



Jacob Lanius Diaries (C1147)

Collection Number: C1147

Collection Title: Jacob Lanius Diaries

Dates: 1833-1842

Creator: Lanius, Jacob, 1814-1851
Wolff, Theodore H.

Abstract: Diaries of an itinerant pastor for the Missouri Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church. Concerns church locations, members, revivals, meetings, ministers, and living conditions. Includes an edited transcription, with background information, by Theodore H. Wolff.

Collection Size: 0.4 cubic feet
(12 folders, 1 volume)

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] *Jacob Lanius Diaries* (C1147); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The diaries were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by the Missouri East Conference, United Methodist Church on May 12, 1981 (Accession No. CA2370).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Jacob Lanius Diaries can be found in the following collections:

[Theodore H. Wolff Papers, \(C3057\)](#)

[United Methodist Church, Missouri East Conference Records, \(C3308\)](#)

[United Methodist Church, Missouri East Conference Records, \(C3595\)](#)

[Cleo D. Kottwitz Papers, \(CA6536\)](#)

Processed by: Processed by the State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia Staff, date unknown. Finding aid revised by Lauren Leeman on April 1, 2020.

Biographical Note:

Jacob Lanius was born on January 9, 1814, at Fincastle, Botetourt County, Virginia. Named for his German immigrant grandfather, he was the oldest of 14 children born to Daniel and Mary Butt Lanius. The family moved to Washington County, Missouri, when Jacob was a small child. After about three years they moved to west Tennessee, returning to Potosi, Missouri, after three years.

Jacob was converted and licensed to preach in the Missouri Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church on August 20, 1831. He became a presiding elder in 1846.

While riding circuit, Jacob met and married Nancy Tong, daughter of Theodore F. and Drusilla Tong of Fredericktown, Madison County, Missouri. The diaries note the births of two sons; the second died as an infant in 1842 at the point where the diaries end. Jacob Lanius died on October 8, 1851, age 37.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following series:

Diaries

Scope and Content Note:

Diaries

The diary entries begin with an autobiographical sketch which tells of the growth of Lanius' religious faith and his conversion. The diaries continue with brief, almost daily, entries through 1838. The entries for 1839-1842 are infrequent. At the first entry Lanius was age 19 and had just begun preaching. Lanius describes his life as a circuit rider of the Missouri Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church. Many subjects are mentioned; few are discussed in depth. Lanius notes sizes of communities, numbers of converts, problems of travel, social and economic conditions, whose home he stayed in, the Biblical texts for sermons, and ministry to Missouri Indian tribes and slaves.

The edited transcription by Theodore H. Wolff does not include all the diary entries.

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v. 1	Edited transcription made in 1963 by Theodore H. Wolff.

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