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Citation Information:Moursund, Walter H. (1884-1959), "MS 042 Guide to Walter H. Moursund, MD Papers (1913-1959)" (1913).

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Papers of Walter H. Moursund, M.D.

**Manuscript Collection No. 42
of the
John P. McGovern Historical Collections and Research Center
Houston Academy of Medicine - Texas Medical Center Library
1133 John Freeman Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77030**

**Compiled by
Joan R. Ferry
September, 1987**

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I. Introduction

Walter H. Moursund, M.D. (1884-1959) was associated with Baylor University College of Medicine from 1911 until 1953, first as a member of the faculty and ultimately as dean for 30 years. His interest in preserving a record of the school's growth led to his collection of pertinent newspaper clippings and other documents from 1914 until his death in 1959, a collection which grew to include clippings and material on virtually every medical institution in Houston. Following Dr. Moursund's death, the collection was retained by his daughter, Mrs. Mildred Essig. Elizabeth White, director of the Historical Research Center of the Houston Academy of Medicine/Texas Medical Center Library, became aware of the collection while corresponding with Mrs. Essig and other family members in 1984 and arranged for its transference to the Harris County Medical Archive in 1986.

II. Biography

Walter H. Moursund was born in Fredericksburg, Texas on August 13, 1884. One of eight children, he was the son of District Judge Albert Waddell and Henrikke M. Moursund, both immigrants from Norway. Dr. Moursund was later to attribute his interest in the study of medicine to the kindness of a family doctor who helped him recover from a childhood illness. Following graduation from Fredericksburg High School, Dr. Moursund received his medical degree at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, in 1906. He married the former Freda Adelaide Plate of Seguin in 1907 and for the next several years was a general practitioner in Fredericksburg, Seguin, Marion, Lavernia and Sulphur Springs, Texas. During World War I he served with the army as a captain and then major.

Dr. Moursund's association with Baylor University College of Medicine began in 1911 when he joined the staff as an assistant in pathology and bacteriology. The college was at this time located in Dallas, and in the ensuing years Dr. Moursund served in a variety of roles, including professor of physiology, pathology, clinical pathology, bacteriology and hygiene. He also served as secretary and registrar, as acting dean, and finally as dean from 1923 until his retirement in 1953. His tenure spanned the years of Baylor's move to Houston in 1943 and its growth as part of the newly-created Texas Medical Center. His file of clippings and other material documenting the medical school's growth became the basis for A History of Baylor University College of Medicine 1900-1953, published by Dr. Moursund in 1956. Material concerning other medical institutions in the Houston area provided the basis for a second book, Medicine in Greater Houston 1836-1956, which was prepared as a manuscript but never published. Dr. Moursund's professional affiliations included membership in the American Medical Association, the Southern Medical Association, and the Harris County Medical Society. The Texas Medical Association elected him to emeritus membership in 1950. He was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree by Baylor University in 1946, and in 1951 the Walter H. and Freda Moursund Endowment was established at Baylor College of Medicine. Upon retirement from Baylor in 1953, Dr. Moursund was named dean emeritus and director of endowment.

III. Organization

This collection when received consisted largely of dated but untrimmed newspaper clippings, placed in envelopes according to subject. These classifications were generally maintained, and processed clippings were then arranged in chronological order wherever possible. Biographical material and correspondence were separated into appropriate categories and arranged chronologically where possible. Some duplicate material was removed to the institutional collections of the Archive, and photographs were removed to the Historical Research Center.

The Moursund Collection is divided into four series:

I. Biographical and Personal

II. Miscellaneous Correspondence and Pamphlets

III. Baylor University College of Medicine.

IV. Houston Area Medical Institutions.

IV. Inventory

SERIES I

These four folders contain biographical material on Dr. Moursund, his wife and two sons.

Folder:

1. Biographical material.
2. Freda A. Moursund.
3. Col. Walter H. Moursund, Jr. 4. M. Waddell Moursund.
5. Post-Graduate Medical Assembly plaque.

SERIES II

1. Manuscript material.
2. Miscellaneous correspondence and pamphlets 1925-59.
3. Report of a Sanitary Survey of the City of Galveston, Texas. 1913[?]

SERIES III

Box 1

1. Greater Dallas Medical Center. Press clippings 1938-39.
2. Parkland Hospital, Dallas. 1914-39.
3. Baylor - Medical Projects and Reports - Faculty. Reports of Departments - 1925.
4. Baylor University College of Medicine in Dallas. 1920-44.

5. Dr. Samuel Palmer Brooks. Illness, death, successor. Died May 13, 1931. Pat W. Neff death.
6. Baylor Library - Dallas. 1937-41.
7. Baylor - Last year in Dallas. Material 1937-43.
8. Baylor. 1938-43.
9. Baylor University and Medical School programs and directories.
10. Baylor College of Medicine. Miscellaneous. 1944.
11. Baylor. General - moving, etc. 1938-43.
12. Baylor. 1944-46.

