Collection information

Descriptive Summary
Administrative Information
Online Catalog Headings
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Collection Overview
Detailed Description of the Collection

Contact Information:
Greensboro Medical Historical Library
Moses Cone Health System Medical Library
1200 N. Elm Street
Greensboro, North Carolina, 27401
Phone: 336-832-7484
Fax: 336-832-7328
Email: leslie.mackler@mosescone.com
URL: www.gahec.org/gmhl

Descriptive Summary

Repository
Moses Cone Health System Medical Library, Greensboro Medical Historical Library

Creator
Phillips, Robert L.

Title
Robert L. Phillips Collection, 1890s-2003

Call Number
10081

Language of Materials
Materials in English

Extent
Items: About 15,300 items
Linear Feet: 29.5

Abstract
Neurosurgeon, historian, and writer, Robert L. Phillips spent much of his life dedicated to documenting the history of health and medicine in Greensboro and Guilford County, North Carolina. Born in Wheeling, West Virginia, Phillips served in the United States Marine Corps in World War II and later graduated from West Virginia University. He went on to study at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia where he received his M.D. degree. After completing an internship and residency in surgery, he moved to Durham, N.C., where he finished his residency in neurosurgery in 1959. He then moved to Greensboro, N.C., where he lived for the rest of his life. Between 1985 and 2001, Phillips wrote over nineteen books on the history of health and medicine in Greensboro and Guilford County, North Carolina. Using his extensive collection of research materials as a starting point, Phillips established the Greensboro Medical Historical Library in 1985. He continued to collect materials relating to the history of health and medicine in Greensboro and Guilford County, N.C., for the Library until his death in 2003. The Robert L. Phillips Collection consists of research materials, clippings, subject files, correspondence, letters, writings, manuscripts, and photographs related to the history of health and medicine in Greensboro and Guilford County, N.C. The bulk of the collection is comprised of research materials used by Phillips in writing his books. Other materials relate to his career as neurosurgeon at the Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital and his involvement with the Greensboro Medical Historical Library. Some of the subjects represented in the collection include physicians, hospitals, sanitariums, tobacco, smoking, fluoride, integration, medical training, the Moses H. Cone Health System, and the Greensboro Medical Historical Library.

**Administrative Information**

**Restrictions to Access**
No Restrictions

**Acquisitions Information**
Received from Robert L. Phillips of Greensboro, N.C.

**Processing Information**
Collection is minimally processed, but usable with staff assistance.

**Preferred Citation**
[Identification of item], in the Robert L. Phillips Collection #10081, Greensboro Medical Historical Library, Moses Cone Health System Medical Library.

**Copyright Notice**
Copyright is retained by authors of items in these papers, or their descendants, as stipulated by United States copyright law.

**Online Catalog Headings**

These and related materials may be found under the following headings in online catalogs.

- Auctioneering (Guilford County, North Carolina)
- Bible Study
- Equipment and Supplies, Hospital
- Fluoride
- Greensboro (N.C.)
- Greensboro (N.C.) Social life and customs
Biographical Note

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His first book, History of the Greensboro Academy of Medicine, 1946-1984, was published in 1985. A year later, he wrote The Life and Writings of John Wesley Long, MD, published in 1986. Other books written by Phillips include: 100 Years of Caring and Progress in Medicine; Greensboro (2003); A Biography of Herbert Z. Lund, M.D.: The Medical Prophet from Temple Square (1997); The History of Auctioneering in Guilford County (1995); History of Greensboro Area Health Education Center (2000); History of Integration of Medicine in Greensboro, North Carolina: Chronological Documentation (1990); History of the Hospitals in Greensboro, North Carolina: Including Sanitariums, Infirmarys and Institutes (1996); Medical Happenings in...

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**Collection Overview**

The Robert L. Phillips Collection consists of research materials, clippings, subject files, correspondence, letters, writings, manuscripts, museum items, and photographs related to the history of health and medicine in Greensboro and Guilford County, N.C. The bulk of the collection is comprised of research materials used by Phillips in writing his books. Other materials relate to his career as neurosurgeon at the Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital and his involvement with the Greensboro Medical Historical Library.

Some of the subjects represented in the collection include physicians, hospitals, sanitariums, tobacco, smoking, fluoride, integration, medical training, the Moses H. Cone Health System, and the Greensboro Medical Historical Library.

**Detailed Description of the Collection**

**Papers and Museum Items, 1890s-2003.**

About 15,300 items
Linear Feet: 29.5

**Box 1**

**Box 2**
Research Materials
- History of health and medicine in Greensboro, North Carolina
- Professional Papers
- Papers related to the GMHL
- Research related to surgery
- Reference resources for Civil War items
- Writings by Robert Phillips

*100 Years of Caring and Progress in Medicine: Greensboro*
Medical Happenings in Greensboro from 1826 to 1904: A Chronicle
Separate-But-Equal: The Genesis of a Mindless Myth
History of the Hospitals in Greensboro, North Carolina: Including
Sanitariums, Infirmaries, and Institutions.

Box 3
Research Materials
Materials related to museum objects for display cases
Materials related to the History of Medicine Lectures and Speakers
General research materials related to the history of medicine and health care in Greensboro and Guilford County

Box 4
Research Materials
Clippings related to tobacco and smoking
Papers related to Moses H. Cone Hospital, 1984-1994, and Phillips’s career

Box 5
Museum Items
Catheters, medicine set, Dictaphone belts, doctor’s kit, circa 1930s

Box 6
Museum Items
Pocket hone, wooden cases containing medical diagnostic instruments, leather doctor’s bag with instruments

Box 7
Emergency Kit

Box 8
Photographs
Used in Dr. Phillips’s publications

Box 9
Greensboro Medical Historical Library Files
Includes newsletters, minutes of meetings, financial papers, construction plans, notes related to the lecture series, by-laws and advisory board materials, dedications, information on the planning of the original bio-medical library, circa 1965, letters, and documents of contributions.

Box 10
Subject Files
Computers to Subarachnoid Hemorrhage

Box 11
Clippings, 1890-1969

Box 12
Clippings, 1980-1998
Box 13
Clippings, Correspondence, and Professional Papers, undated

Box 14
Subject Files
A&T University to Guilford County History

Box 15
Subject Files
Harvard to UNC 200 Years

Box 16
Subject Files
Hospitals: Charter Hills to Wesley Long Community Hospital

Box 17
Subject Files
L. Richardson; Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital; Extendicare; Humana; Women’s Hospital

Oversized Materials
Laminated clipping of Wheeling News Register article, dated 6 June 1945, about Dr. Phillips and his patrol involved in a perilous mission in Japan
Painting of Ed Apple
Plaque of contributors to the Greensboro Medical Historical Library (work print)
Poster titled “Black Magic: The Magic of Black Inventors and Scientists” used in researching articles
Print representing surgical tools, circa early 19th Century
Personal x-rays of Robert Phillips
Microfilm representing a Record of Operations by Dr. Wesley Long, 1907
Photographs of “Dr. Williams,” Herbert Z. Lund, Marie Hutchins, Wesley Long, Samuel Fitzsimons Ravenel, and Ed Apple