HARVEY N. MIDDLETON PAPERS, 1929–1980

Collection Information

Biographical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Series Contents

Processed by

Charles Latham November 1985

Revised by
Greg Hertenstein and Dorothy A. Nicholson
April, 2011

Additions Added by Wilma Moore August, 2015

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department William Henry Smith Memorial Library Indiana Historical Society 450 West Ohio Street Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF Manuscript Materials: 9 document cases

COLLECTION: Visual Materials: 1 folder of photographs, 1 OVB folder of

photographs, 1 OVA folder containing one photograph

Artifact: Portable stenocardiette, ca. 1930s (Electrocardiograph

machine)

COLLECTION

DATES:

1929-1980

PROVENANCE: Gift of Mrs. Easter Middleton, Indianapolis, Indiana;

Electrocardiograph machine transferred back to IHS in 2012;

OVA photograph given by Zenobia Skinner in 2015

RESTRICTIONS: None

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REPRODUCTION

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ALTERNATE

FORMATS:

None

RELATED Across Indiana: General Collection: F526.A26 2005 HOLDINGS: United Negro College Fund. Indiana Campaign Records:

(M 0748)

ACCESSION NUMBER:

1985.0612, 1986.0423, 2015.0208

NOTES: Portable stenocardiette, ca. 1930's, transferred to Indiana

Medical History Museum. Copies of the *Journal of the*

National Medical Association (1930–1957) and 1 issue, 1928, of the Journal of the American Medical Association were transferred to the Indiana University School of Medicine

Library, Indianapolis.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Dr. Middleton (1895–1978) was born in Denmark, S.C. As a child, he became acutely aware of the inferior medical treatment given to blacks, and decided to become a doctor. He took first a high-school course, and then a bachelor's degree (1919), at Benedict College in Columbia, S.C. He served in the U.S. Army during the last year of World War I and then worked briefly as a Pullman car porter. In 1920–1922 he attended the School of Medicine at Boston University; from 1923 to 1926 he attended Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, receiving his M.D. degree in 1926.

In 1928 Dr. Middleton joined the staff of St. Joseph Hospital in Anderson, Indiana. After eight years there, he came to Indianapolis seeking a position at City Hospital. At first allowed only to serve as a volunteer in the outpatient clinic, he set up his own practice as a cardiologist, with a specialty in electrocardiograms and heart irregularities. He strengthened his professional preparation by taking short postgraduate courses at Harvard, University of Michigan, Indiana University, and the University of London.

After eight years he was admitted as the first black staff member of both City Hospital and St. Vincent's Hospital. He also joined the staffs at Methodist and Community Hospitals. He was an assistant professor at Indiana University Medical School. He published a number of articles in the field of cardiology, and continued his practice until his death. From 1953 to 1958 he served as general secretary of the Hoosier State Medical Society; he was a member of numerous other medical societies, and received several awards.

Once established in his medical practice, Dr. Middleton became active in several civic organizations. In the late 1940s, he was involved in setting up the Herman G. Morgan Health Center at Flanner House. He was active in the Zeta Phi chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. In 1950–1951 he was co-chairman of the state campaign for United Negro College Fund.

A major interest of Dr. Middleton's for many years was the YMCA. He was elected to the board of the Metropolitan YMCA in 1952, and served on various committees thereafter. In the same year he became president of the Senate Avenue YMCA. He took a leading part in raising funds for a new facility for this branch, which opened on Fall Creek Parkway in 1959.

Dr. Middleton retained his interest in Meharry Medical College; he was class agent for five years, and organized a fiftieth reunion for his class in 1976. He was a member of Mt. Paran Baptist Church. A Republican in politics, he was a member of the NAACP from 1929.

Sources:

Materials in collection Hawkins and McClarren, *Indiana Lives*, pp 530–531 Indiana Biographical Series. Vol. 86 p.47 col.2; Vol. 86 p.61 col.2 *Who's Who in the Midwest* (1955) p.565

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of nine boxes of letters and documents, and two folders of photographs. The documents date almost entirely from the last forty years of Dr. Middleton's life and contain some private correspondence. The letters are those of a hardworking and generous man devoted to many civic causes.

