



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Randolph Winslow Collection

NMAH.AC.0150

NMAH Staff

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

P.O. Box 37012

Suite 1100, MRC 601

Washington, D.C. 20013-7012

archivescenter@si.edu

<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Arrangement.....	3
Scope and Contents.....	3
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects	3
Container Listing	5
Series 1: Diaries and Journals, 1868 - 1899.....	5
Series 2: Account Books, 1875 - 1887.....	11
Series 3: Collected Historical Materials.....	12

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Randolph Winslow Collection
Date:	1868-1924.
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0150
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Medical Sciences (Collector)
Creator:	Winslow, Randolph, 1852-1937 (surgeon, medical school professor)
Extent:	2.5 Cubic feet (7 boxes)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Winslow Collection was donated to the Maryland Medical and Chirurgical Faculty. The diaries were willed by Dr. Winslow; other papers and photographs were given by his wife and/or several of his sons.

Provenance

In 1972 Dr. Audrey Davis, a curator in the Division of Medical Sciences (now Division of Medicine and Science) at the NMAH, received the diaries and account books. They were accessioned, and then transferred to the Archives Center, April 29, 1983.

Processing Information

Collection processed by NMAH Staff, undated

Preferred Citation

Randolph Winslow Collection, Archives Center, National museum of American History

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical / Historical

Randolph Winslow, a Baltimore physician, surgeon, and medical school professor, was born in Hertford, North Carolina on October 23, 1852. He died in 1937.

He grew up in an environment of medicine: his father, Caleb, was a much respected surgeon; his uncle, John, was a prominent physician who held the chair of materia medica at the Maryland College of Pharmacy; and his brother, John was a recognized specialist in diseases of the nose and throat and professor at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. The medical atmosphere was maintained throughout Randolph's life and two of his sons followed the family tradition: both Nathan and FitzRandolph graduated from the University of Maryland School of Medicine and later became members of the faculty.

Randolph himself received his A.B. from Haverford College in 1871, his M.D. from the University of Maryland College of Medicine in 1873 (standing at the head of his class), and an M.A. from Haverford after special study in advanced Greek. Dr. Winslow pursued further medical studies in 1883 and 1906 when he traveled to Berlin, Paris, Vienna and other European cities. There he attended medical clinics in such subjects as surgery and midwifery and purchased a number of surgical instruments.

On graduation from medical school Dr. Winslow began pedagogical work at the University of Maryland Medical School as an Assistant Demonstrator of Anatomy (1873 1880). He then served as Demonstrator of Anatomy (1880 1886), Lecturer on Clinical Surgery (1886 1891), professor of Anatomy and Clinical Surgery (1891 1902) and Professor of Surgery (1902 1921). He was named Professor Emeritus of Surgery in 1921.

During his early career he was on the surgical staff of the Baltimore City Hospitals (then Bay View Asylum), the Good Samaritan Hospital, Hebrew Hospital (now Sinai) and the Elkton Hospital. He served for more than twenty five years as consultant surgeon to the Maryland Training School for Boys at Lock Raven, and as physician to the Johns Hopkins Colored Orphan Asylum. He was one of the founders of the Woman's Medical College in Baltimore, a professor of surgery there (1882 1893) and dean (1890 1892). He held the chair of Operative Surgery and Topographic Anatomy of the Baltimore Polyclinic (1884) and was also surgeon in chief to the University Hospital and Consulting Surgeon to the Hebrew Hospital.

Dr. Winslow was very interested in the advancement of medical education. It was mainly through his efforts that the second University Hospital was built, the medical curriculum was expanded from two to three years and then to four years and that the Baltimore Medical College and the College of Physicians and Surgeons were merged into the School of Medicine at the University of Maryland. He served as a regent of the University of Maryland (1891 1920) and on the board of trustees of the Endowment funds of the University of Maryland. Dr. Winslow sat in the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association, on the Judicial Council of the AMA (7 years), and on the Executive Council of the Association of American Medical Colleges (20 years). He was a member of the House of Delegates and on the Council of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland and he served as the vice president of the Faculty (1896 97) and president (1914). He was a member of numerous Medical Associations. Winslow was honorary president of the 'Randolph Winslow Surgical Society, a club founded by students at the University of Maryland in 1911 and named in his honor. He was president of the Southern Surgical Association (1921) and a fellow and a founder of the American College of Surgeons (1913). He attended many national and international medical conferences, and wrote prolifically on surgical and medical subjects (see attached listing of published articles available at the University of Maryland at Baltimore, Health Services Library).

