

Collection #  
OMB 0037,  
SC 2239,  
F 1696

**WILLIAM A. ASHTON  
PAPERS, 1835–1861, N.D.**

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**COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION:

18 oversize folders, 4 manuscript folders, 1 reel microfilm

COLLECTION DATES: 1835–1861

PROVENANCE: Madge E. Pickard Palmer, 9 Rugby Road, Massapequa, New York, 11758, 9 September 1982

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: William A. Ashton Receipts and Prescriptions, 1858, ca. 1940 (SC 0028, F 1695)

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1982.0939

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William A. Ashton, Sr., was born in Manchester, England, in 1818. He was a textile designer who was also educated in medical science. As a member of the Manchester Social Community Company, he emigrated in 1834 to America with five other families to establish a cooperative community under the auspices of the company. The group purchased 80 acres of Congress lands in Whitewater Township, Franklin County, Indiana, but failed by 1836.

Ashton was employed in 1836 by Sawyer and Brackett of Cincinnati, designing patterns for oilcloth and table covers and traveling the Midwest selling Sawyer and Brackett products. In 1837, he went into partnership with R. M. Taylor, manufacturing oilcloth. The partnership was dissolved in 1838.

Ashton married Sarah Heap in 1839. From 1848 to 1856, he worked with Milo Sawyer manufacturing and selling oilcloth, and he painted window shades in Cincinnati. Between 1852 and 1853, he studied medicine at the Eclectic Medical Institute (later known as the Eclectic Medical College) in Cincinnati. Ashton practiced medicine in Cincinnati after graduating from Eclectic. In 1862 he moved back to Whitewater Township, Indiana, where he bought a farm and continued his work as a doctor. He remained in Franklin County until his death in 1870.

Sources:  
Reifel, August J. *History of Franklin County, Indiana: Her People, Industries and Institutions*, p. 1046. Indianapolis: N. B. F. Bowen and Company, 1915. Reprinted by Unigraphic, Inc. Evansville, Indiana, 1971. rrF 532.F8 R4 1971  
Lilly Library card catalog, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of drawings and sketches, handwritten notes, and printed materials related to William Ashton's medical career. Ashton's drawings appear to be copies of illustrations from medical textbooks and are done in watercolor, ink, and pencil. Two sketches (OMB 0037, Folder 11, and Flat File Folder 2) not on medical topics are

included. The drawings possibly date from his enrollment in the Eclectic Medical Institute in Cincinnati, ca. 1852–53.

The handwritten notes are on a variety of papers, and may also date from his enrollment in the Eclectic Medical Institute.

The printed items date from 1835 to 1861; many are undated. They include articles on appetite, gunshot wounds, faints, cuts, etc.; preparations for whooping cough and baldness; a booklet of prescriptions; medical journals; flyers announcing medical lectures; and a program of commencement exercises of the Eclectic College of Medicine.

## **SERIES CONTENTS**

### **Series 1: Drawings, n.d.**

#### CONTENTS

“Neurological Statue”

#### CONTAINER

OMB 0037:  
Box 1, Folder 1

Drawing grid of human brain (pencil)

OMB 0037:  
Box 1, Folder 2

“Plate 4,” the brain, side view (watercolor, ink)

OMB 0037:  
Box 1, Folder 3

“Plate 10,” the brain, top view (watercolor, ink)

OMB 0037:  
Box 1, Folder 4

Internal organs (watercolor, ink, pencil)

OMB 0037:  
Box 1, Folder 5

“Plate 1,” female internal organs (watercolor, ink, pencil)

OMB 0037:  
Box 1, Folder 6

“Plate 14,” male internal organs, side view (watercolor, ink, pencil)

OMB 0037:  
Box 1, Folder 7

“Female organs of generation,” internal and external views (watercolor, ink, pencil)

OMB 0037:  
Box 1, Folder 8

Back view of internal organs (watercolor, ink, pencil)

OMB 0037:  
Box 1, Folder 9

Top view of brain (watercolor, ink, pencil)

OMB 0037:  
Box 1, Folder 10

Pencil drawing of a man

OMB 0037:  
Box 1, Folder 11

Embryonic and fetal development (watercolor, ink, pencil)

OMB 0037:  
Box 1, Folder 12

“Plate 2,” Internal view of head and neck, including brain (watercolor, ink)

OMB 0037:  
Box 1, Folder 13

“Plate 1: General View of the Nervous System,”

OMB 0037:

back view (watercolor, ink, pencil)	Box 1, Folder 14
“Regions of the Trunk–Female” (ink, pencil)	OMB 0037: Box 1, Folder 15
“Pelvis, Female” (pastel, pencil)	OMB 0037: Box 1, Folder 16
Face and neck musculature (pencil, ink)	OMB 0037: Flat File: FF 12-b, Folder 1
Pregnant (?) female drawing, side internal view (conte crayon, pencil), n.d.; reverse: Idyllic scenes with castle (conte crayon, pencil)	OMB 0037: Flat File: FF 12-b, Folder 2

## Series 2: Papers, 1835–1861

### CONTENTS

*The Doctor; or the Secrets of Medicine*, collection of recipes, ca. 1835; Medical School Admission Ticket, 1852–53; Printed seal, n.d.; *The Eclectic Medical Journal*, Aug. 1853; Commencement program for the Eclectic Medical College, 27 Jan. 1859; *The Journal of Rational Medicine*, Mar. 1861

Medical notes, prescriptions, and procedures, n.d.

Medical notes and paper on fever, n.d.

*Preservation of Health*, ca. 1846–48; *Consumption Cured by Medicated Inhalation*, by S. M. Ogden, M.D. (advertisement, n.d.); Newspaper clippings, ca. 1859

### CONTAINER

SC 2239: Folder 1

SC 2239: Folder 2

SC 2239: Folder 3

SC 2239: Folder 4

## Series 3: Microfilm

### CONTENTS

Microfilm of collection

### CONTAINER

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## 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://157.91.92.2/>
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, OMB 0037).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.