

North Carolina Collection

Durham County Department of Health Collection

Title:	Durham County Department of Health Collection
Inclusive Dates:	1913-1950, approximate, and undated
Extent of Materials:	1 flat box, scrapbook 18 5/8" X 12"
Location:	Shelf 50, online access here
Date of Accession:	2009, 2014
Donor:	Durham County Department of Health; Epperson materials donated by First Presbyterian Church
Relationship of donor or materials to the DCL/NCR	The Durham County Department of Health is the government-created agency for the promotion of public health in Durham County.
Processor:	Cale McCammon
Description:	
Subject Headings:	Public Health--North Carolina--Durham County
	Scrapbooks--North Carolina--Durham
Abstract:	
Scope and Content:	The collection is comprised of a scrapbook that contains public health signs, warnings against the violation of ordinances, letters to parents on the prevention of diseases, immunization and vaccination forms, certificates, case cards for the diagnosis of certain diseases (smallpox, diphtheria, typhoid, etc.), and inspection notices regarding milk and water, among other items. The materials are all undated but appear to have been created in the 1913-1950 range. A memorial book from the funeral of Jesse Epperson, head of the Health Department 1915-1958 and some photographs of Epperson circa 1950 are also included.
Related Materials:	
Restrictions:	The collection is open to research.
Biographical/Historical Note:	Public Health in Durham had its beginnings in 1855 with a two-member Board of Health with advisory powers. In 1909 a five-member Board of Health for the City of Durham was created by law. Following an outbreak of smallpox that began in 1910 and worsened in 1912, a City-County Department of Public Health was established in 1913, making Durham one of the first counties in North Carolina to do so. Over the years, community health problems have dictated Health Department services. During the early 1900s, the department dealt mainly with communicable diseases such as typhoid fever and polio. The impact of these diseases on the children in the community led the department to focus on the health status of women and children. As these diseases were controlled, the department began to focus on screening and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis and early detection and monitoring of chronic diseases such as hypertension and diabetes. Later the department added wellness programs.
Condition Notes:	
Organization of Collection:	1. Scrapbook and Loose Materials, 1913-1950

Durham County Department of Health Scrapbook

Collection	
Container List	Box 1
	1. Scrapbook, 1913-1950
	2. Loose Materials, 1913-1950
	3. Jesse Epperson memorial book, 1958
	4. Epperson photographs, ca. 1950

Get help with your account

Durham County Library - 919.560.0100



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