Ledger collection

Title: Ledger collection
Collection No: MSS.54
Extent: 1 cubic foot
Inclusive Dates: 1806-1912


Processed by: Gerald Chaudron, September 2014.
Access: Open to all researchers.
Language: English
Preferred Citation: Ledger collection, Preservation and Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

Publication date: September 2014
Scope and contents


Chickasaw Bluffs Factory was a Federal Government-run trading house on the Chickasaw Bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River on the site that was later to become the city of Memphis. The factory was established in 1802 by order of President Thomas Jefferson for the purpose of trade with the Chickasaw Indians. From 1795 to 1822 these government-operated trading posts with the Indians, known as factories, began operation under the immediate supervision of the Secretary of War. The government trader, or factor, was to provide goods (tools, clothing, tobacco, utensils, and sometimes weapons and ammunition) to the Indians in exchange for animal skins and fur. The Chickasaw Bluffs Factory received goods from Philadelphia by way of the Ohio River and down the Mississippi River while skins and pelts collected by the factory were sent downriver to New Orleans. In 1818 the factory was relocated to the Spadra Bluff on the Arkansas River. The newly created Office of Indian Trade, which later became the Office of Indian Affairs, took over administration of the factories in 1806. The factory system was abolished by the federal government in 1822. The pay book has 284 pages but is missing pages 1-18, 127-136. It covers the period February 16, 1806-May 10, 1808.

The blacksmith’s account book covers the period 1843-1869 but there is no indication of where the blacksmiths operated. Until 1846 it records the accounts of Humphrey Williams but then there is a gap before the accounts of Hughes and Williams begin. As well as the names William G. Hughes, the names Margery Ann Hughes and Mary Hughes are recorded. A number of loose receipts are included as well as a letter to William Hughes from L.B. Larimore?, Grand Crossing, Illinois, dated September 16, 1884, asking him to join him in selling gate territory in Kansas.

The account book for a general store in Ganges, Michigan, covers the period 1856-1860 but there is no indication of who the proprietor was. The first two pages—December 30, 1856 and January 13, 1857—are intact but the following four pages have later newspaper clippings glued to them. The accounts continue from page 26, February 27, 1857 through page 572, March 1860. A name penciled on the inside back cover is Clara Hughes, Glenn, Michigan, 1886.

The account book for an unidentified general store has entries for the years 1911-1912. It has the initials MIR on one of the first pages. The first entry is April 1, 1911 and the last is dated September 3, 1912. The customers included (the spelling is probably phonetic in some cases): Sam Whitfield, Tom Moats, Jack Cunningham, M.L. Jones, T.R. Duvall, Pink Gray, Nathaniel Gray, Rob Pruitt, Jim Pullian, Lazos Moore, Mollie Moore, Mark Moore, John Moore, Ben Brooks, Emilyn Brooks, J.E. Gibson, William Stallins, A.J. Stedman, Susie Doss, Milter & Turner Moore, George Anderson, Charles Enmon, G.B. Donaldson, Relf (Ralph?) L. Price, Frank Bailey, Joe Carr, Shellie Brandon, Ira Tyler, Fountain Freeman, Oliver Palmer, Charles

Subject terms

Account books—Tennessee.
Account books—Michigan.
Chickasaw Bluffs (Tenn.)
Ganges (Mich.)
Hughes, William G.
Humphreys, William.
Mississippi River Valley—History—1803-1865.

Inventory

Box 1
   Loose receipts and letter, 1843-1869, 1884.
Box 2