



Corby Family Papers (C0086)

Collection Number: C0086

Collection Title: Corby Family Papers

Dates: 1804-1905

Creator: Corby Family

Abstract: Papers of a pioneer St. Joseph, Missouri, family: deeds, bills of sale for enslaved people, tax receipts, legal papers, stock certificates, Pony Express bills; and material on early St. Louis area. Record book of the Mercantile Company, 1856; bank book, 1861-1869; volume of clippings concerning St. Joseph, 1881-1903.

Collection Size: 0.8 cubic feet
(49 folders, 3 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](http://www.shsmo.org). 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 donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Corby Family Papers* (C0086); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by John Corby on April 25, 1949 (Accession No. CA3021).

Alternate Forms Available: Digital images and transcriptions of [folder 1](#) are available online in the [Missouri Slavery Documents](#) collection.

Processed by: Processed by The State Historical Society of Missouri-Columbia staff, date unknown. Finding Aid revised by John C. Konzal, April 27, 2020

Historical Note:

John Corby was born in Ireland on June 24, 1808 and emigrated with his family in 1820 to Pennsylvania. He ended up in St. Joseph, Missouri in 1843, and became a leader in that city, becoming mayor at different times, merchant, railroad promoter, and banker. He married Amanda Musick on May 30, 1852. He donated to many institutions in St. Joseph, including the St. Joseph Seminary of the Sacred Heart and St. Joseph Hospital. He died on May 9, 1870.

Arrangement:

The collection was arranged into one series:

Family Papers

Scope and Content Note:

The family papers include bills of sale, correspondence, legal papers, and receipts.

Container List:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| f. 1 | Bills of sale for people enslaved by John Corby, 1829, 1845 |
| f. 2 | The Central Overland California and Pike's Peak Express Company.
Pony Express bills for rides, stock tender, post manager. |
| f. 3 | Cancelled checks, 1855-1888 |
| f. 4 | Correspondence, several items written in French. One signed by August Chouteau, 1805. Later business letters. |
| f. 5-34 | Deeds and Land Grants, 1826-1905. Claim Deeds of Release, Sheriff's deed, Deeds of Trust, Warranty Deeds and miscellaneous deeds. Also a few land grants. |
| f. 35-36 | Contracts for land leased by the trustees of St. Ferdinand, St. Louis County, Missouri, and by John Corby in St. Joseph, 1844-1866. |
| f. 37 | License issued to John Corby for the sale of merchandise, 1843-1849. |
| f. 38-39 | Mortgages, 1866-1899 |
| f. 40 | Letter written by Joel L. Musick to Congress concerning a Spanish land grant. |
| f. 41-42 | Stock certificates for various companies owned by John Corby, 1853- |

- 1868.
- f. 43-44 Tax receipts for land in St. Louis, Louisiana territory and Missouri territory, 1810-1819, owned by Joseph Presse, for St. Joseph, Missouri property, 1859-1860 owned by S.S. Harris, and for St. Joseph property, 1896-1898, owned by Amanda Corby.
- f. 45-47 Papers concerned with wills of John Corby, Sidney Samuel Harris, and Francis P. Corby.
- f. 48-49 Miscellaneous legal papers, insurance, application with North British Mercantile Insurance Company and newspaper clipping about Corby Estate.
- v. 1-2 Two record books kept by John Corby. One lists dates and sales made in the mercantile company beginning in 1856; rentals of property were listed in the front. The second book is a bank book listing deposits, 1861-1869.
- v. 3 Clippings about the telephone and electricity in St. Joseph, 1881-1903

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