

**Lela J. Sewell
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**South Carolina State University
SCSU Historical Collection**

**INVENTORY
TO**

**The Palmetto Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association Collection
Records: 1896, 1912-1917, 1920,1926, 1931-1994, 1996, 2 cu. ft.**

This collection was a gift from the history committees (Doctor & Auxiliary) of the Palmetto Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association to the South Carolina State University Historical Collection in 1995.

Records History

The Palmetto Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association (PMDPA) was founded in 1896. Its origin was in response to the denial of Black medical practitioners into the American Medical Association. The National Medical Association (NMA) founded in 1895 was the organization leading the movement to found a separate medical association. NMA serves as a parent association of PMDPA. The Palmetto Medical Association (predecessor of the PMDPA) was as a, “constituent of the National Medical Association, and its focus is much the same as the parent organization.” (Woods & Tisdale- Clawson, p.2).

Black physicians practicing in South Carolina in 1896 confronted fierce racial opposition due to discriminatory attitudes and practices. These attitudes lead to the strong desire as well as the need to create a “...network for professional development since most of South Carolina’s white physicians viewed black medical education as inferior and perceived black physicians to be unworthy and unequal colleagues.”(Woods & Tisdale-Clawson, p. 3) The networking entity known as the Palmetto Medical Association (PMA) was founded by: Dr. James Richelieu Levy, M.D., Florence , South Carolina, Dr. Charles Catlett Johnson, M.D., Aiken, South Carolina; Dr. Lawrence A. Earle, M.D. and Dr. Alonzo Clifton McClennan, M.D., Charleston, South Carolina. Dr. Charles Catlett Johnson, Sr. (1860-1928) one of the four founding fathers is identified as the “premiere founding father of the Palmetto Medical Association ”. *

PMA held its first clinic and post graduate seminar with an annual meeting in 1936 to encourage other Black medical professionals in order to ally the fields within a formal organization. Therefore, dental and pharmaceutical professionals became

associated with the PMA and the organization was renamed the Palmetto Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association (PMDPA) so to accurately represent its members.

PMDPA regards highly two trailblazers; Dr. L.W. Long, M.D. of Union, South Carolina and Dr. James E. Brown, D.D. S of Charleston, South Carolina for their pioneering efforts in promoting perpetuity of the PMDPA pre and post civil rights era.*

PMDPA is divided into four geographical districts. The following denotes the regional organizations: 1) the Charleston County Medical and Pharmaceutical Association, 2) the Inter-County Medical and Dental and Pharmaceutical Association, 3) the Congaree Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association, and 4) the Piedmont Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association. PMDPA also maintains an Auxiliary that thrives to “support the work of our spouses in educating the community at large in the importance of health care, the preservation of health and health care issues”. The Auxiliary was founded in 1938.

The Palmetto Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association celebrated its 100th Anniversary in 1996. The centennial program was held during April 18-21, 1996 in Columbia, South Carolina and sponsored by the Congaree Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association. PMDPA continues to be an active vital organization in the medical community.

*Detailed information pertaining to the founders and pioneers of PMDA can be found in the publication [A Golden Century of Black Medicine: An Historical Overview The Palmetto Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association 1896-1996](#), By Barbara A. Woods, Ph.D. and Tracy D. Tisdale-Clawson, M.A.

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Scope Notes

This collection contains the papers of the Palmetto Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association (PMDPA) and its Auxiliary. The collection is two cubic feet. It includes the constitution and by-laws, annual minutes (general and executive board), regional chapter minutes, annual programs, correspondences, speeches delivered by past presidents, photographs, scrapbooks, and plaques. A copy of the National Dental Association constitution and by laws is within this collection. Several of the early minutes are handwritten. The PMDPA minutes reflect organizational activity from as early as 1912. The Piedmont chapters of the PMDPA records include a copy of a brief history of that division. Several of the annual programs are autographed by members. The collection retains photo reproductions of PMDPA founders and pioneer, Dr. L.W. Long. The two scrapbooks in the collection are products of the Auxiliary of the PMDPA. Within a series of executive board minutes is correspondence to the South Carolina State Senate formally requesting more representation on medical boards by PMDPA members. A working knowledge of issues confronted by African Americans in the medical fields would assist in the usage of the collection.

Container List

**BOX
1 of 2**

Palmetto Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association (PMDPA)
Constitution and By –Laws, Minutes, Directories, Programs, Correspondence,
Tax Report, Newsletter, and Photographs
1896, 1912-1917, 1920,1926, 1931-1994, 1996

Series I

Constitution and By – Laws

1948,1951,1960,1963-68

PMDPA- - Constitution and By - Laws- - PMDPA - - 1 Item - - c. 1955 FF 1
PMDPA- - Constitution and By - Laws- - Palmetto Political Action Committee
(PALPAC) - - 1 Item - - c. 1948, N.D. FF 2
PMDPA- - Constitution and By - Laws- - Congaree Medical Dental, and Pharmaceutical
Society- - 1 Item - - N.D. FF 3
PMDPA- - Constitution and By - Laws- - National Dental Association - - 3 Items - -
1948, 1951, 1960 FF 4

