

Hagans, Harrison, Account Books

Harrison Hagans Account Books

1836-1858



Title Statement

Hagans, Harrison, Account BooksHarrison Hagans Account Books, 1836-1858 Ms.1988.057

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Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Special Collections and University Archives, University Libraries (0434)
560 Drillfield Drive
Newman Library, Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
Business Number: 540-231-6308
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URL: <http://spec.lib.vt.edu>



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Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2023-08-07 13:38:10 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1988.057

Unit Date

1836-1858

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

This collection includes the business ledgers--including a time book and three daybooks--attributed to Harrison Hagans, general store proprietor and iron furnace operator in Brandonville (Preston County), (West) Virginia.

Creator

Hagans, Harrison, 1796-1867

Extent

0.2 Cubic Feet 1 box

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 Harrison Hagans Account Books were purchased by Special Collections in 1988.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Harrison Hagans Account Books commenced and was completed in May 2013.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Harrison Hagans Account Books, Ms1988-057, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Harrison Hagans, son of George and Persis Eggleston Hagans, was born Vergennes, Vermont, on June 17, 1796. Around 1815, the Hagans family moved to what is now Preston County, West Virginia, settling permanently near what is now the community of Brandonville in 1818. Harrison Hagans married Jane McCollum (1796-1874), and the couple had eight children. Hagans became proprietor of a general store and served as president of the Greenville Mining and Manufacturing Company in 1836/1837. Around 1852, he built Virginia Furnace (also known as Muddy Creek Furnace and Josephine Furnace). He served as Brandonville's first postmaster, as a justice of the peace, and on several boards appointed to oversee local road construction projects. He was a member of the 1861 Wheeling convention, which led to the formation of the state of West Virginia, and of West Virginia state legislature in 1866/1867. Harrison Hagans died in Preston County on May 7, 1867, and was buried in Brandonville Cemetery.

Scope and Content

This collection contains business ledgers attributed to Harrison Hagans, a general store proprietor and iron furnace operator in Preston County, (West) Virginia during the 19th century. The collection includes a time book said to have been maintained at Hagans' Muddy Creek Furnace (also known as Virginia Furnace and Josephine Furnace). The ledger provides names of workers and shows the number of days worked by each per month. The collection also includes daybooks maintained at Hagans' general store. The ledgers include dates of transactions, customer names, goods purchased, and prices paid.

Keywords

Iron foundries -- Virginia

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South

Science and Technology

Note

The ledgers do not themselves identify Hagans as their owner/creator. One of the daybooks bears a cover that identifies Hagans' store as the source, but the cover appears to have been sewn on several decades after the transactions within were recorded. A check of census records, however, seems to confirm that the ledgers do originate from the time and place claimed. That the time book originated from Muddy Creek Furnace is derived from information provided by the seller of the collection. Secondary sources note that Harris opened the Muddy Creek Furnace (also known as the Virginia Furnace) 10-12 years after the creation of the ledger, but he was involved in similar concerns as early as 1836, and a few notations in the ledger hint

that it was used by an iron furnace.

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged by ledger type, then chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

Time book

Unit Date 1836-1838

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Daybook

Unit Date 1854-1855

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Daybook

Unit Date 1855-1856

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Daybook

Unit Date 1857-1858

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)