



**Collection Name:** College of Medicine Dean's Records (Robert Wilson)  
**Collection #:** ARC 201  
**Volume:** 1.25 cubic feet; (40 folders)  
**Dates:** 1899-1938  
**Processed By:** Kelley Sirko/ SDH  
**Restrictions:** None

### **Organizational Note/Biographical Note:**

When the Medical College of South Carolina was chartered by the South Carolina legislature on December 20, 1823 it became the tenth medical school in the United States and the first in the Deep South. Founded as a private, proprietary institution by members of the Medical Society of South Carolina, the college's early faculty bore full financial and curricular responsibility for the institution until 1913 when the state assumed ownership of the school. The Medical College opened in 1824 with a faculty of seven Charleston physicians and thirty students. The first students graduated on April 4, 1825. The institution has served continuously since its founding, except for a four-year cessation during the Civil War, 1861-1865. In late 1913 the state legislature was successfully petitioned to transfer ownership of the school to the state. Incorporation of the medical college as a state institution brought public funding and allowed teaching and service roles to expand steadily.

In 1950 the title of the chief executive officer was changed from dean to president, with separate deans for each of the schools, later colleges. The deans listed below who served before 1949 were the top administrators of the college for those years.

Robert Wilson was born in Statesburg, SC on August 23, 1867 to Reverend Robert Wilson, MD and Ann Jane Shand. He grew up in Easton, MD and came to Charleston in 1884, where he studied at the College of Charleston, later earning his A.B. Degree at South Carolina College in 1887, and graduating from the Medical College of the State of South Carolina in 1892. After graduating, he served at MCSSC as Adjunct Professor of Bacteriology from 1901 to 1903, and was appointed to Professor of Medicine in 1904. Wilson was appointed Dean of the Medical College of South Carolina in 1908, and held this position until he resigned in 1943, at which time he became Dean Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Medicine. Wilson died in Roper Hospital on May 20, 1946 and was buried at Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston.

### **Scope and Content:**

The College of Medicine Dean's Records (Robert Wilson), 1899-1938, consists of records of Dr. Wilson during his career at the Medical College of South Carolina from

1908-1943. The collection is arranged in five series: administrative, building and development, faculty, reorganization and student relations.

The Administration Series consists of letters, documents, and reports regarding various administrative matters at the Medical College between 1909 and 1938, including standards for aptitude tests, Board of Trustees matters and correspondence, educational, departmental, and budget matters, including inventory reports, audit investigations regarding the G.H. Walker budgetary matter between 1932 and 1936, and annual reports from various departments. This series is arranged alphabetically.

The Building and Development Series consists of information pertaining to the sale and procurement of buildings and property at the Medical College. Information consists of documents regarding the sale of Roper Hospital in 1910, the sale and transfer of property on Queen and Franklin streets in 1913, and a scrapbook belonging to Robert Wilson that documents the progress of the Medical College building campaign between 1913 and 1914. Materials include letters, legal documents, and a scrapbook consisting of newspaper clippings, editorials, and bulletins tracking the campaign to raise funds for a new building at the Medical College and announcing the donation of Lucas Park for a building site, the completion of the new building and its formal transfer to the state in 1914, and the placement of the Medical College as a class A institution in 1916. Also contains a photocopy of the scrapbook. This series is arranged chronologically.

The Faculty Series consists of correspondence to Robert Wilson concerning faculty-related matters including applications and resignations of faculty and staff, minutes from faculty meetings, and the Dr. W.G. Phillips personnel matter. Materials include correspondence between Robert Wilson and various members of faculty, Board of Trustees, and other institutions, hand-written notes of faculty committee meetings, and various correspondences regarding W.G. Phillips' resignation from the Medical College. This series is arranged alphabetically.

The Reorganization Series consists of reports and correspondence related to the reorganization of the Medical College between 1904-1937. Includes background information in the form of correspondence from Francis L. Parker regarding his attempts to register the college with the Association of American Medical Colleges, and Robert Wilson's subsequent work in procuring the necessary financial and educational resources to meet the AAMC requirements. Materials include letters between Dr. Wilson and various faculty, Board of Trustees members, and state officials, inspection reports of the AMA and the AAMC, correspondence relating to Dr. Wilson's campaign for state approbations between 1930 and 1937, and answers to questionnaires regarding medical education from various other institutions. This series is arranged chronologically.

