

Papers of the Franklin District Medical Society

PVMA Library

Scope and Content Note:

In 1781, the state legislature created the Massachusetts Medical Society in Boston. As early as 1784, the first physician in what in 1811 would become Franklin County had been elected to membership. By 1822, that number had reached 33. The distance from Boston led to the formation of the Franklin Medical Society in 1850. The state medical society authorized a separate Medical District in October 1850; the first meeting of the Franklin District Medical Society (FDMS) occurred in Shelburne Falls on July 2, 1851. Apparently the two Franklin County organizations merged at that time. The original officers were Dr. Stephen West Williams, President, Dr. James Deane, Secretary-Treasurer, and Dr. Alpheus Stone, Librarian. The organization has continued to meet until the present (2017).

A largely unfilled volume of the Bi-County Medical Club, with members in Franklin and Hampshire counties, is part of the collection. The bound FDMS record books contain member lists and meeting minutes. Earlier record books often describe the lectures given at meetings in some detail, and reports on local medical cases. They also include Treasurer reports. Later records incorporate programs and invitations pasted in. The collection also contains a 289-page typescript of the Society's records covering the period Jan. 1851-March 1923, done by Dr. Lawrence Dame in 1951 and donated to PVMA by his widow. The bulk of the collection was donated by the Franklin District Medical Society in 1997, with some later gifts.

Container List:

Box 1: Record books, FDMS , 1851-1864; 1865-1887; 1888-1904; records of the Bi-County Medical Club, 1912-1927

Box 2: Record books, 1904-1936; 1936-1947. Bound volume of Certificates of Qualification from the Mass. Medical Society for FDMS members, 1910-1947

Box 3: Treasurer's ledger, 1904-1936; cash ledger, 1904-1948; Secretary's minutes, 1965-1974, with Treasurer reports, mailing lists (in leather binder)

Box 4: Typescript of Society records; guest register of those attending the 100th anniversary program

Franklinia (newsletter), 1999-2001. In same binder: 150th anniversary materials, information on elections and delegates

"Bylaws of the Franklin District Medical Society: A Document Analysis" (1996)

Folder: Photocopies of newspaper articles, 100th anniversary program (2 copies), congratulatory telegram from the Berkshire Co. District Medical Society, proposed revision of bylaws (1998).

