

**St. John's Eruptive Hospital and other "pest houses"**

Louisville City Council records, uncataloged – has information on pesthouse

Plan of the city of Jeffersonville and vicinity.

[s.l. : s.n., 1876?]

Call no.: Rare Small Map 977.2 P699 1876

Shows wards of Jeffersonville as well as the location of the pest house

Crawford family. Papers, 1838-1901. 0.5 cu. ft. (in 1 cu. ft. box)

Call No. Mss. A C899 / 5

Content: This collection consists of papers relating to the Crawford family of Louisville, Kentucky, and other places in the South. In a 25 November 1883 letter to his brother Sandy, Brown Crawford mentions a "pest house" in Louisville and writes "they are building it on the Alms House farm and the Mayor wants to make a western cemetery of the lot down here—the people living near the alms house have made a vigorous kick but of no avail" (Folder 5).

Rules governing the Board of Commissioners of Public Charities of the City of Louisville, Ky. : its appointees, subordinate officers and employes; and the patients, inmates and prisoners in the Louisville City Hospital, Forest Hill Lying-In Hospital, St. John's Eruptive Hospital, Louisville City Alms-House, and Louisville City Work- House.

Board of Commissioners of Public Charities of the City of Louisville, Ky.

Louisville, Ky. : Courier-Journal Book Print., 1878.

Call no.: Rare Pamphlet 362.1068 B662 1878

Ghosts of Cloverleaf : St. John's Eruptive Hospital / by Barry A. Royalty.

Royalty, Barry A.

Louisville, KY : Barry A. Royalty, 2022

Call no.: Pamphlet 362.16 R888

**Smallpox**

McDowell, Robert Emmett, 1914-1975. Collection, 1774-1869. 17 vols.

Call No. Mss. A M138a 12

Content: David Grable deposes that he traveled the road from Louisville to Bullitt' s Lick "back and forward with the McNews in April and May 1784. They "killed their meat" on Briar Creek and John McNew "took the smallpox". They started for home and got lost. See vol.12: 483-85

Sixth Battalion of North Carolina, Cont. Army Orderly Book, 1777-1778. 178 pp.

Call No. Mss. BG S625

Content: Soldiers were ordered to have their hair cut short "to prevent the smallpox from that part more than any other." (p.5) Vivid description of inoculation for smallpox using live serum. Orderly Book kept by Adjutant Benjamin Coffield of the 6th North Carolina Regiment.

Beall-Booth Family. Papers, 1778-1953.

Call No. Mss. A B365 2

Content: Samuel Beall's correspondence includes John May's 31 Jan. 1782 letter from Richmond noting that he "cannot safely proceed" because he could not "think of running the Risque of catching the small Pox."

Thruston, Charles William, 1796-1865. Papers.

Call No. Mss. A T530 2

Content: On May 20, 1802, Alfred Thruston writes to Dr. Daniel Conrad saying he's sending a "paper of directions by Dr. Jenner for inoculation and general rules for the cow-pox:". He says it is having rapid acceptance and the annihilation of the small pox is certain". He describes an experiment he made on a child by inoculating her with cowpox and two months later with smallpox. [London, England]

Brown, Samuel, 1769-1830. Papers, 1817-1825.

Call No. Mss. A B881 13,14

Content: In letters dated 1, 8 Dec. 1823; 1, 17 Jan. 1824; and 13 Feb. 1824 smallpox is discussed, especially in regard to an outbreak of the disease in Philadelphia. In the letter dated 17 Jan. 1824 Coleman Rogers writes Brown from Louisville, Ky. requesting some fresh vaccine matter.

Shelby-Bruen family. Papers, 1761-1916. 4 cu. ft. and 1 vol.

Call No. Mss. A S544e / 6, 31

Content: The collection documents the lives of Shelby and Bruen family members, with a focus on Amanda Bruen Shelby of Fayette County, Kentucky. A list of needed goods written on the back of a poem dated 4 Aug. 1840 lists "vaccine matter from Bush," most likely referring to Dr. Robert W. Bush of Lexington and smallpox matter to inoculate against the disease (6). In a diary entry from December 1849, Amanda writes of the smallpox "raging terribly in Lex[ington]" and notes that "Evan Vaccinated the negroes & he & myself" (31).

