

Collection #  
M 0910,  
OMB 0113

## MARION COUNTY TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION RECORDS, 1913–1949

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Processed by

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### COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	34 document cases, 1 oversized manuscript box, 1 oversize manuscript folder in flat file storage 1 artifact
COLLECTION DATES:	1913–1949
PROVENANCE:	Julia Jameson Nutrition Camp, May 2006

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: M 0071 (Indianapolis Flower Mission); M 0513 (Flanner House Records); M 0525 (Alpha Latreian Club); M 0384 (American Lung Association of Indiana); M 0430 (Marion County General Hospital); P 0130 (W.H. Bass Photos)

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2006.0286

NOTES:

## **HISTORICAL SKETCH**

Affiliated with the National Tuberculosis Association and the Indiana Tuberculosis Association, the Marion County Society for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis (later the Marion County Tuberculosis Association) was organized in 1913 due to the efforts of James W. Lilly and Dr. Theodore Potter. The Association fought this deadly communicable disease through health education, early diagnosis campaigns, and preventative care. In the larger historical context, the collection provides information on the history of medicine, health legislation, children's health and nutrition, social service organizations, philanthropic organizations, public relations and advertising, women's history and nursing, the Depression Era, World War I, and World War II. Throughout the collection, one also witnesses the prevalence of racial segregation.

Some of the Association's early initiatives included the establishment of fresh air or open air schools in Marion County, with the Holliday Outdoor School opening in 1914 on the grounds of the Arsenal Technical High School. This school was renamed the Theodore Potter Fresh Air School shortly thereafter. In 1917 two more fresh air schoolrooms opened, one at School No. 12, and one for African American children at School No. 24, the William D. McCoy School. By 1929 two more schools had opened, Open Air School No. 22 and Open Air School No. 26. These schools promoted exposure to well-circulated air, plenty of rest, and good nutrition.

Another early program advocated by the Marion County Tuberculosis Association was the establishment of a county tuberculosis hospital. Although a state tuberculosis facility existed in Rockville, Indiana, this hospital only provided 12 beds for white patients from Marion County, and none for African American patients. The only other facility for Marion County patients was the Indianapolis Flower Mission which allotted 25 beds, mostly for white patients. If unable to obtain admission to these facilities, patients were typically cared for at home or in rooming houses. Through the Association's efforts, the Sunnyside Sanatorium was opened in 1917 and admitted both white and black patients. The facility was located in Oaklandon, east of Indianapolis, and an open air school was established there in 1918. The Association also supported free tuberculosis clinics, including one for African Americans at Flanner House in 1919.

The Marion County Tuberculosis Association was committed to community health education, research, and legislation. Outreach programs included talks, films, posters, the Christmas Seal Sale, bulletins and newsletters, radio advertising, plays, physician institutes, nutrition clinics, training, and exhibits. The Modern Health Crusade was launched in schools to teach healthy habits and later became the Child Health Education program. Through this program, nurses worked with teachers and schools to emphasize proper nutrition, sleep, posture, dental care, and cleanliness. The county public health nursing initiative was established in 1920 and employed nurses to work outside of the city, examine children in

rural schools, visit patients in their homes, follow up on sanatorium cases, and conduct infant welfare clinics.

In 1926 the Association purchased 82 acres of land in Bridgeport, just west of Indianapolis, for a nutrition camp or preventorium. The camp's original name was the Julia Jameson Nutrition Camp for Frail Children. The camp accepted undernourished children or those recovering from non-communicable illnesses aged 8–14. Treatment at the camp focused on rest, a generous amount of food, sunshine, and fresh air.

Due to the prevalence of tuberculosis among African Americans and their high death rate from the disease, the Association developed health education programs related specifically to the black community such as essay contests, physician institutes, and National Negro Health Week. Sponsored by the Aesculapian Medical Society, National Negro Health Week originated as a clean-up campaign for yards and homes, but then became part of a movement for better African American health.

The Marion County Tuberculosis Association continued to distribute literature, run the Jameson Nutrition Camp, participate in school and community health education, and conduct X-ray and tuberculin testing into the 1960s. After this time, the focus of tuberculosis associations shifted to include other respiratory diseases. In 1971, the Indiana Tuberculosis Association reorganized all of its 92 county associations into eight regional districts, and became the American Lung Association of Indiana.

