

Information Sheet

R **Yates, Paul Christian, 1836-1907.**
648 **Journal, 1880-1905.**
 One volume.

MICROFILM

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This is a journal diary kept by Dr. Paul C. Yates, a physician in Newton County, Missouri. Included are narratives of individual cases (particularly maternity “calls”), notes for addresses to meetings of medical associations, and a few personal items.

Paul Christian Yates was born in Randolph County, Missouri, on 01 March 1836. In 1861 he graduated from Pope’s Medical College in St. Louis. During the Civil War he was a Surgeon in the 5th Missouri Infantry (C.S.) and the 38th Arkansas Infantry (C.S.). After the war he married Alice Levie (1846-1923), a native of South Carolina, and established a medical practice at Jacksonville in northern Randolph County. In 1880 he moved to Neosho, the seat of Newton County, where he practiced and lived until his death on 18 February 1907. A Good Templar, a Democrat, and a founder of the Newton County Medical Society, Paul C. Yates is buried in the IOOF Cemetery at Neosho.

Dr. Yates’s journal affords excellent illustrations from the practice of a small town/country doctor in the late nineteenth and very early twentieth centuries. Although antiseptic regimens were just coming into use, Yates lacked the antibiotics, surgical facilities, and technical apparatuses, such as x-rays, that would soon revolutionize the medical profession. His medicines, always carefully described as to formulation and dosage, consisted mainly of narcotics, stimulants, anodynes, and astringents. He could relieve pain and perform basic manipulations, but he had little curative power. Nevertheless Dr. Yates assisted his patients to the best of his knowledge and ability. The journal shows that he kept up to date with medical literature and that by the later years described here he was aware of the microbe theory of disease, although except for very basic antiseptic precautions he had few weapons at his disposal.

A large portion of the journal (pages 66-141) is devoted to an essentially chronological list of Dr. Yates’s “calls” to cases of childbirth. While many accounts are brief (“natural labor male child both did well”), more complicated cases are described in considerable detail. Without facilities for Caesarian surgery, care for premature infants, or treatments of hemorrhages and subsequent infections, many of these more difficult cases had unhappy endings. Many instances of self-induced or spontaneous abortions are also noted.

The journal has been typescripted, except for a few pages which had nothing to do with Dr. Yates’s practice. The entries were made in an almost-unused ledger printed for the North Missouri Railroad Company. This journal will be of considerable research value to medical and social historians of the period.

Shelf List

This is a journal diary kept by Dr. Paul C. Yates, a physician in Newton County, Missouri. Included are narratives of individual cases (particularly maternity “calls”), notes for addresses to meetings of medical associations, and a few personal items.

Folder 1: Typescript, 172 pp. [NOTE: Pages 6-15 have not been typescripted, but they have been included on the microfilm.].

Folder 2: Journal

The original journal’s pages are not numbered. The pages of the typescript have been numbered for the convenience of the researcher.

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006-014	Consignment receipts, North Missouri Railroad Company [not typescripted]
015	Estate records of J. M. Yates [not typescripted]
016	Case of Mollie I.
017-018	“Valedictory address” by P. C. Yates, M.D., to Randolph County Clinic
019	Letter to editor of Huntsville (Mo.) <i>Herald</i> , 09 July 1880, <i>re</i> politics
020-022	Obituary for Solomon C. Powell, died 20 April 1880
023	Letter to editor, <i>Clinical Record</i> , <i>re</i> forensic insanity
024-025	Narrative account of visit to Newton County, May 1880
026	Case of “J D step son of Mrs. S.” (November-December 1881)
027	Move to Neosho, Nov. 1880; letter to Newton County Court, 15 September 1882, <i>re</i> need for a hospital
028-036	Cases, late 1881
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043-046	Cases, 1882-1883; obstetrical cases [pp. 45-46]
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