Wingate, Hiram, 1778-1875. Papers, 1831-1914. .66 cu. ft.

Call No. Mss. A W769 2,5,7

Content: A letter from James Stewart to Arba Hardy dated 26 Dec 1848 mentions a great deal of sickness in Stewart's area, including smallpox. Arba Hardy mentions smallpox in Bonanza, MO in a letter dated 12 Mar 1884. Amanda Hooker describes smallpox among Mexicans from Laredo, TX in a letter dated 20 Jan 1890.

Bullitt-Chenoweth Family. Papers, c. 1786-1930

Call No. Mss. A B937a 4

Content: Mildred Ann Bullitt writes from Oxmoor to her children in Philadelphia, 22 Nov. 1850 that she has to go to Danville and "should send the girls to[Louisville] to stay...if it were not for the prevalence of smallpox..."

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Gist, Henrietta Clay, 1828-1884. Letters, 9 January 1844-12 April 1844. AlsS. 7 items.  
Call No. Mss. C G

Content: Collection includes 5 letters (with transcripts) written by Henrietta Clay Gist (age 15) while in boarding school in Louisville, Kentucky to her sister Susan Gist of Mt. Sterling Kentucky. In a 27 February 1844 letter, Gist writes that Smallpox is "raging all around Bardstown" and that there has been "nothing but deaths." She informs her sister that while Bardstown is not far away, she is not afraid of contracting the disease.

Wingate, Hiram, 1778-1875. Papers, 1831-1914. .66 cu. ft.  
Call No. Mss. A W769 2-3, 5-6

Content: Health and illness are mentioned throughout the collection in almost every letter. Notable mentions are in folders 2, 3, 5 and 6; fever and smallpox, 24 Dec 1848

Polin-Haydon family. Papers, 1829-1892. 16 items.  
Call No. Mss. C P

Content: In a 23 December 1850 letter to his son Daniel, John H Polin discusses cases of "confluent variole" in Bardstown. He also notes that the condition is "very prevalent in Louisville, owing to the great intercourse with that city." The disease he refers to is likely a form of Smallpox.

Carpenter, J. & A.B.D. Letter, ca. 1855. 1 item.  
Call No. Mss. C C

Content: A letter written to their uncle Alexander Dale of Harrisburg, Ind. Tells of family health and then of the diseases that plague the city of Louisville. The city has been "visited with flu, sever and cholera" and "smallpox have been raging to an alarming extent".

Yandell Family. Papers, 1823-1887. Yandell, Jr., Memphis to Sally Yandell, Louisville., 29 March 1861. A.L.S., 8p.  
Call No. Mss. A Y21 39

Content: Reports that there has been an out- break of smallpox in the city.

Gregg Family. Papers, 1808-1943. .33 cu.ft.  
Call No. Mss. A G819 1

Content: 22 February 1864 letter from Camp Dennison describes an outbreak of smallpox and the measles afflicting the Camp. Notes disease is so prevalent that few are allowed to leave Camp for fear of it spreading to the general population. Also tells of pest houses set up to handle the sick.

Collins-Wilson family. Papers, 1861-1896. 0.33 cu. ft. and 1 ovsz. folder.  
Call No. Mss. A C713 9

Content: This collection consists of letters and papers related to the William Smith Collins family of Madison County, Ky. and the Capt. John Wilson family of Estill County, Ky. In a letter to "Mollie" dated 4 Feb. 1864, Susan Allan, apparently the wife of Dr. Algernon S. Allan of

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Winchester, Ky., describes the health in her community. She notes, "They are having a good many cases of smallpox in town," adding that "a number of negroes" were stricken by the disease.

Pettus - Speiden Family. Papers, 1838-1971. 1.33 cu.ft.

