

John L. Hill Collection

Adams County Historical Society

ACCESSION #: 2007.027

LOCATION: Room 203 – Rack 4 – Shelf A

PREFACE

The Adams County Historical Society was established to “foster interest in the history of Adams County and vicinity, conduct research, preserve records and objects, mark sites, and pursue such activities as may be related to the history of the community.” The Society’s collections are privately held, maintained, and made available to the public for research purposes at the discretion of the governing authority of the institution and its staff.

INTRODUCTION

The John L. Hill Dentist Collection was acquired by the Adams County Historical Society in 2007 from Joan Hankey of Gettysburg. It was processed by Julian Weiss in 2013. The collection is one box containing journals, notes, receipts, newspaper clippings, and some other medical related papers.

The collection contains items from 1852 to 1903 and would be useful for researching the histories of medicine, medical advertisement, life in South Eastern Pennsylvania, or record keeping.

ACCESS

This collection is open for research, and viewing access to the materials is unrestricted. However, restrictions apply concerning the use, duplication, or publication of items. Please consult research room staff for specific information regarding the Society’s policies.

PREFERRED CITATION

John L. Hill Collection, Adams County Historical Society, Gettysburg, PA.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John L. Hill was born near Fairfield, PA on October 31, 1820. While working at his father’s business he studied dentistry, and in 1847 received a doctorate of medicine from the PA Medical College of Philadelphia. He began a dental practice in Gettysburg in the same year. One of his several children, Jason M. Hill, followed his pursuit of dentistry and practiced with him on Chambersburg Street. Dr. Hill’s obituary regarded him as the “leading dentist of Gettysburg” when he died on March 4, 1903.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is made up of the books, pamphlets, notes, and newspaper clippings of John L. Hill. Most of the notes relate to his dentist practice, and many of the newspaper clippings are advertisements for medicines or descriptions of medical treatments. Most of the records are hand-written in leather bound diaries. There is additionally a calling card, grocery lists, and notes on Church events.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I – Contains the notes of John L. Hill.

This series consists of the diaries of John L. Hill, receipts, daybooks, calendars, and patient casebooks. His diaries record groceries purchased, Church times and events, receipts for bills paid by him and his patients. Some of the books state the weather conditions of the day. Lists of expenses from 1852 and excerpts from “Lenophone’s Anabasis” (Xenophon’s *Anabasis*), Book IV, Chap 111. The books are dated from 1857 to 1903, and there are post-mortem receipts and entries from 1903-1906. Some diaries have news clippings and other folded papers in their back pockets.

CONTAINER LISTING

Box #1

1-1 2 handwritten books (a day journal from 1893-1897 with conversion tables pasted in back and one from 1879 with only a few computations and sketches), 5 receipts for various things (1874-1875, 1888), and 1 booklet of dental records for patients (1880-1883).

1-2 2 books with almost nothing in them (one from Maltine including a business card from Pressly D. Wolfe and the other from the Wanamaker company in Philadelphia), 1 receipt book (1903-1906), 3 books with names of patients and treatments (1874-1896, 1896-1899, and 1902-1903).

1-3 1 book with names, dates and amounts (1858-1879, two pieces of paper not attached), 2 high quality appointment books (1892, 1893).

1-4 4 books with appointments, poor condition (1865, 1867, 1868, 1893), lists of groceries purchased, listings of Church events.

1-5 4 books with appointments (three of them Excelsior diaries from 1887, 1896-1897), lists of expenses, and an excerpt from “Lenophone’s Anabasis” (Xenophon’s *Anabasis*), also with newspaper clippings and a note from S.G.C. (1891) to Dr. Hill in the back pockets, 1 empty notepad with a single page.