INTRODUCTION
The Joseph Estes Papers document the life of a cattle breeder from Boone County, Missouri. The papers consist of financial documents such as receipts, deeds, indentures, and slave claims.

DONOR INFORMATION
The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Nancy E. Kennedy on 24 September 1991 (Accession No. 2860).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
Joseph Estes was born July 4, 1820, to Ambrose Carleton Estes and Margaret Brock in Boone County, Missouri. After Estes’ mother died less than a year after his birth, his father took him to Spotsylvania County, Virginia, to be cared for by his aunts. They resided in Virginia for a year before returning to Boone County.

Estes married Susan Montieth Bedford on January 6, 1852. Susan bore eight children during the period of 1853-1867. Estes was a prizewinning cattle breeder who was active both before and after the Civil War. His cattle, which were bred from animals imported from Kentucky, were larger than those of other breeders at the time. Estes died March 16, 1893. He is buried in the Bethel-Hickam Cemetery in Columbia, Missouri.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE
The John Estes Papers consist of his receipts, indentures, deeds, land surveys and slave claims. The financial documents comprehensively cover the years of Estes’ career. The papers are grouped by type and arranged chronologically.

FOLDER LIST
f. 1 Claims of Slaves, 1816-1852
f. 2 Accounts of the Brock Family, 1821-1829
f. 3 Land Survey, 1830
f. 4 Receipts, 1830-1836
f. 5 Deeds, 1830-1837
f. 6 Law Book, 1838
f. 7 Receipts, 1840-1849
f. 8 Indentures and Deeds, 1842-1844
f. 9 Complaint, 1846
f. 10 Indentures, 1850
f. 11 Accounts, 1850-1859
f. 12 Deeds, 1850-1859
f. 13 Receipts, 1850-1859
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