The collection is arranged into seven series:

Series 1: Personal Papers; includes an autobiographical outline written in 1966; an interview with Dr. Middleton by Rose Lynn Anderson in 1971; correspondence of 1935 concerning the share of black physicians in the care of the indigent; and general correspondence indicating, among other things, Dr. Middleton's generous contributions to many causes.

Series 2: Medicine and Medical Organizations; includes several articles written by Dr. Middleton in the field of cardiology and articles by others in the same field. There are staff by-laws and other staff materials from the Indianapolis hospitals where Dr. Middleton was a staff member, bulletins, newsletters, and some correspondence of various medical organizations to which Dr. Middleton belonged.

Series 3: Other Organizations; contains material from organizations with which Dr. Middleton was connected. This includes his part in establishing the Herman G. Morgan Health Center at Flanner House; his work as class agent and as organizer of a fiftieth class reunion at Meharry Medical College; and his work as co-chairman of the state drive for the United Negro College Fund.

Series 4: Civic Activities and Groups; contains materials for the Mt. Paran Baptist Church, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Skallcam Club, and the United Negro College Fund.

Series 5: YMCA; contains records of the National and Metropolitan YMCA and Senate Avenue YMCA, and the Fall Creek Parkway YMCA which succeeded Senate Avenue.

Series 6: Printed Materials contains various pamphlets and a 1947–1948 directory of black professionals in Indiana.

Series 7: Visual Materials contains group photographs and events.

Series 8: Medical Equipment includes an electrocardiograph, ca. 1939, that Dr. Middleton used in his medical practice.

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Delinquent accounts: Medical Service Bureau, 1956–1961	Box 1, Folder 14
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Christmas mailing lists, 1974–1976	Box 1, Folder 16
Membership cards	Box 1, Folder 17
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Summary of Indianapolis Race Relations seminar,	Box 1, Folder 19
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Clippings, 1947–1951	Box 1, Folder 20

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"Diagnosis and Management of Cardiac Arrhythmias," 1949	Box 1, Folder 24
"Phonocardiographic Studies"	Box 1, Folder 25
Reprints and articles on heart disease	Box 1, Folder 26
Requests for reprints	Box 1, Folder 27
Article on multiple screening [Morgan Health Center?]	Box 1, Folder 28
Results of pilot study on multiple screening	Box 1, Folder 29
Clippings, 1945–1951	Box 1, Folder 30
Community Hospital-by-laws, correspondence 1956–1962	Box 2, Folder 1
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Tri-State Clinical Conference, 1967	Box 2, Folder 5
Wishard Hospital Medical Staff by-laws, 1980	Box 2, Folder 6

Aesculapian Medical Society, 1937–1950	Box 2, Folder 7
Hoosier State Medical Association, annual bulletins 1950–1958	Box 2, Folder 8
Indiana State Board of Health, bulletins on polio 1953–1955	Box 2, Folder 9
Indiana Heart Association and Foundation newsletter 1953–1963 [incomplete run]	Box 2, Folder10
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Herman G. Morgan Health, plan, 1950	Box 3, Folder 7
Meharry Medical College Correspondence, 1947–1970	Box 3, Folder 8
Meharry Medical College, Incident at Hermitage Hotel, Nashville, TN, 6/11/1966	Box 3, Folder 9
Meharry Medical College, work as class agent, 1960–1964	Box 3, Folder 10

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Guide 1947–1948

Russo, Dorothy Ritter, *One Hundred Years of Indiana*General Collection:

B217 B2 1040

Medicine, 1949 R217.R8 1949

Indianapolis City Hospital Telephone Directory 1945, Box 9, Folder 10 *Tuberculosis in Indiana*, 1962

Scarlet Fever; Diagnosis, Prophylaxis and Treatment

[1938]

Clark Hotel, Los Angeles, California [brochure, ca. 1940]

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Dr. Harvey Middleton portrait OVA Photographs:

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Group photo with Dr. Middleton and other doctors, all OVB Photographs:

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CONTENTS CONTAINER

Portable stenocardiette, ca. 1930s (Electrocardiograph Artifacts: 1995.0612

machine)