



Collection Name: Roper Hospital Records
Collection #: MSS 300
Size: 3.75 cf (70 folders and 9 volumes)
Dates: 1845-1970 (bulk 1845-1870)
Processed: January 2008/SDH
Restrictions: None
Citation: Roper Hospital Records, MSS 300, Waring Historical Library, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston

Organizational History:

Roper Hospital had its origins with a \$30,000 bequest left to the Medical Society of South Carolina by Colonel Thomas Roper for the purpose of establishing a hospital in Charleston "to treat all sick and injured people without regard to complexion, religion, or nation." In 1845, the money was transferred to the Medical Society, which acted as trustee and set up the Roper Hospital Fund to oversee the account. In 1856 the first Roper Hospital building, located adjacent to the Medical College of South Carolina building on Queen Street, opened to patients. In addition to caring for patients, Roper Hospital also served as a teaching facility for the medical students at the Medical College. This relationship between Roper Hospital and the Medical College continued until 1955 when the Medical College Hospital was built by the College to serve as its principal teaching hospital. The first Roper Hospital building was badly damaged in the 1886 Charleston earthquake and was abandoned. In 1906 the second Roper Hospital was built on the corner of Calhoun and Lucas streets, across the street from the site of the 1914 Medical College building. This building was closed to incoming patients in 1959 and was demolished soon after. A new Roper Hospital Complex was erected nearby and continues to serve Charleston as one of several hospitals.

Since, 1845, when the Medical Society acquired the Thomas Roper bequest, it has managed all elements of Roper Hospital. In 1951, the Medical Society of South Carolina, originally organized as a professional organization, formally relinquished its charter as a component of the South Carolina Medical Association and turned its attention to the management and development of Roper Hospital. In 1997, the Medical Society of South Carolina, Bon Secours Health System and Carolina HealthCare System formed the CareAlliance Health Services. CareAlliance Health Services owns and manages all of the Roper facilities, as well as, the Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital. The Medical Society of South Carolina continues to oversee Roper Hospital.

Scope and Content Note:

The Roper Hospital Records, 1845-1969 (bulk, 1845-1870) consist of materials generated by the Medical Society of South Carolina concerning the construction, management, and administration of Roper Hospital. Please note that this collection is intimately related to the Medical Society of South Carolina Records and all researchers should consult both collections to obtain a complete picture of the management of Roper Hospital. The collection is arranged in five series: Board of Trustees, Committees, Financial Records, Patient Care, and Photographs.

Board of Trustees, 1845-1914, 1944-1969, consists principally of minutes and other documentation for the Roper Hospital Board of Trustees. The minutes detail all activities of the Board concerning the administration of Roper Hospital. Also included are various reports, announcements and correspondence pertaining to board activities. These minutes are not those of the Medical Society of South Carolina and so have only marginal relation to the activities of the Society in areas outside the administration of Roper Hospital.

Committees, 1856-1922, are arranged in four subseries: Roper Hospital Building Committee, Furniture Committee, Library Committee, and Repairs Committee. The Building Committee files, 1904-1917, document the construction of the 1906 Roper Hospital, including selection of architect and contractor. The bulk of the materials pertains to a lawsuit between the Medical Society of South Carolina and Frank B. Gilbreth, contractor, for breach of contract. The Furniture Committee files consist of two ledgers: the furniture inventory, 1856-59, of the Roper Hospital when it opened in 1856 as well as subsequent acquisitions; and Roper Hospital and Riverside Infirmary inventory, 1906. The Library Committee files consist of two ledgers itemizing books and other materials acquired for the Roper Hospital library. The Repairs Committee files consist of minutes of meetings of the committee regarding repairs to Roper Hospital. Also included is a photocopy of a report of the extent of damage to Roper Hospital after the 1886 earthquake.

