
64.3, Records 1828-1887
65.5, Additional Records 1825-1889
65.10, Company Account Books 1842-1890

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Title: Guide to the Clintonville, N.Y., Iron Works Records, 1825-1890
Dates: 1825-1890
ID: Collections 64.3, 65.5, 65.10
Creators: Peru Iron Co.; Peru Steel and Iron Co.; Peru Steel Ore, Co., Ltd.
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Biographical Note

This set of collections pertains to records of a succession of iron making companies between 1824 and 1890 that were centered in the village of Clintonville, located on the Ausable River at the southern edge of Clinton County in northeastern New York. The records relate to a single, multi-faceted iron works which operated under three different corporate names as the works were sold and reorganized. These were the Peru Iron Co., the Peru Steel and Iron Company, and the Peru Steel Ore Company, Limited. While the primary output of these companies was wrought iron made by the bloomery forge smelting process, the operations at Clintonville entailed a wide range of activities and pursuits that included mining, transporting, and separating the iron ore, and procuring large areas of timberland for production of the charcoal that was required for smelting. Up into the 1870s, the works comprised what was one of the largest forge operations of its kind in the world. As such, the works usually involved reworking much of the bloom iron after it initially had been shaped into billets. This entailed processing the iron in the company’s rolling mill and foundry, and working it into finished products such as anchors, chain cable, and nails in the company’s factories. Such operations varied considerably as economic circumstance and the interests of company management changed through time, and by the 1860s much of the iron being produced was sold simply as billets, largely for conversion to steel. The surviving company records reflect much of the substance and some of the dynamics of these industrial pursuits.

Except for its last phase of operation (Peru Steel Ore Co., Ltd.), the officers and major stockholders of the companies resided primarily in New York City, 300 miles to the south, with the operations in Clintonville being run by a local superintendent and various managers. The roster of key individuals associated with the different corporate periods is yet to be fully delineated, but the following are known to have been associated with the respective companies.

Peru Iron Co., 1824-1865:
  Joshua Aiken, President 1824-1826
  Francis Saltus, President 1826-1854
  William Gardner, nominal purchaser of the works 1855, with immediate conveyance to
    Saltus & Co. (Francis H. Saltus & Theodore Saltus)
  Theodore Saltus, President 1855-1862?
  William Gardner, Receiver 1862-1865
  Joshua Aiken, Clintonville Superintendent 1824-c. 1829
  Jerome B. Bailey, Clintonville Superintendent 1829-c. 1851
  William F. Saltus, Clintonville Superintendent
  William H. Cuyler, Clintonville Superintendent 1859-62
  J. L. Myers Taylor, Clintonville Co-manager with W. H. Cuyler, 1862-1865

Peru Steel & Iron Co., 1865-1886:
  Charles Bliven, President 1865-1879
  William H. Cuyler, Clintonville Superintendent 1865
  J. L. Myers Taylor, Clintonville Co-manager with W. H. Cuyler, 1865-1866
  J. L. Myers Taylor, Clintonville Superintendent 1866-1872
  Daniel Cady, Clintonville Superintendent 1872-1879
  Francis J. Dominick, Receiver 1879-1886

Peru Steel Ore Co., Ltd., 1886-1890
  George H. Cleaves, President
Scope of the Collection

The records of the three Clintonville iron works companies outlined above consist of approximately 1060 individual items, plus 56 volumes. The items include documents such as memoranda, letters, reports, certificates of organization and incorporation; legal papers pertaining to land conveyances, bonds, and wills; invoices and contracts for materials, supplies, labor and construction; land maps; and furnace, charcoal kiln, and iron mine section drawings. The volumes are comprised of a variety of ledgers, journals, daybooks, reports, order books, letter copybooks, time books, and cash books. These embody the accounting of the various components of the iron works operations that were centered in Clintonville. Notable here are company store ledgers that identify employees and their purchases; work records that often indicate an employee’s job and income; journals that itemize and summarize productivity (e.g., amount of iron made, hammered, and rolled) and production costs (e.g., ore separation; charcoal made, bought, and consumed); records of iron shipments from Clintonville; conveyance records detailing land transfers; stockholder records; copybooks of correspondence between the iron works supervisor and the home office in New York City; and inventory ledgers that summarize the value of, and expenditures associated with, each of the major departments of the operations (e.g., ore separator, forge, foundry, rolling mill, charcoal kilns, grist mill, nail factory, store, iron mines, etc.).

