

Brown's Cove Toll House account book

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1810-1817

Title Statement

Brown's Cove Toll House account bookGuide to the Brown's Cove Toll House account book MSS 16870

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Publication Statement

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Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library
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Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS 16870

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/1734

Unit Date

1810-1817

Mixed Materials [X032784909]

1 (box)

Language

English

Extent

0.2 Cubic Feet One half-width letter-sized file box

Condition Description

Poor. The covers are missing, and the first page is detached.

Repository

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is minimally processed and open for research. Please handle gently as covers are missing and front page is detached.

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Biographical / Historical Description

The Brown's Cove toll road began construction in 1805 and opened in 1806, connecting Grottoes in Rockingham County with the Three Notch'd Road in Albemarle County. It is among the oldest east-west toll roads in the Blue Ridge. The Brown House, called "Mountain View," was known as "Toll House" and later "Headquarters" by users of the Turnpike. It was at the Toll House that stagecoaches and freight wagons would stop to pay their toll before passing through Brown's Gap. Brown's Gap offered the northernmost mountain crossing in Albemarle County, allowing easier access to Charlottesville and Richmond for Valley people and their goods. The Brown family also owned a flour and grist mill, a sawmill, and one of the first power looms in the United States.

Content Description

This collection contains an account book of the toll house along Brown's Gap Turnpike. The account book, oblong in format, contains thirty pages, nine of which have pasted news clippings pasted over the manuscript entries. The account book spans from 1810 to 1817 and details road tolls for wagons, lodging expenses for men and animals, meals, and other expenditures. Accounts for the Brown family loom, grist mill, and sawmill also appear, listing charges for grain, planks, etc. Through these charges, the account book documents the many early settlers of western Albemarle County and the Shenandoah Valley. The newspaper clippings are unrelated and cover a variety of topics related to homemaking, including cures for various ailments for animals and humans, advice on growing plants, and keeping house.

Keywords

Shenandoah National Park (Va.)

Ledgers (account books)