Financial, 1845-1960s, are arranged in two subseries: Roper Hospital Treasurer's Records, 1845-1923, and MSSC Board of Finance Records, 1845-1934. Roper Hospital Treasurer's Records document the financial accounts of the Hospital, including receipts for goods and services from vendors, physicians and patients. The Board of Finance Records, 1845-1934, document the activities of the Board of Finance, the management of the Roper Hospital Fund and other bequests, and donations to the Medical Society in behalf of Roper Hospital. Among the materials are minutes of meetings, 19XX-1934, receipts and correspondence for goods, materials, and services; and information about estates and bequests, including copies of wills, deeds, mortgages, and other court documents.

Patient Care, 1854-1909, consist chiefly of Ward/Admission books, 1854-1870, which document patient care at Roper Hospital. Among the information contained in the books are patients' names and reason for treatment, course of treatment and outcome, drug and diet administration, and quarterly and annual statistical reports on patient care. Also

included are records of the Committee on Lunacy, 1858-1863, and the Committee on Purveyance, 1867-1868. The Committee on Lunacy records document the admission and discharge of patients to the Lunatic Asylums in Charleston and Columbia. The Committee on Purveyance records document drugs provided to patients at Roper Hospital. Additional copies of Quarterly reports of the wards can be found in the Medical Society of South Carolina, Book of Reports.

Photographs, 1886-1970, and undated, include photographs of Roper Hospital physical plant, staff, and patients. Specific buildings are documented, including the Palmetto Pavilion, Kinloch Home for Nurses, Marlboro Apartments, and Surgical Wards. Also included are photographs of the damage suffered by Roper in the 1886 Charleston Earthquake. Photographs of individuals and groups of people may or may not be identified.

Related Collections:

Medical Society of South Carolina, various collections.
Roper Hospital. Committee on Infections, MSS 942
J.L. Lee Medical Account Book, MSS 195

Merged Collections:

The following collections have been merged to create MSS 300, Roper Hospital Records:
Plan of organization for the Roper Hospital, nd (MSS 40)
Roper Hospital Financial Report, 1907 (MSS 49)
Roper Hospital, Report to the Board of Commissioners from Superintendent, 1907 (MSS 50)
Letter to Roper Hospital from Robert Wilson re: resignation of intern, 1908 (MSS 58)
Roper Hospital, Building Committee statement (Robert Wilson) vs. Contractor, 1907 (MSS 59)
Roper Hospital, MSSC agreement, 1904 (MSS 73)
Roper Admission/Ward Book, 1868-1870 (MSS 182)
Roper Surgical Diet and Prescription Book, 1867-69 (MSS 183)
Drug book (Roper), 1854-1857 (MSS 271)
Roper Hospital, Papers, 1889-1942 (MSS 301)
Quarterly report of the medical wards, 1867, copy (Original in MSSC Book of reports, pp209-210) (MSS 396)
Quarterly surgical report, 1867, copy (Original in MSSC Book of reports, pp 215-216) (MSS 397)
Note, 13 November 1854 (Order for wood) (MSS 530)
Quarterly report of the ward, original (MSS 540)
Quarterly medical report, original (MSS 541)
Announcement for meeting for BOT, Roper Hospital, 1864 (MSS 583)
Legal opinion re: earthquake damage to Roper Hospital, 1886 (MSS 588), copy of original at South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina.
Letter to Riverside Infirmary (MSS 919)

Subject Headings:

LCSH:

Aiken, William Martin, |d 1885-1908
 Barker, Theodore G. (Theodore Gaillard), b. 1832
 Gilbreth, Frank Bunker, 1868-1924.
 Cathcart, Robert S.
 Cohen, Hortense S. |x Will.
 Magrath, A. G. (Andrew Gordon), 1813-1893. |x Will.
 Morawetz, Victor, 1859-1938 |x Will.
 Roper, Thomas
 Simons, Thomas Grange, 1843-1927.
 Thompson, Rosa |x Will.
 Medical Coll State of SC—history
 Medical Society of South Carolina
 Riverside Infirmary (Charleston, S.C.)
 Roper Hospital (Charleston, S.C.)
 South Carolina Lunatic Asylum—history
 South Carolina State Hospital for Insane—history
 Breach of contract--history—South C
 Earthquakes--South --Chas-- photographs
 Earthquakes—South C—Chas--History
 Hospital Wards--South C—Chas--History.
 Slaves -- Medical care -- History -- South Carolina.

