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PARKE, THOMAS DUKE **Papers 1875-1923**

Background: Thomas Duke Parke was born December 28, 1859 in Selma Alabama to Clifford and Louisa Parke. His grandfather, Thomas Duke, was a physician who emigrated from County Sligo in Ireland to America in 1815. Parke's father, Clifford, was also a physician who lived and practiced in Selma, AL.

Thomas Duke Parke attended Louisville Medical college and graduated in 1876. He attended Medical School at New York University and graduated in 1878. He completed his post graduate studies in New York City, Boston, Baltimore, and London, England.

He practiced for six years in Mexico, before moving his practice to Birmingham, AL in 1887.

Parke married Amy Smith on May 3, 1893 in Ontario, Canada.

After several years in private practice, Parke took up the question of the health of the general public. He organized the Board of Health of Birmingham, of which he was made the President. He was one of the founders of the Children's Hospital of Birmingham, and was president of the board for 12 years.

Parke served as officer for many medical and professional organizations, in the State as well as in the South more generally. He was instrumental in the formation of the Public Library Board, and was director.

During the Administration of Mayor George Ward, Parke led the movement to free prisoners from their shackles while working out their sentences.

Parke died December 3, 1923.

Scope and Content: This collection contains correspondence, diaries, photographs, notebooks, legal documents, and newspaper clippings. There is one document out of the date range that pertains to Parke's wife's citizenship.

Subject Areas:

Convict labor--Alabama--Birmingham
Parke, Thomas D. (Thomas Duke), 1857-1923
Physician, 1822-1916

Size: linear feet (12 boxes)

Source: Rachel Lamar

Restrictions: Standard preservation and copyright restrictions. Do not photocopy bound volumes.

Guide Prepared By: revised 2003 Gigi Gowdy

File Number:	Description:
21.1.1	<p>Correspondence, June 12 to October 20, 1890 (248 pages).</p> <p>The items in this file include letters from Parke to Colonel D.S. Troy of Montgomery, Alabama.</p>
21.2.1	<p>Correspondence, Financial, June 13, 1883 to October 4, 1922 (40 pages).</p> <p>Included in this file are credit statements, cancelled checks, various receipts, and a savings book. Some correspondence is entirely in Spanish.</p>
21.2.2	<p>Correspondence, General, October 24, 1890 to March 20, 1933 (49 pages).</p> <p>This file contains letters from Parke to various friends, family members, and business associates.</p>
21.2.3	<p>Correspondence, Library, August 3, 1907 to April 11, 1927 (46 pages).</p>
21.2.4	<p>Correspondence: Miscellaneous, 1875 to June 10, 1923 (35 pages).</p>
21.2.5	<p>Pamphlets, July 27 to August 1895 (26 pages).</p> <p>File contains two copies of "Report on Coalburg Prison," and a copy of "Facts About Coalburg Prison: Doctor Parke's Report Review."</p>
21.2.6	<p>Pamphlets, August 19, 1899 (4 pages).</p> <p>This file contains one copy of "A Point of View in Therapeutics."</p>
21.2.7	<p>Pamphlets, February 8, 1901 (3 pages).</p> <p>A copy of "Material Impressions" is enclosed.</p>

- 21.2.8 Pamphlets, June 20, 1903 (8 pages).
- Two copies of "Prolonged Withdrawal of Food in Certain Cases of Intestinal Disorder."
- 21.2.9 Pamphlets, May 10, 1904 (8 pages).
- This file contains two copies of "The Ethical Aspect of Medical Progress".
- 21.2.10 Pamphlets, March 21, 1910 (4 pages).
- The file contains a copy of the Chairman's Address, "Annual Conference of State Charities and Corrections of Alabama Public Health Meeting".
- 21.2.11 Pamphlets, June 1910 to November 1918 (106 pages).
- Several copies of "Further Report on Ileocolitis Complicated by Acidosis" and "Acidosis: Retrospect and Discussion."
- 21.2.12 Pamphlets, January 1914 (17 pages).
- A copy of "Eugenics" is in this file.
- 21.2.13 Pamphlets, undated (21 pages).
- This file contains a copy of the pamphlet, "Why Do Contagious People React Differently to Progress"?
- 21.2.14 Pamphlets, undated (18 pages).
- One copy of an untitled paper on the subject of the child is enclosed.
- 21.2.15 Pamphlets, undated (16 pages).
- A copy of a paper entitled "Rome and Mexico" is in this file.
- 21.2.16 Pamphlets, undated (6 pages).
- The file contains a copy of "Infant Mortality".
- 21.2.17 Pamphlets, undated (6 pages).

