April 23, 1836 through August 30, 1844, by R. Smith and Company and its successors.

The **Missouri and Pennsylvania Lead Company** series, dating from 1836 through 1875, includes a combination daybook/cash book used by R. Smith and Company, and its successors, as a daybook, April 23, 1836-August 30, 1844, and as a blacksmith shop cash book, 1866-1872. Numerous pages are missing from this volume and there are daybook entries for December 13, 1865-March 23, 1866, which are unidentified. Blacksmithing and tool sharpening accounts are numerous. Missouri and Pennsylvania Lead Company accounts predominate.

A mining permissions book, 1866-1874, contains numerical entries of permissions which give the names of persons to whom the permission was granted, the name of the mine, the length of time allowed for mining and the expiration date. The employer's monthly time book, 1867-1872, gives employee names, number of days worked, wages per hour, amount due, and contains employees' signatures. The same employees are listed in time books of the Palmer Lead Mines (v. 81-83). A ledger, 1873-1875, is indexed by names of individuals. Itemized accounts are for general merchandise, time and labor. A record book related to this series is volume 149, an account book of A. P. Farrar, Webster, Missouri.

The **Palmer Lead Company** series comprises the bulk of the collection and dates from 1809 through 1821 and 1864 through 1954. Records of mining operations; the company store and its predecessors; and company farms, mills, and shops are found in the daybooks, ledgers, merchandise inventories and invoice books, employee records (time books), mineral receipt books, smelting records, records of lead shipments and sales, team book and hauling records, general journals and cash books, and livestock ledger.

Water and insect damage have left only fragments of pages, some illegible, from the earliest daybook dating from 1809 to 1821 (v. 23). This daybook predates the Palmer Lead Company and contains the earliest records of mining at Jeffersonville and New Diggings. Lead receipts and lead deliveries to Ste. Genevieve are recorded as are expenses for hauling and "voyages" to St. Louis and Orleans. Daniel McCawley's flatboat, the Mississippi is mentioned. A Missouri Fur Company account, July 1813, is included as are accounts for general merchandise and staples such as bacon. There are no entries in this volume for 1816 through 1819 and only a few for 1813 through 1815. The 1820 and 1821 account entries are primarily for whiskey and corn. Mention is made of Tucker's Mine.

The mineral receipt books contain records of lead ore received; give the names of mines, haulers, and purchasers; and include slag receipts. Furnace [mineral] books contain records of lead hauled, received and smelted. The team book includes records of hauling pig lead, coal, lumber, and merchandise; team work and mule work; corn and salt bought and received; and farm and team rent for 1894.

Invoice books are comprised of individual invoices for the purchase of general merchandise and are in reverse chronological order by date of payment. These invoices were removed from the original volumes and placed in folders to facilitate filming. The original order has been maintained.

Volume 89 includes mineral receipts, 1875-1876 (pp. 1-43); a company store inventory, July 1, 1879-April 1880 (pp. 44-125); an 1880 stock inventory (pp. 125-128); and a daybook, May 21-July 10, 1880. The dates for the daybook fall between those for daybooks, v. 25 and v. 26.

Some ledgers, journals, and cash books hold records for both the Palmer Lead Company and the Renault Lead Company. The ledgers are indexed. The majority of ledgers contain customer accounts of the Palmer Lead Company store, the company's farms, mills and shops; and miscellaneous accounts. Volumes 103, 111, and 112 are ledgers, but contain accounts of the Palmer and Renault Lead Companies for merchandise to stock their company stores, 1898-1915. The majority of merchants are from St. Louis. Volume 113 is a Palmer Lead Company Store ledger, 1915-1920 and also contains 1945 Renault Lead Company cash sales.

General journals, (v. 116-119), appear to be primarily from the Renault Lead Company while the cash books, (v. 120-125), contain records from both companies. It is difficult to tell which company's records are being recorded in these volumes. Volume 140, a sales book, 1891-1904, contains Palmer and Renault lead sales.

The last record book in this series (v. 141), contains employee and ore records by name of shaft, January 31, 1925-September 4, 1926; records of merchandise and lead ore bought and shipped; a 1925 Bank of Potosi financial record; merchandise inventories January 1930, and January 1944-December 1954; and 1954 income receipts.

The **Renault Lead Company** series, dating from 1896 through 1915, includes a company store merchandise inventory, a combination mineral record/daybook/ledger, a mineral receipt book for the Flint Hill Mine, a record of outstanding accounts, and a lead and slag book. See also the Palmer Lead Company series for additional records.

