

**GARR FAMILY PAPERS
1849-1901**

**Collection #
SC 1884**

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Processed by
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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 7 folders

COLLECTION DATES: 1849-1901

PROVENANCE: Miss Dorothy Helmer, Indianapolis IN, August 1983 and 5 August 1994

RESTRICTIONS: None

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBERS: 1983.0184, 1994.0893

HISTORICAL SKETCH

This collection contains material on the Garr family of Kokomo, Indiana, in the latter half of the nineteenth century.

John Wesley Garr (1817-1866) came to Indiana from Virginia in 1846. He settled first in Johnson County and then in 1851 in Howard County. He received a medical degree from the University of Louisville in 1849, writing a paper on intermittent fever. He farmed and had a medical practice. He married Anna Clore, and both had family connections in Kentucky.

The son of this couple, **James O. Garr** (1850-1930), was educated in local schools and at Howard College and High School. In 1873-1875 he studied medicine: first with Drs. William Scott and E. A. Armstrong in Kokomo; then attending medical lectures in Indianapolis; and finally graduating from the Medical College of Ohio. In 1875 he married Edna Overton, and they had four children.

Though based in Kokomo, James Garr and his family moved about quite a bit. In 1878-1879 they were in Great Bend, Kansas; in 1901 they were about to return from a stay in Houston, Virginia.

Sources: Materials in collection

Biographical and Genealogical History of Cass, Miami, Howard, and Tipton Counties (1898), Vol. 1 pp. 69-71

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection, filling seven folders, contains correspondence, school papers, and printed material from the period 1849-1901. It is arranged chronologically.

Folder 1 contains John Wesley Garr's 1849 paper on intermittent fever, a record of his graduation from medical school, and a tax bill for his father, Benjamin Garr. Folder 2 contains letters from Mary Diane Garr in Kentucky to her parents in Kokomo in 1862 when she was helping nurse her grandfather.

Folders 3-4 document the school days of James O. Garr. In Folder 3 are school papers from 1867-1871, and in Folder 4 letters from the same period to his cousin Newton B. Smith of Nineveh.

In Folder 5 are family letters between Kokomo and Great Bend, Kansas, from the period of James Garr's sojourn at the latter place.

Folder 6 contains two letters pertaining to James Garr's return to Kokomo from Virginia in 1901, and Folder 7 contains copies of portraits of John Wesley Garr and James O. Garr.

FOLDER LISTING

FOLDER

- 1 John Wesley Garr medical records 1849
Benjamin Garr tax bill 1864
- 2 Mary D. Garr to family 1862
- 3 James O. Garr school papers 1867-1871
- 4 James O. Garr to Newton B. Smith 1868-1874
- 5 Letters to and from Great Bend, Kansas 1878-1879
- 6 James O. Garr 1901

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC 1884).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.