



## Paul Christian Yates Papers (R0648)

**Collection Number:** R0648

**Collection Title:** Paul Christian Yates Papers

**Dates:** 1880-1905

**Creator:** Yates, Dr. Paul Christian

**Abstract:** The Paul Christian Yates Papers contain a microfilm copy of a journal 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.

**Collection Size:** (1 roll of microfilm)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [rolla@shsmo.org](mailto:rolla@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Paul Christian Yates Papers* (R0648); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

**Donor Information:** This collection was loaned for microfilming to the University of Missouri by the Newton County Historical Society on November 6, 1998 (Accession No. RA0717).

**Other Finding Aid:** An item level index of the cases described in Dr. Paul C. Yates' journal is available in the collections administration folder.

**Processed by:** Processed by Mark C. Stauter, February 16, 1999. Revised by Aaron Schmidt, May 2020.

### **Biographical Note:**

Paul Christian Yates was born in Randolph County, Missouri, on March 10, 1836. In 1861, he graduated from Pope's Medical College in Saint 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 February 18, 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.

### **Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

### **Scope and Content Note:**

Dr. Yates's journal affords excellent illustrations from the practice of a small town/rural 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, 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, pages 6-15, 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.

### **Container List:**

Roll 1	f. 1	Paul C. Yates journal, typescript, 1880-1905
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