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A Guide to the
Virginia Margaret Alexander Papers
1920-1975

2.0 Cubic feet

UPT 50 A374V

Prepared by Thomas G. Potterfield, Maureen B. Spectre, and Theresa R. Snyder, assisted by Susan M. Jenkins

March 2014

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PROVENANCE

Gift of the Alexander family, 1987.

ARRANGEMENT

The Virginia Margaret Alexander Papers is organized into ten series: I. Biographical and Autobiographical; II. Personal Correspondence; III. General Correspondence; IV. Financial Records; V. Education; VI. Professional Papers; VII. Writings and Publications; VIII. Certificates, Honors, and Awards; IX. Photographs; and X. Books.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Raymond Pace Alexander's younger sister, Virginia Margaret Alexander (B.S. in Ed., 1920), became close friends with Sadie Mossell during their undergraduate years at the University of Pennsylvania, and it was through Virginia that Sadie and Raymond met. After college, Virginia

Alexander attended the Medical College of Pennsylvania and then completed her internship at Kansas City General Hospital.

In 1923 Dr. Alexander began her practice of diagnostic medicine in North Philadelphia. In 1935 she was responsible for bringing Dr. Helen O. Dickens to Philadelphia to join her in the practice of medicine. Later, after graduate work at Yale University School of Medicine, Virginia Alexander entered the field of public health, serving as medical advisor for Howard University from 1937 to 1941 and then, during World War II, with the United States Public Health Service. When she returned to Philadelphia after the war, she specialized in obstetrics and gynecology, serving on the staffs of the Woman's Medical College Hospital, Pennsylvania Hospital and Mercy-Douglass Hospital until her death from Lupus in 1949.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The most significant contents of the Virginia Alexander Papers are financial records, mostly estate (approx. 1 cu. ft.; 1944-63) and the Dr. Virginia M. Alexander Scholarship Foundation (1956-1975). The papers also contains a small series of photographs.

CONTROLLED ACCESS HEADINGS

Occupation(s)

- Women physicians--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia.

Personal Name(s)

- Alexander, Sadie Tanner Mossell, 1898-1989
- Dickens, Helen Octavia.

Subject(s)

- African American women--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia.
- African Americans--Professional education--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia.

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INVENTORY

I. BIOGRAPHICAL AND AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL	Box	Folder
Biographical article: "Can a Colored Woman Be a Physician?," 1933	1	1
Travel: suggested itinerary for Scandinavia, 1936	1	2
VMA medical case history ("Lupus ... and Ovarian Function ..." by Rose, et al.), 1944	1	3
Obituaries: unclipped, 1949	1	4
Obituaries: clipped, 1949	1	5
Commemorative verse: "In Memorium" by Hannah M. Bryan-Tawber, 1949	1	6
Condolences on the death of VMA, 1949	1	7
Condolences on the death of VMA, 1949	1	8
Condolences on the death of VMA, 1949	1	9
Condolences on the death of VMA, 1949	1	10
Condolences on the death of VMA, 1949	1	11
Condolences on the death of VMA, 1949	1	12
Petition to City Council re VMA Recreation Center, 1957	1	13
II. PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE	Box	Folder

With family, 1929-1933	1	14
Helen O. Dickens, 1935	1	15
With and re Irene Jackson, 1936	1	16
From several persons in Alabama; to Mary Elizabeth Alexander, 1947-1949	1	17

III. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE	Box	Folder
STMA with and re VMA (mostly re 2104 Jefferson Street; some personal correspondence), 1942-1943	1	18
STMA with and re VMA (mostly re 2104 Jefferson Street; some personal correspondence), 1943-1946	1	19

IV. FINANCIAL RECORDS	Box	Folder
A. General		
Miscellaneous receipts, legal papers, and statements, 1928-1940	1	20
Miscellaneous receipts, legal papers, and statements, 1941-1947	1	21
Miscellaneous receipts, legal papers, and statements, 1948-1949	1	22
B. Estate		
Trust for Mary E. and Rae P. Alexander, 1944-1949	1	23
Will, 1949	1	24
Executor's working papers, reports, and creditor's claims, 1949	1	25
Will and executor's report, 1949	1	26
Will and codicil (copy), correspondence, invoices, and bank statements, 1949	1	27
Correspondence re settlement, 1949	1	28
Correspondence re settlement, 1949	1	29
Correspondence re settlement, 1949	1	30

Correspondence re settlement, 1950	1	31
Correspondence re settlement, 1950	1	32
Correspondence re settlement, 1950	1	33
Correspondence and invoices, 1951	1	34
Correspondence and invoices, 1952-1953	1	35
Correspondence and invoices, 1954-1956	1	36
Correspondence and invoices, 1957-1958	1	37
Correspondence, 1959-1961	2	1
Correspondence, 1961-1962	2	2
C. Dr. Virginia M. Alexander Scholarship Foundation		
Correspondence and finances, 1953-1956	2	3
Correspondence and finances, 1957	2	4
Correspondence and finances, 1958-1960	2	5
Correspondence and finances, 1961	2	6
Correspondence and finances, 1961	2	7
Correspondence and finances, 1962	2	8
Correspondence and finances, 1963	2	9
Correspondence and finances, 1964-1966	2	10
Correspondence and finances, 1967-1968	2	11
Correspondence and finances, 1968-1969	2	12
Correspondence and finances, 1969-1970	2	13
Correspondence and finances, 1970-1972	2	14
Correspondence and finances, 1973	2	15
Correspondence and finances, 1974-1975	2	16

V. EDUCATION	Box	Folder
A. College		
Women's Undergraduate Record, University of Pennsylvania, 1920	2	17
Transcript (B.S.), 1920/1934	2	18
B. Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania		
Alumnae Register, 1948	2	19
VI. PROFESSIONAL PAPERS	Box	Folder
Copy of letter re W. E. B. DuBois (medical), 1933	2	20
Civil service exam, licenses, 1935-1940	2	21
Announcement of return to general practice, 1945	2	22
VII. WRITINGS AND PUBLICATIONS	Box	Folder
"The Social, Economic, and Health Problems of North Philadelphia Negroes and Their Relationship to a Proposed Interracial Public Health Demonstration Center," 1935	2	23
"The Social, Economic, and Health Problems of North Philadelphia Negroes and Their Relationship to a Proposed Interracial Public Health Demonstration Center," 1935	2	24
"Negro Hospitalization," 1937	2	25
"The Health Status and Needs of the Negro Adolescent," 1940	2	26
"The Health Status of Negro Workers in the National Youth Administration in the District of Columbia," 1941	2	27
VIII. CERTIFICATES, HONORS, AND AWARDS	Box	Folder
Portrait donated to Medical College of Pennsylvania, 1986	2	28
IX. PHOTOGRAPHS	Box	Folder

Portraits, incl. college graduation, [191-]	2	29
Snapshots, incl. on Penn campus, [191-]	2	30
Portrait; group portrait of "House Staff and Interns, Old City Hospital," [192-]	2	31
Portraits, incl. one as physician, [193-]	2	32
Group shots, incl. award of Pennsylvania Institute of Negro Health, [194-]	2	33
Portrait, [1948-1949]	2	34
Portrait (painting), with 8x10 negative, ca.1949	2	35
Unidentified snapshots with note by RPA, 1949	2	36
X. BOOKS	Box	Folder
Araminta's Goat, by Eva Knox Evans (a children's book), 1938	2	37