Series II

Minutes

1912-13,1915-17, 1931-32, 1934-40
1942-47,1963-74

PMDPA - - Minutes- - Annual (Bound/Handwritten) - - 1912-13,1915-17, 1931-32,
1934-40,1942-47- - 1 Item FF 5
PMDPA - - Minutes- - Annual (Printed) 1920,1926 - - 2 Items - - April 27-29,1920,
April 27-29, 1926 FF 6
PMDPA - - Minutes- - Annual (Typed) 1947-62 - - 15 Items - - 1947-62 FF 7
PMDPA - - Minutes- - Annual (Typed), List of Officers - - 1963-68 - - 13 Items - -
1963-68 FF 8
PMDPA - - Minutes- - Executive Board (Typed) 1963-74 - - 56 Items - - 1963-74
FF 9
PMDPA - - Minutes- - Executive Board (Correspondence South Carolina State Senate) -
- 1971-75 - - 103 Items - - 1971-75 FF 10
PMDPA - - Minutes- - Piedmont Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association
(Typed) 1940-1956, April 1948, June 8, 1966- - 7 Items - - 1940-1956, April 1948,
June 8, 1966 FF 11
PMDPA - - Minutes- - Piedmont Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association
(Constitution and By Laws /Typed) 1948, 1957-66- - - 1 Items - - 1948,1957-66 FF 12

PMDPA - - Minutes (Executive Board), President Speeches, Expense Reports, Telephone Charge List, Mailing List, Past Presidents - - 23 Items- -April 22-, 1941, 1942, April 24,1962, June 25, 1967, 1968-69, N.D. FF 13

Series III

Directories

1981-82

PMDPA - - Directories- - Congaree Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association
1981-82 - - 1 Item - - 1981-82 FF 14

Series IV

Programs

1939,1941,1943,1950-56,1961-62,1964,1966,1968,1969,1970-80
1983,1986,1988,1989-94

PMDPA - - Programs - - Annual Meeting - - 4 Items- - April 25-28, 1939, April 22-25,
1941, April 20-23, 1943 FF 15
PMDPA - - Programs - - Annual Meeting - - 9 Items- - April 1950- 56 FF 16
PMDPA - - Programs - - Annual Meeting - - 6 Items- - April 24-26, 1962, April 28,30,
1964, April 23-25, 1968, April 22-24,1969 FF 17
PMDPA - - Programs - - Annual Meeting - - 13 Items- - April 1970-79 FF 18
PMDPA - - Programs - - Annual Meeting - - 7 Items- - April 18,20, 1980, April 22-24,
1983, April 24-27, 1986, April 21-24, 1988, April 22-23, 1989 FF 19
PMDPA - - Programs - - Annual Meeting - - 8 Items- - April 1990-94 FF 20
PMDPA - - Programs - - John H, Hale Surgical Society, Public Meeting PMDPA,
Congaree Women's Auxiliary - - 3 Items - - May 10, 1961, April 27, 1966, April 25-27,
1972 FF 21

Series V

Correspondence

1959,1969-70,1972,1974,1982-83,1986

PMDPA- - Correspondence - - PMDPA, National Dental Association, Inc., Ad Hoc
Committee Family Structure, Donelain Pharmaceutical, PMPDA Research & Exhibit,
PMDPA Letterhead, Business Cards (Personal)- - 11 Items - - 1969-70, January 1, 1972,
May 14, 1986, April 22, 1959, May 16, 1974, March 3, 1982, July 6, 1982, July 29, 1983,
N.D. FF 22

Series VI

Newsletter

1993,1990

PMDPA - - Newsletter- - Palmetto News, Meharry Today- - 4 Items- - April 22-25, 1993,
Summer, October, November, 1990 FF 23

Series VII

Tax Report
1976

PMDPA- - Tax Report- - I Item - - May 15, 1976

FF 24

Series VIII
Photographs & Reprints
1896

PMDPA- - Photographs & Reprints - - Founders of the Palmetto Medical, Dental and
Pharmaceutical Association, Dr. Lawrence W. Long, Palmetto Piedmont Auxiliary,
James E, Brown - - 6 Items- - c. 1896, N.D.

FF 25

BOX
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Palmetto Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association (PMDPA)
Scrapbooks & Artifacts
1983, 1987-88, 1990-92

Series IX
Scrapbooks
1983,1987-88,1990-91

PMPDA- - Scrapbook - - Charleston County Medical Association Auxiliary - - I Item- -
1983, 1987-88

FF 26

PMDPA - - Scrapbook - - Charleston County Medical Association Auxiliary - - I Item- -
1987, 1990-91

FF 27

Series X
Artifacts
1990-92

PMDPA - - Artifact- - Plaque - - Delma M. Woods, Ph. D., President, Charleston Chapter
Auxiliary to the National Medical Association, Inc.- - 1 Item - -1990-92

FF 28

PMDPA - - Artifact- - Plaque - - Portfolio Case - - Dr. H.S. Smiley- - 1 Item - -N.D.

FF 29