It is noted that the records in the collections are temporally and substantively uneven in their association with the three respective corporations, and clearly do not comprise the totality of account books and other documents that would have been created in conjunction with the iron works operations at Clintonville. They nevertheless represent a rare and substantial assortment of primary materials pertaining to the development and operation of the 19th century bloom iron industry in the Adirondack/Lake Champlain region of northern New York.

Container List

Collection 64.3: Records 1828-1887

Box/folder:

1/1 Peru Iron Co. “Inventory” ledger, 1846-1857. Includes entries for bills payable/ receivable, contracts, real estate, rolling mill, pocket furnace, forge, nail factory, teams & carriages. 1 volume.

1/2 Memorandum of real estate owned by the Peru Steel & Iron Co., c. 1880. 1 item.

1/3 Broadside advertising the Peru Steel & Iron Co. Receiver’s sale of the company’s personal property on October 1, 1885. 1 item

1/5  A certified copy of a deed conveying 2078 acres in Essex County from Thomas Maule to Nicholas J. Roosevelt, Charles Soss, Charles Smith, Charles A. Hoffman and William Nexen Jr., all of New York City. Original deed was March 2, 1803. This copy was certified on February 3, 1828. 1 item.

2/1  Peru Steel & Iron Co. ledger of rent payments by tenants, 1870-1885. 1 volume.

2/2  “Letters” copybook containing impressions of letters written by Francis J. Dominick, Receiver of the Peru Steel & Iron Co., when he was at Clintonville. Dec. 20, 1881 to Oct. 6, 1882; Jan. 25, 1883 to Jan. 12, 1885. 1 volume.

2/3  “Letters” copybook containing impressions of letters written by Francis J. Dominick, Receiver of the Peru Steel & Iron Co., when he was at Clintonville. March 22 to October 31, 1883. 1 volume.

3/1  Peru Steel & Iron Co. "Invoices / Office" ledger of terms of agreements made with companies and individuals for iron shipments, labor, supplies, etc., and miscellaneous memoranda, 1873-1885. 1 volume.

3/2  Journal of accounts of the company store, October 30, 1886, through February 26, 1887, which time correlates with the Peru Steel Ore Co., Ltd. Separate pages for named employees and itemization of their store purchases by day/month/year. 1 volume.

3/3  Peru Steel & Iron Co. ledger with monthly summaries of receipts and expenditures. Front section has 1865-1869 "Suspense" accounting, and another has 1869-1879 expenditures. Other records are inserted loosely in the back, including a summary of company store sales and profits for 1864-1884. 1 volume.

3/4  Peru Steel & Iron Co. coverless journal with notations of terms of agreements made with individuals for labor, supplies, etc., and miscellaneous memoranda, April 1865 to April 1870. Includes an undated list of lands purchased from Saltus & Co., by lot number and acreage. 1 volume.

3/5  Peru Iron Co. coverless journal with notations of terms of agreements made with individuals for labor, supplies, etc., notations about employees, and other miscellaneous memoranda. Nov. 1862 to April 1865. 1 volume.

4/1  “Order Book / Peru Iron Co." ledger, 1858-1866. Contains month/day/year entries for orders from individual companies, any special instructions, and when the order was completed. The last order filled by the Peru Iron Co. was on October 15, 1864. Peru Steel & Iron Co. entries begin May 1865. 1 volume.

4/2  “Reports / P. I. C." ledger, 1847-1884. Reports of cost of manufacturing iron, workmen’s wages, ore, wood and charcoal production/consumption, charcoal kilns, etc. The ledger was begun by the Peru Iron Co., and continued to be used when it became the Peru Steel & Iron Co. in 1865. 1 volume.

