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Guide to the

Leonidas H. Berry papers

1932-1988

Sc MG 281

Compiled by Diana Lachatanere, 1989.

Summary

Creator: Berry, Leonidas H., 1902-1995

Title: Leonidas H. Berry papers

Date: 1932-1988

Size: 3.75 linear feet (3 boxes)

Abstract: The Leonidas H. Berry papers primarily document Berry's medical career. There is correspondence (1980-1988), speeches and honors (1969-1980s), and some material on the National Medical Association. There are scattered files dealing with his work with the A.M.E. Church health program, Cook County Hospital, the Narcotic Clinic he helped establish, and others. Writings include some draft sketches and research files for his book, *I Wouldn't Take Nothin' for My Journey*, and correspondence dealing with the promotion and reaction to it. Included with the writings is his textbook *Gastrointestinal Pan-endoscopy* and the manuscript of *Clinical significance of Gastrointestinal endoscopy*, an update for a series of pamphlets of which he was an editor. Berry's curriculum vitae and World War II Army papers provide some biographical information.

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Creator History

Leonidas H. Berry was the son of Reverend Llewellyn L. Berry, who served as the general secretary of the Home and Foreign Missions Department of the A.M.E. Church from 1933 until his death in 1954. Leonidas Berry graduated in 1924 from Wilberforce University and completed his studies at Rush Medical College of the University of Chicago in 1929.

During his career, Berry was affiliated with several hospitals in Chicago, and was the first African American specialist in the field of digestive diseases and endoscopy. In 1946, he became the first black

physician to join the staff of Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago and the first black internist at Cook County Hospital there. He retired in 1975 as chief of endoscopy service and senior attending physician at Cook County. He was also one of the first black doctors to be admitted to the American Medical Association and served as president of the National Medical Association in the mid-1960s.

Berry was the author of numerous articles and a textbook, *Gastrointestinal Pan-Endoscopy*. He also wrote a family history, *I Wouldn't Take Nothin' for My Journey: Two Centuries of an Afro-American Minister's Family*.

He and was instrumental in establishing a health program for the A.M.E. Church, and was widely known for his leadership in voluntary community health programs, setting up drug treatment clinics and working with the United Front (which organized the Flying Black Medics).

Custodial History

The collection was salvaged from a dumpster after subject's death.

Scope and Content Note

The Leonidas H. Berry papers primarily document the medical career of this well-known gastroenterologist. Berry's curriculum vitae and World War II Army papers provide biographical information; however, material relating to his profession comprises the bulk of the collection. The collection is organized into four series: I. Personal Papers; II. Professional Papers and Activities; III. Writings; and IV. Black History.

There is correspondence (1980-1988), speeches and honors (1969-1980s), and some material on the National Medical Association. There are scattered files dealing with his work with the A.M.E. Church health program, Cook County Hospital, the Narcotic Clinic he helped establish, and others. The writing series includes some draft sketches and research files for his book, *I Wouldn't Take Nothin' for My Journey*, and correspondence dealing with the promotion and reaction to it. Included in this series is his textbook *Gastrointestinal Pan-endoscopy* and the manuscript of *Clinical significance of Gastrointestinal endoscopy*, an update for a series of pamphlets of which he was an editor. (The work was originally published in 1976, but Berry updated it and tried to get it published as a new edition in 1985 with no success.)

Key Terms

Subjects

African American inventors
African American physicians -- Illinois
African Americans -- Religion
African Americans -- Societies, etc.
African Americans in medicine
Families -- United States -- Religious life
Gastroenterologists -- United States

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Scrapbooks

Names

Berry, Leonidas H.

Berry, Llewellyn L. (Llewellyn Longfellow), 1874-1954

African Methodist Episcopal Church (Philadelphia, Pa.)

National Medical Association (U.S.)

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- b. 1 f. 1 Biographical Information
- b. 1 f. 2 Full C.V. to 1987 and abstract of C.V
- b. 1 f. 3 Leonidas to Mother (letter) 1932
- b. 1 f. 4 War Department - Army - medical research records, active duty
- b. 1 f. 5 Medical career - miscellaneous
- b. 1 f. 6 Reprints (medical)
- b. 1 f. 7 Inventions
- b. 1 f. 8 Clippings
- b. 1 f. 9 Certificates and awards
- b. 1 f. 10 Medical reprints and miscellaneous reprints
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- b. 1 f. 16 ACG Awards, Dallas 1987
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- b. 1 f. 17 Received 1980
- b. 1 f. 18 Written 1981
- b. 1 f. 19 Received 1981
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- b. 1 f. 32 St. Edmunds undated
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- b. 1 f. 34 George Cannon Memorial Statement by Dr. Berry
- b. 1 f. 35 Dallas Speech

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- b. 1 f. 37 Hirsch High School Speech
- b. 1 f. 38 Lecture - George Washington Carver High School 1983 April 6
- b. 1 f. 39 The Making of a Gastroscopist
- b. 1 f. 40 World Paper Mexico Final - Del Prado Hotel, Mexico, as read 1974
- b. 1 f. 41 Health Care Needs, Disadvantaged Populations speech at White House Conference on Health 1965 November 3-4
- b. 1 f. 42 Published speeches
- b. 1 f. 43 Unpublished speeches
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 - b. 1 f. 47 Recruitment Council, letters, news clippings 1965
 - b. 1 f. 48 Re: 1965 position on AMA relation and history 1965
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 - b. 1 f. 70 Richard O.L.L. Berry, Jr
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 - b. 1 f. 72 AME Reverend L.L. Berry
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- b. 1 f. 75 Rush Write-Up Berry Society
- b. 1 f. 76 Woodlawn AME Trustee Board Minutes 1983-1984
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- b. 2 f. 3 Letters received
- b. 2 f. 4 Lecture notes; TV - radio - church
- b. 2 f. 5 *Lecture by Berry Review of I Wouldn't Take Nothin' - before Chicago Geneological Society* 1982
- b. 2 f. 6 *Notes for book - I Wouldn't Take Nothin'*
- b. 2 f. 7 Detroit - Bethel
- b. 2 f. 8 Chicago Board of Education - book endorsement
- b. 2 f. 9 Programs
- b. 2 f. 10 *Letter and documents for I Wouldn't Take Nothin'*
 - Letters written
- b. 2 f. 11 undated
- b. 2 f. 12 Book 1981-1982
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- b. 2 f. 14 1982-1983
- b. 2 f. 15 The Mantle is Raised by Gerri 1909
- b. 2 f. 16 Letters written - book promotion 1983
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- b. 2 f. 23 *Larry Murphy Review: I Wouldn't Take Nothin'*
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- b. 2 f. 29 Chapel Hill book correspondence
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 - The Clinical Significance of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
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- b. 2 f. 33 Update from contributor's foreword 1984

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 - b. 2 f. 53 Newspaper photo and write-up - Re: Douglass Hospital 1956
 - b. 2 f. 54 V.A. Annual Conference AME - minutes, L.L. Berry Dyer Anti-Lynch Bill, V.A. Senator Glass Ignores 1922
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- b. 3 f. 12 American Medical Association - Joint Liaison Committee
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 - b. 3 f. 14 The Role of People of African Origins in the Historical Development of the Art and Science of Medicine

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- b. 3 f. 20 Before the Myth and Disease

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- b. 3 f. 29 Berry, Llewellyn - tributes
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