



## Hickman Family Papers (C1009)

**Collection Number:** C1009

**Collection Title:** Hickman Family Papers

**Dates:** 1827-1890

**Creator:** Hickman family

**Abstract:** This collection contains the business accounts, tax receipts, correspondence, legal documents, deeds, and miscellaneous papers of the Hickman family of Boone County, Missouri.

**Collection Size:** 0.2 linear feet on 2 rolls of microfilm

**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://The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia). If you would like more information, please contact us at [columbia@shsmo.org](mailto:columbia@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number *Hickman Family Papers* (C1009); 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 State Historical Society of Missouri by Paul Q. Sapp in 1944. Additions to the collection were made by Mrs. Albertise Coon Reppy of Hillsboro, Missouri on 23 June 1955, and Mrs. Ruth Rollins Westfall on 21 September 1973 (Accession no. CA1033).

**Alternate Forms Available:** The [will of Sarah McClelland](#) from folder 26, which includes information about enslaved individuals, is available online in the [Missouri Slavery Documents digital collection](#).

**Related Materials:** Additional materials related to the Hickman Family Papers can be found in the following collections:

*Hickman-Bryan Family Papers* (C0045)

**Processed by:** Processed by the State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center- Columbia Staff, date unknown. Finding aid revised by Erin Kraus on April 22, 2020.

**Historical Note:**

David M. Hickman (1788-1851) first visited Missouri in 1817, returning to Bourbon County, Kentucky where he married Eliza Johnston, the daughter of William and Rachel Johnston, also of Bourbon County, in 1818. David Hickman and his wife emigrated to Boone County, Missouri in 1822 along with his father-in-law, William Johnston, and other relatives and individuals they enslaved.

Hickman purchased property and established his family in what is now southern Columbia. The Hickmans had three sons: William T., born 2 September 1819, David Henry, born 11 November 1821, and James, born in 1824. Eliza Johnston Hickman died on 14 June 1827 at the age of 24. Twenty months later, Hickman married Cornelia Bryan, another Kentucky émigré. The couple added four sons and one daughter to their family.

In 1829, Hickman and some of his neighbors in the southern Two Mile Prairie area organized the Bonne Femme Academy for male students on the north bank of Bonne Femme Creek, about six miles south of Columbia. He represented Boone County in the Missouri General Assembly for two terms, from 1838 to 1842. During this time, he was instrumental in having the University of Missouri established in Columbia.

David M. Hickman died 14 June 1851. His descendants remained in Boone County for many years. One son, David Henry Hickman, operated a ferry on the Platte River for Oregon Trail immigrants during the 1850s. He later became a Columbia businessman and educator, serving as the first president of the Board of Curators for Stephens College and as a curator for the University of Missouri in 1860. Hickman High School in Columbia is named in his honor. Another son, Thaddeus Bryan Hickman, was educated at the Bonne Femme Academy, graduating in 1849. He married Louisa Hickman on 1 May 1860 in Rapides Parrish, Louisiana and raised thoroughbred short horn cattle in Boone County.

**Arrangement:**

The collection is loosely arranged according to type of document and by family member.

**Scope and Content Note:**

Accounts, receipts, and tax documents pertaining to the business affairs of David M. Hickman and Thaddeus Bryan Hickman comprise the bulk of the collection. The remainder of the collection consists of family correspondence focusing primarily on post-Civil War economic conditions and political realities, and legal documents.

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