

Bryce Hospital

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of
Alabama 1849-1991

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Summary Information

Repository:	University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama
Creator:	Bryce Hospital (Tuscaloosa, Ala.).
Title:	Bryce Hospital collection
ID:	MSS.0225
Date:	1849-1991
Physical Description:	6.0 Linear feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Various materials on the establishment and history of the Alabama Insane Hospital in Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, later known as Bryce Hospital.

Preferred Citation note

Bryce Hospital Collection, University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama

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Biographical/Historical note

The notion of the need for a state hospital for the mentally ill was championed in Alabama in 1849 by Dorthea L. Dix, the noted activist who lobbied state legislatures and the U.S. Congress on behalf of the indigent insane. Her lobbying paid off in 1852, when the Alabama Legislature passed the Act to Establish a State Hospital for Insane Persons in Alabama. 326 acres of land adjacent to the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa was purchased for \$6,525.00 and building began in 1853. A Board of Trustees was established and soon advertised for the position of the Hospital's first superintendent.

Dr. Peter Bryce of Columbia, South Carolina, submitted his application in December 1859 and was elected to that position by the Board, at a salary of \$2,000, plus rent and household expenses, with the stipulation that he must be married before assuming his duties. Bryce, 26, married Ellen Clarkson, 19, also of Columbia, South Carolina, in 1860.

In April 1861, John Kehoe arrived to supervise the buildings and grounds, while his brother, Pat Kehoe, was part of the first administrative staff of the hospital. Miss Ellen Barry of Mobile, Alabama, arrived in Tuscaloosa to become the first nurse.

The first patient, a forty-eight-year-old soldier sent from Fort Morgan on the order of General Duff Green, was admitted on 5 April 1861. His illness was diagnosed as Mania A, the alleged cause unknown, the alleged exciting cause was political excitement.

After the Battle of Shiloh, fought on 6-7 April 1862, the east wing of the hospital was turned into a military hospital. On 4-5 April, 1865 Federal troops under the command of General John T. Croxton entered Tuscaloosa. Pat Kehoe, the inside supervisor for men, was in town and raised the alarm at the university and the hospital. While the university buildings were burned, the only loss suffered by the hospital was the confiscation of its horses and mules.

By the late 1960s, the on-campus population was recorded as over 5,000. This severe problem of overpopulation helped bring about the landmark Wyatt v. Stickney federal court case. The judge's decision, handed down in April 1972, established for each civilly committed mental patient minimum standards for humane psychological treatment. In September 1986, after fourteen years of being monitored by the federal court, the Wyatt case was settled. Many of the original standards of this case have become the core requirements used by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Psychiatric Hospitals throughout the nation. This order, coupled with the Lynch v. Baxley decision of 1974 which established the criteria for committing patients to the hospital, aided Bryce in significantly reducing the in-house population. All the while, the hospital has been dramatically improving the quality of treatment programs, the physical plant, and the professional staff.

In 2010, The University of Alabama purchased the 168-acre campus of the original Bryce Hospital from the state Mental Health Commission. By June 2014, a new Bryce Hospital was scheduled to open on the grounds of the W. D. Partlow Developmental Center campus in Tuscaloosa.

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Scope and Contents note

This collection contains various materials on the establishment and history of the Alabama Insane Hospital in Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, later known as Bryce Hospital. Included in the collection are annual reports and addresses given by two of the hospital's superintendents, Dr. William Dempsey Partlow and Dr. Peter Bryce, as well as minutes of the Board of Trustees. It also contains a number of monthly, weekly, and/or daily forms and reports from the Farm Department's Dairy/Livestock collection, including Daily Milch Reports, Individual Cow Record, Weekly Hog Report, and payroll forms.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Processed by

Martha Bace, 2009; updated 2012 and 2014

Custodial History note

The Bryce Hospital Collection is comprised of several different smaller collections. The Farm Department materials were found in the old barn on the hospital campus in June 1988 prior to the barn's destruction in the late 1980s/early 1990s and given to the W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library by Robert O. Mellow. The letterbook (as well as a ledger in the Bryce Family Papers) were given to the W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library by Lynn Zeanah in 2005.

Conditions Governing Access note

Some materials may be restricted. Please contact Division of Special Collections staff for more information.

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Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Peter Bryce collection, University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama; A. L. Anderson letter, University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama; Sara Mayfield papers, University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama;

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Controlled Access Headings

- Bryce, Peter, 1834-1892
- Partlow, William Dempsey
- Alabama
- Clippings (information artifacts)
- Correspondence
- Dairy farms
- Farming and Agriculture
- Health, Medicine and Welfare
- Keys (hardware)
- Letter books
- Mental health--Alabama
- Minutes
- Photographs
- Reports
- Speeches
- Tuscaloosa (Ala.)

Collection Inventory

MATERIALS RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BRYCE HOSPITAL

Scope and Contents note

Materials relating to the establishment of the Alabama Insane Hospital, later known as Bryce Hospital, in Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama.

