

Information Sheet

R **Russell family.**
330 **Papers, 1837-1938.**
 Five folders.

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

This collection includes correspondence, legal papers, tax receipts, lists of household purchases, and miscellaneous papers of Cyrus Russell (1795-1860), and his sons Cyrus Russell (1819-1905) and Theodore Pease Russell (1827-1889) of Arcadia in Iron County, Missouri.

Cyrus Russell of Somers, Connecticut, was among a number of New Englanders during the 1830s who were induced to move from settled areas of the east to the frontier of southeastern Missouri. Following kinsmen and friends Henry Pease and J. L. Van Doren, also of Somers, Russell settled in the Arcadia Valley in what became Iron County, Missouri. He was drawn partly by the industrial possibilities of "the Iron Mountain," but especially by the agricultural and commercial potential of land in the undeveloped valley. Russell settled in 1838 along Stouts Creek southeast of present-day Ironton and quickly began clearing areas for cultivation. A sawmill on the creek produced sawed lumber which was much in demand for construction of works at the mines and houses in Ironton during the 1840s and 1850s. By 1860, Cyrus Russell and his sons Henry, Cyrus Jr., Theodore, Giles, and William owned nearly 1000 acres and were the most prominent citizens in the Arcadia Valley. The Russells were directly connected with the founding of the first church and the first schools of the area, the creation of Iron County and construction of the towns of Ironton and Arcadia, and were officers or shareholders of various concerns including the Missouri Iron Company and the Arcadia Academy. Known collectively as Russellville, the Russell homesteads constituted a distinctly "Yankee" enclave in southeastern Missouri. The Russell family and the writings of Theodore Pease Russell are the subject of *A Connecticut Yankee In the Frontier Ozarks*, by James F. Keefe and Lynn Morrow (University of Missouri Press, 1988).

The Russell family papers consist of correspondence, legal papers, tax receipts, and miscellaneous personal and business papers. They concern primarily Cyrus Russell, Sr., and Cyrus Russell, Jr., and, to a lesser degree, Theodore Pease Russell. The legal and tax papers are numerous, reflecting the land acquisitions of Cyrus Russell and his sons, and transactions within the family during the 1840s and 1850s. Only two pieces of personal correspondence are included from the period of the family's greatest activity in the 1850s. They are letters from Cyrus and Giles Russell addressed to Cyrus, Jr., who had returned to Connecticut in 1850 for training as a master carpenter. Several other letters written by Russell descendants in the 1930s concern Russell family genealogy in New England and Missouri.

Some of the most interesting and useful items are in the miscellaneous materials assembled in Folder 5. They include "A Prisoner During Price's Raid" by Cyrus Russell, Jr.; the history of the Congregational Church, later reorganized as the Presbyterian Church of Ironton, probably authored by Theodore Pease Russell; lists of qualified voters in various townships of Iron County, 1867; items pertaining to the estate of Henry P. Russell, 1876-1878; genealogical notes, ca.

1887; and a Russell family history by Sarah Russell and John McCormick, ca. 1932-1934.

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Shelf List

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Folder 1: Legal papers, 1837-1899 (18 items).

Folder 2: Tax receipts, 1843-1878 (26 items).

Folder 3: Correspondence, 1850-1938 (11 items).

Folder 4: Household purchases, 1851 (4 items).

Folder 5: Miscellaneous items, 1849-1934 (27 items).

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Arcadia (Mo.).
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Filley, O. D. [SEE O. D. Filley & Company.].
Filley, S. R.
Harris, Nathan B.
Iron County (Mo.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Iron County (Mo.)--Voting registers.
Keach, E. P.
Keach, Julia M.
McCormick, John.
Missouri--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
O. D. Filley & Company.
Peck, Carroll R.
Pilot Knob (Mo.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Reddick, R. J.
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Russell, C. Sanford.
Russell, Cyrus, 1795-1860.
Russell, Cyrus, 1819-1905.
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Russell, H. P.
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Russell, Rebecca Pease, 1798-1870.
Russell, Sarah.
Russell, Theodore Pease, 1820-1899.

Russell, Tony T.
Russell family--Genealogy.
Shepherd, Sophia W.
Shepherd, Forrest.
Smith, Drury.
Smith, Rebecca.
Topping, S. L.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Williams, W. B.
Woodward & Company.