In addition to his professional service and writing, Dr. Winslow was well known for his surgical practice. He was one of the first to introduce surgical antisepsis in Maryland; he was the first Maryland surgeon to resect the pylorus for carcinoma and to shorten the round ligaments; he performed the first vaginal hysterectomy in the state (1888); he was the first Maryland surgeon to operate successfully for gunshot wound of the intestine (1893).

From 1911 until he retired, he was a lieutenant in the Medical Reserve Corps of the Army, and is described by his son, Nathan, as being very disappointed at not being called into active service when the United States entered World War I.

Professionally Dr. Winslow seems to have been regarded as an excellent as well as demanding teacher, and as a surgeon with sound judgment, bold when necessary, but conservative, "never jeopardizing his patients for the sake of effect" (University of Maryland School of Medicine). He wrote well, simply and with clarity, and possessed skill, earnestness, and leadership qualities when working with students, and was quick to recognize merit. Personally, he was rigorously honest, direct, earnest, sincere, loyal, and fearless. (University of Maryland School of Medicine, Annals of Surgery, etc.)

He was happily married in 1877 to Rebecca Fayssoux Leper, who survived him by 3 years. Thirteen children were born of the marriage, delivered by Dr. Winslow himself. Twelve of them survived him, nine sons and three daughters: Nathan, 1878; John Leiper, 1880; Fitz Randolph, 1881; Edwards Fayssoux, 1883; Mary Fayssoux, 1885; Jane Parry, 1886; Caleb, 1889; Eliza Leiper, 1891; George Leiper, 1893; Oliver Parry, 1895; Richard Randolph Parry, 1897; St. Clair Spruill, 1899; Callender Fayssoux, 1901.

In his diaries, Dr. Winslow notes in 1869 that he is 'getting a pretty good knowledge of carving as father is away from nearly every dinner and I have to carve.' It would seem that with his multiple professional obligations in addition to an active private practice, Dr. Winslow was seldom at home; nevertheless, he was apparently able to give his family a sense of his responsibility to duty but also a recognition of his devotion to them and his stern regard for their religious and moral upbringing.

In religious affiliation, Dr. Winslow was an active member of the Society of Friends. Politically he was a life long Republican. (National Cyclopedia of American Biography)

During his college days Dr. Winslow was an ardent sportsman, playing cricket, baseball, billiards, croquet, participating in bowling, skating, wrestling, literary societies, going hunting, and attending the theater. He went regularly to religious meeting, and was occasionally involved in playing pranks, visiting with friends and expressing an active interest in pretty girls. With increasing professional and family responsibilities he had less and less leisure time although he maintained his membership in the cricket clubs and at one time was one of Baltimore's crack cricket players.

He remained an active man throughout his life and visited the University regularly up to about 10 days before his death. He died in Baltimore following an illness of one week on February 27, 1937.

His friend and colleague Arthur Shipley wrote the following about him: "During his long service to his fellows he displayed the changing phases of a useful and successful life; the virile and fighting qualities of a young man, the strength and certainty of the maturer man and, after retirement, he unconsciously gave a fine exhibition of how a strong man grows old; showing, qualities of gentleness, kindness, understanding and sympathy with no evidence of bitterness or regret. He continued to take an interest in his profession, his societies, his friends and his school, which made association with him not only an inspiring companionship, but a real joy."

Scope and Contents

The Winslow Collection contains diaries, patient records, account books, collected historical materials, taped oral history interviews and miscellaneous papers. The core of the collection consists of a chronological series of small, handwritten leather bound books used for personal diaries, college and medical school notes, and patient records, kept over a 54 year period. The contents of these volumes are described more fully in the "Non Medical" and "Medical" notes on Diaries and Journals at the end of this finding aid.

Arrangement

The collection is divided into three series.

Series 1: Diaries and Journals

Series 2: Account Books

Series 3: Collected Historical Materials

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Education -- Medical
Medical care
Medical colleges -- Faculty
Medicine
Patient care
Physicians

Types of Materials:

Account books
Audiotapes
Interviews
Oral history
Patient medical records

Names:

National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Medical Sciences

Occupations:

Surgeons

Places:

Baltimore (Md.)
Hartford (N.C.)