MeSH Hdgs

Admitting Department, Hospital--history--South C
 Commitment of Mentally Ill--history—South C
 Delivery of Health Care--history—South C
 Education, Medical--history—South C
 Equipment and Supplies, Hospital--history
 Fees, Medical—South Carolina.
 Fees and Charges—South Carolina.
 Financial Management, Hospital—South C
 Formularies, Hospital--history—South C
 History of Medicine, 19th Cent.—South C
 History of Medicine, 20th cent.—South C
 Hospital Administration--history—South C
 Hospital Design and Construction--history—South C
 Hospital Records--history—South C
 Hospital Units--history—South C
 Hospitals--history—South C
 Libraries, Hospital--history—South C
 Materials Management, Hospital—history
 Medical Records--history—South C

Mental Disorders--history—South C
 Mentally Ill Persons--history—South C
 Operating Rooms—photographs
 Patient Care--history—South C
 Patient Care Planning--history—South C
 Patients' Rooms--history—South C
 Public Health--history—South Carolina.

Inventory:

Board of Trustees:

Minutes:

Volume 1 "Rough Minutes," May 23, 1856-July 30, 1869
 Volume 2 Minutes, May 23, 1856-Oct 9, 1868
 Volume 3 Minutes, Oct 23, 1868-Oct 22, 1900

Box 1:

Minutes, copies:

Folder 1 Aug 7, 1845-Feb 16, 1853 (pp 1-284)
 Folder 2 Mar 5, 1853-May 9, 1856 (pp 285-595)
 Folder 3 May 23, 1856-Feb 12, 1858 (pp 1-272)
 Folder 4 Feb 24, 1858-Nov 1, 1861 (pp 273-608)
 Folder 5 Nov 15, 1861-Jun 7, 1867 (pp 609-916)
 Folder 6 Jun 15, 1867-Oct 9, 1868 (pp 917-1090)

Box 2:

Correspondence and reports:

Folder 7 Correspondence and reports, 1864, 1907-14, 1944-67
 Folder 8 Reorganization, 1904
 Folder 9 Integration, 1965-68

Committees:

Roper Building Committee:

Folder 10 Minutes, 1904-1917
 1906 Roper Hospital Construction:
 Folder 11 Committee Report, 1905
 Folder 12 Correspondence with architect, Wm. Martin Aiken, 1904-05
 Folder 13 Correspondence, contracts, finances, 1905-06
 Folder 14 Suit with Contractor, Copies of Gilbreth's contracts, 1905
 Folder 15 Suit with Contractor, Legal fees, 1906
 Folder 16 Suit with Contractor, Argument and statement, 1906-11
 Folder 17 Suit with Contractor, Robert Wilson Statement, 1907 (formerly MSS 59)
 Folder 18 Suit with Contractor, Exhibits R-1 and S-1 (correspondence, etc.)
 Folder 19 Suit with Contractor, Final decree and opinion, 1913-14
 Other Construction:
 Folder 20 Children's and Maternity Wards at Roper, 1921-22

Folder 21 Thompson Memorial Building, 1921-22

Committee on Furniture:

Folder 22 Committee on Furniture, 1856-1859

Folder 23 Inventory of Roper and Riverside, equipment, etc., 1906

Committee on Library :

Folder 24 Committee on Library, 1858

Committee on Repairs:

Folder 25 Committee on Repairs, 1856-1857

Folder 26 Legal opinion re: earthquake damage to Roper Hospital (formerly MSS 588)

Financial Records:

Roper Hospital Treasurers Records:

Volume 4 Roper Hospital Fund, Treasurer's book, 1845-1923

Folder 27 Order for coal, 1854; Financial Report, 1907; Expenditures, n.d.