Collection 65.5: Additional Papers 1825-1889

Box/folder:

1/1 Letters from the J. & J. Rogers Company of Ausable Forks, to the Peru Steel and Iron Company of Clintonville; affidavits pertaining to the dispute over the hiring of Peru Steel & Iron Co. workers by the Rogers Company; an agreement on future policy of hiring workers by the two companies. March 20, 1867, through July 19, 1868. 14 items.

1/2 Miscellaneous legal papers associated with Francis Saltus and his family, mostly pertaining to land transactions in connection with the Peru Iron Co., 1852-1868. One document (Jan. 1, 1855) speaks to the executors of the estate of the late Francis Saltus conveying to William Gardner, in exchange for $50,000, all the stock shares, property mortgages, company real estate, money property and accounts due, and other interests that Francis Saltus had in the Peru Iron Co., and in the firm of Saltus & Co. 13 items.

1/3 Legal papers, 1829-1838, the vast majority of which are signed by Alexis Ransom, a Justice of the Peace for the Town of Peru, Clinton County, who worked from his home in Clintonville. Most of the documents concern minor civil complaints brought before him. 52 items.

1/4 Documents pertaining to the village of Clintonville, Clinton County, N.Y., 1825-1884. Includes a copy of the village incorporation act of April 11, 1825; an amendment act of April 14, 1827, allowing the village to create a fire department and fire regulations, not to exceed 30 firemen; and an April 11, 1844, amendment extending the boundaries of the village by 100 rods in each direction. Other documents pertain to road taxes, the Clintonville school district, and an insurance claim on the loss of a charcoal kiln due to violent winds on Feb. 28, 1884. 29 items.

1/5 Bond document for $100,000 loaned to the Peru Iron Company on Jan. 31, 1829, by at least 11 investors, when Francis Saltus was company president; the document includes notations of interest and repayments up through 1854. Other documents include a summary of four land conveyances to the company in 1828; orders for iron, contracts for charcoal, and an estimate on the installation of a boiler, nearly all of which pertain to the Peru Steel & Iron Co. during the 1880s when Francis J. Dominick was Receiver for the company. 66 items.

2/1 Miscellaneous letters to the Peru Iron Co. and the Peru Steel and Iron Co., 1846-1876. Most deal with various legal matters, including land acquisitions, titles, mortgages, and taxes, primarily around the time of the formation of the Peru Steel and Iron Co. in 1865. Also some orders for rolled iron, 1866-67. 76 items.

2/2 Mortgages held by the Peru Iron Co. (1850s), the Peru Steel & Iron Co. (1860s-1870s), and the Peru Iron Ore Co., Ltd. (1886). Also two bond documents of loans made by Francis Saltus & Nicholas Saltus to the Peru Iron Co. (Dec. 24, 1831, for $30,000; May 25, 1846, for $70,000); these include notations of interest payment up through 1853 and 1854, respectively. 31 items.

2/3 Mortgages held by the Peru Iron Co. (1850s-1860s), the Peru Steel & Iron Co. (1870s-1880s), and the Peru Steel Ore Co., Ltd. (1887), regarding land, wood, livestock, wagons, sleighs, and produce. 29 items.
3/1 Documents consisting of lists of deeds recorded, field books of surveys, property holdings and valuations, and boundary descriptions. Dates range from 1827 through 1886, and thus include the Peru Iron Co., the Peru Steel & Iron Co., and the Peru Iron Ore Co., Ltd. 30 items.

3/2 Peru Steel & Iron Co. papers pertaining to iron-making patents and their use, and 1840s descriptions of charcoal kilns and their operation. Documents include an agreement between the Peru Steel & Iron Co. and an employee, Rudolf Keck, who in 1867 devised a process to recover iron from bloomery cinders (slag). Another document describes an 1860 patent to improve iron smelting, while another is a digest of assignments, agreements, and licenses issued by Joel Wilson for his patents for a furnace for reducing iron ores. Also present is an undated (pages missing?) contract between Wilson and the Peru Steel & Iron for installation and use of his patented furnace. 6 items.

