



THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

K0148

James W. Parker (1822-1907) Records

1851-1872

Two folders and five volumes (MICROFILM)

Financial, medical journals (listing patient name, ailment, treatment and charge for the service), and other records of Parker, a physician in Westport, MO prior to the Civil War. The records also include information on the overland trade in which Parker invested, both in Westport and in Nebraska City, NE.

BIOGRAPHY:

James W. Parker (sometimes referred to as John) was born in Fayette County, Kentucky, near Lexington about 1822. He received formal education from Transylvania University in both the literary and medical departments and graduated in 1846. Dr. Parker began immediately to practice medicine in Boone County, Kentucky. During the Mexican War he worked for a year in a military hospital attached to General William Jenkins Worth's Division in Texas after which he traveled to Missouri in 1849, crossed the plains to California in 1850 and then returned to Missouri to settle at Westport in 1851 where he again took up the practice of medicine. His work was largely among the Shawnee, Wyandotte and Delaware Indians and extended as far as fifty miles from his home.

Dr. Parker was one of a group of Westport men who tried to develop and promote a wind wagon as a means of transportation across the prairie. However, difficulties with guiding the wagons in a stiff breeze and on wretched roads doomed the project.

In April, 1853, Dr. Parker went to Bullitt County, Kentucky to marry Elizabeth (Lizzie) Burdett.

During the Civil War, Parker supervised a hospital in Westport before moving to Nebraska City, Nebraska, in September, 1863. His family is recorded in the Nebraska State Census of March, 1865, reporting a son, John, two years old and born in Missouri and a six month old infant boy born in Nebraska. The family is also listed in the Federal Census of Nebraska for the years 1870 and 1880. In the

latter year, Parker stated he was 56 years old, his wife was 46 and three children lived at home: William, a cattle herder, 17 years old; Burdette, 15 years; and, Daisy, 14.

Besides an active medical practice in Nebraska City, Dr. Parker was also the junior partner in the drug firm of Price and Parker. There are indications that he may have been involved in the business of overland shipping via wagon train between the years 1864 and 1868. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church and served as secretary of its Board of Trustees. Also, Dr. Parker was a founding member of a cricket club which was organized at Nebraska City in the summer of 1867. Dr. Parker's wife was a member of the Southern Relief Association, which raised funds to aid distressed persons in the South after the War.

Sometime after 1882, Dr. Parker returned to Westport where he died March 2, 1907 at the age of 85 years. He was buried in Union Cemetery and was survived by his wife and three children, J. William Parker, Dr. Peyton B. Parker and Mrs. William (Elizabeth) Doran.

PROVENANCE:

The records were loaned for microfilming by the Missouri Valley Room of the Kansas City, Missouri, Public Library and received as accession 0284kc on May 15, 1985.

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PREFERRED CITATION:

Specific item; folder number; *James W. Parker (1822-1907) Records (K0148)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

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DESCRIPTION:

The records contain four volumes of financial daybooks and journals concerning Dr. James W. Parker's medical practice in Westport, Missouri, 1851-1857, and Nebraska City, Nebraska, 1868-1872. Also included is a volume of financial accounts pertaining to overland shipping via wagon train, presumably out of Nebraska City, for the years 1864-1868. In one of the folders of the records is a letter dated 19 September 1853, from Jotham Meeker of the Ottawa Mission, Kansas Territory, calling on Dr. Parker for medical assistance for a Col. Moore.

Some of the volumes have indexes; however, a name index has been prepared and will be found in Folder 1. Each of the medical journals lists the name of the patient, the ailment, treatment and charge made for the service. The daybooks provide similar information; however, they are chronological ledgers of Dr. Parker's daily medical activities. Internal dates and other evidence within the volumes suggest that a number of other record books were created but are now missing.

INVENTORY:

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| Folder 1. | Indexes |
| Folder 2. | Items removed from account books
Letter from Jotham Meeker of the Ottawa Mission, Kansas Territory to Parker (September 19, 1853). C.C. Huffaker receipt for tuition (July 17, 1863). |

Journals: Westport, Missouri.

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| Volume 1 | August 16, 1851 - January 9, 1858
Page 161 to the end of the volume are missing. |
| Volume 2 | January 1, 1856 - February 12, 1864 |

Daybooks: Westport, Missouri.

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| Volume 3 | September 1, 1853 - November 18, 1854 |
| Volume 4 | January 1, 1856 - September 30, 1857 |

Journals: Nebraska City, Nebraska

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| Volume 5 | Wagon Train Accounts: May 2, 1864 - March 14, 1868
Medical Accounts: February 14, 1868 - April 7, 1874 |
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