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Westerfield, William Peter, 1835-1916 (MSS 471)

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Descriptive Inventory

MSS 471 WESTERFIELD, William Peter, 1835-1916

1½ boxes. 14 folders. 50 items. 1809-1966. Photocopies.

SC2013.128.1

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

William Peter Westerfield, the son of David Westerfield (1812-1872) and Catherine Whittington (d. 1847), was born on 17 April 1835 in Breckinridge County, Kentucky. He began his medical studies in 1853, and entered into practice at Rochester (Butler County) Kentucky, in 1861. In 1857, Westerfield married Martha A. Miles (d. 1872), and after her death married Mary P. Hill in 1873. He was the father of four children with his first wife and six children with his second. Dr. Westerfield died on 7 July 1916.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists primarily of nine photocopied diaries of Dr. William P. Westerfield dating from 1895 to 1915. The diaries consist of handwritten entries in pre-printed calendar-style books created for physicians and advertising case studies, remedies and other medical information. Typescripts of the diaries are included, and typescripts of two additional diaries from 1912 and 1913 (but not copies of the actual diaries) are also included (Box 2, Folder 3). Some biographical and genealogical data on Dr. Westerfield (Box 1, Folder 2) and members of his family (Box 2, Folders 4, 5) is also in the collection.

Westerfield's diary entries cover primarily the weather and local events such as births, deaths, accidents, fires, river risings, road conditions, surgeries performed, leisure activities and the activities of his acquaintances. More unusual contents include a reference in the 1900 diary to a trip to Bowling Green in October to see Theodore Roosevelt, and to voters in Rochester being paid to stay away from the polls (Box 1, Folder 4); several entries about Halley's Comet in March 1910 (Box 1, Folder 8); and Westerfield's bout with smallpox in March-April 1912 (Box 2, Folder 3). The activities of a local family, the Obenchains, receive regular mention, especially in 1911 (Box 1, Folder 9).

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	WESTERFIELD, William Peter	1860-1911	14 items
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	Biographical data; articles about diary	1860-1960	6 items
Folder 3	Diary	1895	1 item
Folder 4	Diary	1900	1 item
Folder 5	Diary	1902	1 item
Folder 6	Diary	1904	1 item
Folder 7	Diary	1908	1 item
Folder 8	Diary	1910	1 item
Folder 9	Diary	1911	1 item
BOX 2	WESTERFIELD, William Peter	1809-1966	36 items
Folder 1	Diary	1914	1 item
Folder 2	Diary	1915	1 item
Folder 3	Diary typescripts	1895-1915	11 items
Folder 4	Westerfield family group sheets	n.d.	10 items
Folder 5	Miscellaneous family data	1809-1966	13 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS WESTERFIELD, William Peter, 1809-1966
471 1835-1916

Diaries of William P. Westerfield, a Rochester, Kentucky physician, recording the weather and local events from 1895-1915. Includes some Westerfield family data.

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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Comets, 1910 – Comments about, 1910 B1,F8
 Diaries – Westerfield, William Peter, 1835-1916
 Elections and election campaigns, 1900 – Comments about, 1900 B1,F4
 Johnson, Elizabeth (Westfall), b. 1843 – Relating to B2,F5
 Medicine – Prescriptions and remedies
 Obenchain family – Mentioned B1,F8,9; B2,F2
 Physicians – Butler County
 Westerfield family – Relating to
 Westerfield, James Oliver, 1889-1966 – Relating to B2,F5

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