The **Miscellaneous** series contains nine record books that cannot be identified by company, and one folder of Palmer Lead Company items. Three of the record books are account books dated 1865-1868; 1873-1875; and 1902-1906, with new entries beginning August 1, 1937.

The A.P. Farrar account book includes general merchandise accounts of Don McNair Palmer and Courtland Palmer of the Palmer Lead Company. Farrar was a merchant of Webster, Missouri. A furnace book, 1900-1902, contains smelting and hauling records. A record book, 1900-1903, contains a ledger of accounts, a mineral record, and a record of corn hauled from company farms (the individual accounts are for mining, milling, farming, cattle, and lumber for various mines). A hauling record/team book, 1900-1906, records mineral received by the company team of Wheeling, Mason, and Parkins and includes the Flint Hill Mine.

The collection has no records for the years 1812, 1814-1819, 1822-1830, the 1850s and the Civil War years. One volume covers the 1930's-1950s.

Records in the collection do not indicate the relationship between the various companies, but the fact that some record books contain the records of more than one company suggests that one was a predecessor of the other. Handwriting indicates that the records were kept by different persons. R. Smith and Company and the Missouri and Pennsylvania Lead Company have a daybook and a cash book in the same volume. The Palmer Lead Company and the Renault Lead

Company shared ledgers, general journals and cash books and also had employee and sales records recorded in the same volumes.

What all these companies do have in common is location-- "Harmony," "Webster," or Palmer, which according to outside sources, such as the Ramsay Place Names File, are one and the same. The mines were also called Palmer or Webster. Locations of the various mines are not given. The Mine au Breton Historical Society is a source for an excellent map of early mine locations.

## VOLUME LIST

### **R. Smith and Company; Stone Manning and Company; and Manning, Smith and Company Series**

- v. 1 Daybook, 1831 December 13-14 [four page fragment]--Cold Spring
- v. 2 Daybook, 1834 September 26-1835 March 20--Cold Spring
- v. 3 Daybook, 1835 March 21-August 31--Cold Spring
- v. 4 Daybook, 1836 September 23-1837 February 4--[Cold Spring]
- v. 5 Daybook, 1837 February 4-September 2
- v. 6 Daybook, 1837 September 27-1838 March 30
- v. 7 Daybook, 1838 October 27-1839 March 30
- v. 8 Daybook, 1839 July 8-1840 July 9;  
Mineral Book, 1845 August 1-1852 October 24
- v. 9 Daybook, 1840 January 1-July 6
- v. 10 Daybook, 1840 July 7-1841 January 2
- v. 11 Daybook, 1841 January 1-September 11
- v. 12 Daybook, 1841 September-October 20
- v. 13 Daybook, 1842 April 20-1843 May 22
- v. 14 Daybook, 1843 May 22-1844 March 9
- v. 15 Daybook, 1844 March 10-1845 February 22
- v. 16 Daybook, 1845 February 24-September 2
- v. 17 Ledger, 1834 June 20-1842 June 7
- v. 18 Ledger, 1838 December 7-1841 August 22

### **Missouri and Pennsylvania Lead Company Series**

- v. 19 Daybook, 1836 April 23-1844 August 30 [R. Smith Company];  
Daybook, 1865 December 13-1866 March 23 [Missouri and Pennsylvania Lead Company];  
Cash Book, 1866-1872--Blacksmith Shop [Missouri and Pennsylvania Lead Company]
- v. 20 Mining Permissions Book, 1866 September 29-1874 March 30
- v. 21 Time Book, 1867 August 1-1872 July 31
- v. 22 Ledger, 1873 June 11-1875 October 25

