

Wellesley Hospital Fund Collection  
Wellesley Historical Society

**Repository Identifier**

mawelhs

**Local Identifier**

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**Name and Location of Repository**

The Wellesley Historical Society  
229 Washington Street  
Wellesley, MA 02481  
(781) 235-6690  
[www.wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org)

**Title**

Wellesley Hospital Fund Collection

**Date**

1904-1947, bulk 1905-1923

**Extent**

9 folders

**Name of Creator**

Wellesley Hospital Fund Trustees  
Wellesley Hospital Committee

**Biographical Note**

The Wellesley Hospital Fund was established by a group of civic-minded Wellesley residents who wanted to raise funds to provide healthcare for area residents. The funds had initially been collected by members of the Wellesley Club prior to 1905 “for the benefit of the sick and disabled” of Wellesley. The Wellesley Club and its members continued to have influence on the fund and the selection of fund trustees.

In 1905 the funds were turned over to a group of trustees to oversee their investment. This first group of trustees included John D. Hardy, Francis H. Stevens, Isaac Sprague, Arthur P. Dana, and Joseph E. Fiske, all notable Wellesley residents. The investment fund was formed “for the relief of persons residing permanently or temporarily within the limits of said town of Wellesley who are in need of medical attendance, aid or nursing, or of surgical treatment, or of hospital care generally, primarily for the relief of persons unable to pay therefor [sic], but also, in the event of the establishment of a hospital ... for the relief of persons able to pay in whole or in part” (Wellesley Hospital Fund, Declaration of Trust, 1905).

By 1907, income from the Fund was also used to pay a district nurse, who “is not employed by any one family, but holds herself in readiness for any duty. When there is sickness, she may be in half a dozen families on each day” (Records book, page 10). The Wellesley Friendly Aid Society

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oversaw the work of the district nurse. The records indicate that one of the most pressing challenges the group faced was the influenza epidemic of 1918, during which the fund trustees established a temporary emergency hospital at the Maugus Club, which became operational in December 1918 to deal with influenza outbreak as well as the often-resulting pneumonia (Record book, 38-39).

The Fund worked contractually with Newton Hospital from 1915 until April 1923, when it was succeeded by the Wellesley Hospital Fund, Incorporated for the purposes of being a “charitable corporation” functioning with the same mission as the original group.

### **Scope and Content Note**

This collection contains a record book as well as folders of associated materials pertaining to the foundation, organization, and operations of the Wellesley Hospital Fund from 1905-1923. The record book contains a wealth of information and a variety of types of material, including memos, deeds, correspondence, newspaper clippings, official documents, and maps. The loose papers include more of the same types of materials, with one folder of papers from as late as 1947, when the fund was considering divesting and giving the proceeds to Newton Hospital, which had been renamed Newton-Wellesley Hospital in 1945.

### **System of Arrangement**

This small collection is organized into two series.

- I. Record Book, 1905-1923
- II. Papers, 1905-1947

### **Library of Congress Index Terms**

Newton Hospital  
Newton-Wellesley Hospital  
Wellesley (Mass.)

### **Conditions Governing Access**

The Collection is open for research purposes by appointment only. Please contact the Wellesley Historical Society for more information.

info@wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org  
(781) 235-6690

### **Physical Access**

The materials are fragile. The record book is fragile and contains a variety of materials which are glued into the pages. Care should be taken when turning pages and accessing the inserted materials. The covers of the book are coming off, and the spine cover is missing.

### **Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use**

Copyright restrictions may apply.

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**Languages and Scripts of the Material**

English

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

This collection contained Windsor Press notes paperclipped throughout, with notations written by Salvatore DeFazio.

**Accruals**

The Historical Society may add materials to this collection in the future; however, no further accruals are currently expected.

**Related Materials**

n/a

**Description**

DACS-compliant Finding Aid created in May 2019 by Alden Ludlow. Processing of this collection was made possible through a grant from the Wellesley Community Preservation Committee.

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**Container List**

Note on sequence: This collection shares a box with two other collections; the Wellesley Hospital Fund Collection comprises Folders 4-12 in that box.

**I. Record Book, 1905-1923**

This series contains a record book/scrapbook; contains a variety of materials, including correspondence, deeds, meeting minutes, maps, newspaper clippings, and announcements.

**Box 1**

Folder 4: Record Book, 1905-1923

**II. Papers, 1905-1947**

This series contains materials similar to the ones found in the record book. Folder 11 contains some undated papers relating to historical research into the organization and history of the fund.

**Box 1**

Folder 5: Deed establishing Wellesley Hospital Fund, 1905 (Declaration of Trust)  
Folder 6: Correspondence, 1907-1923  
Folder 7: Agreement with Newton Hospital, 1915  
Folder 8: Will of Julia F. Jennings, with bequest to Wellesley Hospital Fund, 1918  
Folder 9: Papers on incorporation of successor organization, 1923  
Folder 10: *Final Report of the Wellesley Hospital Committee*, 1923  
Folder 11: Historical research, undated  
Folder 12: Memo on transfer of funds to Newton Wellesley Hospital, 1947