

Frank O. Richards Collection

Collection summary

Volume: .5 linear ft.
Inclusive dates: 1937-2003
Collection code: FC103

Historical Note

Frank O. Richards was born in 1923 in Asheville, NC and attended Asheville public schools. He received his AB degree from Talladega College, Talladega, Alabama in 1944 and his MD degree from Howard University School of Medicine, Washington, DC in 1947. He completed his internship and surgical residency at Homer G. Phillips Hospital in St. Louis, after which he spent two years in the United States Air Force as chief of general surgery at the 36th Tactical Reconnaissance Air Force Base Hospital in Bitburg, Germany from 1952 to 1954. He returned to St. Louis in 1954 and served as supervisor of surgery at Homer G. Phillips. He entered the private practice of surgery in 1955.

FOR was certified by the American Board of Surgery in 1954. He was admitted as a fellow of the American College of Surgeons in 1957.

He was appointed to the clinical faculty of the Department of Surgery at Washington University School of Medicine in 1954. He served on the staff of Barnes and Jewish Hospitals, also on the staffs of St. Luke's and DePaul Hospitals (the first African American surgeon to do so), and on the staffs of St. Louis Children's, Bethesda, Deaconess, and Christian Hospitals.

In 1960, FOR received the William H. Sinkler, MD Award given by the surgical section of the National Medical Association. He has written scientific papers which report studies on intestinal obstruction, gastrointestinal bleeding, and wound healing. He also was a participating author of *A Century of Black Surgeons, the U.S.A. Experience*, a two-volume treatise about the training of African American surgeons in this country, edited by Claude Organ, Jr. and Margaret Kosiba (1987).

FOR was the first African American member of the St. Louis Surgical Society, later serving as its secretary and president. He was active in many civic endeavors and served on several hospital and community boards.

He is married to the former Ruth A. Gordon of Trenton, NJ. They are the parents of two children.

(Adapted from the donor's own biographical statement, with his permission.)

Provenance

Gift of Frank O. Richards, 1991 and 2004.

Access and Use

The collection is open and accessible for research. Certain categories of documentation, however, carry restrictions on access. For detailed information, contact the Archives and Rare Book Section (arb@wusm.wustl.edu). The Library holds copyright.

Scope and Content

The Frank O. Richards papers contains statistical and narrative pertaining primarily to Homer G. Phillips Hospital, the St. Louis municipal hospital founded and operated for African Americans in 1937, but also to two other institutions, City Hospital No. 2 and the Peoples' Hospital, that treated black patients during decades of official racial segregation. Included are files on William H. Sinkler, medical director of Phillips Hospital from 1941 until 1960. The files in Box 1 in particular document the writing of his chapter, "The St. Louis Story," in *A Century of Black Surgeons*. Box 2 contains later additions, notably an undergraduate thesis by Dean Lee Kolnick (2003) on Phillips Hospital.

**FRANK O. RICHARDS COLLECTION
FILE INVENTORY**

BOX 1

Accession 92-009

- City Hospital No. 2, historical data, n.d. (post-1937), 1:1.
Graham, Evarts A., correspondence (photocopies from the Graham papers, FC003, in the Library archives), 1939-1951, 1:2.
Lawrence, Montague Schiele, curriculum vitae, 1971, 1:3.
Leffall, LaSalle Doheny, Jr., curriculum vitae, 1985, 1:4.
The Peoples Hospital, annual report for 1951, with illustrations and historical data, 1952, 1:5.
The Peoples Hospital, correspondence and other documents, 1951-1959, 1:6.
The Peoples Hospital, general ward routine for interns on the service, n.d., 1:7.
The Peoples Hospital, minutes of association, June 1943, 1:8.
Phillips, Homer G., biographical information about the civic leader, n.d., 1:9.
Phillips, Homer G., Hospital, Hospital Internes (sic) Alumni Association, program, 1957, 1:10.
Phillips, Homer G., Hospital, brochure for residents, 1954, 1:11.
Phillips, Homer G., Hospital, corner stone laying ceremony program, December 10, 1933, 1:12.
Phillips, Homer G., Hospital, dedication program, February 22, 1937, 1:13.
Phillips, Homer G., Hospital, history and development booklet (photocopy from the Park J. White papers), 1963, 1:14.
Phillips, Homer G., Hospital, miscellaneous information, 1943-1984, 1:15.
Phillips, Homer G., Hospital, selected materials for illustrations for "The St. Louis story," 1987, 1:16.
Phillips, Homer G., Hospital, 25th anniversary brochure, 1962, 1:17.
St. Louis Bicentennial Corporation, brochure, "Negroes, their gift to St. Louis," 1964, 1:18.
Sinkler, William H., biographical data and memorial service program, 1960, 1:19.
Sinkler, William H., clippings, 1957-1959, 1:20.
Sinkler, William H., correspondence, 1944-1950, 1:21.
Sinkler, William H., correspondence, 1956-1960, 1:22.
Venable, H. Phillip, letter and articles from *St. Louis Metropolitan Medicine*, 1986-1987, 1:23.
Warner, Clinton Ellsworth, curriculum vitae and letter, 1985, 1:24.
Whittico, James M., curriculum vitae, 1963, and biographical article in *Modern Medicine*, 1969, 1:25.
Yancey, Bernise A., letter concerning career and death by Asa G. Yancey, 1985, 1:26.

BOX 2

Accession 2004-031

- Interns and residents trained, 1940-1963, 2:1.
Kolnick, Dean Lee, "Pride and promise(s), the closing of Homer G. Phillips Hospital."
BA thesis, Washington University, History Department, 2003, 2:2.
Number of house officers (interns and residents), 1940-1979, 2:3.
Numbers of residents trained in surgical specialties and related fields (table 7), 2:4.
Patient statistics for first year of operation, 1938-1939, 2:5.
Phillips, Homer G., Hospital, interns and residents, 1940s (digital scan of photograph
print), 2:6.
Physicians who participated in the surgical training program (alphabetical listing,
table 6), 2:7.
Residents listed by specialty, 2:8.
Salute to excellence in health care, St. Louis American, May 22, 2003 (printout of web
page captured March 25, 2004), 2:9.
Statistics on hospital activities, 1937-1944 (table 4), 2:10.