

Lawrence History Center
Resources Pertaining to Public Health

October, 2017

The Lawrence History Center is home to many resources which document the history of public health in Lawrence since its inception in 1847. Collections Manager Amita Kiley and Head Researcher Kathy Flynn have put together a listing of these materials. For ease of use, the document lists the resources by type rather than theme.

Collections

Lawrence General Hospital Collection 1876-2003

The Joseph S. McManus Collection 1976-2009 (McManus was President of Lawrence General Hospital from June 28, 1976 until September 30, 2009)

Lawrence General Hospital School of Nursing Collection (includes uniforms, hats, graduation pins, yearbooks)

Emmert Funeral Home Records

AJ Libby Funeral Home Records

An assortment of Cemetery Records/Information for Bellevue Cemetery

YWCA Collection

International Institute Collection

Scarito Family Collection (Nina and father Nicholas were doctors)

Family Services Collection

Arthur Teutonico Collection (he was a dentist)

Helen Colleta Nagy Collection (she was a nurse at Danvers State Hospital, Bessie Burke Hospital and the collection includes handwritten notes from health lectures)

Lawrence Public School Registers 1867-1963 (These could be used to track the attendance of student through times of health crises. For example, Kathy noticed that while schools were closed for a month during the Influenza outbreak, many children had died, which was indicated in the school ledgers when the schools re-opened)

Essex County Jail Records Collection (this collection includes supporting material about the diets of the prisoners, and physicians notes regarding health treatment of prisoners)

Dr. Michael Arakelian Collection (general practice doctor)

Development of Merrimack Valley Hospice House

Merger of VNA Home Care with Home Health VNA

Books

City Directories 1847-2013, the directories can be explored to gather and analyze listings of doctors, hospitals, druggists, apothecaries, midwives, pharmacies and other indicators of public health activity

City Documents 1888-1913, the documents contain annual reports from the Board of Health and other reports which may be useful (Water Department, for example)

Assorted books within the LHC Library

State Board of Health Reports, 1873-1913

The Lawrence Survey, 1911

Ledgers

Ledgers from such institutions as the Tuberculosis Hospital (we also have at least 1,000 corresponding patient records), the Cottage Hospital, the Bessie Burke Hospital, the Municipal Hospital and the Almshouse as well as listings of those who suffered from Influenza and other contagious diseases. There are also ledgers which pertain to the Essex County Sanitarium and the disposal of night soil. Additionally, LHC has the death registers for a variety of years, Board of Health Correspondence and Complaints and licensing books

Ledgers from various churches and social club and organizations including German Presbyterian Church, St. Mary's Foresters and Deir-El-Kamar (Lebanese organization). These entities collected money from their members and used the funds as a form of insurance for when their members experienced unemployment, sickness or a death in the family.

Newspapers

The 1953 Lawrence Eagle Tribune Centennial Edition provides an overview of the history of Public Health on page 179

LHC holds a number of newspaper clippings regarding the various hospitals, doctors, nurses and concerns in Lawrence and issues relating to public health

Photographs

LHC holds many pictures of Lawrence hospitals, doctors, patients, nurses and hospital rooms. Our atlases will be helpful in illustrating a footprint of the hospital and its location in the city.

Subject Boxes

Hiram Mills (box includes reports on his studies on Typhoid Fever in its Relation to Water Supplies, 1890, and other reports on water purification)

Water Sanitation/Experiment Station

Health (includes more current information – 1990s and later – about current health issues Lawrencians face and how we are trying to solve them, including information on the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center, Mayor's Health Task Force, and Dentists office throughout the city).

Social Services/Organizations (includes Greater Lawrence Family Health Center, Groundwork Lawrence, Elder Services, Senior Center)

Parks and Playgrounds and Sports (the need for physical activity and open spaces/green spaces can be studied in relation to an improvement in public health of its residents)

Oral Histories

Interviews include topics such as LGH School of Nursing, Lawrence Municipal Hospital, Tuberculosis Hospital, Burke Hospital, Clover Hill Hospital, Point After Club (mental illness) and more