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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title: Chevalier Jackson Papers
Identifier: NMAH.AC.0023
Date: 1883-1960.
Extent: 2.6 Cubic Feet (6 boxes)
Source: Medical Sciences, Division of, NMAH, SI.
Jackson, Chevalier, Dr., 1865-1958 (physician)
Language: English
Summary: Collection documents Chevalier Jackson, a physician and an American pioneer in the field of endoscopy.

Digital Content: Image(s): Chevalier Jackson Papers

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
Collection donated by Mrs. Joan Bugbee (a granddaughter of Dr. Jackson), date unknown.

Provenance
Transferred from the Division of Medical Sciences to the Archives Center, May 2, 1983.
Addendum transferred from the Division of Medical Sciences, February 17, 2005.

Materials at the National Museum of American History
The Division of Medicine and Science has surgical instruments, awards, medals, furniture, and oil paintings owned by Chevalier Jackson. See accession numbers are 300428.338 through .343.

Other Finding Aids
Inventory available; contact the Archives Center for more information.

Processing Information
Collection processed by Grace M. Angle, January 1986.

Preferred Citation
Biographical / Historical

Chevalier Jackson, a physician and an American pioneer in the field of endoscopy, was born November 14, 1865 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and died August 16, 1958 in Philadelphia. His father, William Stanford Jackson, was a stock raiser and veterinarian. His mother was Katherine Ann Morage. Family financial reverses forced a move to Crafton, Pennsylvania, a working class community. Young Chevalier was not readily accepted by his classmates and seemed to have had a difficult time during his school years there. Money earned by decorating glass and pottery enabled Chevalier Jackson to attend the University of Western Pennsylvania (University of Pittsburgh) from 1878 to 1882. He then apprenticed himself to a local physician, Gilmore Foster. Continuing to paint china at night he earned enough to enroll at the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in 1884, from which he graduated in 1886. During vacations he sold medical books and served as a cook on a fishing boat. Following his graduation from Jefferson Dr. Jackson went to England to pursue his interest in laryngology under a world-famous authority, Morell Mackenzie.

Upon his return to Pittsburgh, Dr. Jackson opened an office limited to the practice of laryngology. His patients were mostly indigent and income from the practice was limited. In 1890 he devised an instrument to remove a dental plate that a patient had swallowed. The news of this meant referral of other patients with similar problems that caused obstruction of the esophagus, including blockages in children from swallowing lye. From that time on Dr. Jackson carried on an unremitting campaign to have lye bottles labeled as poison, until in 1927 Congress passed the Federal Caustic Labeling Act.

On July 9, 1899, Chevalier Jackson and Alice Bennett White were married. They had one child, Chevalier Lawrence Jackson, who also became a surgeon. In the year of his marriage, Dr. Jackson developed a bronchoscope that could be passed through the larynx to visualize the bronchi. He became chief of laryngology at Western Medical College in 1900. In 1902 he adapted a suggestion of placing a light carrier at the far ends of the scopes used in bronchoscopy and esophagoscopy, thus making those procedures relatively safe. He and a machinist friend built the instruments in the friend’s shop in Pittsburgh.

Dr. Jackson developed tuberculosis in 1911. He spent the two years of convalescence writing an important text book, Peroral Endoscopy and Laryngeal Surgery, published in 1915, the year he was made head of the Department of Laryngology at Jefferson Medical College. Appointments at the Graduate School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania followed, and his 1930 appointment to the faculty at Temple meant that Chevalier Jackson held simultaneous appointments at five Philadelphia schools. He later relinquished all appointments except the chair at Temple from which he retired in 1938 to be succeeded by his son, Chevalier Lawrence Jackson. From 1935 to 1941 Chevalier Jackson was president of the Women’s College of Pennsylvania. An early advocate of equal rights, he championed the role of women in medicine.

During his noted career Dr. Jackson wrote 250 papers, twelve text books, chapters in a number of other books, and an autobiography (1938). He was somewhat eccentric. He protected his hands by wearing silk gloves, even in summer, turned doorknobs by placing his hand in his coat pocket, preferred bowing to shaking hands, and developed a reputation for social aloofness.
Scope and Contents

The Jackson papers include autobiographical notes, a draft of a brief biography for the National Cyclopedia of America Biography, some business papers among which are correspondence relating to a mill and to repairs to a dam, several legal papers including those concerned with real estate mortgages, and letters to and from Mrs. Jackson and household servants.

