

**MEDICAL CENTER ARCHIVES
OF
NEWYORK-PRESBYTERIAN/WEILL CORNELL**

**1300 York Avenue # 34
New York, NY 10065**

Finding Aid To

THE R. GORDON DOUGLAS, SR, MD (1898-1989) PAPERS

**Dates of Papers:
1931-1974**

**28 Linear Inches
(6 Boxes)**

**Finding Aid Prepared By:
The Archival Staff
11/1983**

Provenance

This collection resulted from grouping a series of records relating to R. Gordon Douglas, Sr., that had been received in 1976 with another series found in early 1983 in the sub-subbasement of the Lying-In-Hospital Building at NYH-CMC. The earlier accession, which dated from 1948-1963, received preliminary processing (folder lists and re-folding) in 1976 by Samuel Wetzman, but was not arranged in discernible order. The latter series contained records from the early years of the Center and of Douglas' association here. The dates were 1931-1947, the year Dr. Stander, the obstetrician-in-Chief died and Douglas became Acting Chief. These files were in poor physical condition. Dirt and mold were rampant, and it appeared as if the bottom edge of most of the files had gotten wet at some point. They were arranged in alphabetical sequence, with the correspondence files incorporated into this.

For a description of the activities of the Department of OB/GYN during the 1930's and 1940's, see the Inventory for the Henricus J. Stander Papers.

Biography

R. Gordon Douglas, M.D., born April 14, 1898, Winnipeg, Canada, resident of Edmonton, 1899-1922 (with exception of period in Canadian Army). Became naturalized American Citizen in 1935.

McGill University Degrees of M.D. and C.M., (Master in Surgery, Canada Medal), 1924.

Attended:

Public School, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Strathcona Collegiate Institute, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Faculty of Art, 1915-17

Canadian Army - World War I
(Royal Canadian Field Artillery)
(Service in France), Feb. 1917 April 1919

University of Alberta
Faculty of Medicine, 1919-22

McGill University, Montreal, Quebec
Faculty of Medicine, 1922-24

Biography (cont'd)

Montreal General Hospital

Resident House Office/Senior Resident House Office, 1924-26

Johns Hopkins Hospital

Resident House Officer; Assistant Resident Obstetricians Assistant, Resident Gynecologist; Resident Obstetrician; Instructor in Obstetrics, 1926-1930.

New York Hospital & Cornell University Medical College

- Associate in OB/GYN (one year's leave of absence for study in the Department of Bacteriology, University of Rochester), 1930-1931
- Associate Attending OB/GYN and Assistant Professor of OB/GYN, (on one year leave of absence to study various European clinics), 1931-1936.
- Attending OB/GYN and Assistant Professor of OB/GYN, 1936-1937.
- Attending OB/GYN and Associate Professor, 1937-1948.
- Acting Obstetrician and Gynecologist In-Chief and Acting Chairman/Professor of OB/GYN, May 1948 - June 1949.
- Obstetrician & Gynecologist In-Chief and Chairman/Professor of OB/GYN, 1949-1965.
- House Staff, NYH - Emeritus Professor, CUMC, 1965 -

Partial List of Memberships:

Life Fellow and Past President, New York Obstetrical Society; Fellow and Past President (1961-62), American Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; Fellow and Past President (1956-58), American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; Fellow, American Gynecology Society; Member and Past President of the section of Obstetrics and Gynecology, A.M.A.; First Vice-President (1960-64), American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology; Fellow, American Gynecological Club; Fellow, The Obstetrical and Gynecological Travel Club;

Honorary Fellow,

South Atlantic Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; Southwest Obstetrical and Gynecological Society; Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada; Washington Gynecological Society; The North Carolina Obstetrical and Gynecological Society; St. Louis Obstetrical Society

Dr. Douglas married Alice Lewis in 1930, and had three children: June, R.Gordon, JR, and Lynne. He authored many articles and chapters, and in 1957, co-authored Operative Obstetrics with Dr. William B. Stromme. He was a member of the NY Hospital Formulary Committee from 1932-1951, serving

as Chairman from 1938-1951. He also served on the Record Committee, again spending many years as Chairman of the group.

He died in 1989.

Scope and Content

This collection documents very well the early years of Douglas' tenure at the Medical Center and the course of the OB/GYN Department from 1932-1948, but sheds little light on the years of his Chairmanship (1949-1965). The correspondence between Drs. Douglas, Stander, and Traut is particularly revealing about the workings of the Department and Douglas' position in it, (Box 3, f.10-11), but there is also material on the Woman's Clinic, the Bacteriology Laboratory (of which Douglas was in charge), and many statistics on various phenomena culled from departmental files used in publications. Of special interest is a series of letters from 1935 regarding a device developed in the OBJGYN Department of the Hospital to measure the diagonal conjugate from which a true conjugate can be established (Box 4, f.10). There is also a report on the first use of occupational therapy in the Department of OB/GYN in 1938 (Box 3 f.14), and a description of the use of analgesia in the Department in 1934 (Box 3, f.21). On a different note is a letter from September 1936 describing life in an OB/GYN department in the South.