The Student Relations Series consists of letters, reports, and booklets ranging from 1904 to 1937 pertaining to student relations. Includes correspondence regarding student-related matters such as the Alpha Omega Alpha fraternity, applicants, requests for facility improvements from interns and residents, recommendations and applications for student scholarships, student body and honor committee meetings, and individual student petitions. Letters and documents regarding administrative matters such as student tuition and aid programs, registration, and distribution are also included. This series is arranged alphabetically.

**Citation:** Robert Wilson Dean's Records, ARC 201, Waring Historical Library, MUSC (Charleston).

**Merged Collections:** The following Collections were merged into ARC 201:  
443 MSS SC, Personal recollections of the reorganization of the Medical College  
389 MSS SC, Scrap book, 1913-1915  
675 MSS SC, Letter, 21 September 1920 to Robert Wilson

**Subject Headings:**

Wilson, Robert, 1867-1946  
Parker, Francis LeJau, 1836-1913.  
Lynch, Kenneth Merrill, 1887-1974.  
Walker, G. H.  
Phillips, W. G.  
Students, Medical—South Carolina.  
Faculty, Medical—South Carolina  
Schools, Medical -- history -- South Carolina.  
Schools, Pharmacy--history -- South Carolina  
Schools, Pharmacy— organization & administration — South Carolina.  
Schools, Nursing--history -- South Carolina  
Schools, Nursing— organization & administration — South Carolina.  
Facility Design and Construction—economics— South Carolina.  
Schools, Medical—economics— South Carolina.  
Education, Medical—history— South Carolina.  
Medical College of the State of South Carolina—history.  
Medical University of South Carolina—organization & administration.  
Medical University of South Carolina. School of Nursing  
Medical University of South Carolina. School of Pharmacy  
Association of American Medical Colleges.  
American Medical Association.  
Alpha Omega Alpha.  
Roper Hospital (Charleston, S.C.)  
Medical University of South Carolina-- Flexner Report

**Inventory:**

**Series 1: Administration:**

Folder 1: Aptitude tests  
Folder 2: Board of Trustees  
Folder 3: Board of Trustees correspondence  
Folder 4: Budgetary and maintenance considerations  
Folder 5: Clinic and laboratory services and costs  
Folder 6: Committee minutes on medical education  
Folder 7: Food research lab  
Folder 8: G.H. Walker budgetary matter, 1932-1936  
Folder 9: Historical information

Folder 10: Medical education in United States and Canada booklet, 1932-33

Folder 11: Miscellaneous

Folder 12: Reports of departments

Folder 13: School of Pharmacy

Folder 14: School of Nursing

**Series 2: Building and Development:**

Folder 15: Sale of Roper Hospital, 1910

Folder 2: Sale and transfer of property, 1913

Folder 3: Medical College building campaign scrapbook, 1913-1914

Folder 4: Photocopy of Medical College building campaign scrapbook, 1913-1914

**Series 3: Faculty:**

Folder 1: Applications and resignations

Folder 2: Minutes of faculty

Folder 3: W.G. Phillips personnel matter

**Series 4: Reorganization:**

Folder 1: Licensing and registration requirements

Folder 2: Correspondence from Francis L. Parker

Folder 3: Merger with USC, 1910

Folder 4: Annual reports

Folder 5: Medical College – state institution

Folder 6: Association of American Medical Colleges correspondence

Folder 7: Medical education

Folder 8: State approbations and resolutions

Folder 9: Personal recollections of reorganization by Robert Wilson

Folder 10: Robert Wilson's scrapbook 1910-1931

Folder 11: Photocopy of Robert Wilson's scrapbook 1910-1931

**Series 5: Student Relations:**

Folder 1: AOA correspondence

Folder 2: Applicants to the college

Folder 3: Interns and residents

Folder 4: Miscellaneous student life

Folder 5: Scholarship applications and recommendations

Folder 6: Student aid, student fees, registration