Container Listing

Series 1: Diaries and Journals, 1868 - 1899

Scope and Contents: The journals begin in 1868 when Winslow was a fifteen and a half year old freshman at Haverford College. Throughout his four years there his entries contain comments on subjects as wide ranging as college customs, societies, expenses, sports and extra curricular activities, food, weather, clothing, theater and opera, visiting girls, religious meetings, and family activities. Occasionally news events are noted, such as the defeat of Napoleon III, which place the diaries beyond the personal and within the context of the times.

College class notes also are included, particularly those on medical subjects. The information presented is characteristic of the period, but contains misconceptions which may seem bizarre to the modern reader, e.g. "cold breath is a sure sign of death."

Medical school notes and patient lists follow in the journal of 1872 1874. Information is provided on symptoms, tests, diagnoses and treatment for a wide variety of illnesses. Several case histories are described including one involving a patient of Dr. Winslow's who received incorrectly supplied medication by an "apparently notorious drunkard of an apothecary."

In these and the journals which follow until approximately 1881 patient lists, with some addresses, some diagnoses, and continued notes indicative of further learning, continue to appear. Nurses' names and addresses, fee charges to patients, expenses, mention of non medical activities (e.g., excursions, parties, cricket games) and extension of medical responsibilities (e.g., demonstrator at the University, medical witness at court) are included. Again, external events such as the calling out of the National Guard to suppress the Baltimore and Ohio railroad strike are noted.

Although there are many personal notes in the diaries, Dr. Winslow does not generally mention his emotional reactions to the occurrences which inspire them. Events such as meeting his future wife and commencing the study and practice of medicine are listed, but the affective expressions are left to the reader's imagination.

The journals after 1881 essentially deal with patients, names, and occasional addresses and diagnoses. Dr. Winslow's wife is regularly included in his list of obstetrical patients, although not all his children's births are listed.

In April, 1883, leaving wife and children in Baltimore, Dr. Winslow began a six month trip to Europe, in part to see the sights, but chiefly to attend medical clinics in such subjects as surgery and midwifery. Purchase of instruments and their costs are included.

The journals continue with patient lists, some addresses and diagnoses. All the diaries from the first have entries for income and expenditures. While initially Dr. Winslow's income was low and he appeared to have some difficulty in collecting his fees, it rose steadily to the point where his annual income was substantial, and well above the average for the time. This was helped by the changing nature of his practice: more and more doctors' names are listed as sources for patient referral and surgical and orthopedic diagnoses become increasingly numerous. A number of these names recur over the years and patients begin to come from a wider geographic area including the surrounding counties and, later, other states. Physicians sent members of their families as patients, and the practice became increasingly consultative in surgery. Winslow's further interest in surgery is indicated by a number of case descriptions, and references to journal articles.

Although they are not noted specifically as external events, the first use of the telephone is part of the record of payments for 1888, and in 1910 diagnoses appear for victims of automobile accidents.

By about 1911 Dr. Winslow's income was derived in large part from rents, inheritance, and investments, etc., and decreasingly from patient fees. His case load began to drop and he saw his final patients in January 1922.

The leather bound books themselves are printed specifically for physician use and contains wide variety of information useful to doctors, e.g., measurements, therapeutic reminders, ligation of arteries, etc.

Box 1, Folder 1	<p>Personal diary and college notes, 1868</p> <p>Notes: Freshman at Haverford College: school subjects (e.g., classical language, math, scripture, literature); activities including sports, people including teammates, classmates, professors, friends, relatives; foods; grades. Accounts (including borrowing and lending money)</p>
Box 1, Folder 2	<p>Personal diary and college notes, 1869</p> <p>Notes: Comments on characteristics of life at Haverford; subjects (e.g. languages, sciences, philosophy, political economy), foods, activities: wide variety of sports, theater, visiting friends, dancing, meeting girls, purchase and repair of clothing.</p>
Box 1, Folder 3	<p>Personal diary and college notes, 1870</p> <p>Notes: Subjects (e.g., math, philosophy, logic, sciences, languages, scripture, rhetoric, ethnology.) Activities: wide variety of sports, hunting, attending religious meeting, theater, circus; smoking cigars. Comments on girls, customs at college, misbehavior there and appropriate punishments, visiting relatives; references to historical events at the time. Personal accounts, accounts of Baltimore Cricket Club, R. Winslow, treasurer.</p>
Box 1, Folder 4	<p>Personal diary and college notes, 1871</p> <p>Notes: Subjects (e.g., languages, science, mechanics, hygiene, mental philosophy.) Activities: skating, sleighing, games, sports, religious meeting, literary societies, working on crease for cricket, sewing, going out with girls, opera, smoking cigars, mischief at school, snowball fights. Interaction with family. Senior Oration "The Ancient Civilizations of America." Grade average for 4 years 9.25.</p>
Box 1, Folder 5	<p>Medical School notes, 1872 1874</p> <p>Notes: Spring 1873 and 1874, University of Pennsylvania; Winter, 1872,1873 and 1874, University of Maryland: Medical notes; Boylston Prizes for 1874; list of names (possible patients with fees charged few paid), some addresses; some lists of names labeled patients; cricket club list. Expenses; ladies' nurses; biblical references.</p>
Box 1, Folder 6	<p>Patient records, 1876 1877</p>

