



Russell Family Papers (R0330)

Collection Number: R0330

Collection Title: Russell Family Papers

Dates: 1837-1938

Creator: Russel family

Abstract: The Russell Family Papers include correspondence, legal papers, tax receipts, lists of household purchases, and miscellaneous papers of Cyrus Russell (1795-1860), and his sons Cyrus Russell (1819-1905) and Theodore Pease Russell (1827-1889) of Arcadia in Iron County, Missouri.

Collection Size: 0.1 cubic foot
(5 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. 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] *Russell Family Papers* (R0330); 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 Mary A. Schrum on September 29, 1986 (Accession No. RA0355).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Russell Family Papers can be found in the following collections:

First Presbyterian Church of Ironton, Missouri Records (R0295)
John Steele McCormick Collection (R0877)

Lynn Morrow Collection (R1000)

Sandra Skaggs Menke, Russell Family History Collection (R1163)

Processed by: Processed by John Bradbury, October 5, 1988. Revised by Donovan Mefford, June 7, 2021.

Biographical Note:

Cyrus Russell of Somers, Connecticut, was among a number of New Englanders during the 1830s who were induced to move from settled areas of the east to the frontier of southeastern Missouri. Following kinsmen and friends Henry Pease and J. L. Van Doren, also of Somers, Russell settled in the Arcadia Valley in what became Iron County, Missouri. He was drawn partly by the industrial possibilities of “the Iron Mountain,” but especially by the agricultural and commercial potential of land in the undeveloped valley.

Russell settled in 1838 along Stouts Creek southeast of present-day Ironton and quickly began clearing areas for cultivation. A sawmill on the creek produced sawed lumber which was much in demand for construction of works at the mines and houses in Ironton during the 1840s and 1850s. By 1860, Cyrus Russell and his sons Henry, Cyrus Jr., Theodore, Giles, and William owned nearly 1000 acres and were the most prominent citizens in the Arcadia Valley. The Russell were directly connected with the founding of the first church and the first schools of the area, the creation of Iron County and construction of the towns of Ironton and Arcadia and were officers or shareholders of various concerns including the Missouri Iron Company and the Arcadia Academy. Known collectively as Russellville, the Russell homesteads constituted a distinctly “Yankee” enclave in southeastern Missouri.

The Russell family and the writings of Theodore Pease Russell are the subject of *A Connecticut Yankee In the Frontier Ozarks*, by James F. Keefe and Lynn Morrow (University of Missouri Press, 1988).

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

Scope and Content Note:

The Russell family papers consist of correspondence, legal papers, tax receipts, and miscellaneous personal and business papers. They concern primarily Cyrus Russell, Sr., and Cyrus Russell, Jr., and, to a lesser degree, Theodore Pease Russell. The legal and tax papers are numerous, reflecting the land acquisitions of Cyrus Russell and his sons, and transactions within the family during the 1840s and 1850s. Only two pieces of personal correspondence are included from the period of the family’s greatest activity in the 1850s. They are letters from Cyrus and Giles Russell addressed to Cyrus, Jr., who had returned to Connecticut in 1850 for training as a master carpenter. Several other letters written by Russell descendants in the 1930s concern Russell family genealogy in New England and Missouri.

Some of the most interesting and useful items are in the miscellaneous materials assembled in Folder 5. They include “A Prisoner During Price’s Raid” by Cyrus Russell, Jr.; the history of the Congregational Church, later reorganized as the Presbyterian Church of Ironton, probably authored by Theodore Pease Russell; lists of qualified voters in various townships of Iron

County, 1867; items pertaining to the estate of Henry P. Russell, 1876-1878; genealogical notes, circa 1887; and a Russell family history by Sarah Russell and John McCormick, circa 1932-1934.

Container List:

Box 001	f. 1	Legal papers, 1837-1899
	f. 2	Tax receipts, 1843-1878
	f. 3	Correspondence, 1850-1938
	f. 4	Household purchases, 1851
	f. 5	Miscellaneous items, 1849-1934

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