This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shresearch@umsystem.edu.

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

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