Friends Medical Society records
Coll.1199
Finding aid prepared by Diana Franzusoff Peterson.

Last updated on October 09, 2013.
Table of Contents

Summary Information .................................................................................................................................... 3
Biography/History .......................................................................................................................................... 4
Scope and Contents ....................................................................................................................................... 5
Administrative Information ........................................................................................................................... 5
Controlled Access Headings ..........................................................................................................................6
Summary Information

Repository: Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections

Creator:
- Plummer, William
- Stokes, Joseph, 1896-1972
- Stokes, S. Emlen (Samuel Emlen), 1894-1972
- Vaughan, Victor C. (Victor Clarence), 1851-1929
- Westover, J. Huston

Title: Friends Medical Society records

Call number: Coll.1199

Date: 1950-2006

Extent: 14 boxes

Language: English

Abstract: The worldwide medical issues confronting the Friends Medical Society, a Quaker organization that was founded in 1950, along with information on its members who were predominantly medical doctors.

Cite as:

Haverford College Library, Haverford, PA, Special Collections, Quaker Collection, Friends Medical Society Records, Coll. no. 1199
Biography/History

A number of Quaker physicians met in 1950 at Pendle Hill in Wallingford, PA to discuss the common concerns they had relating to national and world developments. The Friends Medical Society was formed as an outgrowth of this meeting. The aims and purposes were:

1. To provide a channel for the expression and discussion of concerns not ordinarily dealt with in other medical organizations

2. To work with the American Friends Service Committee and other organizations of similar purpose on medical problems and medical projects and to support appropriate medical activities. These included projects in Korea, Tunisia, Yugoslavia, the Near East, Africa, India and Russia.

3. To help physicians, dentists and medical students with problems arising from the "doctor's draft" or who are interested in practicing in needy areas

4. To provide a job placement service for physicians

5. To circulate information with a regular newsletter

6. To carry out a long-range program of study and investigation of the special contributions which Quaker and like-minded physicians might make to medical problems in general

Over the next 17 years, there were about 300 physicians and some other medical personnel who actively participated in the Society. The Society released three statements to the press in that time with concerns over thermonuclear warfare, civil defense and development of chemical and biological weapons. By 1967, their concern carried over to medical problems resulting from the Vietnam War as well as population growth.

While there were no dues, the Society relied on donations from its members, and expected that major projects would be financed through their associated corporation, The Friends Medical Foundation.

The Executive Committee of the Friends Medical Society was made up from members of the Society and generally with a representative of the American Friends Service Committee in attendance.

Among leaders of the society were Victor Vaughan, who served as chairman for a period, as did Huston Westove. Deborah Vaughan was secretary for a long period. Joseph Stokes was executive secretary and William Plummer was vice-chair of the society.

Information from an undated letter in the collection written by J. Huston Westover, M.D. and from Friends Medical Society, a pamphlet by J. Russell Elkinton, 1967 and internal evidence
Scope and Contents

The Friends Medical Society, whose constituents were primarily medical doctors, came into existence in 1950, and dealt with a large number of worldwide medical issues, sometimes in concert with the American Friends Service Committee. These issues were as varied as a Korean medical relief project, health centers in New Mexico, international voluntary services, the Medical Association for the Prevention of War, chemical and biological warfare, atomic testing, LSD, Friends Africa Mission Hospital in Kenya, flood, famine and disease in China, radiation, conscientious objection, the World Health Organization and germ warfare. There are topical files on all these issues, as well as others.

In addition, there are files on members in the society providing such information as their application information and answers to a questionnaire, as well as specific topics, e.g. Vietnam War or funds needed for work in India.

The files include: correspondence, reports, minutes, newsletters, founding documents and some other documents.

Administrative Information

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections
Finding aid prepared by Diana Franzusoff Peterson.

Access Restrictions
This collection is open for research use.

Use Restrictions
Copyright restrictions may apply. Please contact the Archives with requests for copying and for authorization to publish, quote or reproduce the material.

Accruals note
Received in 2001 (acc. no. 6577) and 2007 (acc. no. 7148)

Immediate Source of Acquisition note
Gift of the officers of the Friends Medical Society, through Deborah Vaughan, 2001 & 2007
Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Vaughan, Deborah

Subject(s)

- Medicine -- Religious aspects -- Society of Friends