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 was previously minimally processed, but usable with staff assistance.
Collection processed by Sarah Prescott in June 2017

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
Greensboro Academy of Medicine
Greensboro Area Health Education Center (GAHEC)
Greensboro Medical Historical Library
Guilford County Medical Society
History of Hospitals
History of Medicine
History of Medicine (Greensboro, N.C.), 19th Century
History of Physicians
History of Primary Care
History, 19th Century
History, 20th Century
Hospital Administration
Hospitals (Greensboro, N.C.)
Infirmaries (Greensboro, N.C.)
Institutes (Greensboro, N.C.)
Libraries, Hospital
Long, John Wesley
Lund, Herbert Z.
Medical history (Greensboro, N.C.)
Medical Staff, Hospital
Medicine History
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital (Greensboro, N.C.)
Race relations
Ravenel, Samuel Fitzsimons
Sanitariums (Greensboro, N.C.)
Smoking
Social service and race relations
Surgery Department, Hospital
Village of Brown Summit
Wesley Long Community Hospital (Greensboro, N.C.)
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.

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 the following:

- 100 Years of Caring and Progress in Medicine: Greensboro (2003)
- 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)
- Medical Happenings in Greensboro from 1826 to 1904 (1992)
- Medical Shoulders During the 19th and 20th Centuries in Greensboro, North Carolina: Biographical Sketches of over 800 Physicians in Greensboro (1993)
- They Did It! 21 Profiles of Non-Physician Heroines and Pacesetters in Greensboro's Medical Care History (1998)
- The Village of Brown Summit, Past and Present (1993)
- Visual Medical History of Greensboro (2001)
- Willett's Bible Study: The Anatomy and Genesis of a Successful Bible Study

Using his extensive collection of research materials as a starting point, Robert L. 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.
**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 10,000 items
Linear feet: 3.75