3/3 Invoices and letters pertaining to purchases made by the Peru Steel & Iron Co. under the receivership of Francis J. Dominick (3 documents, 1881-1883), and by the Peru Iron Ore Co., Ltd. (97 documents, 1887-1889). 100 items.

4/1 Contracts and memoranda of agreement for the purchase of wood and charcoal by the Peru Steel & Iron Co. under the receivership of Francis J. Dominick, (166 documents, March 1879-January 1884). Similar contracts for wood and charcoal with the Peru Steel Ore Co., Ltd., some signed by George Cleaves, company president (9 documents, November 1886-December 1887). 175 items.

5/1 A variety of significant documents spanning the Peru Iron Co., Saltus & Co., the Peru Steel & Iron Co., and the Peru Steel Ore Co., Ltd. Includes bond for Francis & Nicholas Saltus for $20,000 investment in the Peru Iron Co. on Nov. 18, 1825; copy of Nov. 18, 1825, mortgage of lands of the Peru Iron Co.; itemization of costs for construction of the new forge and ore separator in 1836; memorandum of papers received concerning Saltus & Co. (maps, deeds, bonds, mortgage exemptions, will and testament of Francis Saltus, etc.); prospectus report of Charles Bliven respecting the holdings of the “Saltus Iron Co.” (c. 1865); certificate of organization of the Peru Steel & Iron Co. (April 1865); lists of contracts for running charcoal kilns (1881-1882); insurance policies on the engine house and equipment at the Palmer Hill mines (1886); Peru Steel Ore Co. Directors’ meeting minutes for Dec. 31, 1886; and other miscellaneous documents. 52 items.

5/2 Complete inventory of equipment, materials, and supplies of all departments of the Peru Steel & Iron Co., for its closure auction sale in October of 1885. 1 multipage item.

6/1 Legal papers related to the Peru Iron Co. and to the Peru Steel & Iron Co., including probates of the wills of Janet Montgomery (1829) and her brother Edward Livingston (1836); mortgage foreclosures (1830s-1860s); land deeds (1826-1845); legal complaints of Louisa Bliven, widow of Charles Bliven, regarding the allocation of assets from the estate of her deceased husband and the estate of her deceased son George M. Bliven; court orders appointing William Gardner as Receiver of the Peru Iron Co. (April 1862), and Francis J. Dominick as Receiver of the Peru Steel & Iron Co. (Feb. 1879, and Dec. 1885); and other documents. 34 items.
Papers of the Flack & Ransom general merchandise store, Clintonville, NY, consisting of lists of bill payable, orders, receipts, promissory notes, letters, and orders from "Robinson & Calkins" (Peru Iron Co.? ) to pay individuals in goods, usually less than $3.00. Dates range from 1833 to 1838. 260 items.

Land purchase contracts/mortgages: Peru Iron Co. (56 documents, 1831-1861); Saltus & Co. (5 documents, 1863-1865); Peru Steel & Iron Co. (17 documents, 1865-1881). Also, three 1855 land transfers among the Saltus family, and one 1865-66 contract to roast, separate, and cart ore for Saltus & Co. 82 items.

Copybook containing copies of letters of the Peru Steel & Iron Co., November 27, 1874, through May 17, 1876. All were written by Daniel Cady, Superintendent at the Clintonville iron works, and most are to Francis J. Dominick, Vice-President and Secretary of the company in New York City. 1 volume.

Copybook containing copies of letters of the Peru Steel & Iron Co., June 1, 1876, through September 26, 1877. All were written by Daniel Cady, Superintendent at the Clintonville iron works, and most are to Francis J. Dominick, Vice-President and Secretary of the company in New York City. 1 volume.

Copybook containing copies of letters of the Peru Steel & Iron Co., September 27, 1877, through October 19, 1881. Up through September 15, 1879, all were written by Daniel Cady, Superintendent at the Clintonville iron works, and most are to Francis J. Dominick, Vice-President and Secretary of the company in New York City. Dominick took over as Receiver in Clintonville in 1879, and his first letters in the book begin September 27 of that year. 1 volume.

