

MICROFILM

5 folders and 2 volumes

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INTRODUCTION

This collection consists of correspondence and miscellaneous papers of Franklin H. Barnitz of Lake Spring, Dent County, Missouri. He was a native of Pennsylvania and freighter who operated from the railhead of the Southwest Branch of the Pacific Railroad in Phelps County before moving to Lake Spring. The collection includes letters from his family in York, Pennsylvania, and from friends and business associates in Arkansas, Kansas, and Missouri.

Franklin Hoke Barnitz was born on 13 August 1836 at York, York County, Pennsylvania. His grandfather, George Augustus Barnitz, Sr., was a lawyer and county judge. His father, George Augustus Barnitz, Jr., operated a coal yard at York. The family was prosperous enough, young Barnitz included, to invest in ironworks near York at Wrightsville, Pennsylvania.

Frank Barnitz left York to settle in Kansas before the Civil War. He established a cabinet-making shop, but had that career cut short by the war. By 1862 Barnitz was at Rolla, Phelps County, Missouri, where he hired on with the army quartermaster department as a teamster or wagon master. He might have been drawn to Rolla by friends from York, for he was acquainted with Judge Alexander Demuth at Rolla. The Judge's son, Charles Demuth, was a visitor to York in April 1868.

When the Civil War ended, Barnitz continued in the freight business, hauling from the terminus of the Southwest Branch of the Pacific Railroad. In 1867-1869 he loaded and unloaded his wagons at Little Piney, now Arlington, twelve miles west of Rolla at the confluence of Little Piney Creek and the Gasconade River. It was the base of operations for freighters until construction of the railroad was resumed in 1869. Barnitz and several employees made trips from the railhead to points in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Texas, and Utah. Although Barnitz came through unharmed, he lost livestock to Indians in Utah and ran the same risk in Kansas. His hauls to Arkansas and Texas appear to have been less hazardous.

Barnitz left the freight business by 1870. He settled in Dent County, Missouri, where in 1868 he had purchased a thousand acres in the northwestern part of the county. He replaced the original home, destroyed during the war, and developed the property as a successful stock farm. He established several other businesses, including general stores and grist mills at Lake Spring, Lecomma, and Yancy Mill, and a tobacco factory at Salem. He began as a partner in the latter with C. M. Hamill, but was sole owner by 1873. He

was well-known in the area through his businesses and by hosting the annual reunions of ex-Confederates at Barnitz Lake. Barnitz died in 1910 and is buried in the Lake Spring Cemetery.

The Barnitz collection consists of correspondence and miscellaneous papers from family, friends, and business associates, 1860-1894, and two account ledgers from his mercantile and tobacco enterprises, 1871-1874. The papers are in chronological order; inventories precede each folder. The letters from his family, especially those from his father, comment on friends and mutual acquaintances, the coal trade at York, the affairs of the Wrightsville iron furnace, and business conditions in general. There are also bits of parental advice concerning the perils of Indians on the Plains and yellow fever in Texas. The business papers include printed wagoner's receipts for goods taken aboard the Barnitz wagons, bills for boarding employees and livestock, and letters from merchants, business houses, and colleagues in the freight trade. The papers indicate close business ties with Fellows, McGinty & Co., Faulkner, McCoin & Co., and Coblenz & Co. in Missouri, with W. H. Grimes, Charles L. Duncan, and Charles H. Holbert in Kansas, and with Fuller & McKibben at Fort Smith, Arkansas. There are also several letters by George Parton, a former partner or employee of Barnitz, written from Atchison, Fort Riley, and Ellsworth, Kansas, 1867-1869.

Volume One of the account ledgers includes a mixture of general store transactions and tobacco business accounts. Some of the pages bear the notation "Mill No. 1," the location of which is unknown. Volume Two includes additional accounts for the tobacco business. Most of the tobacco processed at the factory in Salem was produced by growers in Dent, Phelps, and Texas counties. Indexes to the accounts precede each volume.

FOLDER LIST

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Folders 1-5: Correspondence and miscellaneous papers, 1860-1894.

- Folder 1: Correspondence and miscellaneous papers, 1860-1867.
- Folder 2: Correspondence and miscellaneous papers, 1868.
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Volumes 1-2: Account ledgers, 1871-1874.

Volume 1: Ledger, June 1871--April 1873 (118 pages, indexed).

Part 1: Ca. 30 June 1871--15 November 1871 (38 pages). The first few pages of this section bear the heading "Mill No 1 store acct," probably at Lake

Spring, Missouri. The entries list daily transactions of a general mercantile business.

Part 2: Ca. 28 March 1872--5 September 1872 (54 pages). This section contains daybook entries similar to those in Part 1. They are followed by an undated list of goods sold at auction.

Part 3: Ca. 23 November 1872--18 April 1873 (26 pages). The first entry is headed "Barnitz & Hamill." The transactions concern tobacco buying and processing in Dent and Texas counties. Among the entries are those for "Bakers acct," "Kenady Tobacco," and "Men that Tobacco has been purchased of in Texas County." Miscellaneous entries of uncertain date conclude the volume.

Volume 2: Ledger, February--December 1874 (552 pages, indexed).

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