**Palmer Lead Company Series**

- v. 23 Daybook, 1809 March 10-1810 July 20; 1813 March 5-1815 December; 1820-1821
- v. 24 Daybook, 1878 July 25-1879 June 21
- v. 25 Daybook, 1879 June 24-1880 May 12
- v. 26 Daybook, 1880 July 10- October 19 **SEE ALSO:** v. 89
- v. 27 Daybook, 1880 August 13-October 30
- v. 28 Daybook, 1880 November 4-1881 January 13
- v. 29 Daybook, 1881 February 2-April 2
- v. 30 Daybook, 1881 April 2-June 7
- v. 31 Daybook, 1881 June 7-September 14
- v. 32 Daybook, 1881 October 5-December 31
- v. 33 Daybook, 1882 January 2-March 11
- v. 34 Daybook, 1882 March 11-June 28
- v. 35 Daybook, 1882 June 28-October 14
- v. 36 Daybook, 1882 October 16-December 9
- v. 37 Daybook, 1882 December 9-1883 February 6
- v. 38 Daybook, 1883 February 7-August 7
- v. 39 Daybook, 1883 August 8-December 15
- v. 40 Daybook, 1883 December 15-1884 April 5
- v. 41 Daybook, 1884 April 7-June 4
- v. 42 Daybook, 1884 June-September 30
- v. 43 Daybook, 1884 September 30-November 15
- v. 44 Daybook, 1884 November 17-1885 April 6
- v. 45 Daybook, 1885 April 7-September 26
- v. 46 Daybook, 1885 September-1886 January 29
- v. 47 Daybook, 1886 January 29-May 27
- v. 48 Daybook, 1886 July 24-October 26
- v. 49 Daybook, 1886 October 27-December 28; 1881 February 17-June 13 **SEE ALSO:** v. 115
- v. 50 Daybook, 1886 December-1887 June 18
- v. 51 Daybook, 1887 June 20-1888 January 31
- v. 52 Daybook, 1888 February 1-August 30
- v. 53 Daybook, 1888 August 30-December 31
- v. 54 Daybook, 1889 January 5-June 8
- v. 55 Daybook, 1889 June 11-October 29
- v. 56 Daybook, 1889 November-December 2
- v. 57 Daybook, 1889 December 24-1890 February 26
- v. 58 Daybook, 1890 February 27-May 7
- v. 59 Daybook, 1890 May 8-July 15
- v. 60 Daybook, 1890 July 16-September 3
- v. 61 Daybook, 1890 September 4-October 14
- v. 62 Daybook, 1890 October 16-November 17
- v. 63 Daybook, 1890 December 12-1891 January 6
- v. 64 Daybook, 1891 March-April 30

- v. 65 Daybook, 1891 May-June 23
- v. 66 Daybook, 1891 June 24-August 15
- v. 67 Daybook, 1891 August 15-December 18
- v. 68 Daybook, 1891 December 19-1893 January 28
- v. 69 Daybook, 1893 June 30-1894 March 7
- v. 70 Daybook, 1894 March 8-September 14
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- v. 72 Daybook, 1895 November 23-1896 December 18
- v. 73 Daybook, 1896 December 19-1897 December 31
- v. 74 Daybook, 1898 January 3-September 8
- v. 75 Daybook, 1898 September 9-1899 March 8
- v. 76 Daybook, 1899 March 8-September 16
- v. 77 Daybook, 1899 September 16-November 2
- v. 78 Daybook, 1899 November 4-December 9
- v. 79 Daybook, 1899 December 9-1900 May 16
- v. 80 Daybook, 1900 May 19-1901 March 1
- v. 81 Employee Records--Time Book, Palmer Lead Mines, 1864-1867
- v. 82 Employee Records--Time Book, Palmer Lead Mines, 1874-1880
- v. 83 Employee Records--Time Book, Palmer Lead Mines, 1880-1896
- v. 84 Mineral Receipt Book, 1873 April 4-1875 May 8
- v. 85 Mineral Receipt Book, 1875 August 2-1881 August 31
- v. 86 Mineral Receipt Book, 1881 September 2-1890 December 30
- v. 87 Record Book--Lead Shipments, 1875 September 30-1897 June 22
- v. 88 Team Book--Hauling records and miscellaneous, 1888 January-1898 August
- v. 89 Record Book, 1875-1880--Mineral receipts, July 1875-April 1876;  
Company Store Inventory, July 1879-April 1880;  
Daybook, May 21-July 10, 1880) **SEE ALSO:** v. 26
- v. 90 Ledger, 1879 January 1-1881 December
- v. 91 Ledger, 1880 March 29-1898 July 27
- v. 92 Ledger, 1881 December 16-1882 May 18
- v. 93 Ledger, 1881 May 1-1883 July 3
- v. 94 Ledger, 1883 June 30-1885 January 3
- v. 95 Ledger, 1885 January 1-1888 August 9
- v. 96 Ledger, 1888 August 9-1890 July 8
- v. 97 Ledger, 1890 June 27-1891 April 22
- v. 98 Ledger, 1891 September 4-1892 January 12
- v. 99 Ledger, 1892 January 12-1894 January 22
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- v. 101 Ledger, 1895 March 1-1898 December 31 [Renault Lead Company]
- v. 102 Ledger, 1896 February 19-1899 September 23
- v. 103 Ledger, 1898 July 22-1900 June 1 [Renault Lead Company]
- v. 104 Ledger, 1899 January 2-1901 January 10
- v. 105 Ledger, 1900 January 1-April 17
- v. 106 Ledger, 1900 August 31-1901 January 10
- v. 107 Ledger, 1900 January 10-1901 November 6