Call No. Mss. A P499 1

Content: Letter of 8 November 1865 describes Small pox in the neighborhood which causes "John" to close his school and remain at home.

Patterson, Egbert C., b. ca. 1846. Letters, 1864-1865. 4 items.

Call No. Mss. C P

Content: Written to his mother, Rachel Gore Patterson (1805-1889), and sister in 1864 and 1865, the letters of Pvt. Egbert C. Patterson of the 12th Indiana Cavalry describe his military service in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi. In a letter from Vicksburg, Mississippi dated 4 March 1865 he informs his mother that he was detailed to the U.S. Christian Commission and was recovering from small pox at the McPherson Military Hospital. He writes, "while I was the worst they took and sewed my hands all over with cotton so I could not scratch myself and the result is that there will be not be any scares (sic) on me when I get well." He adds that he has since been detailed to nurse other smallpox patients.

Pope-Humphrey Family. Papers, 1807-1938. 1058 items.

Call No. Mss. A P827 13

Content: In a letter to Alex Pope Humphrey dated 15 Feb. 1867, Joe Scott writes that there is a good deal of smallpox in town [Lexington, Kentucky].

Bodley Family. Papers, 1773-1939. 9.33 cu. ft.

Call No. Mss. A B668e 70

Content: Maria Church writes in her 19 Mar. 1863 letter of the fear encompassing Frankfort due to the recent outbreak of smallpox; states that one person had died and there were a good number of cases in the penitentiary.

Meylert, Asa Parke, d. 1893. Letters, 1863. 8 items.

Call No. Mss. C M

Content: In letters 22 and 23 Feb. 1863 Dr. Meylert writes to his brother to tell him how to prevent smallpox. He advises frequent vaccinations as the vaccines may be spurious or not new enough. He maps out the steps for the procurement and use of the vaccine as well as treatment for the disease. He states "Avoid All Strong Medicines" and explains why. He tells how to avoid face pitting and tells of a new remedy by Prof. M. Goldsmith called "Bromine".

Allen, Mary. Letter, ca. 11 May 1865. ALS, 4 pp.

Call No. Mss. C A

Content: Mary Allen writes from Monroe County, Mo. to her son, James Allen, who appears to have been a former Confederate soldier staying with relatives in Ky. In addition to local social

conditions and agriculture, she shares her concerns about his recent illness and reports that she had been "half sick for some time." She also mentions a letter received from a family member who reports an outbreak of smallpox in the home he is boarding at. A returning soldier had exposed the household to the disease. The top quarter of the first page is missing.

Palmer, John McAuley, 1817-1900. Letters, 1865. 6pp.

Call No. Mss. C P

Content: A May 1865 letter signed by the Committee of the General Council of Louisville to Palmer concerns overcrowding and the spreading of small pox in Louisville due to the recently liberated women and children from other counties. An unsigned petition dated 28 Sept. 1865 sent to Palmer requests that the Louisville authorities ". . . give decent burial to all Freedman. . ." who expire within the city limits.

Haldeman Family. Papers, 1843-1985. 28 boxes.

Call No. Mss. A H159 12,20

Content: Correspondence contains a March 4, 1873 letter from E. Haldeman noting, "...smallpox have been very prevelant, I was vaccinated and it made me ill"; and a Dec. 19, 1875 letter from Lizzie Haldeman noting, I was "vaccinated and my arm feels very peculiar, but it did not last long..."

Haycraft, Samuel Jr., 1795-1878. Journal, 14 Mar. 1849--14 Apr. 1878. 1 vol., 245 PP

Call No. Mss. A H414

Content: Haycraft mentions deaths by smallpox on pages 73, 75 and 77.

Beatty-Quisenberry family. Papers, 1796-1962. 6 cu. ft.

Call No. Mss. A B369

Content: Letters from the late-nineteenth century reference an outbreak of smallpox (99, 101)

Haycraft, Samuel Jr., 1795-1878. Journal, 14 Mar. 1849--14 Apr. 1878. 1 vol., 245 pp.

