James Keyte Collection
(C1011)

Collection Number: C1011

Collection Title: James Keyte Collection

Dates: 1818-1876

Creator: Keyte, James

Abstract: Land records, correspondence, and miscellaneous papers of James Keyte, a Methodist preacher, merchant, and founder of Brunswick and Keytesville in Chariton County.

Collection Size: 0.8 cubic feet, 2 rolls of microfilm
(12 folders, 13 volumes)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia. If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The materials in this collection are in the public domain.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number James Keyte Collection (C1011); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The Keyte Collection was purchased from Goodspeed’s by the State Historical Society of Missouri on February 8, 1938.

Alternate Forms Available: The volumes are also available on 2 rolls of microfilm.

Processed by: Processed by the State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center- Columbia Staff, date unknown. Finding aid revised by Erin Kraus on April 24, 2020.

Biographical Note:

James Keyte came to St. Louis from England in 1818. While in St. Louis he was a partner with John O’Fallon in the mercantile business as well as a Methodist preacher. He was appointed
pastor of the Boonslick Circuit, which included Chariton County, in 1821 and settled in the town of Chariton shortly thereafter.

Riding the circuit, Keyte became familiar with Chariton County and began to purchase land. When the town of Chariton, which was the county seat, flooded, Keyte offered higher land for a new county seat. In 1831 Keytesville became the county seat of Chariton County. Keyte became the first postmaster of Keytesville and continued to buy and sell land until his death sometime in the 1840s.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following two series:

**Personal Papers**

**Volumes**

**Scope and Content Note:**

**Personal Papers**

This series consists primarily of land records that reflect Keyte’s dealings in land in Chariton County. The collection is arranged in chronological order followed by 13 volumes. The records from 1819 are deeds for tracts of land granted to various men in the Missouri Territory. Tax receipts and deeds make up the bulk of the items from the 1820s. The records from the 1830s include land tax redemption receipts and records of land bought by Keyte in the Keytesville area. Records from the 1840s and later reflect the actions of the executor of Keyte’s estate.

Keyte not only purchased land for himself, he also represented others when he purchased land for them. Records of these transactions are found in the collection. There are only a few letters, three are to his sister Sarah while he was in St. Louis during the winter of 1830-1831. There are two maps of Keytesville and Chariton County, one drawn by James Keyte. Pencil drawings by Joseph T. Keyte are in the collection as well as a few items pertaining to the sale and purchase of slaves.

**Volumes [also on microfilm]**

This series contains James Keyte’s account books, farm journals of Henry and John F. Lewis (it is unclear what connection the Lewis family had with Keyte) that give brief day-by-day accounts of the weather and farm work. There are also record books of the steamboat Old Bullion for two trips from St. Louis to Brunswick in June 1852 and a woman’s scrapbook of poems, articles, and thoughts taken from newspapers.

**Container List:**

**Personal Papers**

f. 1 Undated
f. 2 Undated, June 1818-June 1819
Volume Information

V. 1
Sales of Lots in Keytesville, 1828-1843

V. 2
Itemized accounts kept by James Keyte, accounts of goods bought by Rhodes & Keyte, Brunswick, Missouri, 1829-1830, 1857-1858, 1860

V. 3

V. 4
James Keyte account of sales of lots in Brunswick, Missouri, 1836-1846

V. 5
James Keyte old land book, includes plats and out-of-state owners of land, 1836
Joseph T. Keyte old land book, 1860

V. 6
Henry Lewis journal, 1850-1858

V. 7
John F. Lewis journal, 1854-1861

V. 8
John F. Lewis journal, 1858, 1862-1865, 1867-1869

V. 9
Steamer Old Bullion, freight book, 1852

V. 10
Steamer Old Bullion, portage book, 1852

V. 11
Steamer Old Bullion, passage book, 1852

V. 12

V. 13
Maggie Ward Vaughan scrapbook, 1858

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