Copybook containing copies of letters of the Peru Steel & Iron Co., August 29, 1882, through March 20, 1883. All are signed by Francis J. Dominick, Receiver of the company at Clintonville. 1 volume.

Copybook containing copies of letters of the Peru Steel & Iron Co., November 6, 1883, through October 3, 1884. Most are signed by Francis J. Dominick, Receiver of the company at Clintonville. 1 volume.

Record book of bank deposits and checks written by the Peru Steel & Iron Co., March 3 through August 30, 1879. Handwriting is that of Francis J. Dominick, Receiver of the company at Clintonville. 1 volume.

Coverless account book from the Flack & Ransom general merchandise store, Clintonville, New York. Entries date from October 23, 1833, through February 28, 1834. Contains named individuals and their itemized purchases and costs.

16"x 20" map of the Livingston and Maul patents, showing lots, roads, rivers, Palmer and Winter ore mines, and Clintonville. Drawn by W.H. Cuyler, and dated Sept. 16, 1864. 1 original item and a photocopy.
11/2 22"x10" horizontal section drawing of a gas furnace designed by Wilhelm von Faber du Faur. Labeled on the drawing as “Plate 5.” No date. 1 original item and a photocopy.

11/3 19"x30" cross-section drawing of Palmer Hill, showing the location of the J. & J. Rogers Iron Co. ore mine workings, and the Peru Steel and Iron Company’s new shaft. Drawn by Benjamin D. Frost, engineer, July 6, 1876. No scale is given, but the companies’ respective engine houses are crudely portrayed. 1 item.

11/4 34"x19½" drawings of the Winter Iron Ore bed, comprised of a ground plan and two cross-sections that show the workings in 1865. Renderings by Rudolf Keck of the Peru Steel & Iron Co. 1 original item and a photocopy.

11/5 9"x13" drawing of two shapes of charcoal kilns, one round and one “beehive.” The beehive kiln is labeled as having been built in 1870 at the lower forge (Peru Steel & Iron Co. period). 1 item.

11/6 23½" x 19” Diploma awarded by the Clinton County Agricultural Society to the Peru Steel and Iron Company for First Premium Steel Iron, signed by J. B. White, President, and W. J. McCuffrey, Secretary, at Plattsburgh, N.Y., Sept. 15, 1871. 1 item.

65.10 Company account books 1842-1890:

Employee work records, credits and debits:

Vol. 1 “Time Book” ledger for July 1883 to August 1889. Named employees with tabulations of the days worked and their salaries. Entries through December 1885 correspond to the Peru Steel & Iron Co. with Francis Dominick as Receiver; subsequent entries begin with December of 1886 and are associated with the Peru Steel Ore Co., Ltd.

Vol. 2 “Journal” ledger for October 1885 to July 1886. Listing of individuals and accounts in terms of credits (wages for various jobs) and debits (cash advances, store purchases, etc.). Dates correspond to the final operations of the Peru Steel & Iron Co. with Francis J. Dominick as Receiver for the company.

Vol. 3 Ledger for April 1877 to January 1882. The left half of the page each page is dedicated to a named individual with a summary of monthly debits and numerically coded store purchases/etc. (from another ledger?); the person’s monthly wages are on the right half of the page.

Vol. 4 Ledger for February through December 1879. The left half of each page is dedicated to a named individual with a summary of monthly debits and unspecified store purchases, etc.; the person’s wages and credits are on the right half of the page.

Vol. 5 Ledger for January through December 1880. The left half of each page is dedicated to a named individual with a summary of monthly debits and unspecified store purchases, etc.; the person’s wages and credits are on the right half of the page.
Vol. 6  Ledger for January through December 1882. The left half of each page is dedicated to a named individual with a summary of monthly debits and unspecified store purchases, etc. (that are often numerically coded); the person’s wages and credits are on the right half of the page.

