Frederick Putnam diaries
MSS.002

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists’ Toolkit
April 11, 2016
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
# Table of Contents

Summary Information ................................................................................................................................. 3  
Biographical Note .......................................................................................................................................... 4  
Scope and Contents ....................................................................................................................................... 4  
Arrangement ................................................................................................................................................... 4  
Administrative Information .......................................................................................................................... 5  
Related Materials ........................................................................................................................................ 6  
Controlled Access Headings .............................................................................................................................. 6  
Other Finding Aids ........................................................................................................................................ 7  
Collection Inventory ...................................................................................................................................... 8  

| Series 1: Putnam, Frederick diaries, 1846 May-1900 Jan. | 8 |
| Series 2: Putnam, Frederick diaries transcripts, 1846 May-1883 June.| 9 |
| Series 3: Putnam, Frederick diaries photocopies, 1883 Jul.-1900 Jan. | 10 |
Summary Information

Repository
Ball State University Archives and Special Collections

Creator
Putnam, Frederick, 1818-1901

Title
Frederick Putnam diaries

Date
1846-1900

Extent
1.8 Cubic feet 3 boxes

Language
English

Preferred Citation
Frederick Putnam diaries, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries
Biographical Note

Frederick Putnam was born February 11, 1818, in Charleston, New Hampshire. Much of his early life was spent in poverty. Attracted by the opportunities the West offered to young men, Putnam left New Hampshire in October 1838, eventually settling in Muncie, Indiana.

He accepted a clerk position in the store of Charles F. Willard, an early Muncie merchant. Later they became business partners. In 1841, Putnam married Susan J. Sayre, the daughter of Colonel Benjamin Sayre. The marriage eventually produced four children. In March 1842, Putnam went into the general merchandise business for himself, operating his business until 1849. He entertained thoughts of moving to California, but soon abandoned them in favor of forming a new business partnership with John A. Wachtell. This venture lasted for two years.

In 1860, he formed another business partnership in the hardware trade with John M. Kirby. The firm was known as Putnam & Kirby and was located at 91 E. Main Street (corner of Main and Walnut Streets). The business did quite well, allowing Putnam to amass a comfortable fortune.

Along with being a successful businessman, Putnam was an important figure in civic affairs. He was elected as Delaware County Treasurer in 1852 and served until 1857. From 1857 to 1860, he was assistant auditor of the county. In addition, he served as school examiner for two years and as a school trustee for nine years. He also served on the Muncie City Council, as a director for the Muncie National Bank, and as Secretary of the Delaware County Republican Central Committee. Putnam died January 18, 1901, at the age of 82.

Scope and Contents

The collection includes the 13 volume diary of Frederick Putnam, dating from May 1846 to January 1900. The diaries contain Putnam’s reflections and observations of various events that occurred during his life as a resident of Muncie. Also included are transcriptions of the diaries dated 1846 to 1883 and photocopies of the diaries dated 1883 to 1900.

Arrangement

Arranged in the following series:
Series 1: Putnam, Frederick diaries, 1846 May-1900 Jan.
Series 2: Putnam, Frederick diaries transcripts, 1846 May-1883 Aug.

Administrative Information

Publication Information
Ball State University Archives and Special Collections

Conditions Governing Access
This collection is open for research.

Copyright Notice
Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries, Muncie, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Archives and Special Collections.

Conditions Governing Use
Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries, Muncie, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Archives and Special Collections.

Custodial History
This collection was received by Archives and Special Collections as a donation.

Accruals
No further additions are expected.

Processing Information
Existence and Location of Copies

Select materials from this collection have been digitized and are available online in the Ball State University Libraries Digital Media Repository:

http://libx.bsu.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/PtnmFrdDiar

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials

Materials relating to this collection may be found in the following collections in Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries, Muncie IN:

- MSS.087: Thomas L. Ryan diary, 1886
- MSS.129: Mina McCormick Beckett diaries, 1933-1962
- MSS.105: Thomas Neely diaries, 1867-1901
- SC.006: Ken Trietsch diary, 1945
- SC.020: Charles Murray diary, undated
- SC.145: John R. Kerns diary, 1850-1950
- SC.171: J.W. Brant Civil War diary, 1862-1880
- SC.375: David Hendrickson diary, 1897
- SC.444: Sarah A. Heinsohn diary, 1886-1887

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)
• Diaries

Geographic Name(s)

• Delaware County (Ind.)
• Delaware County (Ind.)--History--19th century--Sources
• Delaware County (Ind.)--History--20th century--Sources
• Muncie (Ind.)
• Muncie (Ind.)--History--19th century--Sources
• Muncie (Ind.)--History--20th century--Sources

Subject(s)

• Businessmen
• Civic leaders
• Local history
• Stoeckel Archives of Local History

Other Finding Aids

An index to the Frederick Putnam diaries is available. See Purdy, George E. An Index to the Frederick E. Putnam Diary in the Delaware County Archives at Ball State University, 1976. [MSS.000.2: Local history research papers, 1936-2010]
## Collection Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series 1: Putnam, Frederick diaries, 1846 May-1900 Jan.</th>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Volume</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diaries, 1846 May–1849 Oct.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diaries, 1856 Nov.–1860 Dec.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diaries, 1860 Sept.–1863 Nov.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diaries, 1863 Dec.–1867 Sept.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diaries, 1867 Sept.–1870 Oct.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diaries, 1870 Oct.–1874 Apr.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diaries, 1874 Apr.–1879 Mar.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diaries, 1879 Mar.–1883 June</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diaries, 1883 July–1887 Aug.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diaries, 1887 Aug.–1892 Feb.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diaries, 1892 Feb.–1896 Aug.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Series 2: Putnam, Frederick diaries transcripts, 1846 May-1883 June.

| Diaries, 1896 Sept.–1898 Oct. | 1 | 12 |
| Diaries, 1898 Oct.–1900 Jan. | 1 | 13 |
| Invoice, 1858/12/15 | 2 | 1 |
| Newspaper clippings, undated | 2 | 2 |

### Series 2: Putnam, Frederick diaries transcripts, 1846 May-1883 June.

| Transcripts, 1846 May–1849 Oct. | 2 | 3 |
| Transcripts, 1856 Nov.–1860 Dec. | 2 | 4 |
| Transcripts, 1860 Sept.–1863 Nov. | 2 | 5 |
| Transcripts, 1863 Dec.–1867 Sept. | 2 | 6 |
| Transcripts, 1867 Sept.–1870 Oct. | 2 | 7 |
| Transcripts, 1870 Oct.–1874 Apr. | 2 | 8 |
| Transcripts, 1874 Apr.–1879 Mar. | 2 | 9 |
| Transcripts, 1879 Mar.–1883 June | 2 | 10 |
### Series 3: Putnam, Frederick diaries photocopies, 1883 Jul.-1900 Jan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diary photocopy, 1883 July–1887 Aug.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diary photocopy, 1887 Aug.–1892 Feb.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diary photocopy, 1892 Feb.–1896 Aug.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diary photocopy, 1896 Sept.–1898 Oct.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diary photocopy, 1898 Oct.–1900 Jan.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Miscellaneous, 1886 Dec.–1887 Jan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graphic materials</td>
<td></td>
<td>MSSCN.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local History Negatives</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>