

**Finding Aid for the
George W. Bushnell Papers,
1834 - 1850**



Record Group Number 25/ 13 / 2
University Archives and Special Collections William F. Maag, Jr. Library
Youngstown State University One University Plaza Youngstown, OH 44555
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<https://maag.guides.ysu.edu/archives>

Descriptive Summary

Title:	The George W. Bushnell Papers, 1834 – 1850
Creator:	Dr. George W. Bushnell, settler and self-taught physician in Trumbull County, Ohio
Extent:	0.25 linear feet (1 box)
Abstract:	Daybook and loose papers recording his medical practice and finances in Trumbull County, Ohio

Administrative Information

Provenance:	This notebook was found among items transferred to the University Archives from the Alumni Association during their move in 2015.
Preferred Citation:	Youngstown State University, The George W. Bushnell Papers. R.G. 77/13, Archives & Special Collections, William F. Maag, Jr. Library, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio.
Restrictions:	None.
Processing :	Processed by Cassandra Nespor, 2020
Finding Aid:	Written by Cassandra Nespor, September 2020

Biographical Sketch

George W. Bushnell was born in Hartland, Connecticut on August 11, 1800. When he was 3 years old, his family moved to Hartford in Trumbull County, Ohio. As a child, George learned to farm and acquired useful skills in carpentry and cobblery. He married Sally Bates (1802-1866) in 1824 and they had at least 8 children together.

As a father, he studied botany in an effort to find relief from health issues for his family. His success in treating his own family led to helping neighbors and soon he was making frequent house calls throughout the community. The daybook in this collection may document the start of his professional medical career in the late 1830s.

In 1830, Bushnell helped organize the Disciples of Christ congregation in Hartford. He was elected as overseer of the church and evangelist teacher for eastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania. Bushnell separated from the church for a brief period from 1847 to 1853 over his anti-slavery sentiments, but upon his rejoining, he was again elected overseer until 1881 when he retired at the age of 81.

* information from *History of Trumbull and Mahoning Counties, vol 1. (Cleveland: H.Z. Williams & Bro, 1882.) p. 278.*

Scope and Content

This daybook records the accounts of George Bushnell from October 1835 through May 1839, mostly his physician visits. The number of visits recorded increases in the summer of 1837, and may document the beginning of his medical career in the community. He records the name of the head of the patient's family, his travel or time spent "attending" and any medicines he gives. He occasionally specifies his treatment such as bitter root, cayenne and composition, sweet tea, a vomit, nerve drops, bayberry and lily, or rheumatic drops. These treatment notes and the absence of bloodletting, support the statement that he practiced Eclectic Medicine. His notes also include credits or payments received for his work, which may have been paid through trade (in goods such as beef, pork, cheese, apples, potatoes, nuts, etc.), through services such as making new clothing, or through work on Bushnell's farm. He reached the end of the notebook after his entries for May 31, 1839 and may have continued his accounts in another volume.

The daybook also contained loose sheets from the daybook and separate notes, believed to be Bushnell's. They cover topics related to farming (cattle, crops, etc.), establishing a local public school, a 1842 dispute over the estate of Titus Brockway, and a 1846 court case in which he was summoned to testify in Warren.

Colophon

This collection was processed during September 2020. Cassie Nespor, the curator of the YSU Melnick Medical Museum, has a Master's degree in Library and Information Science with a focus in Archival Studies. She has worked for the Medical Museum for 10 years, but previously had no special training in medical history.

Series Description

Series I: Daybook

Related Materials

An epitome of the American eclectic practice of medicine / William Paine. Located in the Archives and Special Collections RV41 .P22 1863x

History of Trumbull and Mahoning counties / H.Z. Williams. Located in the Archives and Special Collections F497. T8 H6

The John C. Melnick Papers. R.G. 77/12, Archives & Special Collections, William F. Maag, Jr. Library, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio.

Index Terms

Medicine – History

Medicine, Eclectic

Trumbull County (Ohio) – History

SERIES I: Daybook

BOX 1

Folder	Contents	
1	Daybook	1835-1839
2	loose pages and separate papers	1840-1850