Vol. 7  Ledger for January through December 1883. The left half of each page is dedicated to a named individual, with a summary of monthly debits and unspecified store purchases, etc.; the person’s wages and credits are on the right half of the page.

Vol. 8  “Ledger” for January through December of 1884, with a few entries continuing as far as June 1885. “F.J. Dominick Receiver” on spine. Each page is dedicated to a named individual, with a summary of monthly debits and unspecified store purchases, etc. (that are often numerically coded) on the left half of the page, and the person’s wages and credits on the right half of the page.

**Company store records:**

Vol. 9  A cross-referencing ledger for August 1880 through March 1882, for summarizing daily purchases at the company store. Consists of a running list of named employees, their account number (in red preceding their name), and the amount spent. At the end of each month is a “recapitulation” of the month’s income. Peru Steel & Iron Co. era.

Vol. 10  Company store ledger for January through December 1884, with a few entries for January of 1885. Itemizes monthly purchases by named individuals, with 10% added to each person’s monthly total. Peru Steel & Iron Co. era.

Vol. 11  Coverless ledger which began as a cross-referencing store ledger like volume 9 above. Entries associated with the Peru Steel & Iron Co. date from August 22, 1884, through August 31, 1885. With no break in pagination, the record book then becomes the store ledger for the Peru Steel Ore Co., Ltd., with entries dating from March 1, 1887, through September 30 of that same year. These entries consist of a month/day/page-per-person itemization of what was bought, the price, and the total amount.

Vol. 12  Company store ledger stamped “Ledger / Palmer Ore Mine 1884 / F.J. Dominick Receiver” on spine, which was first used by the Peru Steel & Iron Co. from January 1, 1884, through October 5, 1885. Those entries are identical in format to the ones in volume 9 above. The record book then becomes the store ledger for the Peru Steel Ore Co., Ltd., with entries dating from October 1, 1887 through May 1, 1889. As in volume 11 above, these entries consist of a month/day/page-per-person itemization of what was bought, the price, and the total amount. These entries are often made on and between pages that had been used when the store was part of the Peru Steel & Iron Co.

Vol. 13  Company store ledger for April 1888 through May 1890, comprised of a running monthly list of expenditures (dollar amount only) by named individuals. At the end of each month is a “recapitulation of the month’s income. Peru Steel Ore Co., Ltd., era.
Records of Iron Manufactured

Vol. 14  Ledger stamped “Bloom Iron / PS&ICO.” on spine. Pages are pre-printed with columns for entering the names of the hammersmen, firemen (bloomers), and the amount of iron produced (T, Cwt, Qrs, Lbs), with separate columns for different types of iron. Entries associated with the Peru Steel & Iron Co. date from July 6, 1874, through April 21, 1886. Entries associate with the Peru Steel Ore Co., Ltd., run from April 18, 1887, through Sept. 29, 1888.

Vol. 15  Ledger with handwritten title of “Iron Book” on cover. Entries are from Oct. 8, 1888, through April 30, 1890, and are associated with the Peru Steel Ore Co., Ltd. Columns list the names of hammersmen, firemen (bloomers), and the amount of iron produced (T, Cwt, Qrs, Lbs).

Department expenditures:

Vol. 16  “Ledger” of expenditures associated with all departments of the Peru Steel & Iron Co. operations, 1874-1881, including suspense, store, iron, supplies, charcoal kilns, rolling mill, forge, foundry, separator, smith shop, grist mill, barn, wheelwright shop, Palmer Ore Mine, farm, rent, etc. Separate pages are dedicated to each department.

Vol. 17  “Ledger” of expenditures associated with all departments of the Peru Steel & Iron Co. operations, 1882-1885, including supplies, store, iron, charcoal kilns, rolling mill, forge, foundry, separator, smith shop, grist mill, barn, Palmer Ore Mine, real estate, New York office, etc. Separate pages are dedicated to each department.

