

## Information Sheet

**R**      **Shell, Casper, 1800-1849.**  
**243**      **Papers, 1832-1849.**  
            **Three folders.**

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri](http://The State Historical Society of Missouri). If you would like more information, please contact us at [shsresearch@umsystem.edu](mailto:shsresearch@umsystem.edu).

These are a journal and miscellaneous papers of Casper Shell (Schell), Jr., a blacksmith and justice of the peace who lived near Lutesville in what was then Cape Girardeau County, now Bolinger County, Missouri. The collection pertains to Shell's trade as a blacksmith as well as his official duties. A transcript, prepared by the donor, is available.

Casper Shell (Schell), Jr., was born on 11 June 1800 in Lincoln County, North Carolina, the son of Casper Shell and Frances Mull. The family came to Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, in 1804, settling southeast of Lutesville on Crooked Creek. Shell was reared and educated in Cape Girardeau County, where he met and married Cynthia Amelia Wilson Hager. Trained as a blacksmith, Shell established a shop near Lutesville which he operated for most of his life. During the late 1830s and 1840s he served as constable and Justice of the Peace in Lorange, later Liberty, Township. Shell died in 1849.

Shell's papers consist of a journal and miscellaneous papers concerning the smithing business and his duties as a county official. The first ninety-two pages of the journal consist of records of the blacksmith trade from November 1833 through April 1844. Apparently Shell sold or leased the business to J. F. Ritch from October 1842 through April 1843. Entries during that period are written in a different hand and are credited to Ritch. Individual accounts include itemized lists of services rendered, primarily for repairs of agricultural equipment, wagons, and firearms. Fees and payments in cash or trade are noted.

The remainder of the journal and the miscellaneous papers generally concern Shell's duties as constable and Justice of the Peace. There are lists of fees collected on county business, promissory notes, stray notices, estate papers, and affidavits of guardians and executors. Notes concerning Shell's personal business and a few genealogical records are intermingled with the county business. An edited typescript and surname index to the collection are available.

The journal and the papers were donated by Lorena Shell Eaker, a great-great-grandniece of Casper Shell, Jr. She also provided the typescript, which was published in Volume 2 of her *Shoe Cobbler's Kin*, a history of the Eaker family.

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16 December 1985

Lorena S. Eaker

Gift

## Shelf List

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Folder 1: Journal, 1833-1849 (approximately 128 pages).

Folder 2: Miscellaneous items removed from the journal, 1832-1848 (21 items).

Folder 3: Typescript of journal and papers, 1832-1849, by Lorena S. Eaker, n.d. (29 pages).

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**Index Cards**

Blacksmiths—Missouri—Bollinger County  
Blacksmiths—Missouri—Cape Girardeau County  
Bollinger County (Mo.)  
Cape Girardeau County (Mo.)  
Justices of the peace—Missouri—Cape Girardeau County  
Lutesville (Mo.).  
Marble Hill (Mo.).  
Ritch, James F.  
Schell, Frederick.  
Shell, Casper, 1800-1849