



## **Reuben Smith & Company Records (R0645)**

**Collection Number:** R0645

**Collection Title:** Reuben Smith & Company Records

**Dates:** 1836-1865

**Creator:** Reuben Smith & Company

**Abstract:** The Reuben Smith & Company Records contain a ledger from Reuben Smith & Company, a mercantile firm at Selma in Jefferson County, Missouri. The volume contains a listing of lands patented and rules for mining in Harmony Township in Washington County, Missouri, 1836-1845, and invoices for goods purchased by Reuben Smith & Company, primarily at Selma in Jefferson County, Missouri, 1837-1846.

**Collection Size:** 0.1 cubic foot  
(1 volume)

**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, assigned, and transferred to the University all copyrights, and associated rights the Donor may possess in the materials.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Reuben Smith & Company Records* (R0645); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

**Donor Information:** This collection was donated to the University of Missouri by the University Archives, University of Missouri-Rolla on October 12, 1998 (Accession No. RA0715).

**Custodial History:** This ledger was part of the Harry J. Cantwell Papers (R0677). Inside the volume is enclosed a note explaining that Cantwell, a mine owner and operator, found the book in records of a mining company at Palmer, Missouri.

**Processed by:** Processed by John F. Bradbury, December 12, 1998. Revised by Aaron Schmidt, May 2020.

**Biographical Note:**

Reuben Smith was born in July 1786 in Wilkes, Georgia to Francis and Lucy Smith. He had settled in Washington County, Missouri by 1829. From at least 1836 to 1865 he owned and operated a mercantile firm in Selma, Jefferson County, Missouri. Smith died in 1828 in Missouri.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

**Scope and Content Note:**

This volume contains entries in two different sections. The first consists of eight pages listing lands patented in Townships 36 and 37 North, Range One West, in Washington County, Missouri. The undated entries include the number of the patent, the section number, the names of the patentees or assignees, the number of acres, and the names of the tracts. This listing is followed by two pages of "Rules and Regulations for the government of the mines belonging to the subscribers in Harmony Township Washington County and State of Missouri," signed Reuben Smith & Co., October 3, 1836. The nine rules are followed by an amendment in a different hand dated April 6, 1845, signed by Manning Smith & Co.

The second section was started from the opposite end of the volume and begins with the notation "Invoice Book No. 2, October 7 1837. R. Smith & Co. Amt m[erchan]dize Bot. As invoiced on invoice Book No. 1 is \$12.427.60." Subsequent entries begin on October 7, 1837, at Selma, Jefferson County, Missouri, and continue through October 7, 1846. The records of invoices detail the purchases of stocks of general merchandise by Reuben Smith & Co. James M. White & Co. of St. Louis was the largest single supplier. Other wholesale merchants included Hood & Abbott, Warburton & King, S. V. Farnsworth, F. Kennett, Burd, Tilden & Burd, Charles C. Norris, Cook & Peterson, and Charless & Blow at St. Louis; Massey & James at the Maramec Iron Works; and A. Casey and Desloge & Rozier at Potosi, Missouri. The entries indicate that Reuben Smith & Co. dealt in a full range of general merchandise including whiskey, gunpowder, leather, hardware, textiles, shoes, groceries, medicines, tools, and horse equipment.

**Container List:**

Box 001      v. 1      Reuben Smith & Company ledger, 1836-1865

**Index:**

Index Term	Medium
Casey, A.	v. 1
Charless and Blow	v. 1
Cook and Peterson	v. 1
Desloge and Rozier	v. 1
General stores--Missouri	v. 1
Farnsworth, S. V.	v. 1

Index Term	Medium
Hood and Abbott	v. 1
J. M. White and Company	v. 1
Jefferson County (Mo.)	v. 1
Kennett, F.	v. 1
King, Warburton and King	v. 1
Manning Smith and Company	v. 1
Massey and James	v. 1
Merchants--Missouri	v. 1
Mines and mineral resources--Missouri--Washington County	v. 1
Norris, Charles C.	v. 1
Reuben Smith and Company	v. 1
Selma (Mo.)	v. 1
Tilden and Burd	v. 1
Warburton and King	v. 1
Washington County (Mo.)	v. 1
Webster (Mo.)	v. 1