Introduction

The collection consists of the working notes, papers, and correspondence of Dr. Leslie A. Falk (1915-2004) on the topic of silicosis among granite workers. The collection was donated by Dr. Falk’s family and is stored in one archival flip top box; it consumes .5 linear feet of shelf space.

Biographical Note

Dr. Leslie A. Falk (b. April 19, 1915) attended the University of Illinois and then Washington University at St. Louis for medical school where he was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship. While in England, Falk studied preventative medicine. He also studied lysozyme with Ernest Chain and developed a device to manufacture penicillin in usable quantity. Falk earned his PhD in Medical Science at Oxford. He completed his medical studies at Johns Hopkins under Dr. Henry Sigerest.

From 1948 to 1967, Falk was Area Medical Administrator of the United Mine Workers Health and Welfare Fund in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He served as chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, until his retirement in 1987.

Dr. Leslie Falk was active in the Urban League, NAACP, and Unitarian Church as well as other civil rights and anti-war organizations. In his later years, he lived in Montpelier, Vermont. He died in Shelburne, Vermont, on November 28, 2004.

Scope and Content

This collection contains Dr. Leslie A. Falk’s research material on silicosis among granite workers. Falk assembled a comprehensive collection of articles on this topic, with sources ranging from popular publications, government publications, and academic journals. Most of the articles, however, are from medical journals. The articles range in date from the 1920s (columns written by Barre, Vermont physician, Dr. D. C. Jarvis) to 1990 (articles from the medical journals).

The collection does not include any articles written by Falk on the subject of silicosis. It does, however, include a few transparencies and announcements of two talks by Falk on silicosis in 1991 and 1992, suggesting that he spoke occasionally on this topic. The only items written by Falk in the collection are from an earlier period of his life when he was interested in occupational health more generally and the United Mine Workers more specifically in the 1950s and 1960s. In 1981, Falk presented an article on occupational diseases among minority workers at the
National Conference on Occupational Health and Safety Issues Affecting Minority Workers in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The collection also includes one folder of correspondence from the period 1988-1997, mostly relating to Dr. Falk’s interest in silicosis and one folder of photographs and other images. Photographs do not include any images of Dr. Falk but there are three of the pictures of Dr. D. C. Jarvis, and a signed photograph of the Scottish medical historian Alexander Meiklejohn.

Inventory

MSA 743:01 Correspondence, 1988-1997

1 Business Card
2 Letter from Falk to Todd Savitt about MS copy of work, undated
3 Letter from Velicia Braxton (Johns Hopkins University Press) to Leslie Falk, about article “Sigerist in Saskatchewan,” undated
4 Letter from John A. Pendergrass (Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health, U.S. Dept. of Labor) to Theodore L. Garrett to Dr. Falk, about standards or silica in stone cutting, 1988
5 Note from Richard Hathaway to Dr. Falk, 1991
6 Two letters from Les Falk to Edorman, interested in Dr. D. C. Jarvis, 1991
7 Letter from Dorothy Senghas (Technical Services, Librarian, UVM) to Falk, 1992
8 Letter from Edorman to Falk, interested in history of occupational medicine, 1992
9 Letter from Joseph Costello to Falk, about health concerns of granite cutters in sheds and Falk’s manuscript, “Granite cutters and Shed Workers,” 1992
10 Letter from Jason Rosenstock to Falk, 1992
11 Letter from Falk to Jason Rosenstock, 1992
12 Letter from Harriet L. Hardy (patient at Loomis House assisted living) to Falk. Hardy, 1993
13 Email (possibly) from Leslie and Cecilia Hunter, about African-American railroad doctors, specifically, J. B. Smith, 1996
14 Letter from Dr. Milton Terris (Journal of Public Health Policy, Burlington, Vt.) to Dr. Jacalyn Duffin, about Sigerest, 1997
15 Letter from Falk to Dr. Jacalyn Duffin, about collaborating on “Medical Aspects of the Underground Railroad,” undated

Doc 743:02 Completed work by Leslie Falk

1 “Labor Union Medical Benefit Programs,” 1951-1952
2 “Comprehensive Care in Medical Care Programs: The UMWA Welfare Fund,” Medical Care, Vol. VI, No. 5, September-October 1968
3 “Nashville Chapter of the Medical Committee of Human Rights: Statement in Behalf of Public Control of Emergency Ambulance Service,” ca. 1969 (typescript)
5 “Granite workers health and working conditions,” including presentation by Falk in Barre, Vermont (audio cassette recorded October 1991)
6 Beaumont Medical History Club “Brown Bag” lectures flyer, 1991

Doc 743:03 Secondary Sources

3 Column by Dr. D.C. Jarvis on respirators, The Granite Cutters Journal, undated
4 Column by Dr. D.C. Jarvis, responding to home remedy, The Granite Cutters Journal, undated
5 D.C. Jarvis on activity of granite carvers, undated and unknown source
6 Column by Dr. D.C. Jarvis, on pneumatic tools, in The Granite Cutters Journal, Vol. 48, No. 1, April 1924
7 Excerpt of D.C. Jarvis citing 1917 Vermont Committee on Morality from Tuberculosis in the Dusty Trades, undated
9 Advertisement, Ruemlin Dust Collector, December 1939.
10 “Dust Control in Plug Drilling,” Warren F. Terry, Occupational Hazards, September (unknown year)
11 “Outline of Barre, Vermont’s Contribution to Stoneworking Equipment,” Donald G. Allen, 1979 (typescript)
12 Excerpt from essay on development of the Healy crane by Robert B. Aiken, MD

Doc. 7430:4 Working Manuscripts

Doc 743:05 Medical Articles on Silicosis (folder 1)
General descriptions of Silicosis, *Occupational Disorders by System*, unknown date.


15. Raw lab data on effects of inhaled Silica, unknown author, 1986.


Doc. 743:7 Annotated Bibliography

Doc. 743:8 Photographs

1 DC Jarvis in office, 1912 (transparency)
2 DC Jarvis Portrait, 1965 (transparency)
3 DC Jarvis Portrait
4 Glenn Wilson, Chairman Department of Community Health, UN, 1955
5 Edward Delinsky and Ann Alter, 1955
6 Angela Fakaver, 1955
7 Postcard Italian Immigrant Statue, Barre, VT
8 Alexander Meikiejohn, Scottish Medical Historian, signed 1964
9 Assorted photographs from Department of Community Health, UN, 1955

Tatjana Kragh, Paul Carnahan
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