

C Blackwell, John A. (1834-), Papers, 1852-1940
3732 2.3 cubic feet

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INTRODUCTION

Contains the correspondence, diaries, writings, Civil War papers, and medical practice records of a doctor from Bedford, IN, who later lived in Foristell and Wellsville, MO. Also included are family letters, Woman's Christian Temperance Union records, and a history of the Clover family.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by J.J. McKinny on 11 Mar 1981 (Accession No. 2360). An addition was made on 27 Jul 1981 by J.J. McKinny (Accession No. 2379).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John A. Blackwell was born in 1834 in Bedford, Indiana. He attended Wabash College in Crawfordsville and graduated with a degree in medicine. It was there in 1859 that he married Caroline Wolfe, and they had five children. In 1861 Blackwell joined Company D, 12th Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, as a first lieutenant, and later the 115th Regiment as a surgeon.

After the war ended he returned to Crawfordsville, and in 1872 moved to Foristell, Missouri. In 1881 the family moved to Wellsville, where Caroline died in 1909.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The major strengths of the collection are the family correspondence, Civil War papers, medical practice records, and the essays and writings of John A. Blackwell. The two major groups of letters are to John Blackwell from his future wife, Caroline Wolfe, and to Nettie Blackwell from her parents and brother, Henry. The remaining correspondence between family members is very limited. All letters are arranged chronologically. The Civil War papers are fairly complete, and included with them is a detailed account of John Blackwell's war experiences written around 1900. His medical records, although only covering the years 1860-1878, give a good summary of the patients and types of illnesses that he had to deal with. The essays and notes that Blackwell kept give a good impression of his wide-ranging interests.

The remainder of the collection includes Blackwell's personal diaries and miscellaneous family papers. The diaries were kept for only a few years and are only partially complete.

FOLDER LIST

f. 1-14	Correspondence, 1853-1896. The letters are to and from members of the Blackwell family and their friends. They deal with the courtship of John Blackwell and Carrie Wolfe from 1855 to 1860; family life during the period 1886-1896; the experiences of their children away from home at school and work; and some discussion of politics and events of the day.
f. 15-20	Diaries, 1857-1911. The diaries of John Blackwell contain his daily record of events and the weather. Also included in several diaries are financial records and notes. The diaries are incomplete and cover only a portion of the years involved. The diary for 1911 also includes the high and low temperatures for each day an entry was made.
f. 15	1857
f. 16	1870, 1899-1900
f. 17	1900-1904
f. 18	1905-1906
f. 19	1907-1908
f. 20	1911, n.d.
f. 21-26	Civil War Records, 1861-1864. The Civil War records include Blackwell's memoirs of his service as a doctor in the 12th and 115th Regiments, Indiana Volunteers; his enlistment, discharge, and other official papers; two diaries he kept during the war; and a book entitled <i>A Soldier's Friend</i> that had been presented to him.
f. 21	Civil War Recollections, (original)
f. 22	Civil War Recollections, (typescript of page 1-109)
f. 23	Civil War Papers, 1861-1863
f. 24	Civil War Papers, 1863-1864
f. 25	Civil War Diaries, 1863-1864
f. 26	<i>A Soldier's Friend</i> , 1862
f. 27-34	Medical Practice Papers, 1856-1878. Daily record books with entries by Blackwell listing his patients, their illnesses, and his treatment. Books also have printed sections discussing diseases, remedies, prescriptions, and poisons and some diary entries. A book of prescriptions; medical notes from college courses; and miscellaneous papers dealing with his practice.
f. 27-30	Medical Record Books, 1860-1875
f. 31	Medical Record Book, 1876-1878, and prescription book, 1872
f. 32-33	Medical Notes, 1856-1872
f. 34	Medical Practice Papers, 1858-1876
f. 35-45	Essays and Notes, 1852-1907. Essays of John Blackwell on a variety of subjects, including fame, truth, language, friendship, old age, passions, mathematics, procrastination, prisons, memory, courage,

	and progress. A series of notebooks contains notes from Blackwell's time in school and information that he later collected.
f. 35-38	Essays, 1853-1907, n.d.
f. 39-44	School notebooks, 1852-1857, n.d.
f. 45	School notes, n.d.
f. 46-49	Miscellaneous Personal Papers, 1854-1917. Contains notebook listing appointments and personal notes of John Blackwell; two photographs of him, one in his Civil War uniform; account books listing his purchases of food, clothing, and other items; and miscellaneous papers, including receipts, reading lists, and printed material.
f. 46	Personal notebooks, 1880, 1895
f. 47	Photographs, 1860s, 1902
f. 48	Personal account books, 1860-1877
f. 49	Miscellany, 1854-1917, n.d.
f. 50-59	Miscellaneous Family Papers, 1855-1940. Miscellaneous personal papers and newspaper clippings from the Blackwell family. Graduating essay of Caroline Wolfe from Crawfordsville, Indiana Female Seminary, 1855. Grand Army of the Republic souvenir program, 1912. Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Wellsville, Missouri, minute and account books, 1887-1895. History of the Glover family. List of schools where James May taught, 1886.

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