



Thomas Akers Barr Papers (R0270)

Collection Number: R0270

Collection Title: Thomas Akers Barr Papers

Dates: 1861-1919

Creator: Barr, Thomas Akers, 1841-1903

Abstract: The Thomas Akers Barr Papers contain a microfilm copy of correspondence and personal papers belonging to Thomas Akers Barr, a native of Illinois and physician who started his practice in Lebanon, Missouri, around 1869. The papers include letters from Illinois soldiers serving in Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina during the Civil War. Also included are letters from physicians in Illinois and Missouri and from Harry Woodson Barr while he was at Camp Bowie, Texas, in 1918-1919.

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. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: Materials in this collection are in the public domain.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Thomas Akers Barr Papers* (R0270); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The papers were loaned for copying to the University of Missouri by Frances B. Lenz on April 29, 1986 (Accession No. RA0338).

Existence and Location of Originals: The original correspondence and personal papers were returned to Frances B. Lenz after a microfilm copy of most of the items was made. Not all of the items listed in the information folder list were included in the microfilm copy.

Processed by: Processed by John Bradbury, July 16, 1986. Revised by Kathleen Seale, December 10, 2019.

Biographical Note:

Thomas Akers Barr was born in 1841 in Salem, Illinois. His father was Isaac Greenfield Barr, a Methodist circuit rider who died in 1845. Thomas became interested in medicine and attended the Cincinnati Eclectic College, graduating in 1864. First practicing in Hutsonville, Illinois, he moved to Lebanon, Missouri, to establish practice in 1869. There, in 1871, he married Nancy Ann Frances Johnson of Fulton, Missouri. Thirteen children were born of the union. Dr. Barr was well known in Lebanon as a physician and as a member of fraternal organizations, among them the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Masonic Lodge. He practiced medicine in Lebanon until his death in 1903.

Harry Woodson Barr was born in 1897, the youngest son of Dr. Thomas and Nancy Ann Barr. He served as a regimental clerk in the United States Army during World War I. He spent nearly his entire term of service stationed at Camp Bowie, Texas.

Arrangement:

The collection is in its original order in one folder.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains a microfilm copy of correspondence and personal papers belonging to Thomas Akers Barr. The papers include letters from Illinois soldiers serving in Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina during the Civil War. Also included are letters from physicians in Illinois and Missouri and from Harry Woodson Barr while he was at Camp Bowie, Texas, in 1918-1919. The collection has been assembled from a much larger collection of family papers. Most of the material selected consists of correspondence addressed to Dr. Barr, although a few miscellaneous business papers are included. The correspondence includes Civil War letters to Barr from friends serving in several Illinois infantry units. There are letters from soldiers in the 62nd regiment at Camp Kenton, Tennessee, the 111th regiment at Columbus, Kentucky, and the 31st regiment at Goldsboro and Raleigh, North Carolina. The letters from George W. Hand of the 31st Illinois contain comments on the surrender of the Confederate Army in North Carolina and the assassination of President Lincoln.

In 1864, Barr began corresponding with Dr. Lyman Pike, an eclectic physician in Onarga, Iroquois County, Illinois. Pike was seeking a partner in his practice, and Barr's eclectic credentials suited him. He wrote often to Barr from 1863 to 1866, commenting on the philosophy of eclectic medicine, listing the works in his medical library, and describing the increasing rivalry between himself and allopathic and homeopathic practitioners in Onarga. Although Barr visited Pike and evidently considered working with him, he ultimately declined to do so. Their correspondence ended in 1867 after a dispute involving a small business matter. In Missouri, Barr corresponded with Dr. T. H. Jones, of Newtonia, whose practice included patients from the lead mines around Granby.

The remainder of the Barr collection consists of letters written by Harry Woodson Barr during his service in World War I. His letters note details of his training, life at Camp Bowie, and demobilization after the end of the war.

Container List:

Roll 1 f. 1 Correspondence and personal papers, 1861-1919

Index:

Index Term	Folder	Image
Ancient Order of United Workmen. Grand Lodge of the State of Missouri	1	
Barr family	1	
Barr, Florence	1	Yes
Barr, Harry Woodson, 1897-	1	
Barr, John T.	1	
Barr, Thomas Akers, 1841-1903	1	
Benton (Mo.)	1	
Burns, E.A.	1	
Camp Bowie (Tex.)	1	
Camp Butler (Ill.)	1	
Camp Jackson (Tenn.)	1	
Camp Kenton (Tenn.)	1	
Cape Girardeau (Mo.)	1	
Carthage (Mo.)	1	
Columbus (Ky.)	1	
Cox, Mary A.	1	
Fort Halleck (Columbus, Ky.)	1	
Goldsboro (N.C.)	1	
Granby (Mo.)	1	
Hake, Clarence C.	1	
Hand, George W.	1	
Houts, C.M.	1	
Houts, T.F.	1	
Johnson, Rachel	1	Yes
Kelly, T.G.	1	
Lebanon (Mo.)	1	
Medicine, eclectic	1	
Military camps	1	
Newtonia (Mo.)	1	
Onarga (Ill.)	1	
Paducah (Ky.)	1	
Physicians--Illinois	1	
Physicians--Missouri	1	

Index Term	Folder	Image
Pike, Lyman C.	1	
Raleigh (N.C.)	1	
Saint Louis (Mo.)	1	
Salem (Ill.)	1	
Scott, Cal	1	
Springfield (Mo.)	1	
Stribling, R.S.	1	
Thrailkill, John W.	1	
United States. Army. Illinois Infantry Regiment, 111 th (1862-1865)	1	
United States. Army. Illinois Infantry Regiment, 2 nd (1862-1866)	1	
United States. Army. Illinois Infantry Regiment, 31 st (1862-1865)	1	
White County (Ill.)	1	
Wilson, R.S.	1	
World War, 1914-1918	1	