

Information Sheet

R McComb, James, 1832-1926.
238 Papers, 1852-1926.
Eight folders.

MICROFILM

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

These are papers of Dr. James McComb, an early physician of Laclede County, Missouri. The papers include medical notebooks and treatment records, Civil War papers, McComb's autobiography, and family correspondence following his death.

James McComb was born on 12 March 1832 near Jacksonville in Morgan County, Illinois. His family moved to Missouri in 1837, settling on the Osage River near Bagnell. The elder McComb died there shortly after their arrival. James McComb was educated at schools in Bagnell, High Point, and Warsaw, and then received medical training at Columbia and St. Louis. He opened a practice in Laclede County at Dry Glaze in 1858. He married Mary L. Holman (1840-1921) at Dry Glaze in 1860.

McComb served as an assistant surgeon in Gen. Parson's division of the Missouri State Guard at the beginning of the Civil War. He returned home in 1862, and moved for a short time to California, Missouri, to practice. In 1864 McComb was at Rolla, where he served as examining surgeon for a company of militiamen. In October 1864 he went to the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia for additional training, graduating in 1865. He returned to Missouri to reside in Lebanon, where he practiced until his death in 1926. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and Christian Church in Lebanon, as well as the Laclede County and Missouri state medical associations.

McComb's papers are organized in two sections: medical notebooks and personal papers. Of the medical material, the memoranda book, 1852-1859 (folder 1) and an undated notebook (folder 4) appear to contain notes made by McComb during the course of his medical education. Two other notebooks (folders 2 and 3) contain records of his practice in Laclede County. The treatment record in folder 3 will be of particular use to genealogists and students of medical history.

The personal papers contain military documents pertaining to McComb's service in the Missouri State Guard, and a pass through Union lines in Missouri in 1864. Other materials include McComb's autobiography, written in three installments, 1907-1924; miscellaneous newspaper clippings concerning his family, career, and death; and condolences to family members after McComb's death in 1926.

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28 October 1985

Bernice M. Patton

Loaned for microfilming

Shelf List

These are papers of Dr. James McComb, an early physician of Laclede County, Missouri. The papers include medical notebooks and treatment records, Civil War papers, McComb's autobiography, and family correspondence following his death.

Folders 1-4: Medical notebooks, 1852-1909.

Folder 1: Memoranda book, 1852-1859 (82 pages).

McComb's notes on treatment of various medical conditions, interspersed with entries on personal business and travel.

Folder 2: Treatment record, 1891-1909 (129 pages).

Medical histories of patients, with treatments and results noted. Pages 120-122 contain notes on churches in Laclede County.

Folder 3: Daybook, 1905-1907 (100 pages).

Daybook of medical practice, September-December 1905, followed by miscellaneous expense accounts for rent and fuel, 1905-1907.

Folder 4: Medical notebook, n.d. (224 pages).

McComb's notes on treatments and prescriptions for various diseases; the notes are entered in a physician's notebook published by the Medical News, Lea Brothers & Co., 1889.

Folders 5-8: Military papers, biographical materials, and family papers, 1861-1926.

Folder 5: Military papers, 1861-1864 (4 items).

Papers concerning McComb's position as assistant surgeon, Missouri State Guard; pass through Union lines at Lebanon; and certificate of service as examining surgeon of "Rolla militia."

Folder 6: "A brief autobiography of Dr. James McComb," written in three parts, 1907-1924 (44 pages).

Folder 7: Biographical material, 1908-1926 (9 items).

Newspaper clippings, etc., including anniversary notices and obituaries of James McComb and his wife.

Folder 8: Correspondence, 1926 (16 items).

Condolences to family members regarding the death of James McComb.

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Index Cards

Allen, William R.
Churches—Missouri—Laclede County.
Columbia (Mo.).
Dry Glaize (Mo.).
Laclede County (Mo.).
Laclede County Medical Association (Mo.).
Lebanon (Mo.).
Little Tebo (Mo.).
McComb, James, 1832-1926.
McComb, Mary Holman, 1840-1921.
Medical fees.
Medical records.
Missouri—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.
Missouri State Guard.
Physicians—Missouri—Laclede County.
University of Missouri.