



## **Casper Shell Papers (R0243)**

**Collection Number:** R0243

**Collection Title:** Casper Shell Papers

**Dates:** 1832-1849

**Creator:** Shell, Casper, 1800-1849

**Abstract:** The Casper Shell Papers contain the journal and personal papers of Casper Shell Jr., a blacksmith and justice of the peace who lived near Lutesville in what was then Cape Girardeau County, now Bollinger County, Missouri. The collection pertains to Shell's trade as a blacksmith as well as his official duties. A transcript, prepared by the donor, is available.

**Collection Size:** 0.3 cubic foot  
(3 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-Rolla](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [rolla@shsmo.org](mailto:rolla@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** The Donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Casper Shell Papers* (R0243); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

**Donor Information:** The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Lorena S. Eaker on December 16, 1985 (Accession No. RA0325).

**Processed by:** Processed by John F. Bradbury, January 14, 1986. Revised by Kathleen Seale, February 2, 2022.

**Biographical Note:**

Casper Shell (Schell) Jr. was born on June 11, 1800 in Lincoln County, North Carolina to Casper and Frances *Mull* Shell. The family moved to Cape Girardeau County, Missouri in 1804, settling southeast of Lutesville on Crooked Creek. Shell was raised and educated in Cape Girardeau County. He married Cynthia Amelia Wilson Hager, also of Cape Girardeau County, in 1826. She died in 1842 and Shell married again in 1847 to Mary Bess. Trained as a blacksmith, Shell established a shop near Lutesville which he operated most of his life. During the 1830s and 1840s he served as constable and Justice of the Peace in Lorraine later Liberty Township. He died in 1849.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

**Scope and Content Note:**

Shell's papers consist of a journal and miscellaneous papers concerning the smithing business and his duties as a county official. The first ninety-two pages of the journal contain records of the blacksmith trade from November 1833 to April 1844. Shell then sold or leased the business to James F. Ritch from October 1842 through April 1843. Entries during that period are written in a different hand and are credited to Ritch. Individual accounts include itemized lists of services rendered, primarily for repairs of agricultural equipment, wagons, and firearms. Feed and payments in cash or trade are noted.

The remainder of the journal and the papers in folder 2, which were loose items removed from the journal, generally concern Shell's duties as constable and Justice of the Peace. There are lists of fees collected on county business, promissory notes, stray notices, estate papers, and affidavits of guardians and executors. Notes concerning Shell's personal business and a few genealogical records are intermingled with the county business. An edited typescript can be found in folder 3. A surname index to the collection is available in the collection's administration folder.

The journal and papers were donated by Lorena Shell Eaker, a great-great grandniece of Casper Shell Jr. She also provided the typescript, which was published in Volume 2 of her *Shoe Cobbler's Kin*, a history of the Eaker family.

**Container List:**

Box 001	f. 1	Journal, 1833-1849
	f. 2	Business and personal papers, 1832-1848
	f. 3	Typescript of journal and papers, no date

**Index:**

Index Term	Folder
Blacksmiths--Missouri	1-3
Bollinger County (Mo.)	1-3
Cape Girardeau County (Mo.)	1-3
Eaker, Lorena Shell	3

Index Term	Folder
Justices of the Peace--Missouri	1-3
Lutesville (Mo.)	1-3
Marble Hill (Mo.)	1-3
Ritch, James J.	1, 3
Schell, Frederick	2-3
Shell, Casper, 1800-1849	1-3