

Finding Aid for the Grand Rapids Academy of Medicine collection Collection 130

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
March 1991
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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Title	Grand Rapids Academy of Medicine collection
Date [inclusive]	1868-1914, 1930, 1958
Extent	3.25 Linear feet Four boxes
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The Grand Rapids Academy of Medicine was a medical and veterinary school in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This small collection provides some documentation of three medical associations and teaching organizations, related to the Academy, in Grand Rapids from 1856 to 1914. Included is material on the Grand Rapids Medical and Surgical Society, the Grand Rapids Academy of Medicine and the Grand Rapids Medical College. The collection contains meeting minutes and such business records as canceled checks, invoices, application forms and notice of dissolution. Also included is correspondence about the lecture series held at the Academy featuring various guest doctors, and information about the two buildings occupied by the Grand Rapids Medical College.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

The Grand Rapids Medical and Surgical Society was organized in 1856 and was re-established in 1864 after a brief lull during the Civil War years. It was supplanted in 1887 by the Academy of Medicine (organized in 1884).

The Academy was dedicated to promoting the advancement of both scientific knowledge and medicine. Throughout its existence, it dealt with controversial issues such as accusations of unethical advertising and its refusal to join the American Medical Association (thereby its membership remained highly restrictive).

In 1897 the Grand Rapids Medical College was organized by a group of physicians, apparently from the Academy. This group became the College's first faculty. The curriculum contains a three-year human medicine course and a six-months veterinary medicine course. A scandal in 1897 caused the school to close and the resignation of the entire faculty. It re-opened in 1899 under new management and eventually graduated 108 students of human medicine. The re-opened college closed in 1906 due to a lack of support and competition from the Medical School at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

The Academy of Medicine officially faded from the scene in 1914.

Scope and Contents note

The material in the collection offers insight into the activities of the Academy during its last few years, 1909-1914. The correspondence of the period deals with annual meetings and the guest physicians to be brought in for the lecture series. The collection also contains invoices, deposit slips and canceled checks which evidence the Academy's financial condition. Also contains blank dues payment slips and membership applications.

A copy of the 1868 document history explains the establishment of the Grand Rapids Medical and Surgical Society and notes the original members. The 1867 Table of Fees delineates and details costs for various surgical procedures.

The Constitution and Bylaws detail more of the Academy's history and officers from 1884 through 1911. The minutes are complete and the secretary's reports detail membership during the 1890s.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department March 1991

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Unknown donor, 1915. No accession number.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Grand Rapids Academy of Medicine.
- Grand Rapids Medical and Surgical Society.
- Grand Rapids Medical College.

Genre(s)

- records (documents)

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

Subject(s)

- Medical colleges -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Veterinary colleges -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids

Annual banquet material, 1912. (4 items)

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Constitution, By-laws, Amendments, 1884, 1895, 1911, n.d.	1	1
Secretary's Reports, 1891-1895.	1	2
Annual banquet material, 1912. (4 items)		
	Box	Folder
1.-2. Checks drawn on Grand Rapids National City Bank, Nov. 19, 1912.	1	3
3. Receipt from Tuller's Orchestra, Oct. 2, 1912	1	3
4. Menu and program for Oct. 1, 1912 event	1	3
	Box	Folder
Notice of Dissolution, 1914. (3 items)	1	3.5
History, 1868, 1913. Typed copy of letterhead for Dr. J.B. Griswold. Original date, 1868, with a note about the cornerstone, April 5, 1913. (3 sheets)	1	4
Tarriff of Fees adopted by the Physicians of the Grand River Valley Medical Society at Grand rapids, June 1852. Handwritten, 1 sheet.	1	4

Blank Forms

Table of Fees, Mar. 1867. Grand Rapids Medical and Surgical Society. Typed copy on Dr. J.B. Griswold letterhead. (3 sheets)	1	4
Blank Forms		
	Box	Folder
Application forms. Academy of Medicine.	1	5
Report of the Committee on Ethics of Academy of Medicine ... recommending applicants.	1	5
Payment forms, n.d.	1	5
	Box	Folder
Two Ethics Forms, used.	1	5.5
Correspondence		
	Box	Folder
1911-1912.	1	6
1913-1914, n.d.	1	7
	Box	Folder
Cancelled checks, 1911-1913.	1	8
Invoices, 1909-1912.	1	9

G.R. Medical College buildings, 1930, 1958

Invoices, 1913-July 1914 and deposit slips, June 1912-March 1913	1	10
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Program of Topics, 1907-1908, 1908-1909	1	11
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G.R. Medical College buildings, 1930, 1958

	Box	Folder
GR Press, July 29, 1958. "Bows to progress : City to Raze Former Home of Old Medical School". (2)	1	12

Photocopy of Morris Coll. 043 photo, ca. 1930, of the Grand Rapids Medical College Building (2 copies, front and back= 4 sheets).	1	12
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	Box	Folder
Invitation to First Commencement of the Grand Rapids Medical College, May 18, 1898 at the Ladies Literary Club House.	1	13

	Box
Minute Book, 1884-1895.	2

Minute Book, 1895-1897.	2
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Cash Book, 1895-1914.	2
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	Collection	Box
Certificate. Paul Westrate. Doctor of Medicine, Grand Rapids Medical College of Michigan. June 3, 1901. 00.[0144].1	216	5

Unprocessed

Unprocessed**Scope and Contents note**

Boxes 3 and 4 were moved to this collection 2/5/2003 from the Old Collection.

Box

Programs, bulletins, etc.

3

Secretary's books

4