

Information Sheet

R **Anchor Milling Company.**
110 **Shipping records, 1897-1911.**
 Four volumes.

MICROFILM

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

This collection consists of freight lists, cash book, and weekly time book of boats operated on the Osage River by the Anchor Milling Company of Tuscumbia in Miller County, Missouri. The vessels included the steamboats *J. R. Wells* and *Dauntless*, and the gasboat *Ruth*. The boats operated on the Osage from Tuscumbia to Linn Creek.

The freight records of the Anchor Milling Company were loaned for microfilming by Homer C. Wright of Tuscumbia. His father, C. B. Wright, was a boatman on the Osage for many years, and was clerk of the steamer *J. R. Wells*. The firm's vessels carried many tons of grain from the upper Osage country to the Anchor Mill at Tuscumbia, and often hauled the finished product to Jefferson City. The regular run on the Osage was between Tuscumbia and Linn Creek, but low water curtailed some trips, forcing the boats to unload at Zebra Landing below Linn Creek. Occasionally the boats ran down the Missouri River to St. Louis.

The records in this collection are primarily those of the *J. R. Wells*, but the *Dauntless* is mentioned, and there are freight lists for the *Ruth* after 1910. The boats used barges in tow for bulk commodities, but they also served as regular Osage packets, often handling express freight from the Missouri Pacific Railroad at Bagnell. The itemized freight lists indicate the varied cargoes carried by the boats, which on any single trip might include grain, lumber, eggs, livestock, agricultural implements, and, once, in 1906, an X-ray machine bound for a physician in Linn Creek. The freight lists also include annual summaries of the trade on the Osage, and the summary for 1906 contains a two-page narrative which describes a trip to Linn Creek in October. The river was low, and the *J. R. Wells* and its barge were constantly grounding in the shallow water. Frequent exertions were required to re-float them. The brief account provides an interesting description of a routine, if strenuous, run up the Osage.

r120 *14 April 1982* *Homer C. Wright* *Loaned for microfilming*

Shelf List

This collection consists of freight lists, cash book, and weekly time book of boats operated on the Osage River by the Anchor Milling Company of Tuscumbia in Miller County, Missouri. The vessels included the steamboats *J. R. Wells* and *Dauntless*, and the gasboat *Ruth*. The boats operated on the Osage from Tuscumbia to Linn Creek.

Volume 1: Cash book, 1897-1904.

Volume 2: Freight list, 1904-1907.

Volume 3: Freight list, 1907-1911.

Volume 4: Weekly time book, 1901-1902.

r120 *14 April 1982* *Homer C. Wright* *Loaned for microfilming*

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