Box 2

13. Baylor College of Medicine. Miscellaneous. 1945.
14. Baylor Medical Foundation. 1945.
15. Baylor College of Medicine. Miscellaneous. 1946.
16. Baylor. 1947.
17. Baylor - Miscellaneous. 1947.
18. Baylor. Dedication Exercises. Cullen Building - 1948.
19. Miscellaneous clippings, publicity - 1948.
20. Baylor. 1948-49.
21. Baylor College of Medicine. Miscellaneous. 1949.

Box 3

22. Baylor College of Medicine. Miscellaneous. 1950.
23. Baylor College of Medicine. Miscellaneous. 1951.
24. Baylor College of Medicine. Miscellaneous. 1952.

25. Baylor. Simmons Bequest. 1950-53.
26. Baylor College of Medicine. Miscellaneous. 1953.
27. Baylor College of Medicine. 1954.
28. Baylor College of Medicine. 1955.
29. Baylor College of Medicine. 1957. (Removed to Institutional Collection no. 6: Bulletin for 1957-58/1958-59.)
30. Baylor College of Medicine. 1958. (Removed to Institutional Collection no. 6: Baylor Student-Faculty Directory, 1957-58.)
31. Baylor College of Medicine. 1959. (Removed to Institutional Collection no. 6: Baylor Directory of Faculty and Employees, 1958-59.)

SERIES IV

Box 1

1. Blue Bird Clinic. 1949-58.
2. City-County Hospital. 1954-57.
3. The Cullens. 1944-58.
4. The Guidance Center of Houston. 1929-53.
5. Harris County Medical Society. 1948-59.
6. Health-Related Organizations. 1949-58.
7. Hermann Hospital and Junior League Clinic. 1944-59.
8. Houston Endowment. 1959.
9. Houston Heights Hospital. 1957-58.
10. Houston Negro Hospital. 1945-51.
11. Houston Speech and Hearing Center. 1958.
12. Houston Tuberculosis Hospital. 1947-58.
13. Institute of Religion. 1958.

14. Jefferson Davis Hospital. 1942-59.

Box 2

15. Jesse Jones Library Building. 1952-54.

16. M.D. Anderson. 1946-47.

17. M.D. Anderson. 1948-49.

18. M.D. Anderson. 1950's.

19. Baptist Sanitarium. 1908-1916. (Forerunner to Memorial Hospital.)

20. Memorial Hospital. 1945-58.

21. Memorial Hospital. 1945-59.

22. Methodist Hospital. News Notes 1954-58.

23. Methodist Hospital. Statistical Data 1956-59.

24. Methodist Hospital. Miscellaneous.

25. Nursing. 1948-58.

26. Public Health; Medical Profession; Prominent Physicians. 1946-59.

27. St. Elizabeth Hospital. 1946-59.

Box 3

28. St. Joseph's Infirmary/Hospital. 1947-59.

29. St. Luke's Hospital. 1947-54.

30. Shrine Crippled Children's Clinic & Hospital, 1949-52.

31. Southern Pacific Hospital (Railroad Hospital). 1949-57.

32. Texas Children's Hospital. 1946-58.

33. Texas History. Houston History. 1945-58.

34. Texas Institute for Rehabilitation and Research. 1954-59. (Removed to Institutional Collection no. 17: Progress Report, Southwestern Poliomyelitis Respiratory Center, 1951.)
35. Texas Medical Center. 1944-48.
36. Texas Medical Center. 1949-59.
37. UT Dental College. 1945-58.
38. University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston. 1945-58.
39. UT Post-Graduate School of Medicine. 1950-59.
40. Veterans Administration Hospital. 1944-59.
41. Welch Foundation. 1954-58.

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Cullen, Hugh Roy, 1881-1957

Guidance Center of Houston

Harris County Medical Society

Hermann Hospital (Houston, Texas)

Houston Endowment Heights Hospital
(Houston, Texas)

Houston Negro Hospital

Houston Speech and Hearing Center (Houston, Texas)

Houston Tuberculosis Hospital

Institute for Rehabilitation and Research (Houston, Texas)

Institute of Religion (Houston, Texas)

Jefferson Davis Hospital (Houston, Texas)

Junior League Clinic (Houston, Texas)

Jesse Jones Library Building

Memorial Hospital System (Houston, Texas)

Methodist Hospital (Houston, Texas)

Moursund, Walter H., 1884-1959

Neff, Pat Morris, 1871-1952

St. Elizabeth Hospital (Houston, Texas)

St. Joseph Hospital (Houston, Texas)

St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital (Houston, Texas)

Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children (Houston, Texas)

Southern Pacific Hospital (Houston, Texas)

Texas Children's Hospital (Houston, Texas)

Texas Medical Center

University of Texas. M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute

University of Texas. Postgraduate School of Medicine, Houston

University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. Dental Branch

University of Texas Medical Branch (Galveston)

Veterans Administration Hospital (Houston, Texas)

Welch Foundation (Houston, Texas)