1989

0504: Cabell County Medical Society Records, 1891-1978

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FINDING AID FOR THE CABELL COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY RECORDS 1891-1978

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1984/01.0504

Special Collections Department
James E. Morrow Library
Marshall University
Huntington West Virginia
2011
CABELL COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY RECORDS
1891-1978

Accession Number: 1985/01.0504
Processed by: Claire Snyder and Wes Rolling
Date Completed: May 2011
Location: Marshall University Manuscript Collection, Huntington WV

Corporate Name: N/A
Date: 1891 – 1978
Extent: 4 boxes; 4 cubic feet
System of Arrangement: Series I: Administrative Files; Sub-series A: Correspondence; Sub-series B: Membership; Sub-series C: Policies and Procedures; Sub-series D: Other Organizations; Sub-series E: Miscellaneous Materials; Series II: Charles H. Moffat Research Materials; Sub-series A: Individuals; Sub-series B: Organizations; Sub-series C: Miscellaneous Research Materials.
Restrictions on Access: Some materials are restricted due to medical confidentiality issues

This collection was a gift from Dr. Charles H. Moffat.

Abstract:

The records of the Cabell County Medical Society (CCMS) span the years of 1891 to 1972 and primarily comprise of correspondence relating to various organizational and professional aspects of the society. This includes meeting notes, memoranda, professional journals, pamphlets, constitutions, and by-laws. The collection also contains the Dr. Charles H. Moffat’s (former professor of history at Marshall University) research materials concerning his book *A History of the Cabell County Medical Society in West Virginia, 1890-1985*.1

Historical Note:

The Cabell County Medical Society collection was donated to the Marshall University Archives by Dr. Charles H. Moffat, a distinguished former professor in the Marshall University Department of History. Dr. Moffat was commissioned to write the history of the Society and the book he produced, *A History of the Cabell County Medical Society in West Virginia, 1890-1985* (ISBN: 0961683902), is an invaluable companion to the primary source material contained in the collection. One can find the book at Marshall University: Huntington, WV Campus in the Morrow Special Collections Library and in the Health Science Library, 2nd Level of the Rural Health Center, Cabell Huntington Hospital. Two copies are available at each location.

Preceded by the short-lived Huntington Medical Society and the Huntington Medical Association, the Cabell County Medical Society was founded in February 1903 with Dr. Thomas Prichard serving as its first president.2 Meetings were held at the Frederick Hotel, and minutes

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2 Ibid, 5.
and correspondence show that members presented papers, conferred with the Society regarding diagnoses, debated public health issues, addressed professionalization and ethics controversies, and issued studies and position statements. The Society cultivated strong relationships with both state and national medical associations, with several members serving as presidents of the West Virginia Medical Association. Dr. Charles Hoffman even served as the American Medical Association’s 127th president in 1972, the only West Virginia native to do so. The Dr. Charles A. Hoffman Library of the History of the Medical Sciences, housed in Marshall University Special Collections, might also be of interest to researchers of this collection. Other distinguished members included U.S. Senator Henry D. Hatfield, U.S. Representative Will E. Neal, and Dr. Jack Leckie, who served as American Medical Association delegate from 1982-6.

The Cabell County Medical Society became instrumental in the development of many West Virginia hospitals and educational institutions, especially in Huntington. Following the assignment of the four-year medical school at West Virginia University, the Society first advocated for a two-year medical school in Huntington and then eventually for the four-year Marshall University School of Medicine. In addition, the Society actively worked to ensure high operating standards for local hospitals and was a strong proponent of creating the non-profit city-county Cabell Huntington Hospital. Beginning in the 1920s, public health became a major focus for the Society, which worked with hospitals, clinics, and the State Department of Health to institute public health programs addressing venereal disease, sanitation, maternal and child health, nutrition, and mental health. Correspondence and reports related to public health studies, as well as individual members’ published research, provides insight into not only the Society’s activities, but also larger trends within the medical profession and social values in general regarding reproductive health, pediatric and adolescent care, venereal disease, and mental illness. Of particular interest is the controversy over black lung disease in the 1960s, in which some doctors pushed for black lung legislation while the Society officially published a position in opposition to widespread claims of illness.

Scope and Content Note:

The records of the Cabell County Medical Society span the years of 1891 to 1972 and primarily comprise of correspondence relating to various organizational and professional aspects of the Society. The collection also contains meeting notes, memoranda, certificates, medical and legal forms, hardcover bound ledgers, lecture and conference programs, professional journals, numerous pamphlets, bound and unbound copies of constitutions, by-laws, curriculum vitas, bound congressional reports, newspaper clippings, stamped envelopes, and a framed charter.

The bulk of the correspondence between the Society and its members addresses membership, finances, and scholarship. Membership ledgers and meeting minutes provide information concerning the Society’s structure and leadership, while the constitution and by-laws

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3 Ibid, 66.
5 Ibid, 84-8.
6 Ibid, 136.
7 Ibid, 115-21.
8 Ibid, 288-90.
address Society policy and procedure. Other correspondence between the Society and various related organizations (Department of Health, Veterans Affairs, West Virginia State Medical Association (WVSMA), and American Medical Association (AMA)), provides information on civic duties, studies undertaken, and public health issues addressed by the Society.