Day Books:

Vol. 18  “Journal / P.I. Co.” ledger for September 1842 through June 1852. This Peru Iron Co. ledger is a month/day accounting of expenses associated with the major departments, including forges (including wages for making iron), separator, rolling mill, nail factory, wood yard, yard coals (charcoal), mule teams, sundries, interest, bills receivable and payable, credit, etc.

Vol. 19  “Daybook & Journal / Peru Steel & Iron Co.” ledger for April 13, 1865, through March 31, 1873. This ledger is associated with the beginning of the Peru Steel & Iron Co., and was almost certainly kept (at least for many years) in the company office in New York City for general accounting purposes. The first page lists the original 44 shareholders who each contributed 6¼% of the value of their shares as working capital for the company, for a total of $50,000. The main body of the ledger lists and summarizes each month’s receipts and expenditures, including payments made by the New York office to company officers and managers, to major suppliers of goods and services, as well as summarizing departmental expenditures/receipts of the Clintonville office and store.

Vol. 20  “Cash Book No. 8 / PS&I Co.” ledger for April 1877 through September 1880. This Peru Steel & Iron Co. ledger itemizes daily payments to named individuals and companies for briefly specified tasks, goods, or services, with an indication if the payment is made (or authorized?) by the New York Office. Notation of the amount paid out is at the end of each month’s entries.
Vol. 21 “Cash Book No. 8 / PS&I Co.” ledger for October 1880 through May 1882. This Peru Steel & Iron Co. ledger itemizes daily payments to named individuals and companies for briefly specified tasks, goods, or services, with an indication if the payment is made (authorized?) by the New York Office (NYO). Notation of the amount paid out is at the end of each month’s entries.

Vol. 22 “Journal / F.J. Dominick/Receiver” ledger for September 11, 1882, through July 28, 1883. This Peru Steel & Iron Co. daybook itemizes daily payments to named individuals, accounts, and companies for specific tasks, goods, or services. Entries for bloomers and hammersmen at the forge include notation of the amount of iron each person made or hammered. A listing of monthly rents paid by named tenants at the iron mine is at the back of the ledger, as is a monthly listing of individuals who were charged for a doctor’s medical services.

Vol. 23 A daybook of the Peru Steel & Iron Co. for July 12, 1884, through October 30, 1885, while F.J. Dominick was Receiver of the company. Entries itemize daily payments to named individuals, accounts, and companies, sometimes without clear indication of the task or service that was provided. Entries for bloomers and hammersmen at the forge include notation of the amount of iron each person made or hammered. Entries for October 19 & 30, 1885, summarize the value and disposition of the remaining accounts following the sale of the company’s personal property that had taken place in Clintonville in early October. A listing of monthly rents paid by named tenants at the iron mine is at the back of the ledger, as is a monthly listing of individuals who were charged for a doctor’s medical services.

Vol. 24 A daybook of the Peru Steel & Iron Co. for May 1884 through July 1886. Entries itemize daily payments to named individuals, accounts, and companies. F.J. Dominick had served as Receiver of the company through December of 1885, but was then rehired as Receiver until the closing accounting in the ledger, July 31, 1886.

Vol. 25 A daybook of the Peru Steel Ore Co., Ltd., for January 1887 through October 8, 1888. Entries itemize daily payments and or charges to named individuals, accounts, and companies.

Shipping Records:

Vol. 26 One record book of shipments of iron made at Clintonville, December 30, 1860, through May 1885, which includes shipments made by three of the consecutive companies (Peru Iron Co., Saltus & Co., and the Peru Steel & Iron Co.). Entries associated with the Peru Iron Co. (Dec. 30, 1860, to Dec. 28, 1861) are for iron deposited and shipped at the company’s wharf at Port Douglass on Lake Champlain, as are the entries for Saltus & Co. (Jan. 15, 1862, to May 1, 1865). Entries for the Peru Steel & Iron Co. shipments at Port Douglass run from June 10, 1865, through Nov. 15, 1869. Deposits and shipments from the Ausable River train station (between Clintonville and Ausable Forks) run from June 14, 1869, through Dec. 13, 1883. Iron manufactured at, and shipped from, the Lower Forge is entered separately, from Jan. 1869 through May 1885.

