Sappington Family Papers
(C2889)

Collection Number: C2889

Collection Title: Sappington Family Papers

Dates: 1831-1939

Creator: Sappington Family

Abstract: The papers contain documents pertaining to Dr. John Sappington and his family. These papers deal with the financial accounts of Dr. Sappington, financial business for W.B. Sappington, and a variety of receipts and business papers. Another portion of this collection contains correspondence and essays written by W.B. Sappington. There is also a small collection of newspaper clippings.

Collection Size: 0.5 cubic feet
(16 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] *Sappington Family Papers* (C2889); 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 Mrs. C. Wayne Elsea in November 1969 (Accession No. CA3836). An addition was made by John Pile on May 31, 1990 (Accession No. CA4954). Two additions were made to the collection by the Friends of Arrow Rock through Kathy Borgman on September 7, 1993 (Accession No. CA5354) and Jeff Kurtti on February 23, 2023 (Accession No. 5354.01).

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

Sappington Family Papers, (C0159)
John Sappington Papers, (C1027)
William B. Sappington Papers, (C1421)
John Sappington Papers, (C1947)

Processed by: Processed by the State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia staff, date unknown. Finding aid revised by Erika Van Vranken on May 31, 2020, and by Nick Raya on February 27, 2023.

Historical Note:

John S. Sappington (1776-1856) was a well-known physician in the western territories, including his hometown of Arrow Rock, Missouri. Dr. Sappington contributed largely to the study and cure of malaria with the use of quinine. In 1817, Sappington relocated from Tennessee to Howard County, Missouri.

Dr. Sappington married Jane Breathitt in 1804 and they had nine children, two sons and seven daughters. His son Erasmus worked on the Santa Fe trade with Meredith Miles Marmaduke, a Sappington family business associate and son-in-law. William Sappington (W.B.) attended Cumberland College in Princeton, Kentucky.

In 1835, Sappington organized John Sappington and Sons. That same year Dr. Sappington began to distribute the Sappington's Anti-Fever Pills on a national market. The Sappington's were the first proprietary in the United States to use quinine to treat malaria. In 1844, Dr. Sappington published his volume *Theory and Treatment of Fevers,* which included the formula used to produce quinine.

Arrangement:

The Sappington Family Papers consist largely of financial documents, business papers, and correspondences. There are also a number of essays and newspapers clippings. The collection has been arranged into the following five series: **Financial and Business, Correspondences, Essays, Personal,** and **Friends of Arrow Rock.**

Scope and Content Note:

The **Financial and Business** series has been arranged chronologically and contains financial documents and notes, receipts, and business records. The financial documents include four notebooks regarding the Sappington family cash accounts in 1844 to 1852, provisions given to the children of Eliza and Alonzo Pearson from 1844 to 1853, W.B. Sappington's financial records in 1845, and Bank of Missouri records from 1871 to 1874. The series also includes a variety of receipts and business papers, many regarding the pill business of Dr. Sappington. There is one folder that contains the transcripts of the Sappington vs. Crisp case in 1841.

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The **Correspondence** series contains letters written from the early 1830s to the 1880s. The majority of the letters are written between W.B. Sappington and his wife Mary Mildred Sappington. The letters discuss issues regarding the health of the family, the education of their children, the land of Missouri and Kansas, their family slaves, and the Civil War. The series also contains letters written among other Sappington family members and friends, including R. H. and Lily Brown, Mildred J. Sappington, and Stella Sappington.

The **Essay** series contains several essays written by W.B. Sappington from 1831 to 1832 at Cumberland College for a composition class. The essays regard issues relating to astronomy, education, love, time, eloquence, and wealth.

The **Personal** series contains one folder containing photocopies of photographs and newspaper clippings regarding the Sappington family. The newspaper clippings include family obituaries and articles about the Sappington's home in Arrow Rock, Missouri, and the role of the Sappington family in historic Arrow Rock, Missouri. The series also includes a list of those buried at the Sappington Cemetery in Saline County, Missouri.

The **Friends of Arrow Rock** series contains one folder with receipts, letters, and business papers from the 1830s to the 1860s. There are a number of receipts that include information pertaining to Dr. Sappington's pill business, and regarding bills of Dr. Sappington during his travels. The letters in this series include requests made to Dr. Sappington regarding an ill family member, as well as letters between Dr. Sappington and Dunning Baker regarding Sappington's book, *Theory and Treatment of Fevers.* The series also includes business papers, specifically between Dr. Sappington and Dunning Baker; additionally, there is a record with the surveyor of Saline County, Missouri.

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f. 6	John Sappington; financial notes in Arkansas and Louisiana, 1846-1847
f. 7	Bank of Missouri financial records, 1871-1874
f.8	Transcript of Sappington vs. Crisp, April 13, 1841

Correspondence Series

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