	Notes:	1876 -1877 (using patent self closing diary of 1872) Expenses of trip to North Carolina 12//78 Lists of patients, some addresses, some diagnoses, some prescriptions, prayers, activities: parties, cricket, excursions etc.; references to external events, e.g., Baltimore & Ohio RR strike; purchases, accounts. Married 12/12/77 to Rebecca Fayssoux Leiper of Delaware County, PA.
Box 1, Folder 7	Patient records, 1878 -1884 Notes:	Patient lists, obstetrical patients, vaccinations, notes of charges and payments, orders for prescription ingredients, cash accounts. First child a son, Nathan, born 11/17/78, delivered by Dr. Winslow
Box 2, Folder 1	Patient records, 1880 Notes:	Patient lists, addresses, obstetrical patients, detailed lists of income, and expenses of daily living; income including payments from father and as demonstrator at University of Maryland. Much work at Johns Hopkins Asylum, and House of Refuge. Child born to Randolph Winslow 3/7/80.
Box 2, Folder 2	Patient records, 1881 Notes:	Patient lists, addresses, obstetrical patients, receipts and expenses. A son, Fitz Randolph, born 7/2/81, mother age 25.
Box 2, Folder 3	Patient records, 1882 Notes:	Patient names and addresses; increasing number of obstetrical patients; consultations in person and by letter; income and expenses.
Box 2, Folder 4	Patient records, 1883 Notes:	Patient names and addresses; income, expenses, details of trip to Europe.
Box 2, Folder 5	Patient records, 1885 Notes:	Patient names and addresses; income, expenses; mention of telephone.
Box 2, Folder 6	Patient records, 1886 Notes:	Patient names and addresses, fees, payments, nurses' directory (2 names).
Box 2, Folder 7	Patient records, 1887 Notes:	Patient names and addresses, fees, payments, accounts.
Box 2, Folder 8	Patient records, 1888 Notes:	Patient names and addresses, fees, payments, accounts.
Box 2, Folder 9	Patient records, 1889 Notes:	Patient names and addresses, fees, payments, accounts.
Box 3, Folder 1	Patient records, 1890	

	Notes: Patient names and addresses, fees, payments, accounts. Increased income.
Box 3, Folder 2	Patient records, 1891 Notes: Patient names and addresses, fees, payments, accounts. Increased income.
Box 3, Folder 3	Patient records, 1892 Notes: Patient names and addresses, fees, payments, accounts. Increased income.
Box 3, Folder 4	Patient records, 1893 Notes: Patient names and addresses, fees, payments, accounts. Increased income.
Box 3, Folder 5	Patient records, 1895 Notes: Patient names and addresses, fees, payments, accounts. Increased income.
Box 3, Folder 6	Patient records, 1896 Notes: Patient names and addresses, fees, payments, accounts. Increased income.
Box 3, Folder 7	Patient records, 1897 Notes: Patient names and addresses, fees, payments, accounts. Increased income.
Box 3, Folder 8	Patient records, 1898 Notes: Patient names and addresses, fees, payments, accounts. Increased income.
Box 3, Folder 9	Patient records, 1899 Notes: Patient names and addresses, fees, payments, accounts. Increased income.
Box 4, Folder 1	Patient records, 1900 Notes: Patient names and addresses, fees, payments, accounts and increased income.
Box 4, Folder 2	Patient records, 1901 Notes: Patient names and addresses, fees, payments, accounts and increased income.
Box 4, Folder 3	Patient records, 1902 Notes: Patient names and addresses, fees, payments, accounts and increased income.
Box 4, Folder 4	Patient records, 1903 Notes: Patient names and addresses, fees, payments, accounts and increased income.

