

Blacksburg, Virginia, General Store Day Book

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1894-1895



Title Statement

Blacksburg, Virginia, General Store Day Book
Blacksburg, Virginia, General Store Day Book, 1894-1895
Ms.1968.010

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1968.010

Unit Date

1894-1895

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The collection contains a ledger recording daily transactions of an unidentified Blacksburg, Virginia general mercantile business, possibly that of James P. Harvey.

Creator

Harvey, J. P. (James Patton), d. 1915

Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Blacksburg, Virginia, General Store Day Book was acquired by Newman Library in 1968.

Processing Information

The processing and description of the Blacksburg, Virginia, General Store Day Book commenced and was completed in April, 2011.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Blacksburg, Virginia, General Store Day Book, Ms1968-010, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Evidence suggests that this ledger may have been maintained by Blacksburg merchant James P. Harvey. While the great majority of transactions in the day book identify customers by full name, a number are marked to the account of an individual with initials "J. P. H.," indicating that the store owner felt comfortable in not providing the entire name and would immediately recognize the initials.

Various sources note that J. P. Harvey was a store merchant in Blacksburg during the 1890s, and the 1900 census describes 39-year-old Blacksburg resident James P. Harvey as a merchant. He is listed again as a dry goods merchant in the 1910 census. An obituary for James P. Harvey, appearing in the June 15, 1915 edition of the *Lynchburg News*, states that he had been a lifelong Blacksburg resident, was married with two sons, and served as director of the Virginia Tech band. He is listed as musical director or director of the band in the university catalog intermittently from 1893 until 1914.

There is also a Harvey family buried in Westview Cemetery, Blacksburg: James Patton Templeton Harvey (1861-1915), Margie S. Effinger Harvey (1860-1928), Jerry Effinger Harvey (1893-1915), and James Richard Harvey (1896-1916).

Sources:

U.S. Censuses, 1900, 1910.

University Catalogs, 1893/1894-1913/1914.

"James Patton Templeton Harvey" entry, Findagrave.com, https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/74334899/james-patton_templeton-harvey, accessed Nov. 29, 2022.

Obituary for James P. Harvey, *Lynchburg News*, June 15, 1915.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of a single day book from an unidentified general store. The names of the customers would seem place the business in the Blacksburg, Virginia area. The ledger includes customer names, dates of purchase, goods purchased, and prices. Among the customers are a number of students and professors from the Virginia Agricultural & Mechanical College (now Virginia Tech).

Keywords

Blacksburg (Va.)

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South

Montgomery County (Va.)

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Description of Subordinate Components

Day book

Unit Date 1894-1895

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