Victor Hugo Bassett papers

Descriptive Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Repository:</th>
<th>Georgia Historical Society</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
<td>Victor Hugo Bassett papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dates:</td>
<td>1907-1938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent:</td>
<td>1.85 cubic feet (4 boxes, 2 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identification:</td>
<td>MS 0055</td>
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Biographical/Historical Note

Dr. Victor Hugo Bassett was born on May 7, 1871, in Aledo, Illinois, son of Isaac Bassett. He received his medical training at the University of Wisconsin and Johns Hopkins University. Bassett came to Savannah, GA in 1908, as the city bacteriologist. In 1923, he became the City Health Officer, and County Health Officer in 1928. His research topics included diphtheria, typhoid fever, tetanus, and dysentery. He was also active in the Georgia Public Health Association, the American Public Health Association, and the Georgia Medical Society. Bassett died on November 3, 1938.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of minutes and correspondence of the Board of Sanitary Commission, vital statistics of Savannah, Ga., notes on various diseases, notes on training midwives, correspondence and notes on milk and local diaries, and the Savannah, GA water supply. Also included are applications for positions at the Savannah Health Department, newspaper clippings on Bassett's career in Savannah, clippings and pamphlets relating to diseases and public health, as well as speeches, book reviews, and other writings of Dr. Bassett. Several articles relating to plantation medicine are also included. Folder 45B contains a scrapbook which includes 4 photographs. The collection also includes photographs concerning the medical practice. Five photographs related to diseases of the liver or spleen. Four photographs show work on a canal being done to control malaria. Thirteen photographs relate to midwives and plantation medicine and two are of medicine cases.

The folders of photographs are noted as "VM" (visual materials) in the collection inventory.

Index Terms

- African American midwives--Georgia--Savannah.
- Application forms.
- Campbell family.
- Canals--Georgia--Chatham County.
- Clippings (information artifacts)
- Dairy farms--Georgia.
- Diseases--Georgia--Savannah.
- Ewell, James, 1773-1832.
- Fenwick family.
- Georgia Medical Society.
- Household employees--Georgia--Savannah.
- Jones family.
- Kollock, Edward Campbell, 1841-1866.
- Kollock, George Jones, 1842-1881.
- Kollock, Lemuel, 1766-1823.
Administrative Information

Custodial History

Material was acquired from the creator's wife.

Preferred Citation

[item identification], Victor Hugo Bassett papers, MS 55, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

Acquisition Information

Gift of Mrs. Victor Hugo Bassett, 1941.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Sponsorship

Encoding funded by a 2012 Documenting Democracy grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Container List
1  Items 1-12: Minutes of the Board of Sanitary Commissioners, 1907 January 15-October 15

2  Items 13-26: Minutes of the Board of Sanitary Commissioners, 1908 January 14-July 27

3  Items 27-52: Minutes of the Board of Sanitary Commissioners, 1913 January 21-December 23

4  Items 53-80: Minutes of the Board of Sanitary Commissioners, 1914 January 6-December 22

5  Items 81-106: Minutes of the Board of Sanitary Commissioners, 1915 January 5-December 21

6  Items 107-135: Minutes of the Board of Sanitary Commissioners, 1916 January 5-December 12

7  Items 136-154: Minutes of the Board of Sanitary Commissioners, 1917 January 9-October 30

8  Items 155-177: Minutes of the Board of Sanitary Commissioners, 1918 January 8-December 24

9  Items 178-185: Minutes of the Board of Sanitary Commissioners, 1920 September 21-1921 October 20

10 Items 186-211: Minutes of the Board of Sanitary Commissioners, 1924 November 6;1925 February 5-1926 December 2

11 Items 212-252: Correspondence of the Board of Sanitary Commissioners, and medical data blanks, 1921-1937

12 Items 253-320: Savannah Health Department, 1914-1915, 1929-1938
    Correspondence, budgets, schedules; many items undated; notes on autopsies in small notebook.


14 Items 360-414: Vital Statistics, Savannah, 1933

15 Items 415-436: Vital Statistics, Savannah, 1934


18 Items 467-472: Notes on Diseases, Cirrhosis of the Liver

19 Items 473-474: Notes on Diseases, Diverticula (sic)

20 Items 475-479: Notes on Diseases, Leprosy

21 Items 480-487: Notes on Diseases, Malaria

22 Items 488-497: Notes on Diseases, Pellagra

23 Items 498-507: Notes on Diseases, Septic Sore Throat

24 Items 508-514: Notes on Diseases, Enlargement of Spleen

25 Items 515-546: Notes on Diseases, Tuberculosis

26 Item 547: Notes on Diseases, Tumors

27 Items 548-568: Midwives, 1938-1939
   story of midwife class training.

28 Items 569-603: Milk and Milk Bottle Permits, 1933 and undated
   "Healthgrams" and city ordinances pertaining to rules; list of qualified dairies. Many items not dated.

29 Items 604-628: Water Works Department, 1915-1933
   Includes reports on water supply of Savannah by City Engineer, City Bacteriologist, City Chemist, Superintendent of Water Works, and commercial firms, 1915-1917, 1923, 1927-28, 1933; map of sanitary-sewer system of Savannah; morbidity and mortality rate of Savannah residents due to typhoid fever, 1921-1928; miscellaneous notes.
Items 629-642: Correspondence with and about Dr. B.M. Bolton, 1925
Concerns application for position as Director of Laboratories, Savannah Health Department.