Call No. Mss. A H414

Content: Haycraft mentions the following ailments: delirium tremens, fainting spells, his own illness at Louisville, consumption, dyspepsia, eye trouble, severe diarrhea, cancer, smallpox, cramp cholera, cholera morbus, apoplexy, cholera spider bites, partial paralysis & speech impairment, carbuncle, "neuralgia of the stomach" and others. See pp. 13, 27, 101, 133-134, 190-191, 21, 24, 4?-51, 55, 167, 59, 70, 73,75, 77, 102, 177-8, 44, 186, 83, 78, 112, 114-5, 116-17,123, 151, 224, 135-6, 161, 169, 181,193.

Lindsey-Weisiger family. Papers, 1789-1934. 0.33 cu. ft.

Call No. Mss. A L753 / 10

Content: This collection documents the personal lives and business pursuits of the Lindsey and Weisiger families of Frankfort, Kentucky. Several letters throughout the collection contain discussions of family health. In particular, Helen Lindsey's notebook not only contains recipes but health cures for smallpox, cancer and rheumatism, i.e. arthritis.

Dulaney, Woodford, ca.1799-1878. To Robert L. Dulaney, Marshall, Ill. Cloud's Spring [Warren Co., Ky.], 15 Jan. 1850. ALS, 24pp.

Mss. C D

Content: Dulaney reports an outbreak of small pox in Warren County, Ky. claiming Marion Covington brought the disease back from New Orleans. The Dulaney's have been vaccinated and he sends a scab to Robert so that he can have vaccine made.

Clark, Isaac, 1787-1868. Papers, 1807-1871. 1 cu. ft.

Call No. Mss. A C593 3,22

Content: The third volume of Clark's diaries shows that on 22 March 1777 he was inoculated for smallpox. In the collection dated 1 May 1820 is a proposal to establish in Washington D.C., a National Vaccine Institution (fld. 22).

Sanders Family. Papers, 1804-1979.

Call No. Mss. A S215 17

Content: Joseph Sanders' 4 Jan. 1894 letter noting that he had a scar the size of a "half dollar" from his vaccination and that he had smallpox afterward.

Crawford family. Papers, 1838-1901. 0.5 cu. ft. (in 1 cu. ft. box)

Call No. Mss. A C899 / 23

Content: This collection consists of papers relating to the Crawford family of Louisville, Kentucky, and other places in the South. In a 5 April 1898 letter, Sandy Crawford writes to his father from his home in Paint Lick, Kentucky, about an illness going around, most likely smallpox, and vaccination efforts to prevent it: "We are all in the midst of a vaccination siege...I wanted to be perfectly protected in case it should invade the community...vaccination has been almost universal through this whole section." He also writes that there was fear among white communities that Black people would "spread it from Richmond." He writes, "They are watched right closely and all who employ them or have them about require them to be vaccinated" (Folder 23).

Nalle, Mary Ormsby Gray, 1849-1945. Memoirs, ca. 1934. 42 pp.

Call No. Mss. C N

Content: A copy of a transcription of the childhood memories of Mary Ormsby Gray (Nalle), who was born in 1849 and grew up in Louisville, Kentucky. She mentions family illnesses resulting from various diseases, including smallpox (pg. 35).

Young Men's Christian Association, (Louisville, Ky.). Added Records, 1879-1990. 3 cu. ft.

Call No. Mss. BD Y74a 22

Content: In the minute book for the Board of Directors 1913-1915, the board discusses the case of smallpox at the YMCA. On 3 March 1914 the board discusses the case and then votes to have

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all employees of the YMCA vaccinated against smallpox after the occupant of one the dorm rooms is hospitalized with smallpox.

Gabhart family. Papers, 1918-1931. .33 cu. ft.

Call No. Mss. A G112 / 1-2, 7-8

Content: The collection consists of the correspondence and diaries of Mary E. Lilly and James H. Gabhart, who were from Smith Mills in Henderson County, Kentucky, and moved to Louisville after their marriage in ca. 1923. James's diaries are written in 1928-1931. In entries from May 1930, he writes about being vaccinated for smallpox.