



Children's Hospital Boston

HOSPITAL AND CONVALESCENT HOME FOR CHILDREN
(LADIES' AID ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL)

Records, 1869-1959

Archival Collection – AC 2

Archives of Children's Hospital Boston

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Accession #: 1992-4, 1992-44, 1993-6, 1993-13, 2006-071
Oct. 1993

7.25 manuscript boxes
2 record center cartons
2 oversize boxes

Processed:

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ACQUISITION: The records were received prior to January 1992, with the exception of accession # 2006-071.

ACCESS: Patient records in the collection are restricted. Please consult the hospital archivist for further information.

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HISTORICAL NOTE

The Ladies' Aid Association was begun in 1869, shortly before Children's Hospital opened, at the suggestion of the hospital's managers. It provided articles such as sheets, pillowcases, blankets, towels, tablecloths, children's clothing, toys, and books to the hospital.

As Children's Hospital grew, there was an increasing need for non-acute, long-term convalescent care. Responding to this need the Ladies' Aid Association rented and ran a home in Weston in 1874. A year later, they rented a house in Wellesley and established the Convalescent Home in Wellesley. The Ladies' Aid Association purchased a house in 1877 and made the necessary improvements upon it in the following years. The home was open from May through October

In 1890 H.H. Hunnewell donated 34 acres of land in Wellesley and a larger home was built. The new building was opened in 1892, and in 1894 it remained open all year for the first time.

On January 20, 1903 a fire destroyed the home without injury to anyone. The managers of the Convalescent Home rented a much smaller house until a new facility could be built. The new home opened in 1905 and was equipped with open-air shacks, which were believed to be the best treatment for patients with tuberculosis. Twenty years later, it was felt that sunlight was a better treatment, and Mary Weld, one of the home's managers donated funds to construct a solarium in memory of her father. The building was completed in 1926.

In 1885 the Ladies' Aid Association became the Convalescent Home of the Children's Hospital. In 1944 it changed its name to the Convalescent Home for Children, and finally, in 1948, to the Hospital and Convalescent Home for Children. This organization was always financially independent from the Children's Hospital and administered entirely by the women who were its members.

In the late 1940's the Convalescent Home was brought under the management of The Children's Medical Center. Use of the home changed reflecting the decreasing need for long-term convalescent care due in part to the success of antibiotics. The facility now had a small convalescent unit, a nursery school for cerebral palsy patients, and the Mary MacArthur Respirator Unit, which opened in 1950.

The Ladies' Aid Association and the Managers of the Convalescent Home served Children's needs for a convalescent facility. Another volunteer group of women, some serving in both groups, formed the Welfare Committee, in 1920, in an effort to make the needs of the hospital and convalescent home known to the broader community and provide them with donations of supplies and funds. In 1947 the Welfare Committee was "joined by representatives of the Convalescent Home" (Annual Report 1947) and in 1949 the Welfare Committee changed its name to the Women's Committee in an effort to include representatives from "affiliating agencies" of The Children's Medical Center (Annual Report 1949).

By 1958 the Convalescent Home no longer served the needs of the hospital and was closed. The property was sold to Babson Institute (now Babson College). In 1967 the Hospital and Convalescent Home for Children was incorporated into The Children's Hospital Medical Center.

For further historical information see: Lendon Snedeker, M.D., One Hundred Years at Children's, Clement A. Smith, M.D., The Children's Hospital of Boston: "Built Better Than They Knew". Within the records of the Ladies Aid Association see particularly the histories in box 5, folders 68, 69, and 70.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The records of the Ladies' Aid Association cover the period from its inception in 1869 to 1959.

BOX LIST

Box	Folder
	<u>Series I. Secretary's Records</u>
1	88 Meeting Minutes, 1875-78
	89 1878-81
	90 1881-85
	91 1885-94
	92 1895-1905
	93 1906-16
	94 1929-40
	<u>Series II. Treasurer's Records</u>
2	95 Cash Book, 1869-83
	96 1884-92
3	<u>Series IIIa. Convalescent Home Subject Files</u>
	1 Agreement with Children's Hospital, 1946, 1949
	2 Annual Reports, 1870-1906, 1907-26
	3 1912
	4-12 1914-21
	13-19 1925-31
	20-30 1933-43
	31 1946
	32 Application for Admission, n.d.
	33 Audit Report, 1920
	34 Board Meeting Minutes, 1949
	35 Building Committee Minutes, 1903-05
	36 Bylaws, 1898
	37 1929
	38 1944
	39 Certificate of Stay, n.d.
	40 Clippings (Newspaper), 1918-30

	41	Cooking Classes, c. 1930
Box	Folder	
4	42	Correspondence, n.d.
	43	Correspondence, 1890-1906
	44-45	1906-15
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	49-54	Superintendent's, 1930-31, A-H
5	55-59	I-Z
	60-62	Donations, 1916-38
	63	Education of Physically Handicapped Children, n.d.
	64	The Emergency Campaign of 1935
	65	Fire Commission, n.d.
	66	Fund Raising, n.d., 1920
	67	Greater Boston Community Council Award, 1945
	68	Histories, n.d.
	69	History, 1876-1937
	70	1914
	71	"Open-Air Treatment of Patients at the MGH and Children's Hospital of Boston," F.A. Washburn, 1906
	72	Open House, 1939
	73	Patient Statistics, 1937
	74-75	Recipes, c. 1930
	76a	Rheumatic Fever Plan, 1946
	76b	School of Nursery Maids, 1934
	77	Scrapbook, 1880-1959
	78	Social Service, 1937
	79	Staff Duties, c. 1930
	80	Subscriptions, 1920
5.1	80.5	Scrapbook, 1931 - 1947
6	81	Treasurer's Records, 1892-99

	82	1899-1903
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Box	Folder	
2	97	1908-11
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6	84	Reports, 1933-37
	85	1948
	86	Wage Reduction, 1931
6	87	Will of Annie H. Brown, 1929
		<u>Series IIIb. Convalescent Home Patient Records</u>
7	1	Admission Register, 1875-1902
	2	1902-11
	3	1903-11
	4	1919-30
8	5	1928-34
	6	1930-34
	7	1935-43
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9	9	Medical Records, 1896-1901
	10	1896-1900
	11	1899-1903
	12	1900-03
10	13	1903-04
	14	1905-06
	15	1906
	16	1906-07
		<u>Series IIIc. Convalescent Home Photograph Blocks and Plaques</u>
11	1	Photograph Block: Ambulance, n.d.
	2-3	Classroom, n.d.
	4	Dentistry, c. 1940
	5	Hosing Off, c. 1936

	6	Hydrotherapy, n.d.
	7	Nurse and Patient, c. 1940
Box	Folder	
11	8	Physical Therapy, c. 1940
	9	Seal (small), n.d.
	10	Seal (large), n.d.
	11	Plaque: Mary Lothrop Peabody, 1837-1910