

Massachusetts General Hospital Archives and Special Collections
MC 44
Willard L. Parker
1872, ca. 1890-1902

Accession No. 2012-4.

0.33 cubic feet in 1 container
(1 document box)

Processed: by Jeff Mifflin, 2016

Acquisition: Gift of Barbara Parker, 7 February 2012

Access: There no restrictions on access to the collection.

Copyright: Requests to publish materials from the collection should be directed to the MGH Archivist.

Biographical Note:

Willard L. Parker trained as a nurse at McLean Asylum, starting in 1888. In the 1890s he worked as an orderly at the MGH, resigning in 1902 to seek employment elsewhere. He was very dissatisfied with the conditions of work and level of pay at the MGH and spent the remainder of his career (1902-1932) with the U.S. Customs Service.

Many nurses trained at McLean Asylum in the late-19th century were males, in large part because of the occasional need to restrain uncooperative patients.

N.B.: Willard L. Parker should not be confused with MGH physician Willard Stephen Parker.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection consists primarily of photographs of the MGH and McLean in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, showing the MGH Gate House, wards, tables and buckets in an operation room, the Bulfinch Building, groups of doctors and nurses. Willard Parker is identified in two of the pictures.

Also included is a two-page excerpt from a family history, describing Willard Parker's vivid description of the life of an orderly at the MGH in the period from ca. 1890 to 1902.

Processing Note:

All documents were removed from the acidic enclosures in which they were found, were placed in acid-neutral folders, and re-housed in an acid-neutral box.

Box and Folder List:**b.1**

Family history notes regarding MGH and McLean, ca. 1890-1902

Photograph of the Bulfinch Building, ca. 1890s

Photograph of unidentified men, ca. 1890s

Photograph of horse-drawn ambulance at the MGH, 1872

Photographs of MGH Gate House, ca. 1890s

Photograph of Mclean Asylum Class of 1890 (School of Nursing), including Parker

Photographs of nurses, ca. 1890s

Photographs of nurses, ca. 1890s

Photograph of Operating Room at MGH, ca. 1890s

Photograph of people in an MGH ward, including Parker, ca. 1890s