

**Lyman Guy Barton, Jr., M.D.
World War I Photographs, Field Notes**

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By Olivia Mandica-Hart

ACQUISITION: The materials were donated to The Archives and Special Collections of the Massachusetts General Hospital by John Barton, son of Dr. Barton, in February 2012.

ACCESS: Portions of the collection may be subject to restricted access. Consult the MGH Archivist for further information. (Restricted access to field notes that contain patient names).

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Biography

Dr. Lyman G. Barton, Jr. was born in New York in January 1887. He received his M.D. from Harvard Medical School in 1912. Following his work with the MGH's East Surgical Service in 1914, he started a practice in Willsboro, New York. During World War I, Dr. Barton went overseas with the first Harvard Medical Volunteer Unit, and worked at the American Ambulance Hospital until 1915.

Barton married Aethel Dodge in September 1915. Ms. Dodge was a graduate of the Massachusetts General Hospital Training School for Nurses. The couple had a total of four children (two daughters and two sons), and nine grandchildren.

In 1919, Dr. Barton moved to Plattsburgh, New York, to work with his father, Dr. Lyman Guy Barton, Sr., who had an active medical, surgical, and obstetrical practice, worked as a radiologist, and contributed to the improvement of mechanical instruments. Perhaps his most famous invention was the Barton obstetrical forceps, which aided in Cesarean deliveries. Dr. Barton also served on the surgical staff of two local Plattsburgh-area hospitals for many years, until his retirement, around 1960.

Dr. Barton died in 1968.

Scope and Content Note

This small collection consists of several pictures and notebooks, all of which will be of interest to researchers who wish to learn more about medical service during World War I.

There are three photographs (which have been removed from their original frames for preservation purposes), all of varying sizes, none of which are dated. The smaller photo is of doctors (including Dr. Barton, standing in the top row, wearing a coat and tie), as well as patients, and a nurse. The photo is labeled, "In sincere appreciation from Your Ward 237," and some of the patients have signed their names in margins of the frame. The medium-sized photograph shows a group of army doctors and nurses (including Dr. Barton, standing in the top row, second from the right). Also pictured is Dr. Philip Wilson, who worked as an orthopedic surgeon at Massachusetts General Hospital (Dr. Wilson is sitting in the first row, to the far left). The largest photograph also pictures Dr. Barton (third row, far left) and Dr. Wilson (second row) and other doctors.

Another frame contained six pencil sketches of various war scenes. Placed in the center of the sketches is a card, which, loosely translated from French, reads: "He will remember fondly the American Hospital, and, more particularly, the loving care of his doctors," and is signed by the artist of the sketches.

A small leather-bound ringed notebook contains Dr. Barton's patient notes from 1939, as well as brief notes and drawings describing his observations and daily life related to World War I.

Two small notebooks document Dr. Barton's pathology notes and drawings (date unknown). Enclosed in the first notebook is a bill for services rendered by Dr. Barton's grandfather, Lyman Barton, M.D., dated from 1890.

Box List

Box 1	Folder 1	Medical personnel group photo, c.1914-15
	2	Ward 237 photograph, c.1914-15
	3	Patient notes, c.1939
	4	Surgical Pathology Notebook, No. 1 (1 of 2)
	5	Surgical Pathology Notebook, No. 2 (2 of 2)
	6	Estate bill, 1890
	7	War sketches, n.d.
	8	Group medical photo, c.1914-15

Related Collections

There are a few pertinent related collections in the MGH Archives that may also be of interest to researchers:

Barton, Lyman G., Jr., M.D. Biographical File

Shaw, Henry Alden. *The History of U.S. Army Base Hospital No. 6, And Its Part in the American Expeditionary Forces, 1917-1918*. (Boston, MA: Massachusetts General Hospital, 1924).