In addition to providing information about the Society itself, this collection also contains documents relating to many 20th century historical events and social issues. For example, the collection contains correspondence, study reports, and payment lists for West Virginia state venereal disease clinics, pamphlets advocating medical testing on animals, financial correspondence from days before the stock market crash of 1929, and correspondence concerning President Roosevelt and Depression-era New Deal programs. It also contains materials related to the two World Wars, including symptom and post-mortem record sheets for diagnosing sufferers of war gases and medical preparedness materials in case of a home front attack.

**Arrangement of Papers:**

The collection is divided into two series. The first contains the administrative records of the Cabell County Medical Society and the second contains Dr. Moffat’s research materials. **Series I: Administrative Files** includes several sub-series, including correspondence, membership, policies and procedures, other organizations, and miscellaneous materials. **Series II: Charles H. Moffat Research Materials** contains sub-series that include research on individual physicians, medical institutions, professional journals, medical and non-medical pamphlets, and notes and drafts for his book. Within subsets of Series I, folders are arranged chronologically. The subsets of Series II folders are arranged alphabetically.

**Processing Note:**

The primary aim in processing the collection was to organize records in a way that is accessible and usable to researchers while maintaining the original context of materials as much as possible. Therefore, original order has been preserved with regard to already-created folders, even when the contents of such folders seem to be haphazardly organized. For example, many folders marked “Correspondence, 19—” may actually contain copies of by-laws, memoranda, public statements, medical study reports, and pamphlets in addition to correspondence. Researchers should be aware that folder titles are more chronological and thematic guides than distinct descriptive categories. For clarity’s sake, folder labels have been amended and additions have been distinguished from original wording with the use of brackets. Furthermore, efforts have been made to group folders into appropriate categories that reflect their administrative functions.

In addition to filed records, some boxes were originally found containing loose, unfiled materials. These materials include correspondence, curriculum vitae, professional journals, and miscellaneous pamphlets. Because most of the correspondence involved Dr. Moffat of Marshall University, these materials are deemed to be part of Dr. Moffat’s collected research materials rather than the administrative materials of the Cabell County Medical Society. Materials that refer to a single individual or institution, and seem to have been mailed together, have been
grouped together to preserve original order and context. While some publications may have been co-authored by multiple Society members, they have been filed under the name of the physician who provided the information to Dr. Moffat.

**Subjects:**

Cabell County Medical Society (Cabell County, W. Va.)
Cabell County (W. Va.)
Doctors--West Virginia
Hospitals--West Virginia
Hospitals--Evaluation--Standards--United States
Medical ethics--History
Medicine--Societies, etc.
Mental health policy--United States--History--20th century
Poliomyelitis--United States--20th century--History
Public Health--West Virginia
Rural Health--West Virginia
Sexually Transmitted Diseases--History
World War, 1914-1918--Medical care--United States
World War, 1939-1945--Medical care--United States

**Container List:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<td><strong>BOX 1</strong></td>
<td>SERIES I: Administrative Files</td>
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<td>SUB-SERIES A: Correspondence</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOLDER 1</td>
<td>[1893, 1900-1904 Correspondence] Records of CCMS prior to 1920</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOLDER 2</td>
<td>[1906 Correspondence] Records of CCMS prior to 1920</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOLDER 3</td>
<td>[1907 Correspondence] Records of CCMS prior to 1920</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOLDER 4</td>
<td>[1908 Correspondence] Records of CCMS prior to 1920</td>
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<td>FOLDER 5</td>
<td>[1909 Correspondence] Records of CCMS prior to 1920</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOLDER 6</td>
<td>[1910 Correspondence] Records of CCMS prior to 1920</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOLDER 7</td>
<td>[1911 Correspondence] Records of CCMS prior to 1920</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOLDER 8</td>
<td>[1912 Correspondence] Records of CCMS prior to 1920</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOLDER 9</td>
<td>[1913 Correspondence] Records of CCMS prior to 1920</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
FOLDER 10  [1914 Correspondence] Records of CCMS prior to 1920
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FOLDER 23  CCMC – 1940 – [Correspondence and] Miscellaneous Materials
FOLDER 24  1941 Correspondence
FOLDER 25  1942 – CCMS – Correspondence
FOLDER 26  1943 – CCMS – Miscellaneous Materials [and Correspondence]
FOLDER 27  1944 – CCMS – Correspondence
FOLDER 28  1945 – CCMS - Correspondence
FOLDER 29  1946 – CCMS – Correspondence
FOLDER 30  1947 – CCMS – Correspondence
FOLDER 31  1948 – CCMS – Correspondence
FOLDER 32  1949 – Correspondence
FOLDER 33  57 [1950 Correspondence]
FOLDER 34  1950 Correspondence – No Minutes
FOLDER 35  1951 – CCMS – Correspondence
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BOX 2

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BOX 3

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