



Union Independent Academy Records (R0127)

Collection Number: R0127

Collection Title: Union Independent Academy Records

Dates: 1856-1859

Creator: Union Independent Academy (Lake Spring, Mo.)

Abstract: The Union Independent Academy Records contains a microfilm copy of meeting minutes of the directors, a list of stockholders, and the constitution of the Union Independent Academy at Laketon (now Lake Spring) in Dent County, Missouri.

Collection Size: (1 roll 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-Rolla](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at rolla@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Union Independent Academy Records* (R0127); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The records were loaned for microfilming to the University of Missouri by Janet Bowles on October 11, 1982 (Accession No. RA0142).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Union Independent Academy Records can be found in the following collections:

Lake Spring Cemetery Association Records (R0128)

Lecoma Mill Company Records (R0129)

Lake Spring Mercantile Records (R0171)

Processed by: Processed by John F. Bradbury, November 8, 1982. Revised by Kathleen Seale, April 29, 2020.

Historical Note:

The Union Independent Academy was a short-lived attempt to establish a permanent educational institution in an area that, with the exception of the Maramec Iron Works, had only small, private subscription schools. The Academy was incorporated at Laketon (now Lake Spring), in the northwest corner of Dent County, Missouri. Residents of Dent and neighboring Phelps County had associated in 1856, to begin planning a non-sectarian school, which was to be built on a ten-acre site donated by Dr. John Hyer, a prominent physician and politician who lived at Lake Spring. David Lenox was elected president of the association, which was granted a charter by the state on February 25, 1857.

Construction of the two-story frame building began the same year. Although the directors were troubled with unreliable contractors, construction proceeded until halted by a lack of funds in 1859. However, the lower floor had been completed and the directors authorized its use for a primary school in the summer of 1858. The directors called a meeting of the stockholders to raise funds for finishing the building. Evidently the efforts were successful, for the school had as many as eighty students attend the school until its bankruptcy in 1860 or 1861. Dr. Hyer purchased the building on the Academy's insolvency, but the school never re-opened.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

Scope and Content Note:

The records of the Union Independent Academy include minutes of meetings from May 1856 through September 1859, a list of members and stockholders, and the constitution of the school. The records were interspersed in a volume that also included the records of the Lake Spring Cemetery Association and the Lecomma Mill Company at Lecomma, Missouri. Only those pages pertaining to the Academy have been microfilmed in this collection. Light blue paper and faded ink have left some of the Academy's records very difficult to read, and a typescript has been prepared and microfilmed with the original volume.

Container List:

Roll 001 v. 1 Union Independent Academy records, 1856-1859

Index:

Index Term	Medium
Arthur, John, 1814-1897	v. 1
Brown, John	v. 1
Coppedge, Lindsey, 1805-1891	v. 1
Dent County (Mo.)	v. 1
Hyer, John, 1810-1890	v. 1

Index Term	Medium
Hyer, Samuel, 1778-1862	v. 1
Laketon (Mo.)	v. 1
Lake Spring (Mo.)	v. 1
Lenox, David, 1847-1932	v. 1
Schools--Missouri	v. 1
Union Independent Academy (Lake Spring, Mo.)	v. 1
Wilson, James H.	v. 1
Wishon, Benjamin	v. 1