



Smithsonian Institution Archives

## Benjamin Dann Walsh Field Notebooks, 1860-1869

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# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Historical Note.....	1
Descriptive Entry.....	1
Names and Subjects .....	1
Container Listing .....	3

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., <a href="mailto:osiaref@si.edu">osiaref@si.edu</a>
<b>Title:</b>	Benjamin Dann Walsh Field Notebooks
<b>Identifier:</b>	Record Unit 7123
<b>Date:</b>	1860-1869
<b>Extent:</b>	0.25 cu. ft. (1 half document box)
<b>Creator::</b>	Walsh, Benjamin Dann, 1808-1869
<b>Language:</b>	English

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## Administrative Information

### Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7123, Benjamin Dann Walsh Field Notebooks

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## Historical Note

Benjamin Dann Walsh (1808-1869) was born in Great Britain and educated at Oxford. Prepared for the Church, he instead became a writer and, after emigrating to the United States, a farmer, lumber dealer, and entomologist. Walsh became state entomologist of Illinois in 1867 and, with Charles Valentine Riley, founded the *American Entomologist* in 1868, a year before his death.

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## Descriptive Entry

This collection consists of two field notebooks recording Walsh's observations of insect behavior and development in the vicinity of his home, Rock Island, Illinois. They also contain some clues to Walsh's reading habits and correspondents, as well as sketches and clippings from newspapers. The notebooks contain meticulous detail and show an evident interest in questions of economic entomology. The last pages of volume two contain an account of the founding of the Rock Island County branch of the Kansas Settlers Society of Chicago, June 12-25, 1856; Walsh was an officer and member of the Executive Committee of this body.

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Entomology

Names:

Illinois State Entomologist  
Kansas Settlers Society of Chicago, Illinois  
Riley, Charles V. (Charles Valentine), 1843-1895  
Walsh, Benjamin Dann, 1808-1869

Geographic Names:

Rock Island (Ill.)

Preferred Titles:

*American Entomologist (Serial)*

## Container Listing

### Box 1

Box 1 of 1

Volume 1 1860-1868, "Journal of Facts in Natural History; partially indexed record of Walsh's study of behavior and habitats of insects in the region of his home; frequent, careful descriptions of anatomy, coloration, and diet of captured species; often quotes from other students, observers, journals; news clippings; concern with economic aspects of entomology apparent. The last pages of this volume contain an account of the founding of the Rock Island County Branch of the Kansas Settlers Society of Chicago, Illinois, June 12-25, 1856; Walsh was officer and member of executive committee for this body.

[Digital Content: Volume 1, 1860-1868 \(Image nos. SIA2013-05049 to SIA2013-05241\)](#)

Box 1 of 1

Volume 2 1866-1869, much like volume 1; partial index; fewer drawings and clippings; more attention to specific remedies for harmful insects; more references to contacts and correspondents in adjoining states; annotated list of Illinois horticulturists, likely not exhaustive.

[Digital Content: Volume 2, 1866-1869 \(Image nos. SIA2013-05242 to SIA2013-05371\)](#)