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Yeager, Josiah Harvey, 1785-1860 (MSS 420)

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Josiah Harvey Yeager (or Yager) was born 2 March 1785 in Mercer County, Virginia (now Boyle County, Kentucky) to Cornelius and Elizabeth (Fisher) Yeager. Although little is known about Yeager’s youth, he became a leading merchant, landholder, and clergyman (Christian Church) in Hardin County, Kentucky. For a brief period of time he lived in Breckinridge County, Kentucky and in Tazewell County, Illinois, where he had considerable land holdings. He married Lydia Hardin (1788-1843) and they had five children; when she died in 1843 Josiah wed Julia Ann Worley (1801-1881). Yeager died on 15 June 1860.

This collection consists chiefly of the business, legal and financial records of Josiah Harvey Yeager (or Yager). These records include deeds, leases, and mortgages held by Yeager which list the names of clients and tenants, as well as the locations of Yeager’s landholdings. Also included are deeds held by Josiah’s father, Cornelius Yeager, who in 1826 granted to Josiah the estate of his wife, Elizabeth Garr (Fisher) Yeager, which she inherited from her father, Stephen Fisher. Josiah Yeager held land in Hardin, Breckinridge, and Ohio Counties in Kentucky, as well as in Tazewell County, Illinois. According to these records, Josiah’s holdings also made a significant contribution to the development of the Hardin County communities of Benton and Yager’s Ville, or Yagersville, and to Washington in Tazewell County, Illinois. These records also include lists of tenants and rents due, as well as correspondence with tenants and business partners, particularly James Smith of Tazewell County, Illinois. Josiah was named executor for the estate of his father-in-law, Martin Hardin, and the collection contains records from that estate (Folder 7). Also included are numerous personal and business receipts (Folder 13 & 14) and promissory notes (Folder 12) of Josiah Yeager, as well as the receipts and bills of sale for slaves he owned, sold, or hired out (Folder 11).

The collection contains a number of other interesting papers, including photocopies of birth and death records from a Yeager family Bible (Folder 2), a Civil War pass granted to John W. Watson (Folder 10), two documents providing information about the murder of John B. Porter.
of Stephensburg, Kentucky on 23 October 1844 (Folder 9). Josiah Yeager’s correspondence and official church documentation, as an elder in the Mount Pleasant Church of Christ in Hardin County, Kentucky, is also included as well as information about the constituting and building of a church at Pleasant Valley in Hardin County in the 1850s (Folder 6).

**SHELF LIST**

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BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS YEAGER, Josiah Harvey, 1785-1992
  420  1785-1860

Chiefly legal and financial papers of Josiah Harvey Yeager, a lawyer, businessman, and minister of Hardin County, Kentucky. Yeager had extensive land holdings, thus the collection includes a number of deeds and survey information. Includes several slave bills of sale, 1817-1859, and a few items related to the Monin family.

  1 box. 14 folders. 439 items. Originals and photocopies.
  1944.15.1

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SEE or SEE ALSO

Bailey
   See also:
      Baily

Yager
   See:
      Yeager

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