Finding Aid for the Leonidas H. Berry Papers, #4757

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Collection name: Leonidas H. Berry Papers (1930-1995)
Repository: Rush University Medical Center Archives
Creator: Berry, Leonidas H., (1902-1995)
Call Number: 4757
Language: English
Extent:
- Items: About 200 items
- Linear feet: 1.0

Abstract:
Gastroenterologist Leonidas Berry, 1902-1995, received his M. D. from Rush Medical College of the University of Chicago in 1929. In 1933, he received a M.S. degree in Pathology from the University of Illinois Medical School. Berry specialized in gastroenterology at Cook County Hospital in Chicago. A leader in the field of gastroenterology, Berry was the first American physician to use the fiber-optic Gastro-camera. Among Berry’s many writings are the comprehensive textbook Gastrointestinal Pan-Endoscopy and a genealogical history of his family entitled, I Wouldn’t Take Nothin’ For My Journey: Two Centuries of an Afro-American Minister’s Family, 1982. The papers of Leonidas Berry include biographical information, correspondence, writings, programs and pamphlets, awards and certificates, miscellaneous material, and pictures. Correspondence includes letters to and from Berry and classmates from the Rush Medical College Class of 1930 and with Rush Medical College administration. Writings by Berry include articles on gastroenterology and other medical topics and speeches. Programs and pamphlets from various events honoring or featuring Berry. Pictures include photographs of Berry at Rush Medical College reunions and receiving awards, 1965-1990s, and other photographs.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Restrictions to access: (Oral History may be restricted. Contact archivist for more information.)
Usage Restrictions: None
Acquisitions Information:
Includes material received from Leonidas H. Berry of Chicago, Ill., in October 1992 (Acc. 92-047); October 1997 [retro accession] (Acc. 97-085, 97-087); September 2004 [reaccession] (Acc. 2004-031). Also included in this collection is material from the Biographical Files reference collection.
Processing Information:
Processed by: Nathalie Wheaton and Rene Ruzicka (March 2009)

Preferred Citation:
[Identification of item], in the Leonidas H. Berry Papers, #4757, Rush University Medical Center Archives.

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Potential Subject Headings:
Afro-American physicians
Afro-Americans in medicine—history
Berry, Leonidas H.
Chicago, Ill.
Gastroenterology
History of medicine. United States. Chicago (Ill.)
Rush Medical College
Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Medical Center
Rush University Medical Center—History, 20th century

RELATED COLLECTIONS:
Audiovisual Collection, RUMC Archives (Acc. 93-048, 93-057)
Oral History Collection, RUMC Archives (Acc. 94-047)
Leonidas H. Berry Papers, 1907-1982, United States National Library of Medicine, #MS C 423

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:
Gastroenterologist Leonidas H. Berry was born in Woodsdale, North Carolina, on 20 July 1902. In 1924, he received a B.S. degree from Wilberforce University. He went on to receive an S.B. degree from the University of Chicago in 1925 and his M.D. from Rush Medical College of the University of Chicago in 1929. In 1933, he received a M.S. degree in Pathology from the University of Illinois Medical School. Berry worked for a brief time in Washington D.C. before returning to Cook County Hospital in Chicago where he specialized in gastroenterology. He was the first black physician appointed to the medical attending staffs at Cook County Hospital and Michael Reese Hospital.

Berry offered contributions in the field of gastroenterology, including the creation of the Eder-Berry Biopsy Gastroscope in 1955. He set up one of the first Gastroscopy clinics in the United States while serving as chairperson of the Gastroenterology Division of Provident Hospital. He was the first American physician to use the fiber-optic Gastro-camera. Berry has authored 84 articles and contributed to 12 books and monographs,
including the comprehensive textbook *Gastrointestinal Pan-Endoscopy*. Additionally, he authored a genealogical history of his family entitled, *I Wouldn’t Take Nothin’ For My Journey: Two Centuries of an Afro-American Minister’s Family*, which was published in 1982.

Berry received many honors and awards, including the Rudolph Schindler Award from the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy in 1977 and Rush’s Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1987. In 1989, the NAACP awarded him the Freedom Award for Public Service, and in 1991 he received the Trustee Medal of Honor from Rush Medical College. Berry was president of the National Medical Association in 1965. That same year, President Lyndon Johnson appointed him to the National Advisory Council for the Heart Disease, Cancer, and Stroke Program. A society in Berry’s name, the Leonidas H. Berry Society for Digestive Diseases, was established in 1980.

In addition to his achievements in the field of gastroenterology, Berry was dedicated to civil rights, anti-drug initiatives, and cultural exchange programs. Berry had one child, Judith Berry Griffin, with Ophelia Harrison Berry. He was married for 25 years to Emma Ford. He and Emma had no children together, though she had children from her first marriage, Alvin Harrison, Jr., and Frances Jackson. Berry died on 4 December 1995, at the age of 93.