Box 4, Folder 5	Patient records, 1904 Notes: Patient names and addresses, fees, payments, accounts and increased income.
Box 4, Folder 6	Patient records, 1905 Notes: Patient names and addresses, fees, payments, accounts and increased income.
Box 4, Folder 7	Patient records, 1906 Notes: Patient names and addresses, fees, payments, accounts and increased income.
Box 4, Folder 8	Patient records, 1907 Notes: Patient names and addresses, fees, payments, accounts and increased income.
Box 4, Folder 9	Patient records, 1908 Notes: Patient names and addresses, fees, payments, accounts and increased income.
Box 4, Folder 10	Patient records, 1909 Notes: Patient names and addresses, fees, payments, accounts and increased income.
Box 5, Folder 1	Patient records, 1910 Notes: Patient names and addresses, fees, payments, accounts and increased income.
Box 5, Folder 2	Patient records, 1911 Notes: Patient names and addresses, fees, payments, accounts and increased income.
Box 5, Folder 3	Patient records, 1912 Notes: Patient names and addresses, fees, payments, accounts and increased income.
Box 5, Folder 4	Patient records, 1913 -1914 Notes: Patient names and addresses, fees, payments, accounts and increased income.
Box 5, Folder 5	Patient records, 1915 Notes: Larger proportion of income derived from investments, smaller received from patients.
Box 5, Folder 6	Patient records, 1916 -1917 Notes: Larger proportion of income derived from investments, smaller received from patients
Box 5, Folder 7	Patient records and personal investments, 1918 -1922

Notes: Larger proportion of income derived from investments, smaller received from patients

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Account Books, 1875 - 1887

Scope and Contents: Dr. Winslow's account books, July 1874-April 1887, consist of fourteen small paper bound notebooks. Several are hand sewn to bind them and the cover of the first is made from a first class commercial note.

Notebooks from the beginning through 1880 have alternate pages of expenses and receipts. Other notebooks from 1875 through 1887 have alphabetic listings of patients, with amounts owed, payments made, or x's when the debt continues outstanding. Sometimes notes indicate that the patient is gone, cannot be found or is dead. Sometimes initials appear indicating that a specific bill collector has been asked to handle the account.

Box 5, Folder 8

Accounts, 1875 - 1887

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Collected Historical Materials

Scope and Contents: Materials from the University of Maryland include biographical information, a picture, memoria, and a list of Dr. Winslow's publication available at the University of Maryland

From Haverford College, materials include letters from Randolph Winslow to his father and a letter describing his skill as a surgeon.

From the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, materials document Caleb Winslow, and other Winslows who probably were not part of Randolph's family.

From the Maryland Medical and Chirurgical Faculty materials include Xerox copies of records of some of their holdings and notes on surgery by Dr. Winslow for lectures delivered by him at the University of Maryland.

From the Winslow Family materials include excerpts from letters written by Randolph Winslow, letters to Sheila Pinsker, and pictures.

Box 5, Folder 9	Miscellaneous papers
Box 6	<p>Tapes of oral history interview with Caleb Winslow (son of Randolph) and transcript of tape., undated</p> <p>Notes: This consists of three half hour tapes of an interview conducted with 95 year old Caleb Winslow, Randolph's seventh child, on June, 1984 at his home in Cockeysville, Maryland. Winslow discusses: private ownership of the University of Maryland Medical School; information on Caleb Winslow, Randolph's father, a recognized as a surgeon at a time when most doctors were reluctant to go into the abdomen known for operation for stones in the bladder; reasons for his coming to Baltimore; his deterioration as an elderly man; Randolph's growing up and his family, his attendance at medical school, further education; Randolph's work in anatomy at the University of Maryland; difficulties encountered in becoming professor of surgery; problems with dissection resurrection squads; Randolph's lifelong interest in the University of Maryland Medical School and its library; information on the life and interests of Caleb, Randolph's son; development of Randolph's practice; famous people Randolph knew; medical treatment of blacks; Randolph's medical treatment of his family; use of anesthesia and antisepsis in surgery; Randolph's attempt to perform a transfusion; Randolph's role with his wife and children; description of Beckie's (Randolph's wife) family, and her role with Randolph, the children, and the community; religion; general family anecdotes; some case descriptions; and income. A complete transcript is included.</p>

Return to Table of Contents