Box 1: Personal and Professional Papers, Greensboro Historical Medical Library
Robert L. Phillips--notes--computers
Robert L. Phillips--notes--epilepsy
Robert L. Phillips--notes--head traumas
Robert L. Phillips--notes--miscellaneous professional
Robert L. Phillips--notes--history of neuroscience
Robert L. Phillips--notes--neurological disorders [1 of 2]
Robert L. Phillips--notes--neurological disorders [2 of 2]
Robert L. Phillips--notes--neuroscience
Robert L. Phillips--notes--neurosurgery techniques
Robert L. Phillips--notes--SAH and strokes
Robert L. Phillips--notes--scatological [safety hazard]
Robert L. Phillips--notes--smoking
Robert L. Phillips--notes--spine
Robert L. Phillips--notes--student neuroscience notebook (ca. 1955)
Robert L. Phillips--manuscripts--history and miscellaneous 9ca. 1924-1998)
Robert L. Phillips--correspondence and documents--miscellaneous professional (1942-2000)
Robert L. Phillips--correspondence--history research inquiries (1992-2001)
Robert L. Phillips--correspondence--sales
Robert L. Phillips--David Caldwell Log College
Robert L. Phillips--miscellaneous photographs
Robert L. Phillips--posthumous
Robert L. Phillips--undated notebook (ca. 1880-1910) (possibly a chemist's notebook, containing
recipes for medicines; not in the handwriting of Phillips, Ravenel, or Long)
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--donations [1 of 2]
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--donations [2 of 2]
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--library committee correspondence and minutes
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--library history
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--movie filming (1994)
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--operations
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--History of Medicine Lecture Series
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--History of Medicine Lecture Series--Bird, Ignacio
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--History of Medicine Lecture Series--Buie, Rod
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--History of Medicine Lecture Series--Cavanaugh, Terry
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--History of Medicine Lecture Series--Claytor, Dave
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--History of Medicine Lecture Series--Dixon, Sewell
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--History of Medicine Lecture Series--Forbus, Wiley
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--History of Medicine Lecture Series--Garrard, Robert
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--History of Medicine Lecture Series--Gilmore, Brookes
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--History of Medicine Lecture Series--Herring, William
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--History of Medicine Lecture Series--Holiday, Joe
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--History of Medicine Lecture Series--Lane, Timothy
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--History of Medicine Lecture Series--Lewis, Eloise
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--History of Medicine Lecture Series--Mayar, Norman
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--History of Medicine Lecture Series--Newman, David
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--History of Medicine Lecture Series--Presson, Tom
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--History of Medicine Lecture Series--Ravenel, Sam
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--History of Medicine Lecture Series--Sharpless, Martha
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--History of Medicine Lecture Series--Sikes, T. Edgar
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--History of Medicine Lecture Series--Smith, W.
Siegfried
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--History of Medicine Lecture Series--Stewart, Gordon
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--History of Medicine Lecture Series--Stoesen, Alexander
Greensboro Historical Medical Library--History of Medicine Lecture Series--Wolff, George
Box 2: Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital reports and documents, committees
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--reports and documents--Agreement between Guilford County and Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital (1970)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--reports and documents--Affiliation agreement between AHEC and Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital (1977)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--reports and documents--Affiliation of Moss H. Cone Memorial Hospital and the UNC School of Medicine
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--reports and documents--case studies (1971, 1973)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--reports and documents--charter (1961)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--reports and documents--Cone Capers
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--reports and documents--Cost/Benefit Analysis of the Radiologic Technology Program (1986)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--reports and documents--Cost Study to Process Reusable Surgeon's Gloves (1970)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--reports and documents--Court Order C-57-G-62 (Simkins v. Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital) (1964)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--reports and documents--Emergency Department Manual (1971, 1972)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--reports and documents--history of the hospital
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--reports and documents--Medical and Dental Staff By-Laws (1993)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--reports and documents--miscellaneous services
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--reports and documents--The Potentials for Graduate Medical Education (1966)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--reports and documents--press releases
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--reports and documents--Proposal Working Affiliation for School of Practical Nursing
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--reports and documents--Recommendations for Improvements in Expansion (1967)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--reports and documents--Residency in Family Medicine (1968)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--reports and documents--Resident Staff Manual (1956, 1959, 1960)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--reports and documents--Response to the State's Conditional Approval (1972)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--reports and documents--Staff Manual (1960)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--reports and documents--Staff Manual (1968, 1969, 1972)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--reports and documents--A Survey of the Mission of Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital (1991)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--committees--Advanced Planning Committee
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--committees--Ambulatory Patient Care Facility/Clinics
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--committees--Board of Trustees (1966-1972)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--committees--Executive Committee
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--committees--Joint Committee for Medical Education minutes
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--committees--Joint Committee for Medical Education
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--committees--Lecture Committee
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--committees--Medical Board agendas and minutes (1969-1974)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--committees--Medical Board correspondence (ca. 1960-1970s)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--committees--Medical Board reports (1969-1972, undated)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--committees--Monthly Surgical Conference
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--committees--Operating Room Committee
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--committees--Pharmacy Committee
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--committees--Tissue Committee
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--committees--Utilization Review Committee