**COLLECTION OVERVIEW:**

The papers of gastroenterologist Leonidas H. Berry include biographical information, correspondence, writings, programs and pamphlets, awards and certificates, miscellaneous material, and pictures. Correspondence includes letters to and from Berry and classmates from the Rush Medical College Class of 1930 and with Rush Medical College administration. Writings by Berry include articles on gastroenterology and other medical topics and speeches. Programs and pamphlets from various events honoring or featuring Berry. Pictures include photographs of Berry at Rush Medical College reunions and receiving awards, 1965-1990s, and other photographs.


**ARRANGEMENT OF SERIES:**

2. Correspondence, 1941-1991
3. Writings, 1935-1988 and undated
4. Programs, 1939-1992 and undated
5. Awards and Certificates, 1930-1987 and undated
6. Miscellaneous, 1950s-1990s
7. Pictures, 1920s, 1965-1990s
8. ADDITION of 2011

ITEMS SEPARATED:

From Series 5. Awards and Certificates: Artifact
From Series 7. Pictures: Oversized Pictures

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION:

23 items
Arrangement: mostly chronological
Scope Content: Biographical information includes newspaper clippings, curriculum vitae, and obituaries.

BOX 1

Material about Berry including obituaries, 1962-1995

Series 2. Correspondence, 1941-1991
47 items
Arrangement: chronological
Scope Content: Correspondence includes letters to and from Berry and classmates from the Rush Medical College Class of 1930 and with Rush Medical College administration.

BOX 1 (continued)

Letters to and from Berry, 1941-1991
Letter from archivist Stuart Campbell with clippings, 1992

Series 3. Writings, 1935-1988 and undated
33 items
Arrangement: mostly chronological
Scope Content: Writings by Berry include articles on gastroenterology and other medical topics and speeches.

BOX 1 (continued)
“Studies in Tuberculosis Meningitis with Special Reference to Racial Susceptibility,” 1935
“History Taking and the Significance of Symptoms in Gastrointestinal Disease,” 1935
“The Clinical Value of Gastroscopy in Gastric Diseases,” 1939
“Etiological Relationships of Chronic Gastritis: Gastroscopic Studies,” 1940
“Primary Ulcer of the Jejunum,” 1940
“Etiological Relationship of Alcoholism in Chronic Gastritis,” 1941
“Chronic Alcoholic Gastritis: Evaluation of the Concept with Gastroscopic Studies in One Hundred Cases,” 1941
“Right Side Gastroscopic Technique in Situs Inversus Viscerum and in Visualization of ‘Blind Spots,’” 1941
“Mucosal Relief Technic Correlated with Gastroscopy in 150 Cases,” 1941
“Discussion of the Symposium on Chronic Gastritis before the Section on Gastroenterology and Proctology,” 1942
“G.I. Topic of Lay Interest, Common Digestive Ills, Peptic Ulcer,” 1942
“The Clinical Value and Mechanism of Action of Certain Drugs in Gastro-Intestinal Disorders,” 1945
“Analysis of 1,400 Consecutive Gastroscopic Examinations,” 1946
“Atrophic Gastritis and Malnutrition,” 1947
“Therapy of Chronic ‘Atrophic Gastritis’ with Eight Years’ Gastroscopic Control,” 1948
“Differential Diagnosis of the Multiple Syndromes of the Upper Gastrointestinal Tract,” 1951
“Medical Counseling Clinics for Young Narcotic Addicts,” 1951
“Newer Trends and Technics in Gastroscopy,” 1951
“The Narcotic Problem in an Urban Community,” 1953
“Recent Experimental and Clinical Experiences with Antacid Therapy in Peptic Ulcer,” 1956
“Newer Concepts of Chronic Alcoholic Gastritis; Gastroscopic Studies,” 1956
“Improved Gastroscopic Diagnosis by the Use of Multiple Positions in 2,843 Cases,” 1963
“Black Men and Malignant Fevers,” 1964
“The Continuing Task of Medicine in a Great Democratic Society: President’s Inaugural Address, National Medical Association,” 1965
“Special Health Care Needs of the Disadvantaged,” 1966
“How Important is Endoscopic Premedication: Guest Editorial,” 1969
“Testimony Before the Illinois Legislative Investigating Commission on The Cook County Hospital 1971-1972 Crisis with Special Reference to its Problems in Human Relations,” 1972
“A Prospective Randomized Study of the Management of Upper Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage,” 1974
“The Clinical Significance of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy: Number 1,” 1976
“Acceptance,” 1988
“Analysis of 6,000 Consecutive Fiberoptic and Lens Gastroscopies,” undated
“What’s New in Medicine,” undated

**Series 4. Programs, 1939-1992 and undated**
22 items
Arrangement: mostly chronological
Scope Content: Programs and pamphlets from various events honoring or featuring Berry, including the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Class of 1930, Rush Medical College.