Items 643-649B: Correspondence with and about Dr. Charles W. Chapin, 1925
Concerns application for position as Director of Laboratories, Savannah Health Department.

Items 650-654: Correspondence with and about Mr. Ralph Mosteller
Concerns application for position as Director of Laboratories, Savannah Health Department.

Items 655-672: Correspondence with and about Dr. Joseph C. Swenarton, 1925
Concerns application for position as Director of Laboratories, Savannah Health Department.

Items 673-731: Correspondence with and about Dr. Henry H. Warner, 1925
Concerns application for position as Director of Laboratories, Savannah Health Department.

Items 732-736: Correspondence with Dr. Charles Wardell Stiles, Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida, 1933 February and March

Items 737-744: Correspondence, unanswered, 1929-1930

Items 745-755: Correspondence, non-medical, unanswered, 1925
Contains applications for position as Director of Laboratories, Savannah Health Department.

Items 756-758: Miscellaneous Manuscripts, 1908
"The Physician and the Laboratory" by V.H. Bassett; Ordinance for the establishment of office of Bacteriologist for the City of Savannah. Notice of applications being accepted for examination to fill position of Bacteriologist, City of Savannah, advertised March, 1908.

Items 759-760: Miscellaneous, Personal, 1923, 1931
Clipping from Savannah Evening Press, July 12, 1923, reporting on controversy over re-election of Bassett as city health officer, and typed copy of clipping. Program and menu of banquet given by city of Savannah in honor of Dr. P.H. Copanaris, Director of Hygiene of Greece, February 3, 1931. Dr. V.H. Bassett was a speaker;

Item 761: Miscellaneous Manuscript, 1925
Letter from V.H. Bassett to Dr. Barton Brown., U.S. Quarantine Station, Savannah, GA, October 20, 1925; gives history of the Quarantine Station.

Items 762-764: Miscellaneous Manuscripts, 1937
Letters from V.H. Bassett to Dr. E. Merton Coulter, University of Georgia and Mr. Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, both September 3, 1937. Both regarding Bassett's manuscript "A Southern Medical Student in the Year 1801". Letter from V.H. Bassett to Mrs. B.F. Bullard, Savannah, Georgia, September 3, 1937 regarding contributions to the "Irene Project".

42 Items 765-772: Miscellaneous Manuscripts, 1938
Address of V.H. Bassett before Savannah Historical Research Association, May 29, 1938. Three book reviews by V.H. Bassett on Tuberculosis Among Children and Young Adults, Pulmonary Tuberculosis, Modern Medicine; Articles on mosquitoes. Article on top minnows. Title page of V.H. Bassett's pamphlet "Prevention of Tetanus Neonatorum in the South" published Savannah., Georgia, 1938.

43 Item 773: Miscellaneous Manuscript, undated

44 Items 774-787: Miscellaneous pamphlets, clippings, etc. relating to diseases and public health, 1921-1937 and undated

45A- Items 788 and 789: Two volumes of medical miscellany, compiled by Dr. and Mrs. V.H.
45B Bassett; an index to the material is in the front of each volume
Item 788: Volume 1 contains statistics on Georgia and Savannah graduates of the University of Pennsylvania Medical School; information and list of members of Georgia Medical Society, 1822; theses on public health and diseases; letters of historical interest written by doctors.
Item 789: Volume 2 contains letters of historical interest written by doctors; death notices of doctors; genealogical material on Jones., Kollock, Campbell, and Fenwick families; photos of portraits of doctors important to Georgia history; a typed copy of The Medical Companion, 1817, by James Ewell, physician in Washington, formerly of Savannah.

46 Items 790-795: Typed manuscript entitled "Plantation Medicine" which includes photocopies of photographs of the small medicine case used by Dr. William Duncan and of a case recommended for use of planters and mariners by Dr. James Ewell, bibliography, and a list of exhibits and illustrations accompanying the paper
See VM 55 for the photographs. Typed manuscript entitled "Medicine Chests" by Dr. James Ewell; Typed manuscript entitled "A Study of Medical Fees, Especially Those for Services on Plantations in the Period from 1801-1865," Typed manuscript of a biography of Dr. James Ewell (1773-1832); Typed manuscript "Popular Remedies Used on Plantations." Basically the manuscript is composed of notes from the Planter's and Mariner's Medical Companion, first edition. List of Popular Remedies, as used by Southern People from reports of Public Health Nurses, Midwives, and other sources.

Box Fldr
47 Articles by Dr. Bassett, 1907-1937
48 Medical Association Journal, 1940
vm_folder Item

1  1  Unmarked photograph (moved from folder 18)

vm_folder Item

1  2-5  Photographs of malaria control work in Chatham County (moved from folder 21)

vm_folder Item

1  6-9  Photographs of spleens (moved from folder 24). Photographs are in individual albums with explanatory text

vm_folder Item

2  1-13  Photographs with text pertaining to midwives and plantation medicine (moved from folder 27)

vm_folder Item

2  14-15  Photographs of small medicine cases, one used by Dr. William Duncan and one recommended for use by planters and mariners by Dr. James Ewell (moved from folder 46)