



Daniel Dunklin Papers (C0097)

Collection Number: C0097

Collection Title: Daniel Dunklin Papers

Dates: 1815-1877

Creator: Dunklin, Daniel, 1790-1844

Abstract: The papers of the fifth governor of Missouri consist of correspondence, financial records, and miscellaneous items. The correspondence is especially rich in the discussion of Missouri elections and of the leading political issues in Missouri and in the United States from 1829 to 1835.

Collection Size: 0.6 cubic feet
(22 folders)

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.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Daniel Dunklin Papers* (C0097); 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 Charles Holman on February 27, 1957 (Accession No. CA3314). An addition was made on January 13, 1956 by Samuel Richeson (Accession No. CA3257). Further additions were made by Wesley Duncan on March 18, 1957 (Accession No. CA3312), by Mrs. Fred L. Young on September 14, 1957 (Accession No. CA3326), and by Lois Holman on December 8, 1994 (Accession No. CA5498).

Betty Olson donated Dunklin material to the State Historical Society of Missouri on February 16, 1989 (SHS Accession No.CA2731).

Alternate Forms Available: [Slavery documents](#) have been digitized and are available online in the [Missouri Slavery Documents](#) digital collection.

Processed by: Processed by The State Historical Society of Missouri-Columbia staff, date unknown. Finding Aid revised by John C. Konzal, April 28, 2020

Historical Note:

Daniel Dunklin was born in Greenville, South Carolina, on January 14, 1790, to Sarah (Sullivan) and Joseph Dunklin, Jr. In 1805 Joseph obtained land and built a home in Caldwell County, Kentucky, in order to move his family from South Carolina. After returning to South Carolina to retrieve his family, Joseph died. Sarah carried out Joseph's plan and relocated her family to Kentucky.

In 1810 Daniel obtained a Spanish land grant and settled near Mine-a-Breton (Potosi), Missouri. On May 2, 1815, Daniel married Emily Willis Pamela Haley of Mercer County, Kentucky. They raised five daughters and one son: Mary W., Emily, James L., Sarah, Eliza, and Jane Caroline. The Dunklins built a two-story brick house near Riverside in 1840. On July 25, 1844, Dunklin died of pneumonia at the age of 54. He is buried on the bluffs of the Mississippi River, north of Herculaneum. (For more Dunklin genealogy, see Collection #995, v.16, #450.)

Dunklin worked in mining and business during his early years in Potosi. In 1822 Dunklin held his first public post in the state legislature for the term of one year. In 1826 Governor John Miller appointed him Aide-de-Camp to the Commander-in-Chief of the Militia of the State of Missouri.

Dunklin did not run for public office again until 1828, when he was elected Lieutenant Governor. Daniel Dunklin served as Missouri's fifth governor from 1832 to 1836. He was a member of the Democratic Party and a fervent supporter of President Andrew Jackson and Senator Thomas Hart Benton. During his term as governor Dunklin championed public education and defended the rights of Mormon residents living in Jackson County. He resigned office a few months early in 1836 to accept President Jackson's appointment as Surveyor General of the public lands in Illinois and Missouri. In performing the duties of this office, Dunklin surveyed and named most of Missouri's counties south of the Missouri River. Dunklin County, Missouri, is named in his honor. He died on August 25, 1844.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following three series:

Correspondence
Financial accounts
Miscellaneous material

Scope and Content Note:

The Daniel Dunklin Papers are a combination of photostatic reproductions and original items that are divided into three sections: correspondence, financial accounts, and miscellaneous

material. The most important component of the collection is the correspondence in which Dunklin and his correspondents debated state and national political issues. Partial transcriptions exist for some of the letters.

The correspondence ranges from 1820 to 1843 and is arranged chronologically. It is primarily personal correspondence between Dunklin, his friends, and his political allies, which included Governor John Miller, Senator Albert G. Harrison, Senator Lewis F. Linn, Secretary of State J. C. Edwards, his son-in-law Falkland H. Martin, and Philip Cole of Potosi. There is much dialogue between Dunklin and other Missouri members of the Democratic Party concerning national political figures and issues such as tariffs, the nullification crisis, and the Bank of the United States. The letters examine such state issues as the influence of the press in Missouri's elections and the subsequent effort to establish a Democratic newspaper at Jefferson City. Other topics include the election of Missouri's national representatives, the qualifications and beliefs of the various Democratic candidates, legal cases, public education, and the Mormons of Jackson County. Dunklin's political views are summarized nicely in correspondence with his cousin, Charles P. Sullivan. Sullivan lived in South Carolina, was critical of Senator Thomas Hart Benton, and was an ardent supporter of John C. Calhoun.

Some correspondence is official in nature, such as Governor Miller's letter appointing Dunklin Aide-de-Camp to the Commander-in-Chief of the Militia of the State of Missouri. Dunklin and postmasters in the region reviewed postal routes in Missouri's rural areas, especially near Potosi.

There are letters from N. Towson, Paymaster General of the United States, regarding procurement of the pay due Missouri troops who participated in the Black Hawk War. There is also correspondence from William Milburn, Dunklin's successor as Surveyor General of the public lands in Illinois and Missouri.

A small amount of the correspondence concerns the Dunklin family. There is one letter to Rachel Dunklin from Emily M. Perry (daughter of Moses Austin). Dunklin's letters from another cousin, Joseph Sullivan, contain news of family members residing in South Carolina and Alabama. Other family members corresponding with Dunklin include his brother, Stephen T. Dunklin, and his sister-in-law, Sabret Dunklin.

The financial materials, 1828-1877, include accounts and receipts, arranged chronologically, and two journals, which appear at the end of this section. The accounts and receipts include a list of materials purchased to build Dunklin's home near Pevely, postal receipts, and miscellaneous accounts. The first journal, 1836-1854, contains Dunklin's bank accounts, his postal accounts, and entries most likely made by his son, James, regarding the financial administration of the Dunklin estate after his death. The second journal, 1836-1877, contains a list of boats and their captains copied from an 1841 newspaper, the strategy Dunklin planned to use in naming his estate near Pevely, and accounts associated with the estate before and after Dunklin's death.

The miscellaneous material is arranged chronologically. Located here are three slave documents, a photographic reproduction of the Dunklin family coat of arms, deeds for land in Georgia and Missouri, an 1815 list of members of the militia at Potosi fined for not appearing at roll call, and a three page history of Daniel Dunklin.

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