Box 3: Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital operations, newsletters, annual reports, personnel
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations (1950-1959)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations (1960-1969)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations (1970-1979)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations (1980-1989)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations (1990-1999, undated)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations--disaster planning (1967-1972)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations--education
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations--HMO planning (1971-1980, undated)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations--miscellaneous pamphlets and fliers
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations--Operating Room Technicians
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations--patient correspondence [RESTRICTED until ca. 2112]
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations--reports
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations--Thomas B. Nolan Memorial Symposium
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations--Women's Hospital of Greensboro
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations--written policies
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations--newsletters--Building a Healthy Future (1989)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations--newsletters--FYI
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations--newsletters--Healthwise (1990-1997)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations--newsletters--Medical Staff Update (1989-1992)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations--newsletters--Miscellaneous (1984-1998)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations--newsletters--Off Line (library) (1989-1997)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations--newsletters--Pharmacy Bulletin (1966)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations--newsletters--Radiology Newsletter (1968)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations--newsletters--Surgical News (1971-1972)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations--annual reports--Medical and Dental Staff (1981, 1996, 1997)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations--annual reports--Moses Cone Health Systems (1995)
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations--personnel--Hunter, John Gray [RESTRICTED until ca. 2121]
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations--personnel--King, Walter [RESTRICTED until ca. 2121]
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations--personnel--letters of assignation and resignation
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations--personnel--Maultsby, James [RESTRICTED until ca. 2121]
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations--personnel--Smithwick [RESTRICTED until ca. 2121]
Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital--operations--personnel--Nolan, Thomas

Box 4: Greensboro Hospital
Greensboro Hospital--annual reports--Extendicare, Inc. (1972)
Greensboro Hospital--reports and documents--statement regarding certificate of need (1972)
Greensboro Hospital--reports and documents--transcript of the hearing on certificate of need (September 29, 1972)
Greensboro Hospital--reports and documents--Medical Staff By-laws (1977)
Greensboro Hospital--reports and documents--Medical Staff Rules and Regulations (1977)
Greensboro Hospital--reports and documents--scheduling difficulties (1981)
Greensboro Hospital--application for certificate of need (1971)
Greensboro Hospital--certificate of need (1972)
Greensboro Hospital--correspondence (1971-1983)
Greensboro Hospital--miscellaneous pamphlets and fliers
Box 5: Miscellaneous health institutions
Central Carolina Convalescent Hospital (undated)
Charter Hills Hospital (1981-1992)
The Evergreens, Inc. (1973-1975)
High Point Regional Hospital (1988, 1994)
Hospice at Greensboro (1996-2001, undated)
L. Richardson Memorial Hospital (1940-1987, undated)
L. Richardson Memorial Hospital--Hospital Study Committee (1974)
L. Richardson Memorial Hospital--Vencor (1996)
Piedmont Hospital (1936, 1967, undated)
Shepard's Center of Greensboro (1991, 1997)
Shepard's Center of Greensboro--annual reports (1993)
Sternberger Hospital for Women and Children (1937-1950, undated)
St. Leo's Hospital (1903, 1938, 1950, 1992-1998, undated)
Summit House--annual reports (1994-1995)
Surgicenter (1983-1993)
Well-Spring Retirement Community--newsletters--Reflections (ca. 1991-1992)

Box 6: Guilford area medical community
Professional Community--Ambulance services
Professional Community--Community Health Reports (1968-1998)
Professional Community--Foundation of Greater Greensboro--annual reports (1993)
Professional Community--Greensboro Academy of Medicine
Professional Community--Greensboro AHEC
Professional Community--Greensboro Medical Society
Professional Community--Guilford County Board of Health meeting minutes (1993)
Professional Community--Guilford County Chronic Illness and Rehabilitation Foundation, Inc.
Professional Community--Guilford County Comprehensive Health Planning Council Hospital Coordinating Committee (1970-1972)
Professional Community--Guilford County Comprehensive Health Study (1968)
Professional Community--Guilford County Comprehensive Health Study (1969)
Professional Community--Guilford County Comprehensive Health Study Consultants' Report (1969)
Professional Community--Guilford County Comprehensive Health Study presentation (1969)
Professional Community--Guilford County Health Department
Professional Community--Guilford County Health Department History (ca. 1961)
Professional Community--Guilford County Medical and Dental Managers (1991)
Professional Community--Guilford County Medical Society (1950-1990, undated)
Professional Community--Health Study by the Greensboro Community Council (1965)
Professional Community--Medical Auxiliary
Professional Community--medical education--UNC/UNCG
Professional Community--Medical Journal Club
Professional Community--Miscellaneous Guilford County information
Professional Community--Miscellaneous Guilford County medical information
Professional Community--Miscellaneous newsletters (1969-1998)
Professional Community--North Carolina Medical Peer Review Foundation (1973-1977, undated)
Professional Community--Paraplegia News (1957-1958)
Professional Community--Physicians' Health Plan of North Carolina (1985)
Professional Community--Piedmont Physicians' Network Board of Directors meeting minutes (1995-1996)
Professional Community--Proposal for Indigent Health Care in Guilford County (1989)
Professional Community--Proposal for Medical Examiner in Greater Greensboro Area (1974-1975)
Professional Community--Steering Committee, Health care delivery systems meeting minutes (1984)
Professional Community--Tom Noland Fund (1982-1997)
Professional Community--Triad Physicians' Health Plan (1984-1993)

