1-4-2013

Ritter Daybook (MSS 98)

Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
Western Kentucky University, mssfa@wku.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_mss_fin_aid
Part of the Accounting Commons, and the United States History Commons

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_mss_fin_aid/2458

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in MSS Finding Aids by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.
Burwell Clark Ritter was born in Barren County, Kentucky, on 6 January 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.

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.
**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS RITTEN 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.

1/2 box. 3 folders. 7 items. Photocopy.

1989.122.1

---

**SHELF LIST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOX 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

Abolitionism – Christian County – Relating to, 1864-1865 p. 372
Account books – Christian County, 1859-1872
African Americans – Employment – Christian County, 1861-1872
Civil War, 1861-1865 – Claims, 1862 p. 325
Duke, Basil Wilson, 1838-1916 – Relating to p. 325
Elections – U.S. – Congressional, 2nd District, 1865 p. 368-369
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