

A Guide to the J. P. Houck Ledgers, 1892-1895 SC 0407

J. P. Houck ledgers
1892-1895



Title Statement

A Guide to the J. P. Houck Ledgers, 1892-1895 SC 0407

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 0407

Unit ID

/repositories/4/resources/788

Unit Date

1892-1895

Language

English

Abstract

Two ledgers documenting the business activities conducted by J. P. Houck, presumably on behalf of his general store and/or tannery in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Creator

J. P. Houck Store (Harrisonburg, Va.)

Creator

Houck Tannery (Harrisonburg, Va.)

source

Keach, Jennifer A.

Extent

0.4 cubic feet 1 box

Repository

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

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Acquisition Information

Donated by Jennifer Keach, former JMU Libraries faculty.

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [box #, folder #], J. P. Houck ledgers, 1892-1895, SC 0407, James Madison University Special Collections, Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

Joseph P. Houck (1839-1908) was a Harrisonburg-based businessman and proprietor of Houck Tannery and J. P. Houck Store. Houck was born in Allentown, Pennsylvania and relocated to Page County in 1866 to work at Shenandoah Iron Works. In the late 1870s, after moving to Harrisonburg with his family, he established Houck Tannery (previously Harrisonburg Steam Tannery) and J. P. Houck Store near Court Square which sold leather goods and a variety of household furnishings.

Scope and Contents

Two ledgers documenting the business activities conducted by J. P. Houck, presumably on behalf of his general store and/or tannery in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

A daybook, dated 1895, lists daily transactions presumably at the J. P. Houck Store. Entries include customer names and goods purchased. Merchandise purchased includes tobacco, oil cloth, shoes, "retipping shoes," boots, harness dressing, mattresses, pillows, matting, and more. "J. P. Houck" is inscribed several times on the inside of the book. Common local surnames are present in the daybook and include Kavanaugh, Shifflett, Snyder, Roller, Moyers, Coffman, Funkhouser, Landis, Yancey, Pankey, and more.

A second ledger documents employee timekeeping and payroll from 1892-1894. Individuals are listed with their total time, wages per day and total amount due. A check mark indicates that the individual received payment. Surnames include Propst, Sellers, Coffman, Clatterbuck, Leake, Webster, Black, Fitzwater, Baugher, Boyers, Dovel, and more. Several handwritten promissory notes referencing J. P. Houck loaning money to employees are laid in the book.

Related Materials

McHone (LLC) Collection of Houck Tannery Records, 1870-1913, SC 0172, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va.

Keywords

Ledgers (account books)
Leather industry and trade -- Virginia -- Harrisonburg -- 19th century
Tanning -- Virginia -- Harrisonburg -- 19th century
Tanneries -- Virginia -- Harrisonburg -- 19th century
Retail trade -- Virginia -- Harrisonburg -- 19th century
Industries -- Virginia -- Harrisonburg -- 19th century
Account books -- Virginia -- Harrisonburg -- 19th century
Business records -- Virginia -- Harrisonburg -- 19th century
Harrisonburg (Va.) -- History -- 19th century
Harrisonburg (Va.) -- Economic conditions -- 19th century
Keach, Jennifer A.

Provenance

Per the donor's recollections, she acquired the ledgers from a friend who lived in an apartment at 83 S. Main St. Harrisonburg circa 1992.

Description of Subordinate Components

J. P. Houck Store daybook

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/32322

Unit Date 1895

Mixed Materials [1000897479] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Payroll ledger

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/32323

Unit Date 1892-1894

Mixed Materials [1000897479] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)