

The J.W.C. O'Neal Collection
Adams County Historical Society

Accession No(s): 4268

Home Location: Rm 102, Rack 6, 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 J. W. C. O’Neal collection was acquired by the Adams County Historical Society in August of 1970 as a gift of Basil Crapster. The collection was processed in 2004 by Margaret McConnell and JoAnn Prehn in 2009.

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

The J. W. C. O’Neal Collection papers, Adams County Historical Society, Gettysburg, PA.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John William Crapster O’Neal was born in April of 1821 in Fairfax County, Virginia. He attended Pennsylvania College (now Gettysburg College) and graduating with the class of 1844 while also receiving a medical degree from the University of Maryland that same year. He practiced medicine in Hanover from 1844-1849 where his wife Ellen Wirt was from. He moved to Baltimore to continue practicing medicine until he moved to Gettysburg, again to continue in the field of medicine, in February of 1863. During the battle he tended to wounded of both sides while taking careful note of where Confederates were buried after the battle. He was instrumental in helping Southerners find their loved ones and have them moved to graves closer to home. Dr. O’Neal died in Gettysburg on April 24, 1913 at age 92. He is buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Hanover.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is comprised of the following: medical books, ledgers, account books, and a dissertation.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series 1 – Accounting Records

This series consists of account books from 1779 to 1792, a partial memo book, 1852 to 1856, a record book starting in 1884 to 1904, and a ledger daybook containing information from the years: 1845, 1872, 1879, 1892, 1894-1904, 1874-1885.

Series 2 – Dissertation

This series consists of Dr. O’Neal’s dissertation submitted for his degree in medicine in 1844.

Series 3 – Books

This series consists of many Physician handbooks of Practice from 1852 through 1909, included in these books are the names of his patients, what they were treated for, and in the back pockets of the books are various advertisements and tickets and other business type cards. Also included are numerous books on various topics relating to the Free Masons as well as a book with newspaper clippings.

CONTAINER LISTING

Box #1

- 1-1 = Account Book 1779 – 1792
- 1-2 = Dissertation 1844
- 1-3 = Partial Memo book 1852 to 1856
- 1-4 = Record Book – 1884 to 1904.

Box #2

- 1-1 = Book with newspaper clippings.
- 1-2 = News clippings re: farming & letter copy book.
- 1-3 = Visiting or Physicians Handbooks of Practice from 1852 – 1859.
- 1-4 = Masonic Apron.

Box #3

20 Physician Handbooks of Practice from 1860 through 1879.

Box #4

30 Physician Handbooks of Practice from 1880 through 1909.

Box #5

- 1-1 = Ledger, day book from 1845 through 1904

Box #6

10 books relating to the various rules, regulations, degrees and other subjects relating to the Freemasons and other Masonic subjects.