**BOX 1 (continued)**

Pamphlets and programs featuring Berry as a speaker or guest of honor.

**Series 5. Awards and Certificates, 1930-1987 and undated**
5 items
Arrangement: mostly chronological
Scope Content: Awards and certificates from various medical societies. Includes Berry’s diploma from Rush Medical College.

**BOX 1 (continued)**

Awards and Certificates, 1930-1987 and undated

[ITEM SEPARATED] Plaque, Leadership Award from the National Medical Association, 19 July 1989

**Series 6. Miscellaneous, 1950s-1990s**
13 items
Arrangement: none
Scope Content: Items include a pamphlet on drug addiction featuring statements on Berry; order forms for his texts, *Gastrointestinal Pan-endoscopy* and *I Wouldn’t Take Nothin’ for my Journey*; and a family tree designed by Berry entitled “Mighty Oaks from Tiny Acorns Grow.” Also includes two notebooks. One of these volumes is the personally bound collections of biological drawings Dr. Berry made while a student. Drawings are pencil anatomical/analytical (i.e. labelled) drawings of the development of animal embryos. The loosely bound sheets are stamped "Zoological Laboratories, University of Chicago" and with Dr. Berry's personal stamp, applied at some later date. The second volume is a paper-bound volume of essays and letters entitled "Bertram Welton Sippy, M.D." Walter L. Palmer, M.D., apparently served as editor. No publication date is given but the context suggests relatively promptly after Dr. Sippy's death. The back cover bears the mark of "Biography Press," Aransas Pass, Texas. The book has 1201 pages and 12 sections plus family letters.
BOX 1 (continued)

Biology Class Notes, 1920s

BOX 2

Essays and letters related to Bertram Welton Sippy, undated
Miscellaneous items, 1950s-1990s

Series 7. Pictures, 1920s, 1965-1990s
About 40 items
Arrangement: mostly chronological
Scope Content: Pictures include photographs of Berry at Rush Medical College reunions and receiving awards, 1965-1990s. Also included are a photograph of professors Arthur Dean Bevan and Frank Billings, 1920s; a caricature of Berry as “King Gastroscope” and Muriel Kauffman, 1980s; photographs from Berry’s 90th birthday party; and other photographs.

BOX 2 (continued)

Portrait of Rush Medical College professors Arthur Dean Bevan and Frank Billings, inscribed on back by Berry, [1920s]
Berry receiving citation from Dr. Henry Harkins at the University of Washington, 1963
Berry with Classmates from the Rush Medical College, Class of 1930 Reunion Luncheon, August 1965
Berry in front of the National Archives, Washington, D.C., 1976 (photocopied image)
French Gastroenterologist Jacques Caroli, 1902-1979, [1970s?]
Berry with other Rush Medical College Alumni, Class of 1930, from Rush Commencement, includes Louis Sullivan, Shelden Garber, Arthur Olsen, Leo Henikoff, 1980
Berry and Members of the Class of 1930 (names on back of photo), 50th Anniversary Reunion, 1980
Berry receiving Distinguished Alumnus Award from Rush President Leo Henikoff, 1987
Berry receiving Commencement Banquet, Berry’s family table labeled, 1987
Dinner in Honor of Berry, in Orlando, Fl., given by the National Medical Association, includes Berry and many unidentified individuals, 19 July 1989

[ITEM SEPARATED] Oversized Picture: Caricature of Berry, “King Gastroscope,” and Muriel Kauffman, by Greg McCullough, [1980s?] (In Oversized Pictures Box)

Unidentified couple, [1980s?]
Berry with Family and Friends at his 90th Birthday Party (removed from photo album), 1992

[ITEM SEPARATED] Oversized Pictures: Two large photographs from Berry’s 90th Birthday Party album, 1992 (In Oversized Pictures Box)

Berry and unidentified woman cutting a birthday cake, [1990s?]
Berry taking the blood pressure of unidentified man, [1990s?]

**Series 8. ADDITION of 2011**
**BOX 2 (continued)**

Scope Content: Addition needs to be sorted. Includes material such as correspondence with Office of Philanthropy, news clippings, Memory Book for reunion of class of 1929, Distinguished Alumnus plaque, copy of *I Wouldn’t Take Nothin’ For My Journey: Two Centuries of an Afro-American Minister’s Family*, 1982, etc.