

**Collection:** Passaic General Hospital**Accession Number:** 2014.042**FINDING AID****DATE RANGE:** 1891 to 1992**BULK DATE:** 1940-1969**CONTAINERS:** 8 letter size flip-top boxes, 1 legal size flip-top box and 1 flat document box**CREATOR:** Unknown**STORAGE LOCATION:** PCHS Library/Archives**AID CREATED BY:** Janet Wasti, Volunteer**HISTORY NOTE:**

Passaic General Hospital was established in December of 1891, as a three-room dispensary where patients could be treated until arrangements could be made to transfer them to a Paterson hospital. The Hospital was organized by members of the Passaic City Medical Society, assisted by an Advisory Board of Directors and the Free Dispensary Auxiliary Society. In June 1892, it was incorporated as the Passaic Hospital Association. The free dispensary soon expanded and relocated a few times, finally coming to rest at its current location on Boulevard and Lafayette Avenue. The new 47-bed facility construction was due in part to the generosity of Susan Jane Aycrigg Palmer, who in 1892 donated the sizeable parcel of land for its construction.

The Hospital continued to grow and expand due to several generous gifts and community fundraising drives over the years. The Hospital added the Lyall Building in 1917, the Scoles Building in 1926, the Ackerson Maternity House in 1941, the Memorial Building in 1955, the Surgical Building in 1957 and the new Reid Building in 1965. In 1965, following an extensive modernization project, a new six story General Hospital emerged and was named the General Hospital Center at Passaic.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

The collection includes legal documents pertaining to the business/organization of Passaic General Hospital, Passaic Hospital Association Ladies Auxiliary, and the Passaic County Medical Society. These documents include the revised and amended constitution and by-laws of Passaic Hospital Association from 1898 to 1947. Also included are the various banking documents of the Hospital's dealings with Peoples Bank & Trust Company and Passaic National Bank and Trust Company. One of the most interesting documents included in the collection is the original land deed of property presented to the Hospital as a gift by Susan Jane

Aycrigg Palmer. The property on which the hospital now stands was presented to them in the spring of 1892.

The photographs found in the collection include black & white photographs of members of the hospital's general staff, the nursing staff, hospital administrative staff, the Board of Governors at various times and other activities at the hospital. There is a series of black & white photographs of the various graduating classes of the nurses; however, not every year is represented.

Other black & white photographs included within the collection are images of the Hospital in various stages of construction, as well as the architect's renderings of the proposed improvements such as the new front door entrance.

There are many brochures, programs (most notably a series of Nurses' graduations programs), invitations, etc. to the various functions at the hospital.

There are many invitations and programs from fundraising events, as well as newspaper clippings advertising the events (mostly from The Herald News). There are also black and white photographs of the brochures mailed to subscribers of the fundraising campaign.

Of special notice is the article on Dow Henry Drukker. Mr. Drukker and his family served the hospital and were generous benefactors to the Passaic General Hospital. The Drukker family served in various capacities, including serving on the Board of Govenors at the Hospital for many years. Dow Henry Drukker's grandson, Austin C. Drukker, along with the hospital administrator, introduced the idea of the Women's Guild in 1966. Other notable hospital benefactors were Richard John Scoles and his wife, Helen Scoles.

Also included in the collection are journal books from the Operating Room, Labor and Delivery Room, Emergency Room and the Morgue, detailing each separate event. Included in these journals are all aspects of the services performed from the doctor's name through to the outcome of the event. Also included are the Annual Reports from 1921-1948 with the exception of 1929, 1930 and 1943. Included are minutes of the various committees and associations.

Most of the newspaper clippings were from the Herald News and the Paterson Evening News.

### **SERIES:**

Upon the creation of this finding aid, the documents and pictures were housed in 10 boxes. 8 of which were letter size, 1 legal size and 1 flat box 16 ½" X 20 ½ ". As it appears that the collection had been previously reviewed, each and every piece of the collection was found to be organized and placed in individual folders according to subject, i.e., banking, property deeds, corporate organizational material for the Hospital, the Passaic County Medical Society, the Ladies Auxiliary, Hospital Staff Meetings, photographs, etc., and kept that way. Ninety five percent of the collection includes photographs, most identified, others not.

Of particular interest are the 12" X 14 ½" journal ledger books found in the collection from the Operating Room, the Morgue, the Emergency Room. Also included are ledger books from the Labor and Delivery Ward.

All loose newspaper clippings from the ledger book were photocopied and discarded