

C Thrasher, Benjamin R. (1818-), Diaries, 1877-1891
3048 1 Reel, 4 volumes

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INTRODUCTION

Four diaries written by a Macon County, Missouri, farmer. His daily entries, spanning almost fifteen years, describe farm life, livestock breeding, social activities, transportation, illness, death, and daily changes in the wind and weather. Also detailed personal and business expenses.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were loaned for copying to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Mrs. Charles L. Miller, Jr. on 14 Nov 1969 (Accession No. 0659).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

These diaries give a comprehensive view of life on a Missouri farm during the late 1800s. The author had a wife, two married daughters, and several grandchildren. Thrasher itemized his daily expenses including numerous loans and other financial transactions with family, neighbors, local merchants, livestock traders, and farm laborers, and his daily household and farm expenses. He also described his many building and construction activities, house remodeling and redecorating, and weekly trips to Clarence. Thrasher recorded most of his social interactions--visiting friends and neighbors whenever they were sick, Sunday dinners, holiday gatherings, church services and meetings, and the tragedies and comedies of his existence. He was an astute observer and commentator. Some pages in each volume have been filmed twice, and other pages omitted.

FOLDER LIST

v. 1	1 May 1877-20 June 1881. His daughter and son-in-law, Jennie and George W. Withers, moved out of her parents' house into a new house. His other daughter and her family, "Sis" and Dell Huntsberry and children, moved back to their farm in Macon County from Texas. Their daughter, Della, died of diphtheria.
v. 2	20 June 1881-7 February 1885. George Withers died of typhoid fever in 1883. A large fire in Clarence destroyed nine business buildings in one night.
v. 3	8 February 1885-31 December 1888. "Pedigree and History of the Jack and Jennett stock belonging to Benjamin R. Thrasher of Macon County, Missouri in 1887." Printed list of "Eleven Business Houses of Clarence, Missouri," n.d.
v. 4	1 January 1889-31 December 1891.

	Jennie Thrasher Withers married E.R. DeYoung, a farmer from Monroe County, Missouri. The house of Perry G. Withers, George's brother, burned down; twenty neighbors came to rebuild it. Dell Huntsberry died of lung hemorrhaging in 1891. List of jacks and jennets.
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INDEX TERMS

Subject	Folders	Other
Account books		v. 1-4
Agricultural machinery		v. 1-4
Agriculture--Economic aspects--Missouri		v. 1-4
Agriculture--Missouri		v. 1-4
Barter		v. 1-4
Blacks--Missouri		v. 1-4
Budgets, Household		v. 1-4
Building--Costs		v. 1-4
Cattle--Missouri		v. 1-4
Clothing and dress		v. 1-4
Clothing and dress--Prices		v. 1-4
Dentistry		v. 1-4
DeYoung, E. R.		v. 3,4
DeYoung, Jennie Thrasher Withers		v. 4
Diaries		v. 1-4
Diet		v. 1-4
Diseases		v. 1-4
Ellison, Tom		v. 1-4
Family life--Missouri		v. 1-4
Farm buildings, Missouri		v. 1-4
Farm life--Missouri		v. 1-4
Farm management--Missouri		v. 1-4
Farm produce--Missouri		v. 1-4
Fences, Missouri		v. 1-4
Fires, Missouri		v. 1-4
Folk medicine		v. 1-4
Gadd, Joe		v. 1-4
Gadd, John		v. 1-4
Grain, Missouri		v. 1-4
Hardister, James		v. 1-4
Hardister, Tom		v. 1-4
Houses		v. 1-4
Huntsberry, "Sis"		v. 1-4

Subject	Folders	Other
Huntsberry, Dell (-1891)		v. 1-4
Huntsberry, Della		v. 1
Huntsberry, James (1880-)		v. 1-4
Huntsberry, Liesa (1879-)		v. 1-4
Huntsberry, Toby		v. 1-4
Lister, C. H.		v. 1-4
Lister, Louis		v. 1-3
Livestock prices, Missouri		v. 1-4
Livestock--Diseases		v. 1-4
Manners and customs--Missouri		v. 1-4
Medicine		v. 1-4
Missouri, Clarence		v. 1-4
Missouri, Macon		v. 1-4
Missouri, Macon County		v. 1-4
Missouri, Madison		v. 3, 4
Missouri, Monroe County		v. 3-4
Missouri--Climate		v. 1-4
Moss, John		v. 1-4
Moss, Marion		v. 2, 3
Moss, Tom		v. 1-4
Mules, Missouri		v. 1-4
Pigs		v. 1-4
Poultry, Missouri		v. 1-4
Prices, Missouri		v. 1-4
Religion, Missouri		v. 1-4
Roads--Missouri		v. 1-4
Rural Health--Missouri		v. 1-4
Skinner, Taylor		v. 1-4
Stephens, Mary Ann		v. 1-4
Stohr, Louis		v. 2-4
Thrasher, Benjamin R.		v. 1-4
Thrasher, Benjamin R., Mrs.		v. 1-4
Transportation, Missouri		v. 1-4
Veterinary Medicine, Missouri		v. 1-4
Wages, Missouri		v. 1-4
Weather, Missouri		v. 1-4
Well Construction, Missouri		v. 1-4
Whiles, Will, Jr.		v. 2-4
Whittaker, Marion		v. 2-4
Wind, Missouri		v. 1-4
Withers, Gentry P.		vol. 1-4
Withers, George		vol. 1, 2
Withers, Jennie Thrasher		vol. 1-4

Subject	Folders	Other
Withers, Perry G.		vol. 1-4