Folder 28 Account book, E.C. Bradley with Roper Hospital, 1856-1857

MSSC, Board of Finance Records:

Folder 29 Meeting minutes, 1923-25

Folder 30 Meeting minutes, 1926-29

Folder 31 Meeting minutes, 1930-34

Folder 32 Receipts and correspondence, 1857-1908 (includes earthquake damage to Roper)

Folder 33 Receipts and correspondence, 1906-13

Folder 34 Receipts and correspondence, 1914-23

Folder 35 Receipts and correspondence, 1924-30

Box 3

MSSC, Board of Finance Records, Estates and bequests:

Folder 36 Cohen, Hortense S. Estate, 1940s

Folder 37 Duke Endowment, 1940s

Folder 38 Huger, Alfred Indenture

Folder 39 Magrath, A.G. Estate

Folder 40 Miscellaneous bequests, 1921, 1930

Folder 41 Morawetz, Victor bequest

Folder 42 Roper, Thomas bequest

Volume 5 Committee to manage Roper Bequest ledger, Aug 7, 1845-May 1856

Folder 43 Loose papers from Committee to manage Roper Bequest ledger

Folder 44 Ross Estate, 1923-1940

Folder 45 Ross Estate, Correspondence (1 of 2)

Folder 46 Ross Estate, Correspondence (2 of 2)

Folder 47 Thompson, Rosa Estate, 1920s

Folder 48 Report, bequests and donations, 1960s

MSSC, Board of Finance Records, Deeds and mortgages:

Folder 49 Legal, Deeds to 2 lots on the corner of Calhoun and Jonathan Lucas

Folder 50 Finger/Egan mortgage, 1896

Pieces of document to repair

Patient Care Records

- Folder 51 Committee on Lunacy, 1858-63
- Folder 52 Committee on Purveyance (drugs and supplies), 1867-1868
- Folder 53 Correspondence, 1908-09
- Volume 6 Drug book (Roper), 1854-1857 (MSS 271)
- Volume 7 Surgical Notebook/Ward Book, 1867-68
- Volume 8 Surgical Diet and Prescription Book, 1867-69 (MSS 183)
- Volume 9 Roper Admission/Ward Book, 1868-1870 (MSS 182)
- Oversized drawer: see also Book of Reports
- Folder 54 Quarterly report of the ward, copy (Original in MSSC Book of reports, pp 209-210) (MSS 396)
- Folder 55 Quarterly report of the ward, copy (Original in MSSC Book of reports, pp 215-216) (MSS 397)
- Folder 56 Quarterly report of the ward, original (MSS 541)
- Folder 57 Quarterly report of the ward, original (MSS 540)

Box 4

Photographs

- Folder 58 Building exterior before 1900
- Folder 59 Building exterior 1905-1970
- Folder 60 Earthquake 1886
- Folder 61 Kinlock Home Groups
- Folder 62 Marlboro Apartments-Interior/Exterior
- Folder 63 Thompson Memorial Building
- Folder 64 Palmetto Pavilion
- Folder 65 Surgical Wards
- Folder 66 Individuals- identified-unidentified
- Folder 67 negatives
- Folder 68 negatives-Surgical wards and groups
- Folder 69 negatives Roper Hospital
- Folder 70 Ephemera

Special Note:

Filed with Records of the Medical Society of South Carolina

Book of Reports, 1840-1877 contains pasted in documents supporting the activities of the Medical Society of South Carolina. These documents are sometimes referred to in the minutes of the Medical Society. Documents include but are not limited to: reports and opinions of committees on topics ranging from national and state medical activities and legislation; development, expansion, and oversight of Charleston hospitals, principally, of the Roper Hospital; applications for membership in the Society; receipts, financial statements, and treasurer's reports of both the Society and Roper Hospital Fund; ward reports for the Roper Hospital; and correspondence. This collection of materials supplements all other resources pertaining to the Medical Society of South Carolina and Roper Hospital. Also included in the Book of Reports is material documenting the service of the medical profession and Roper Hospital during the Civil War.