Title/Description	Instances	
"Memorial soliciting a State Hospital for the Insane submitted to the Legislature of Alabama, November 15, 1849"	Box 0225.0001	Folder 01
Materials relating to the establishment of Bryce Hospital	Box 0225.0001	Folder 02

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CORRESPONDENCE

Scope and Contents note

Correspondence between the doctors and trustees of Bryce Hospital and others from 1859 through 1945.

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, 1859-1945	Box 0225.0001	Folder 03
Correspondence (Letterbook) - Peter Bryce - 1878-1888	Box 0225.0001	Folder 04
Correspondence - William Dempsey Partlow - 1933-1943	Box 0225.0001	Folder 05

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REPORTS, ADDRESSES, MINUTES, PUBLICATIONS, ETC.**Scope and Contents note**

Various annual reports and minutes of the Board of Trustees, as well as articles, addresses, newspaper clippings and publications.

Title/Description	Instances	
Annual reports and Board of Trustees minutes	Box 0225.0001	Folder 06
Alabama Mental Health Plan, 1966	Box 0225.0001	Folder 07
History of Partlow	Box 0225.0001	Folder 08
Report on the State Mental Hospitals of Alabama, 1958, v. 1	Box 0225.0001	Folder 09
Report on the State Mental Hospitals of Alabama, 1958, v. 2	Box 0225.0001	Folder 10
Application of Patient to Insane Hospital (blank form), 1910-1919	Box 0225.0001	Folder 11
Articles and addresses by William Dempsey Partlow	Box 0225.0002	Folder 01
Addresses and programs honoring William Dempsey Partlow	Box 0225.0002	Folder 02
Bryce Hospital, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Facility Master Plan, 1991	Box 0225.0002	Folder 03
Bryant-Jordan Chapel Dedication, Program, 1972	Box 0225.0002	Folder 04
Newspaper clippings		

	Box 0225.0002	Folder 05
<i>The Meteor</i>	Box 0225.0002	Folder 06
Publications, Bryce	Box 0225.0002	Folder 07
Publications, Other institutions and organizations (1 of 2)	Box 0225.0002	Folder 08
Publications, Other institutions and organizations (2 of 2)	Box 0225.0002	Folder 09
On Construction, Organization, and General Arrangements of Hospitals for the Insane, by Thomas S. Kirkbride, 1854	Box 0225.0002	Folder 10
Certificates (blank), Graduation Announcement and Programs	Box 0225.0002	Folder 11
Annie Adams - Materials relating to her career as a Bryce Hospital Nurse, 1914-1918	Box 0225.0002	Folder 12
Photocopies of pictures showing nurses graduating and members of the American Psychiatric Association, Atlanta, Georgia, May 1929	Box 0225.0002	Folder 13
Miscellany	Box 0225.0002	Folder 14

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FARM DEPARTMENT - DAIRY AND LIVESTOCK

Scope and Contents note

Applications, certificates, reports and forms from the hospital's Farm Department.

Title/Description	Instances	
Application for Registry, the Holstein-Friesian Association of America	Box 0225.0003	Folder 01
Delivery forms	Box 0225.0003	Folder 02
Daily Milch Reports, March 1949 - November 1962	Box 0225.0003	Folder 03
Individual Cow Record forms	Box 0225.0003	Folder 04
Monthly Payroll Forms, July 1952-December 1965	Box 0225.0003	Folder 05
Weekly Hog Report, January 1966-February 1971		

	Box 0225.0003	Folder 06
Value of Livestock Records, October 1945-October 1964	Box 0225.0003	Folder 07
Bryce Daily Milking Records, 1955-1958	Box 0225.0003	Folder 08
Certificate of Registration for Hampshire Boar "King Boar 4th," 29 August 1957	Box 0225.0003	Folder 09
Certificate of Participation, February 1967; Employee Guidance Sheet, 1966-1970	Box 0225.0003	Folder 10
Miscellaneous Documents	Box 0225.0003	Folder 11

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OVERSIZE MATERIALS

Scope and Contents note

Oversize plans, posters and forms from Bryce Hospital.

Title/Description	Instances	
Bryce Hospital Plot Plans, 1969	Box 5976	Folder 0225.01
Bryce, Peter (print)	Box 5976	Folder 0225.02
Bryce Hospital Touring Choir poster, ca. 1960s (on reverse - unsigned painting of unidentified bird)	Box 5976	Folder 0225.03
Patients of Bryce Hospital, 6 October 1917 - 30 September 1918	Box 5976	Folder 0225.04

General note

There is no patient information on these forms. It is strictly a numerical indication of the number of patients in Bryce.

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ARTIFACTS - BRYCE HOSPITAL KEYS

Scope and Contents note

Approximately 53 whole and partial keys to rooms in Bryce Hospital. There are several handmade keys included.

Title/Description	Instances	
Keys (44 keys in envelopes)		

	Box 0225.0004	Folder 01-44
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Keys - Handmade (2 keys)

	Box 0225.0003
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Folder 12

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Miscellaneous and unprocessed

Physical Description: 1.0 Linear feet

Title/Description	Instances
Bryce Hospital	Box 1
Bryce Hospital	Box 2
Bryce Hospital papers	Box 3
Bryce Hospital papers (2 folders)	Box 106

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Photographs (1 of 2)

Box 6308

Photographs (2 of 2)

Box 6309