Box 7: Samuel Ravenel, William B. Norment, John Wesley Long
Samuel Ravenel--biography dust jacket (1989)
Samuel Ravenel--family history
Samuel Ravenel--biographical material, interviews, and memoir
Samuel Ravenel--will (June 28, 1968)
Samuel Ravenel--documents (polio) (ca. 1940-1960s)
Board of Trustees of Central Carolina Convalescent Hospital--meeting minutes (1956-1962)
Samuel Ravenel--documents (Children's Home Society) (ca. 1960s)
Samuel Ravenel--writings and speeches (1955-1988, undated)
Samuel Ravenel--photographs
Samuel Ravenel--correspondence (ECU medical school) (1965)
Samuel Ravenel--correspondence (Eye Bank) (1959)
Samuel Ravenel--correspondence (humidification treatment) (1952-1956, undated)
Samuel Ravenel--correspondence, photographs, manuscripts (hunting trip) (1945-1959, undated)
Samuel Ravenel--correspondence (polio) (1940-1948)
Samuel Ravenel--correspondence (polio) (1950-1959)
Samuel Ravenel--correspondence (polio) (1960-1969)
Samuel Ravenel--correspondence (St. Cecilia) (1951)
Samuel Ravenel--correspondence (1940-1949)
Samuel Ravenel--correspondence (1950-1952)
Samuel Ravenel--correspondence (1953-1957)
Samuel Ravenel--correspondence (1958-1959)
Samuel Ravenel--correspondence (1960-1969)
Samuel Ravenel--correspondence (1970-1976, undated)
Samuel Ravenel--correspondence (posthumous and memoir)
Samuel Ravenel--certificates and awards
Samuel Ravenel--publications
Samuel Ravenel--research, manuscripts (1961, 1962)
Samuel Ravenel--research (adult immunization)
Samuel Ravenel--research [RESTRICTED until ca. 2134]
William B. Norment--correspondence
William B. Norment--hysteroscope
William B. Norment--photographic material
William B. Norment--publications
John Wesley Long--Long era miscellaneous clippings
John Wesley Long--miscellaneous family photographs
John Wesley Long--miscellaneous correspondence and documents

Box 8: Greensboro Academy of Medicine minutes and correspondence
Recording of 19th Annual Medical Symposium (1 of 2) (1966-03-24)
Recording of 19th Annual Medical Symposium (1 of 2) (1966-03-24)
Symposium 1965
Membership applications
Minutes (1966)
Minutes (1967)
Minutes (1969)
Correspondence (1946)
Correspondence (1947)
Correspondence (1948)
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Correspondence (1981)
Correspondence (1982)
Correspondence (1983)
Correspondence (1984)

Box 9: Artifacts
Enema tool
Hyfrecator
Ophthalmoscope
Greensboro Historical Medical Library dedication plaque

Box 10: Artifacts
Spare medical supplies
Guilford County Medical Society disc
Eli Lilly medicine box and supplies
World War II era medical kit belonging to D. Robert L. Phillips
Box of blank Dictabelts

Box 11: Medical bag

Oversize
Wesley Long Community Hospital--Oversize photographs
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