

## Information Sheet

**R Lane's Prairie (Mo.).**  
**314 Daybook, 1860.**  
**One folder, photocopies.**

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).

This is a daybook from an unidentified general store at Lane's Prairie in Maries County, Missouri, thought to have been operated by Francis M. Johnson. With the daybook is an undated letter by Maries County historian Everett M. King which contains speculation about the volume's provenance.

Lane's Prairie is located in the northeastern corner of Maries County, about twelve miles east of Vienna. The area is named after Charles C. Lane, the first recorded settler of Maries County, who entered the large Paydown tract on the west side of the Gasconade River in 1826. Lane remained at that location only a short time before moving to the east side of the Gasconade at Lane's Ford. Family members Benjamin, Hiram, and Peter Lane also settled east of the river on the rolling prairie which came to bear the family name. By the date of Charles Lane's death in 1850, a small community existed at Lane's Prairie. A general store was probably already in operation at that date, and a post office was established in 1851. The latter remained in operation until 1914.

The daybook from the general store at Lane's Prairie contains entries of daily transactions from 3 January through 26 November 1860. The volume is unindexed, but an examination of the surnames of the store's customers reveals the mixture of Germans and Old Stock Americans who made up the population of Maries County before the Civil War. Frequent customers were William Ammerman, William Davidson, Elias Gradolf, Benjamin, Hiram, and Peter Lane, John Moreland, John Nagle, Thomas Oliver, Frederick Overmayer, and William Wentzel.

There is nothing in the daybook which reveals the proprietor of the business, but each page bears the heading "Lane's Prairie." In an enclosure with the volume, Maries County historian Everett M. King expressed the belief that the store was operated in 1860 by Francis M. Johnson. King also referred to a claim made by Johnson against the United States for damages to the store during a skirmish near the store during the Civil War. King indicated that the claim, which apparently no longer exists, led him to believe that the contents of the store were the real objects of rebel forces in the skirmish. The fight is known locally as the Battle of Bloomington, after the post-war townsite platted on Lane's Prairie.

*r377 15 May 1987 Old Jail Museum, Vienna, Mo. Loaned for photocopying*

## Shelf List

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Daybook, 3 January -- 26 November 1860 (116 pages).

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Bloomington (Mo.).

Business records—Missouri—Maries County.

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Maries County (Mo.)—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.