- v. 108 Ledger, 1901 January 1-1902 January 10
- v. 109 Ledger, 1901 December 28-1903 October 3 [Renault Lead Company]
- v. 110 Ledger, 1903 October 1-1907 December 28 [Renault Lead Company]
- v. 111 Ledger, 1900 January 1-1915 June 21 [Renault Lead Company]
- v. 112 Ledger, 1907 April 3-1913 November 1 [Renault Lead Company]
- v. 113 Ledger, 1915 June 19-1920 December 13;  
Cash sales, 1945 [Renault Lead Company]
- v. 114 Blotter, 1879 June 1-1891
- v. 115 Blotter, 1881 May 10-1886 December 17 [E. T. Stickney] **SEE ALSO:** v. 49
- v. 116 General Journal, 1880 March 29-1887 October 31 [Renault Lead Company]
- v. 117 General Journal, 1887 November 5-1898 July 28 [Renault Lead Company]
- v. 118 General Journal, 1898 August 12-1900 August 31 [Renault Lead Company]
- v. 119 General Journal, 1900 September 11-1908 January 23 [Renault Lead Company]
- v. 120 Cash Book, 1883 April 16- 1901 January 1 [Palmer and Renault Lead Companies]
- v. 121 Cash Book, 1890 April 5-1894 June 5 [Palmer and Renault Lead Companies]
- v. 122 Cash Book, 1894 June 5-1898 July 21 [Palmer and Renault Lead Companies]
- v. 123 Cash Book, 1898 July 21-1899 December 30 [Palmer and Renault Lead Companies]
- v. 124 Cash Book, 1901 January 1-1902 December 6 [Palmer and Renault Lead Companies]
- v. 125 Cash Book, 1902 December 6-1909 October 30 [Palmer and Renault Lead Companies]
- v. 126 Furnace Book, 1883 February-1886 December--Smelting Record
- v. 127 Furnace Book, [1891- ]--Smelting Record;  
Mill Accounts, 1895-1898
- v. 128 Furnace Book, 1892-1895--Lead hauled, received, and smelted
- v. 129 Invoice Book, 1873-1874 [J. Block and Company]
- v. 130 Invoice Book, 1877-1878 [J. F. Hesser and Company]
- v. 131 Invoice Book, 1878-1880 [Palmer Lead Company Store]
- v. 132 Invoice Book, 1884-1885 [Palmer Lead Company Store]
- v. 133 Invoice Book, 1890-1891 [Palmer Lead Company Store]
- v. 134 Invoice Book, 1892-1894 [Palmer Lead Company Store]
- v. 135 Merchandise Inventory, 1882 [E. T. Stickney]
- v. 136 Order Book, 1884;  
Merchandise Inventory Book, 1886 [J. W. Stophlet]
- v. 137 Merchandise Inventory Book, 1889 March 1-1894 September [Palmer Lead Company Store]
- v. 138 Merchandise Inventory Book, 1915-1922 [Palmer Lead Company Store]
- v. 139 Livestock Ledger, [1892-1895]
- v. 140 Cash Sales Book, 1891 May 1-1904 May 31  
p. 92, Palmer and Renault;  
pp. 286-294, Renault Lead sales, 1892 March-1904 May 31
- v. 141 Record Book, 1925-1954  
Employee and ore records, 1925 January 31-1926 September 4;  
Merchandise and lead ore bought and shipped;  
Financial record, 1925 (Bank of Potosi);  
Merchandise inventories, 1930 January, 1944 January-1954 December;  
Income receipts, 1954



**Renault Lead Company Series**

- v. 142 Merchandise Inventory, 1896-1910 [Renault Lead Company Store]
- v. 143 Mineral Record, 1898 September 17-1899 January 28;  
Daybook, 1899 November 3;  
Ledger, 1904 November 23-1915 January 11
- v. 144 Mineral Receipt Book, 1900 June-November; 1901 March [Flint Hill Mine]
- v. 145 Outstanding Accounts, 1898-1905
- v. 146 Lead and Slag book, 1898-1903

**Miscellaneous Series**

- v. 147 Account Book, 1865 October 2-1868 May 28 [Washington County]
- v. 148 Ledger, 1872 January 1-1875 December 4
- v. 149 Account Book, 1873 September 19-1875 October 5 [A.P. Farrar, Webster, Missouri]
- v. 150 Furnace Book, 1900-1902 [Furnace #1--smelting and hauling records]
- v. 151 Record Book, 1900 June 8-1903 September 2
- v. 152 Hauling Record/Team Book, 1900-1906 **SEE ALSO:** v. 144
- v. 153 Account Book, 1902-1906
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