#### Sources:

Information in the collection

M 0384, American Lung Association of Indiana Records, 1904–1980

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection consists of the papers of the Marion County Tuberculosis Association for the years 1913–1949. The papers are organized into seven series:

Series 1: General correspondence, 1913–1947 consists of the correspondence and materials of the Indiana Tuberculosis Association, the Marion County Tuberculosis Association, and the National Tuberculosis Association. The correspondence related to the Indiana Tuberculosis Association and the National Tuberculosis Association consists mainly of letters addressed to Mary A. Meyers, Executive Secretary of the Marion County Tuberculosis Association. The correspondence of the Marion County Tuberculosis Association contains letters written to Mary A. Meyers from various individuals and organizations, as well as her replies.

The correspondence reveals the involvement of all of the associations in advocating for better care for tuberculosis patients, establishing Sunnyside Sanatorium, and promoting various programs like the open air/fresh air schools. A commitment to preventative programs and public awareness is seen through the Early Diagnosis Campaign, Anti-Spitting Campaign, Health Week, Christmas Seal Sale, and health and hygiene education programs like public health/school nursing and the Julia Jameson Nutrition Camp.

Other topics addressed in this series include solicitations for membership and donations, the availability of beds for tuberculosis patients at local hospitals, mortality and other statistical information, and the involvement of women's organizations and local clubs. The correspondence also reflects the associations' concern with the health of World War I and World War II soldiers and their fitness for service, and the need for wartime nurses.

Series 2: Subject files, 1935–1949 consists of files kept by Mary Meyers. They are arranged by date and contain correspondence with other tuberculosis associations, guidelines and schedules for showing films, health bulletins and

literature such as the *Hoosier Health Herald*, and information on the nursing programs and other association programs.

Series 3: Financial reports, 1916–1935 provides information on the Marion County Tuberculosis Association's budgets and expenses, the articles of association, distribution of literature, campaign and program updates, fresh air schools, free clinics, wartime work, Sunnyside Sanatorium, the Seal Campaigns, and other programs. Some of the files labeled financial reports also contained correspondence and have been kept together as per original order.

Series 4: Health education advertising, programs, reports, 1917–1944 contains the correspondence and reports of the Child Health Education program which outlines participating schools, heights and weights of the children, and advertising literature. The nutrition reports are similar to these, with one file focusing on industrial workers. The nutrition report files also contain correspondence with the Nutrition Clinics for Delicate Children, information on nutrition classes conducted, and other health education initiatives. The Tuberculin Testing files include X-ray reports for schoolchildren who tested positive. Also in this series is information on Child Health Week pageants, talks, demonstrations, winning essays, radio announcements, and other forms of publicity. The files on migratory consumptives reveal the Association's concern with tuberculosis patients spreading the disease in their quest for healthier climates.

The National Negro Health Week files contain African American health initiative material, radio broadcast scripts, winning contest essays, the *National Negro Health News* bulletin, and committee minutes detailing the involvement of African American schools, ministers, sororities, businesspersons, and community organizations like Flanner House, the Woman's Improvement Club, and the Aesculapian Medical Society.

Nursing material includes the correspondence of the National Organization for Public Health Nursing, nurse training, conferences, rules and regulations, and the reports of the county health nurses in various schools. These narrative and statistical reports give insight into the health of children in the Indianapolis area and contain information on patients examined and treated, immunizations, types of illnesses, quarantines, family visits and conditions of homes, and case studies and cases referred to juvenile court.

Series 5: Institutions, camps, and clinics, 1914–1945 consists of the Fresh Air School reports which provide details on this program and the various schools such as daily routine, statistics, specific cases, and names of children. The Nutrition Camp and Summer Recreation Camp material includes examination dates, participating clubs and organizations, reports of findings, names and physical condition of children admitted, case studies, activities, and some family and medical histories. The Institute for Negro Physicians files provide details on a program aimed at educating African American private practice physicians on the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis in their patients. The Sunnyside Sanatorium material includes information on the expansion of the institution, outpatient and social service department reports, rehabilitation of patients, patients on the waiting list, some patient information, and some financial information.

Series 6: Bulletins and circular letters, 1915–1948 contains educational bulletins promoting better health and providing news on the fight to control tuberculosis. Circular letters are generic letters sent by the Marion County Tuberculosis Association to various associations, business leaders, members, parents, and school principals about board meetings and special events, utilization of educational and promotional materials, fundraising, and the like.

Series 7: Conferences and meetings, 1925–1942 includes conference programs and correspondence regarding the Indiana Conference of Tuberculosis Secretaries, Mississippi Valley Conference on Tuberculosis, National Conference of Tuberculosis Secretaries, and other miscellaneous conferences.

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