Subjects

Affiliations	1:14
Bacteriology	1:10
Cuba	1:14, 2:11
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Ladd, Wm S.	3:6
Levine, S.Z.	2:1,2
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Nuclear Medicine	3:17
Nursing	3:8
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Occupational Therapy	3:14
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Smillie, Wilson G.	1:14
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Student Affairs	1:10, 3:6
Traut, Herbert	3:11

Subjects (cont)

Vincent Astor Diagnostic Service 3:19
 Woman's Clinic 2:9

Container ListBox 1

- f.1 Antibiotics, Comm. on , October 1946 - May 1948.
- f.2 Appointment Letters, 1932-1945.
- f.3 Bacteriology Lab, Search for Candidate for Correspondence, 1935.
- f.4 Cancer Cytology, Comm. to Organize Institute on, Nov. 1949-June 1951.
- f.5 Cesarean Section, R.G.D's discussion, Materials and Correspondence regarding Paper by O. Hunter Jones, 1959, 1963.
- f.6 Child Health and Human Development, Congressional Testimony and Legislation, Correspondence, Report, May 1962-Jan 1963.
- f.7 Comm. on Infant Mortality, N.Y. Academy of Medicine - Correspondence and Paper, 1948-1963.
- f.8 Csapo, Dr. Arpad Istvan of Rockefeller Institute- Notes on Cooperation of the two Departments, 1961.
- f.9 Diet Comm. Notes on Diets for Renal Patients, etc, 1940-1942.
- f.10 Examinations for Medical Students in Bacteriology, 1939-1945.
- f.11 Friday Conference, OB/GYN Department, July 5, 1963 - October 16, 1974 (some missing).
- *f.12 GYN Post-Operative Complications - Statistics, 1955-1961. (Restricted)*
- f.13 "Gynecology", Post-Graduate Course, University of Kansas School of Medicine, November 7-9, 1955; November 6-8, 1961.
- f.14 Havana Permanent Committee.-- Correspondence and Minutes regarding Student Exchanges and Faculty Visits with University of Havana, 1938-1941.
- *f,15 Hemorrhage: (Drs. Landesman's and Trueblood's Charts) and Woman's Clinic Records on, 1945-1962.* (Restricted)
- f.16 "Hepatitis in Pregnancy", by Cahill, Correspondence regarding Paper, September 1961 - January 1962.
- f.17 History of Puerperal Infection, Notes.
- f.18 Hospital Graduates Club, Programs, 1953-1962.
- *f.19 Infections in Pregnancy - Case Histories and Paper on Endotoxin Shock and the Generalized Schwartzman Reaction in Pregnancy, c.1955-1961.* (Restricted)
- *f.20 Institute of International Education Information on Visiting Doctors and General Information on Programs, 1953-1960.* (Restricted)
- f.21 International Federation of OB/GYN - Panel on Genital Tuberculosis -Correspondence, April - August 1958.

Box 1 (cont)

- *f.22 Kubes, Dr. Zdenek - Help Given by R.G.D. to License Z.K in NY.
-Correspondence, C.V., etc., 1958-1963.* (Restricted)

*Restricted. See Archivist

Box 2

- f.1-2 Levine, Samuel Z. (Pediatrics) - Correspondence, April 1932 - Feb. 1961 (see list of correspondence at back of folder).
- f.3 Licenses from State and Narcotics Stamps, 1931-1947.
- f.4 Medical Board, NYH - Misc, 1952-1963.
- f.5 Meetings: Miscellaneous, 1938-1947, 1962.
- f.6 Meetings: Southwest OB/GYN Society, Nov 6-8, 1960;
University of Oregon Medical School, Nov. 10-12, 1960;
Binghamton, NY. Academy of Medicine, Nov. 15, 1960.
- f.7 Canada, June 1958: International Federation of OB/GYN and Society of OB/GYN of Canada.
- f.8 North Carolina OB/GYN Society, April 28/29, 1956;
Nalle Clinic. Seventh Annual Lecture Program, April 20, 1956.
- f.9 Feb. 1955: OB/GYN Post-Graduate Assembly of Southern California; and San Francisco Gynecological Society
- f.10 May 1950: International and 4th American Congress on OB/GYN.
- f.11 Cuban Society of OB/GYN, 1947.