There are mementos such as dried flowers, family snapshots, final notes from Dr. Jackson to his wife, advising her of actions to be taken upon his death, and drafts of his obituary. There are a number of photographs, and negatives, primarily of Dr. Jackson.

The articles, reports and reprints are primarily by Dr. Jackson but include a few by or with his son and a few by other physicians. The papers include proofs and color proofs of equipment and procedures relating to Jackson publications and four books, one of which is by Dr. Jackson.

The material, most of which is relatively recent, is in good condition. Some of the notes are in pencil but are legible.

In addition to the papers in the Archives Center, the Division of Medical Sciences has a large number of surgical instruments including Dr. Jackson's bronchoscopes, esophagoscopes, laryngoscopes and microscopes, awards and medals, items of furniture from Dr. Jackson's study and oil paintings by him. The list of instruments is seven single-spaced pages. There are many Chevalier Jackson papers and memorabilia in the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, the Library and Museum of the College of Physicians, Philadelphia and the Library of Temple University.

Arrangement

The collection is divided into nine series.

Series 1: Personal Papers
Series 2: Correspondence
Series 3: Legal Papers (including mortgages)
Series 4: Newscroppings, Articles and Book Reviews
Series 5: Photographs
Series 6: Chronological Journal
Series 7: Reports and Reprints
Series 8: Illustrations and Proofs
Series 9: Books

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:
Cultures:
Bronchoscopy
Endoscopy
Esophagoscopy
Esophagus
Laryngoscopy
Physicians
Surgeons

Types of Materials:
Autobiographies
Biographies
Books
Clippings
Correspondence -- 1930-1950
Legal documents
Personal papers
Photographs -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Silver gelatin -- 19th-20th century

Names:
Foster, Gilmore
Jackson, William Stanford
Jefferson Medical College.
Mackenzie, Morell
Medical Sciences, Division of, NMAH, SI.
Morage, Katherine Ann
Temple University.
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh.
University of Western Pennsylvania.
Western Medical College.
Women's College of Pennsylvania.

Geographic Names:
Philadelphia (Pa.)
Container Listing

Series 1: Personal Papers

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<th>Box 1, Folder 1</th>
<th>Autobiographical and biographical notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 2</td>
<td>Mementos</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Image(s)</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 3</td>
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### Series 2: Correspondence

- **Box 1, Folder 4**  
  Correspondence re dam and mill

- **Box 1, Folder 5**  
  Correspondence to and from Mrs. Jackson and household servants

- **Box 1, Folder 6**  
  Correspondence, personal

### 3: Mortgages and Legal Papers

- **Box 1, Folder 7**  
  Mortgages and other legal papers
Series 4: Newsclippings, Articles and Book Reviews

Box 1, Folder 8  News clippings, articles and book reviews

Box 1, Folder 9  News clippings, other

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Series 5: Photographs

Box 1, Folder 10  Chevalier Jackson, M.D., undated
Box 1, Folder 11  Negatives, undated
Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 12  Other, undated
Box 1, Folder 13  Snapshots, undated

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Series 7: Reports and Reprints

Box 2, Folder 1-2       By Chevalier Jackson, M.D.
Box 2, Folder 3       By Chevalier Jackson, M.D. and Chevalier L. Jackson, M.D.
Box 2, Folder 4       By Chevalier L. Jackson, M.D.
Box 2, Folder 5       By others

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## Series Seriers 8: Illustrations and Proofs

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<td>Illustrations of Equipment-Captions in French</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Image(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 4</td>
<td>Illustrations and Photographs of Equipment</td>
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<td>Box 3, Folder 5</td>
<td>Illustrations and Photographs of Procedures and Specimens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 6</td>
<td>Illustrations for Second Edition of &quot;Bronchoscopy and Esophagoscopy&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 7</td>
<td>Proof of Cuts of Equipment for &quot;Bronchoscopy and Esophagoscopy&quot;</td>
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Series 9: Books

Box 4, Folder 1  
*The Surgical Clinics of North America* Volume 4, No. 1, 1924 - 1924

Box 4, Folder 2  
Jackson, Chevalier, M.D. *Tracheotomy, Bronchoscopy, Esophagoscopy and Gastroscopy*. St. Louis The Laryngoscope Co., 1907 - 1907

Box 4, Folder 3  

Box 4, Folder 4  

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