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Ritter Daybook (MSS 98)

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Descriptive Inventory

MSS 98  RITTER DAYBOOK

1 box.  3 folders.  7 items.

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Sivley, Hopkinsville, Ky., 1989.

BIOGRAPHY

Burwell Clark Ritter was born in Barren County, Kentucky, on January 6, 1810, the son of Preston H. and Mary Ritter. He became a prosperous farmer and was elected to the General Assembly in 1842 and 1850 and was a presidential elector on the Democratic ticket of George B. McClellan in 1864. He married Martha Ann Ellison on December 21, 1852 in Christian County. He was married prior to 1852, because the 1850 census lists six children between the ages of 2 and 15 but his first wife’s name has not yet been located. Elected as a conservative Democrat to the 39th U.S. Congress in 1865, he served one term. He moved from Logan to Christian County some time between 1850 and 1860. In the 1860 census he is listed as a hotel keeper in Christian County with assets of nearly $70,000. He also owned a large farm and 38 slaves. In his old age he resided with his son-in-law, B.L. Boulware, in Hopkinsville. He died on October 1, 1880 and is interred in the Hopewell (now known as Riverside) Cemetery in Hopkinsville.

COLLECTION

The Ritter daybook is a 432-page accounts ledger (photocopy) that runs from January 1, 1859 to October 18, 1873. The accounts are chiefly for boarders staying in Ritter’s hotel/tavern, which also served as a stagecoach stop. The accounts include boarding costs for guests and their horses. Also included are general ledger sheets for the hotel, detailing food costs and deposits made. In addition charges for laundering and miscellaneous items such as cigars are included.

After the Civil War, Ritter kept a number of accounts with African-Americans who evidently were sharecroppers on his land. These accounts delineate labor charges and the amount deducted for foodstuffs, which indicates that Ritter ran some type of commissary.
CATALOG CARD

MSS 98  Ritter Daybook  1859-1872

An account book [photocopy], 432p., detailing the activities of a boarding house/tavern and large stable in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, owned by Burwell Clark Ritter.

1 box.  3 folders.  7 items.  Photocopy only.
See descriptive inventory for details.

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Sivley, Hopkinsville, Ky., 1989.

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SHELF LIST

BOX 1

Folder 1  Descriptive Inventory and biographical information  6 items

Folder 2  Ritter daybook  Jan. 8, 1859-Aug. 13, 1859  1 item, p.1-150

Folder 3  Ritter daybook  July 30, 1859-Sept. 19, 1860  p.151-300

Folder 4  Ritter daybook  Sept. 17, 1860-Oct. 1868  p.301-432

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Abolitionism - Christian County - Relating to, 1864-1865  p. 372
Account books, 1859-1872
Account books - Christian County, 1859-1872
Afro-Americans - Christian County
Afro-Americans - Employment - Christian County, 1861-1872
Christian County - Abolitionism - Relating to, 1864-1865  p. 372
Christian County - Account books, 1859-1872
Christian County - Afro-Americans
Christian County - Afro-Americans - Employment, 1861-1872
Christian County - Elections - U.S. - Presidential, 1864  p. 366
Christian County - Hotels
Christian County - Laundry
Christian County - Slavery - Relating to, 1864-1865  p. 372
Christian County - Stables
Civil War - Claims, 1862  p. 325
Duke, Basil Wilson, 1838-1916 - Relating to p. 325
Elections - U.S. - Congressional, 2nd District, 1865 p. 368-369
Elections - U.S. - Presidential - Christian County, 1864 p. 366
Hotels - Christian County
Laundry - Christian County
Magoffin, Beriah, 1815-1885 - Relating to p. 114
Morgan, John Hunt, 1826-1864 - Relating to p. 325
Ritter, Burwell Clark, 1810-1880
Ritter, Burwell Clark - Account book, 1859-1872
Slavery - Christian County, 1864-1865 p. 372
Stables - Christian County
Stagecoach lines and travel - Christian County p. 245, 279
Wagons - Relating to p.157, 161

CHRONOLOGICAL CARDS

1859-1860
1861-1865
1866-1872

2/1996