Box 3

- f.1 Meetings Texas - Paper, Radio Speech and Correspondence, June Dec. 1942.
- f.2 Middletown and Malone, NY, On Sulfonamides - Correspondence, 1941-1942.
- f.3 Tri-State Medical Association of the Carolinas and Virginia, 1941-- Correspondence and Program, 1940-1941.
- f.4 Chemotherapy Session, Albany --Correspondence, Sept Dec, 1941.
- f.5 Eclampsia Conference, Washington - Correspondence, Program, Notes Taken, .Dec., 1940-1941.
- f.6 Memos. CUMC regarding Polk Scholarships, Grants, Harvey Society, 1935-1943, 1961-1962.
- f.7 NYH Regarding Pharmacy, X-Ray, Comm. etc., 1932-1947, 1953-1962.
- f.8 Nursing, 1932-1950, 1961.
- f.9 Woman's Clinic Regarding Policies, Procedures, 1932-1948

Box 3 (cont'd)

- *f.10 Memos And Correspondence with Dr. Stander Regarding Policies, Patients, Procedures, 1932-1947* (Restricted)
- *f.11 And Letters to Dr. Traut, 1932-1941.* (Restricted)
- f.12 National Institutes of Health - Grants Information, 1960.
- f.13 New York City Health Department, Report on Abortion and Ectopic Pregnancies, 1952-1954.
- f.14 Occupational Therapy - Report on Experiment of Offering Therapy, 1938.
- f.15 Pediatrics Department Studies by Dr. Katherine Cobb, 1962.
- f.16 Radio Show, "Doctor's Talk It Over", Correspondence Regarding, 1947.
- f.17 Radium Charges, Certificates for Radioactive Equipment and Supplies Statistics, 1934-1944.
- f.18 T.V. Program: AMA and NYH Presentation, June 1953.
- f.19 Vincent Astor Diagnostic Service-- Correspondence Regarding Staffing and Space, 1949-1956.
- f.20 Wasserman Tubes - Memos and Statistics Regarding Excessive Loss of, 1935-1936.
- f.21 "A" Correspondence, 1932 - October 1939, 1957-1958.

Box 4

- f.1 "B" Correspondence, 1931-1938, 1950, 1958-1962
- f.2 "C" Correspondence, 1933-1939, 1942, 1947, 1958-1962
- f.3 "D" Correspondence, 1932-1939
- f.4 "E: Correspondence, 1932-1946, 1953, 1958
- f.5 "F" Correspondence, 1933-May 1939, 1942
- f.6 "G" Correspondence, 1932-1938, 1962
- f.7 "H" Correspondence, 1933-1939, 1947, 1961-1962
- f.8 "I" Correspondence, 1939-1941m 1951-1952
- f.9 "j" Correspondence, 1934-1936, 1940-1955, 1962
- f.10 "K" Correspondence, 1935-1939, 1947-1963
- f.11 "L" Correspondence, 1932-1939
- f.12 "Mc" Correspondence, 1933-1940, 1962
- f.13 "M" & "N" Correspondence, 1931-1941, 1958-1962
- f.14 "O"- "S" Correspondence, 1951-1963
- f.15 "V" & "W" Correspondence, 1932-1947, 1961-1962

Box 5

- f.1 "Dystocia Due to Uterine Dysfunction" - Transcript, 1959-1961.
- f.2 "Lupus Erythmatosis and Pregnancy" -- Transcript, 1960.
- *f.3 "Dysmenorrhea", August 1960, "Carcinoma, Ovarine", 1949-51 Transcript and Histories of Recent Cases* (Restricted)

Box 5 (continued)

- f.4 Diabetes: Pregnancy in, Management, Care of Infants of Diabetic Mothers
- f.5 Exenterations (Radical Pelvic Surgery), 1948-1960 - Statistics
- f.6 "Endometriosis, Primary, of the Cervix" - Paper Commented on by R.G.D., 1959.
- f.7 "Conservation Approach to Gynecological Surgery", 1959- Transcript
- f.8 Demoid Cysts, 1953-1958, "Conservative Approach to Ovarian Surgery", Four Year Review, Paper and Statistics
- f.9 Hysterectomy, Statistics and Abstract, 1950-1956
- f.10-12 Papers and Articles, 1939-1947- Drafts, Typescripts, Statistics and Correspondence.

Box 6

- f.1-2 Papers and Articles, 1934-1938, Drafts, Typescripts, Statistics, and Correspondence.
- f.3-4 "Treatment in General Medicine", - Correspondence and Drafts Regarding Chapters of Reimann's Book that RGD Wrote, 1937 -1947.
- f.5 Contract (Signed) with Publisher of Operative Obstetrics, with Dr. Stromme, 1945.
- f.6 Reprints, 1930-1960.
Operative Obstetrics, 1957, with Wm. Stromme, M.D.