“Intramuscular Injections of Whole Citrated Blood as Nutritional Aids” is enclosed.

21.2.18 Pamphlets, September 1889 to March 1940 (60 pages).

Several medical and other professional journals are in this folder.

21.2.19 Prisons, July 22, 1907 to May 1, 1911 and undated (30 pages).

This folder contains a report on city jails, an address read to the minister’s union at the First Methodist Church, a message to the Board of Convict Inspectors of the State of Alabama, and a message to the city commissioners from Jefferson County Medical Society.

21.3.1 Correspondence: Public Health, March 5, 1908 to September 20, 1915 (42 pages).

This file contains letters from Parke to various state and local officials.

21.3.2 Correspondence: Public Health, February 21, 1916 to December 30, 1918 (45 pages).

Letters from Parke to various national, state, and local officials are in this file.

21.3.3 Correspondence: Public Health, January 7 to December 19, 1919 (76 pages).

See above.

21.3.4 Correspondence: Public Health, March 18, 1920 to December 29, 1922 (38 pages).

See above.

21.3.5 Correspondence: Public Health, January 10, 1923 to June 28, 1923 (41 pages).

See above.

21.3.6 Correspondence: Public Health, undated (27 pages).

This file contains various correspondence and memoranda from Parke concerning the state of public health in general and Alabama in particular.

- 21.3.7 Correspondence: Public Health, August 9, 1911, June 8, 1920, and undated (4 pages).

Enclosed in this file is an essay on ignorance printed in the *Age-Herald*, an editorial offered to the *Birmingham News* on prohibition, as well as two other editorials voicing Parke's opinions on carrying concealed weapons and the abolition of war.

- 21.3.8 Document, 1879 (2 pages).

This file contains Parke's Doctor of Arts diploma (printed in Latin).

- 21.3.9 Document, undated (1 page).

This file contains a resolution from the Birmingham Library Board in memory of Dr. Thomas D. Parke.

- 21.3.10 Engraving Plates, undated (2 items).

Newspaper engraving plate of Parke with his signature and a newsprint copy of the plate.

- 21.3.11 Legal Documents, February 1, 1883 and undated (39 pages).

An employment contract between Parke and the Cusihiuriachic Mining Company and the Sate of Chihuahua, Mexico for providing medical services for its employees.

- 21.4.1 Legal Document, September 10, 1887 (1 page).

Parke's medical license for the State of Alabama.

- 21.4.2 Legal Document: Public Health, November 23, 1916 and undated (25 pages).

Resolution by the Board of Revenue of Jefferson County to the Board of Health to elect a county health officer and a bill to amend certain health related sections of the 1907 Code of Alabama.

- 21.4.3 Legal Document, July 6, 1920 (11 pages).
- Opinion of the Alabama Supreme Court on the case of “Thomas D. Parke, et al. V. R.L. Bradley, State Treasurer, et al.”
- 21.4.4 Legal Document, March 1941 (1 page).
- Statement by a notary public of Jefferson County certifying that Mrs. Amy S. Parke is an American citizen.
- 21.4.5 Newspaper Clippings: Eulogies, December 6, 1923 and undated (16 pages).
- This file contains eulogies of Thomas Parke.
- 21.4.6 Newspaper Clippings: Library, February 22, 1923 (2 pages).
- 21.4.7 Newspaper Clippings: Miscellaneous, October 26, 1912 to February 5, 1922 and undated (50 pages).
- 21.4.8 Newspaper Clippings: Political, September 30, 1918 and undated (11 pages).
- 21.4.9 Newspaper Clippings: Public Health-General, July 3, 1915 to August 3, 1919 (48 pages).
- 21.4.10 Newspaper Clippings: Public Health-General, January 17, 1917 to April 19, 1923 (83 pages).
- 21.4.11 Newspaper Clippings: Public Health-Dr. Harrington Controversy, (39 pages).
- File missing.
- 21.4.12 Newspaper Clippings: Public Health-Typhoid Scare, July 21 to August 4, 1916 (15 pages).
- 21.4.13 Photographs: Library, undated (1 photo).
- This folder contains a photo of children around the “Jefferson County Free Library” bookmobile.
- 21.4.14 Photographs: Medical, undated (3 photos).
- This file contains three x-rays of hands.

