

Collection: Martindale/ Paterson
General Hospital Collection

Accession Number: 2003.08

FINDING AID

Date Range: 1892-1947 – Paterson General Hospital/Passaic General Hospital

Bulk Date: 1892-1905

Creator: Edna Sproat Martindale

Containers: 1 legal size flip-top box

Storage Location: PCHS Library/Archives

Aid Created by: Janet Wasti, volunteer

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Edna S. Martindale was born on November 17, 1891. Living most of her life in Paterson, she moved to Ramsey New Jersey four years prior to her passing. Mrs. Martindale was married to Ramon W. Martindale, who passed away in 1937. Mrs. Martindale joined the hospital staff in 1910 as secretary to the Director. She served as hospital Bookkeeper from 1913 to 1925, at which point she was appointed Assistant Director. Mrs. Martindale was Assistant Director of Paterson General Hospital until her retirement in 1960. She was a member of the Paterson Business and Professional Woman's Club and the Paterson Chapter of the Eastern Star.

HISTORY NOTE:

As Paterson and other surrounding cities in New Jersey saw an influx of immigrants coming into the State, it became apparent that additional facilities for the ill and injured were necessary. This need was compounded by an increase in industrial and transportation accidents, as well as the fact that the closest permanent hospital (outside of New York City) was St. Mary's in Hoboken. Consequently, the women of the area with a devotion to charitable works came together to form The Hospital of the Ladies Association or the "Ladies Hospital" in Paterson. The Ladies Hospital was founded in 1871. With the help of local physicians (who worked without recompense in most cases), these dedicated people treated patients with a myriad of ailments such as typhoid fever, measles, fevers, tuberculosis, and pneumonia, as well as gunshot and stab wounds.

In 1891, a free dispensary was opened and maintained by the members of the Passaic County Medical Society in Passaic New Jersey. The dispensary provided one or two cots for accident cases. Patients would be brought here before arrangements were made to transfer them to Paterson. On March 11 1897, The Emergency Hospital, as it came to be known, was

discontinued. On October 13, 1897 the Leavens Memorial Home for Nurses was established. During 1921, the hospital became known as The General Hospital.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

This collection consists primarily of black and white photographs, periodicals and newspaper clippings. The material was collected by Mrs. Martindale from 1910 until her retirement in 1960. These items relate to The Greater Paterson General Hospital, as well as The Passaic General Hospital. Within the collection is a scrapbook which contains a few newspaper articles regarding Paterson General Hospital's dignitaries and their various activities, as well as their obituaries (such as Rev. Philo Leavens and Thomas R. Zulich, Superintendent of Paterson General Hospital). A few of these articles appear to have been found in the Paterson Morning Call, although most of these newspaper clippings here were found without any indication of the date of the article or in which newspaper the article appeared.

The photos found in the scrapbook include black and white images of Edna Sproat Martindale and friends, as well as members of the hospital general staff, the nursing staff, hospital administrators and the Board of Governors at various times.

Other black and white photos included within the collection are of the various nurses' graduating classes, attending physicians, equipment used, i.e., ambulance. There are many black and white pictures of the Paterson General Hospital building in various phases of construction.

Besides photographs, the collection also contains issues of Paterson General Hospital's "Quarterly Review" periodical as well as other event programs and commemorative booklets.

Mrs. Martindale's ledger book primarily contained newspaper clippings from the Herald News and the Passaic Daily New. Some articles are from the "News," it is assumed to be the Herald News. However, most of the articles contained in the ledger were cut from the paper without any indication of the date or newspaper. The articles are varied in content. They range from announcements of fundraising events, fairs and carnivals in support of the hospitals and other articles were related to community concerns, such as opposition to the proposal of the opening a tavern in the area. Also included is general information on the growth of the hospitals, i.e., overcrowding, understaffing, as well as the cooperation of several fire companies that have offered to help in the General Hospital Festival was also included.

Various other articles show the efforts being made by the surrounding localities to help fund the Passaic General Hospital are noted in these articles, again mostly from the "News" where indicated.

There are numerous articles from the News regarding the passing, the memorial service and memorial fund being planned for Dr. Philo F. Leavens in both Mrs. Martindale's scrapbook and her ledger.

SERIES:

Upon beginning this finding aid the Martindale collection was assembled and filed in folders. During the creation of this finding aid and box list, all loose clippings from the ledger book were photocopied and the originals discarded.

Please note, at the time of this listing 2003.08.16 was missing.