

Dr. J. W. Parker Account Books

This collection contains the record books of J. W. Parker who was a physician practicing in Westport beginning in the 1850s. His patients included both the white settlers in the area as well as some Indians.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Dr. J. W. Parker
Title: Dr. J. W. Parker account books
Dates: 1851-1873, bulk 1856-1872
Size: 1 box, 5 account books
Location: SC46

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: Unrestricted access.

Terms governing use and reproduction: Due to preservation concerns, researchers are asked to use the microfilm copy.

Additional physical form available: Also available on microfilm.

Related collections in other depositories: A copy of the microfilm of this collection is also available at Western Historical Manuscripts-Kansas City (KC0148) and the State Historical Society of Missouri.

Acquisition information: Unknown

Custodial history: Formerly classed, MVSC Q 091.9 P24, in Missouri Valley Special Collections.

Citation note: Dr. J.W. Parker account books (SC46), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Collection Description

Biographical/Historical note

Dr. James W. Parker was called John as well as James and was born in Fayette County, Kentucky, about 1822. After attending Transylvania University and after living in Kentucky, Texas, and California, he settled in Westport, Missouri, in 1851 where he practiced medicine among the white settlers and among the Shawnee, Wyandotte, and Delaware Indians.

During the Civil War he moved with his family to Nebraska City, Nebraska, returning to Westport sometime after 1882. He died March 2, 1907, at the age of 85 and is buried in Union Cemetery, Kansas City, Missouri. He and other men in Westport tried to promote a wind wagon as a means of crossing the prairies. However this venture was never successful.

Scope and content note

This collection contains five account books and one item of correspondence. Most of the account books contain medical records, such as names of patients, daily medical activities, treatments and charges, and cover the years Dr. Parker lived in Westport, Missouri. Several people who were prominent in Kansas City history are mentioned such as Jim Bridger, A.G. Boone, John Harris, Seth Hays, Thomas Johnson, John C. McCoy, Jacob Ragan, John B. Wornall, and many others.

One account book appears to contain information on wagon train accounts while Dr. Parker was in Nebraska City. Also included is a letter dated September 19, 1853, from Jotham Meeker to Parker. These account books are available on microfilm in the department (yellow dot drawer).

Collection Inventory

- Account Book #1 - August 16, 1851 - January 17, 1856, 31 cm., 160 pages (Pages after p.160 are missing) - Contains the names of patients with date of attendance, ailment, treatment, and charges. Name index is included and listed below which was compiled for microfilming. Medical accounts- Westport, Missouri.
- Account Book #2 - January 1, 1856 - August 1, 1863, 32 ½ cm., 348 pages (Pages 325-352 missing) - Contains the names of patients with date of attendance, ailment, treatment, and charges. Name index is included at the beginning of the volume.
- Account Book #3 - September 1, 1853 - November 18, 1854, 31 ½ cm., 120 pages - Calendar/day book, medical accounts, Westport, Missouri. Chronological ledger of daily medical activities showing patients attended, ailment, treatment, and charges.
- Account Book #4 - January 1, 1856 - September 30, 1857, 31 ½ cm., 206 pages - Calendar/day Book, medical accounts, Westport, Missouri. Chronological ledger of daily medical activities showing patients attended, ailment, treatment, and charges.
- Account Book #5 - May 2, 1864 - March 14, 1868, 25 cm., 13 pages –Wagon train accounts. From the dates of the accounts, it is supposed that Parker was involved in this business while in Nebraska City, Nebraska.
- Account Book # 5 (continued) - February 14, 1868 - December 26, 1872, 25 cm., 106 pages - Includes names of patients with date of attendance, ailment, treatment, and charges.
- Correspondence, September 19, 1853, 2 pages - Letter from Jotham Meeker, Ottawa Mission (Kansas Territory) to Parker concerning a Col. Moore who was in need of medical treatment. Gives detailed directions on getting from Westport to the Ottawa Mission.

Index to Medical Accounts, Westport, Missouri, August 16, 1851, to January 17, 1856, incomplete as some pages are damaged and all pages after page 160 are missing.

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