Parke's essay entitled "The Destiny of Man, A Conception."

21.4.26 Notebook, undated (72 pages).

In this notebook, Parke recorded commentaries on Bible stories, essays on the effect of prayer, copies of five stanzas from "Rubaiyat" (Omar Khayyam), and noted significant dates in church history (see box 11).

DIARIES

21.5.1 Diary, May 11, 1880 to July 26, 1882 (212 pages).

Parke's comments on racism, politics, religion, as well as his everyday activities are written in this diary. It begins in Atlanta, Georgia and continues when he moves to Cusihuirachic, Mexico to work as a doctor for the employees of the Cusihuirachic Mining Company. (Typewritten copy in box 6)

21.5.2 Diary, January 31, 1895 to September 27, 1912 (376 pages).

This diary contains a few newspaper clippings, some receipts, and Parke's comments on a speech given by Susan B. Anthony. Also included are his views on women's rights, racism, politics, evolution, Coalburg Prison, the formation of a library association, and his poor health. Pages 28 and 29 contain an autobiographical sketch of his life.

21.6.1 Diary, July 28 to November 14, 1882 (44 pages).

This diary continues the account of Parke's life and work in Mexico. More references to the medical cases he encounters with Mexican life. Pages 42-44 are written in Spanish.

21.6.2 Diary, April 20 to July 25, 1889 (116 pages).

This diary gives details of Parke's trip to England. Except for the first paragraph, this entire diary is written in Spanish.

21.6.3 Diary, December 28, 1891 to February 15, 1895 (4 pages).

Addendum to previous diary.

21.6.4 Diary, August 13 to October 4, 1911 (93 pages).

Parke's accounts of his travels to Cincinnati, Detroit, Montreal, Liverpool, London and Oxford. Pages 89-120 contain medical notes.

21.6.5 Diary, August 19 to September 20, 1916 (112 pages).

Covers Parke's travels to Memphis, Kansas City, El Paso, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Palo Alto, Salt Lake City, Denver, Omaha, and Chicago.

21.7.1 Diary, November 21, 1912 to October 12, 1915 (276 pages).

This diary continues where the previous one ended and includes comments relating to the Jefferson County Medical Society, medical cases, Catholicism and the Q.P.Q. Club.

21.8.1 Diary, October 13, 1915 to April 20, 1917 (276 pages).

Continues issues discussed in the previous diary. Also includes Parke's views on the prison system, the Edmonds-Presbyterian controversy, the Russian Revolution and Booker T. Washington's death.

21.9.1 Diary, May 3, 1917 to October 1, 1919 (276 pages).

Comments on Tom Drew, Board of Revenue, World War I, and Parke's interview with Governor Henderson.

21.10.1 Diary, October 3, 1919 to October 1, 1921 (308 pages).

Parke's comments on public health laws, World War I and Peace Treaty, the Edmonds-Presbyterian controversy, and the prohibition amendment.

21.11.1 Diary, October 2, 1921 to March 27, 1923 (388 pages).

Along with the previously mentioned comments, Parke gives his ideas on the Disarmament Conference and the changing times in America (new technology).

21.12.1 Diary, March 30 to December 1, 1923 (174 pages).

This diary contains Parke's comments on his failing eyesight, mass psychology, the League of Nations, a county library system, the Ku Klux Klan, Jews and his letters to the editor in various newspapers and correspondence with Governor Kilby.

