



NEWS RELEASE

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REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KSHS STATE ARCHIVES & LIBRARY RECEIVES DONATION OF FORT SCOTT SUTLER STORE LEDGERS

TOPEKA, KS— The Kansas Historical Society recently received two ledgers from the Molly Foster Berry Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, located in Fort Scott. The ledgers belonged to Fort Scott Sutler Hiero T. Wilson. Wilson came to Fort Scott in September 1843, from Fort Gibson to partner with John A. Bugg, Army Sutler. The Sutler at military forts had a contract to operate a general store on the post. In 1849, Wilson bought out Bugg and became the sole proprietor of the store. The ledgers, dated 1844-45 and 1851-52, document the purchases of soldiers and civilians during the pre-territorial period. Products offered at the store reflect the affluence of the officers and the basic needs of the enlisted soldiers and settlers. Some of the items and their prices recorded in the ledgers include: 5 gallons brandy \$17.50, 6 yards Irish linen \$1.00, 1 bottle claret wine \$.50, 1 pair boots \$3.00, 1 corn broom \$.31, and 8 pounds coffee \$1.00.

The military withdrew from the fort in 1853; however, Wilson continued operating the store. A new store building was erected in 1858 and the town of Fort Scott was incorporated in 1860. Wilson operated the store until 1868.

“We are extremely pleased to add the Sutler store ledgers to our manuscript collection,” said Nancy Sherbert, KSHS curator of photographs and acquisitions. “They are the earliest recorded documents in our collection listing the purchases of soldiers and civilians in the pre-territorial period. Researchers studying Fort Scott, United States Army, settlement, and pre-territorial businesses will find the ledgers useful.”

The DAR received the ledgers through a gift from Hiero T. Wilson’s granddaughter, Elizabeth Goodlander, who was also a DAR member.

The ledgers can be viewed at the Kansas Historical Society’s State Archives & Library, 6425 SW 6th Avenue. For more information, call 785-272-8681, ext. 303 or visit the KSHS website at kshs.org.

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