Vol. 27 Record book of number and weight of iron billets deposited at the Ausable Depot by the Peru Steel & Iron Co., Dec. 1877 through Dec. 1884.

Vol. 28 Record book of market billets for shipment by the Peru Steel & Iron Co. (Feb. 1882-1886?), and by the Peru Steel Ore Co., Ltd (May 1887-May 1888).
Vol. 29  Record book of number and weight of iron billets deposited at the Ausable Depot by the Peru Steel & Iron Co. (Jan. 1885 through May 1888), and by the Peru Steel Ore Co., Ltd. (June through Dec. 1888).

General Receiving Records:

Vol. 30  Approximately two dozen pages of a Receiving book associated with the Peru Steel Ore Co., Ltd., April 1887 through Nov. 1889. Notations include where and whom from, gross weight, brief description, where delivered, and by whom.

Charcoal Receiving Records:

Vol. 31  “Lower Forge Coal / Peru Steel and Iron Co.” record book of charcoal received at the lower forge, Jan. 1882 through April 1885. Pages are dedicated to specific charcoal makers, with notations of date, number of bushels per load, and the teamster.

Vol. 32  “Lower Forge Coal / Peru Steel and Iron Co.” record book of charcoal received at the lower forge, Jan. 1882 through Dec. 1889, thus indicating that the ledger continued to be used by the Peru Steel Ore Co., Ltd., beginning in May of 1887. Pages are dedicated to specific charcoal makers, with notations of date, number of bushels per load, and the teamster.

Inventory Records:

Vol. 33  “Inventory” ledger begun by the Peru Steel & Iron Co. on Dec. 30, 1882, and continued annually (except for 1886) until Dec. 1889. Includes itemization and valuation of equipment, materials, and supplies for all major components of the operations, such as barn, farm, grist mill, harness shop, foundry, forge, separator, rolling mill, store, kilns and associated buildings, coal and wood, and iron mines, as well as monies advanced to named individuals on contracts for wood, or advances in goods from the store to be paid in labor.

Stockholder and Dividends Records:

Vol. 34  “Dividends / Peru Steel & Iron Co.” ledger, February 23, 1867, through February 10, 1874, during which period there were nine dividend declarations. Contains lists of stockholders of the company’s 8000 shares, the dividend payment rate, and when paid.

Vol. 35  A coverless ledger which lists stockholders and liabilities of the Peru Steel & Iron Company in February of 1879, probably in conjunction with the company going into receivership. Entries include a list of stockholders of the company’s 8000 shares, a list of holders of mortgage bonds, a list of bills payable as entered in the New York Office ledger, a “Trial Balance” of the company (also from the New York ledger), a list of monetary liabilities to named individuals, and liabilities for salaries, borrowed money, and merchandise. A final section lists named individuals and companies with claims proved against the Peru Steel & Iron Co., and the sequence of court ordered payments to them, with interest, through 1880.
**Weight Station Records:**

Vol. 36  A journal of “merchandise weighed for and delivered to sundry parties,” July 1873 to October 1887. Month/day entries for “from whom,” gross weight, “fare” or wagon weight, net weight, kind of merchandise, “to whom,” and the name of the teamster. Items weighed include hay, straw, oats, corn stalks, potatoes, turnips, stove coal, lime, stone, and bones. A section at the beginning of the journal is a record of cattle bought and slaughtered from May 1, 1867, through April 18, 1868.

**Conveyance Records:**

Vol. 37  “Peru Iron Co. Conveyances” journal with transcriptions of land sales by and to the Peru Iron Company, as well as land leases and other legal agreements with individuals, such as for the making of charcoal, 1842 to 1864. Pages at the back of the journal detail lot surveys of the 6th and 7th Divisions of the Livingston Tract surveyed and subdivided in the fall of 1844 by J. N. Macomber. A map of the Livingston Tract, showing divisions owned by the Peru Iron Co., is on the back flyleaf of the journal.