

Waltham Hospital medical records

Ms Coll 82



Katherine Isham

September 2021

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Medical Historical Library, Cushing/Whitney Medical Library
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CALL NUMBER: Ms Coll 82

CREATOR: Waltham Hospital

TITLE: Waltham Hospital medical records

DATES: 1889–1897, 1925

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 8 Volumes

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection includes seven bound volumes of hand-written medical records from Waltham Hospital (Waltham Massachusetts) created between 1889-1897 and one book about Alfred Worcester, M.D. (1855-1951), who practiced medicine at Waltham Hospital. Each volume contains the records of approximately 100 patients written by attending physicians. Records may include progress notes, operative reports, medication records, pathology reports, patient dispositions, and drawings. The collection documents medical treatment for a wide variety of conditions including perforated appendix, gunshot wounds, people kicked by horses, occupational injuries, cancer, birth complications, rheumatic fever, scarlet fever, diphtheria, and suicide attempts. Material of particular note includes documentation of early appendectomies performed by Dr. Worcester.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0082>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0082>.

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Alan M. Engler, M.D. (Yale College, Class of 1976), 2021.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Waltham Hospital records. Historical Library, Harvey Cushing/John Hay Whitney Medical Library, Yale University.

Biographical / Historical

Waltham hospital was opened in 1887 as one of the first community hospitals in the United States. It remained in operation until 2002.

Biographical / Historical

Alfred Worcester (1855-1951) was a graduate of Harvard College (1878) and Harvard Medical School (1883) who entered medical practice in Waltham, Massachusetts in 1884. Worcester's accomplishments of note include founding the Waltham Hospital and Training School for Nurses in 1885; founding the Rutland Sanatorium for care of tuberculosis in 1895; serving as president of the Obstetrical Society of Boston in 1899; founding the Waltham Baby Hospital in 1902; serving as Major in the American Red Cross, Switzerland, from 1918-1919; serving as president of the Massachusetts Medical Society from 1919-1921; and serving as Harvard College professor of hygiene from 1925-1935. Worcester is known for pioneering work in patient care, the treatment of appendicitis with early surgical intervention, and for advocating the use of Caesarean section in cases of complicated labor.

Content Description

The collection includes seven bound volumes of hand-written medical records from Waltham Hospital (Waltham Massachusetts) created between 1889-1897 and one book about Alfred Worcester, M.D. (1855-1951), who practiced medicine at Waltham Hospital. Each volume contains the records of approximately 100 patients written by attending physicians. Records may include progress notes, operative reports, medication records, pathology reports, patient dispositions, and drawings. The collection documents medical treatment for a wide variety of conditions including perforated appendix, gunshot wounds, people kicked by horses, occupational injuries, cancer, birth complications, rheumatic fever, scarlet fever, diphtheria, and suicide attempts.

Records in the collection document the work of multiple physicians in the early years of Waltham Hospital's operations. Material of particular interest includes drawings and intraoperative findings recorded by Alfred Worcester (1855-1951), including documentation of early surgeries to treat appendicitis.

Collection Contents

item 1	Volume 2	1889-1891
item 2	Volume 5	1893-1894
item 3	Volume 6 Includes illustrations by Dr. Alfred Worcester of surgical interventions to treat appendicitis on page 126 and page 144.	1894
item 4	Volume 7	1894-1895
item 5	Volume 8	1895
item 6	Volume 9	1895-1896
item 7	Volume 10	1896-1897
item 8	<i>Alfred Worcester: a tribute to a physician of Massachusetts. Boston: The Four Seas Company</i> "Containing eighteen articles reprinted from the writings of Dr. Alfred Worcester, one article from the writings of Dr. Edward R. Cutler, and four sketches by Mr. Russell T. Hyde."	1925

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Hospital care
Hospitals -- United States
Medical care
Medicine -- Massachusetts
Surgery -- History

Genres / Formats

Medical records

Contributors

Waltham Hospital
Worcester, Alfred