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### **Collection 147**

**William McKinley Memorial Hospital**

**Helene Fuld Medical Health Center**

**Capital Health System**

**(1889-2020)**

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**January 2020**

#### **History**

Originally known as “The City Hospital”, the William McKinley Memorial Hospital was founded in 1889, and spanned around six acres of land on Brunswick Avenue in Trenton. As the population that the hospital served grew larger, the board of directors of the City Hospital decided to expand their resources. In 1900, they established a new brick hospital, and renamed the building in honor of the late United States President William McKinley.

The William McKinley Memorial Hospital soon transitioned into the Helene Fuld Medical Center. The School of Nursing’s program can be traced back to its early years as William McKinley Memorial Hospital, where a portion of the hospital’s property was dedicated to the training of young women as nurses. Many nurses graduated from the School of Nursing which helped propel the growth of the hospital.

Various other programs and departments worked in conjunction with William McKinley Memorial Hospital and Helene Fuld Medical Center, as both institutions were dedicated to the health of the general populace. The Ladies’ Association, for example, provided a great deal of financial and managerial assistance to the hospital.

In the later 1900s, the Helene Fuld Medical Center rapidly expanded its various branches. It developed a new Pulmonary Function Laboratory, expanded its Respiratory Therapy Department, and honed their X-Ray rooms. With this technological advancement, the Helene Fuld Medical Health Center was able to increase their staff, and provide further medical care to the people of Trenton.

In recent years, Helene Fuld Medical Center transitioned to Capital Health Regional Medical Center. The board authorized this transition in order to emphasize the hospital's connection with the Capital Health System. This is the current identity of the hospital, which continues to provide medical care and assistance for the people of Trenton.

### **Scope and Content Notes**

The collection consists of paper, signage, and pamphlets relating to the history of the William McKinley Memorial Hospital, and its subsequent titles of the Helene Fuld Medical Center and the Capital Health System. This collection is contained in eight folders in one manuscript box, and is divided into three sections: I. William McKinley Memorial Hospital; II. Helene Fuld Medical Center; and III. Capital Health System.

For further information, refer to the newspaper clippings folders in the vertical file under Hospitals-Trenton City Hospital, Hospitals-William McKinley Memorial Hospital, Hospitals-Helene Fuld Medical Center, and Hospitals-Capital Health System.

### **Series Description**

#### **Series I. William McKinley Memorial Hospital**

The first series is comprised of documents relevant to the William McKinley Memorial Hospital. These documents include newspapers about the state of the McKinley Hospital, letters of correspondence between medical officials and other important individuals in the city of Trenton, a laboratory card, a yearbook (ex-libris Regina Kowalik), and invitations to events hosted in the name of the hospital, including dances, concerts, and dedication services.

#### **Series II. Helene Fuld Medical Health Center**

The second series contains documents relevant to the history of the Helene Fuld Medical Health Center. These include annual reports of the hospital's performance, collections of newsletters

spanning the history of the hospital, pamphlets publicizing the hospital's various programs and branches, and invitations to events held in celebration of the hospital and its branches.

Of particular note is the collection of pamphlets, documents, signage detailing the Helene Fuld Medical Center School of Nursing. Many events were held in the name of the School of Nursing, and there are many documents advertising its departments and staff. Included are lists of the boards of trustees for various years.

### **Series III. Capital Health System**

The third series is comprised of documents advertising the Capital Health System. Many of these are magazines that detail the yearly performance of the hospital, with the purpose of advertising and advocating the benefits of the departments. Also included in the series are several letters of correspondence from the board of directors.

### **Container List**

#### **Box / Folder / Folder Title**

Series I. William McKinley Memorial Hospital

1 / 1 / William McKinley Memorial Hospital

1 / 1a / The Lamp [yearbook], 1945

Series II. Helene Fuld Medical Center

1 / 2 / Newsletters

1 / 3 / Annual Reports

1 / 4 / Pamphlets, Publicity, and Press Releases

1 / 5 / Correspondence

1 / 6 / Events

1 / 7 / School of Nursing

Series III. Capital Health System

1 / 8 / Publicity and Correspondence

### **Bibliography**

Helene Fuld Medical Center, *90th Anniversary Annual Meeting*, Cedar Gardens, Trenton, NJ; March 24, 1977.

"Trenton Historical Society, New Jersey." *Trentonhistory.Org*, 2020, [www.trentonhistory.org/His/charitable.html](http://www.trentonhistory.org/His/charitable.html). Accessed 9 Jan. 2020.