

**The Pennsylvania Hospital  
Historic Collections  
3 Pine East  
8<sup>th</sup> and Spruce Streets  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107**

**Patient Admissions Slip Collection, 1752-1856 + (n.d.)**

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**Finding Aid  
For  
The Patient Admissions Slip Collection**

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Admissions slips and related documents, c.1752-1856 + [n.d.]

**Funding Note**

The processing of this collection was made possible through a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC).

**Provenance**

The Patient Admissions Slips Collection begins with the earliest patients in 1752 and continues into the mid nineteenth century. Patients granted admission to the Pennsylvania Hospital were only accepted after certain criteria were met, namely, patients needed to present a security and be of good standing in society or able to pay for his/her care. The earliest patients were located in the rented house the hospital was using until the East Wing was constructed in 1755. By 1756 patients were attended to at the 8<sup>th</sup> Street site, which was considered “country” as the city proper had not yet caught up to Eighth Street.

**Hospital History**

The Pennsylvania Hospital was founded in 1751 by Dr. Thomas Bond and Benjamin Franklin. Chartered by the Colonial Government, the Pennsylvania Hospital has the distinction of being the first hospital in America to care for the sick poor. The original building on Eighth and Pine Streets, completed in 1755, was expanded over the years, as demand for a larger facility grew. Today the Hospital maintains several buildings as part of its campus.

The nation's first hospital was also the first to treat psychological and emotional disorders as conditions that might be cured. From the outset, part of the hospital's mission was to treat mentally challenged patients with more dignity and more humanity than the custom of the day dictated. By the latter part of the eighteenth century, the number of mentally ill patients outnumbered patients with physical ailments. As a result, the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, later known as the Institute of Pennsylvania Hospital, was established in 1841 at a separate facility in West Philadelphia. Headed by Dr. Thomas Story Kirkbride for the first 43 years of its existence, the Institute became one of the most reputable providers of psychiatric care. During its 156-year history, the Institute was instrumental in promoting the notion of humane treatment for the mentally challenged. Unfortunately, the Institute was forced to close its doors in 1997 due to lack of adequate funding.

The Pennsylvania Hospital was also one of the pioneers in the field of nursing. In 1875, the Hospital established one of the first schools of nursing in the country. After four years, the Hospital agreed to co-train nurses with the Woman's Hospital of Philadelphia. In 1883, however, Pennsylvania Hospital reopened its own independent school of nursing for women, a school which would last for nearly 100 years. The women's school was joined by a School of Nursing for Men in 1914. The men's school was established at the Institute on the Hospital's West Philadelphia Campus, and became the first male school of nursing to be headed by a man, Leroy N. Craig. It was through Mr. Craig's efforts that male nurses were first offered commissions in the armed forces.

Nevertheless, The Pennsylvania Hospital continues to thrive as a premiere medical institution. Today, the hospital is a 555-bed facility, most renowned for orthopedic, vascular, otorhinolaryngologic and urologic surgeries, high-risk maternal and fetal obstetrics, and behavioral health.

The Pennsylvania Hospital Historic Collections serves to preserve and provide access to the historical record of the Hospital's unique past. With the first records dating back to 1751, the Hospital's archival collection includes administrative and fiscal records, personal papers of prominent hospital personnel, artifacts, visual materials, and more. Documents handwritten by Benjamin Franklin, Benjamin Rush, and numerous other influential individuals are only a few of the many highlights. In addition to the history of the Pennsylvania Hospital itself, the records provide a unique view of the general evolution of patient care, psychiatric treatment, medical professions, the City of Philadelphia, and architecture.

For more information concerning the Historic Collections' archival holdings, please see "A guide to the Pennsylvania Hospital Records, 1751 - 1978 [Bulk 1751 - 1929]."

<http://www.uphs.upenn.edu/paharc/collections/finding/index.html>

### **Scope and Content of the Patient Admissions Slip Collection**

#### **General Overview of the Collection:**

The Patient Admissions Slip Collection consists of 159 boxes of individual folders containing admissions slips allowing patients access to medical treatment at the Pennsylvania Hospital. During the first few years of the collection, 1752-1755, the Hospital was located in a temporary home on High Street (now Market St.). In 1756 the East Wing of the Pine Building opened and patients were admitted to this new building. Admissions slips contain the following information generally: name of patient, date of admissions, ailment, name and signature or mark of the person acting as security for the patient, and the name of Pennsylvania Hospital Board of Managers member who signed off on the admissions of the patient. Other information that might also be found on some slips is the address and occupation of the security, occupation of the patient, physicians name and signature.

#### **Notes on Arrangement:**

Admissions slips were re-housed into individual files from folded alphabetical (by letter but not within each letter) boxes.

#### **Series Description:**

Box number	Folder count	names (if Alphabetical)	Date	notes
1	1-140		1752-1764	
2	1-135		1764-1768	
3	1-123		1768-1771	
4	1-115		1772-1786	
5	1-51		1786-1788	
6	1-127		1789-1795	
7	1-120		1795-1796	
8	1-111		1797-1798	
9	1-118		1798-1799	
10	1-123		1799-1800	
11	1-106		1800	
12	1-119		1801	
13	1-127		1802	
14	1-147		1803	
15	1-136		1804-1805	
16	1-71		1805	
17	1-89		1806	
18	1-100		1806	
19	1-115		1807	
20	1-99		1807-1808	
21	1-110		1808	
22	1-96		1808-1809	

23	1-85		1809	
24	1-112		1810-1814	
25	1-110		1815-1816	
26	1-101		1816-1817	
27	1-124		1817	
28	1-126		1817	
29	1-65		1817	
30	1-108		1818	
31	1-108		1818	
32	1-84		1818	
33	1-113		1818-1819	
34	1-114		1819-1823	
35	1-101		1823-1824	
36	1-112		1824	
37	1-102		1824	
38	1-100		1824	
39	1-101		1824	
40	1-125		1824-1825	
41	1-105		1825	
42	1-94		1825	
43	1-112		1825	
44	1-111		1825	
45	1-107		1825-1826	
46	1-91		1826	
47	1-103		1826	
48	1-101		1826	
49	1-89		1826	
50	1-106		1826	
51	1-100		1826-1827	
52	1-93		1827	
53	1-98		1827	
54	1-99		1827	
55	1-89		1827	
56	1-87		1827-1828	
57	1-92		1828	
58	1-99		1828	
59	1-102		1828	
60	1-100		1828	
61	1-97		1828	
62	1-100		1828	
63	1-85		1828	

64	1-110		1828-1829	
65	1-106		1829	
66	1-104		1829	
67	1-99		1829	
68	1-100		1829	
69	1-102		1829	
70	1-98		1829	
71	1-109		1829	
72	1-108		1829-1830	A-D
73	1-118		1830	D-G
74	1-93		1830	H-J
75	1-104		1830	J-M
76	1-100		1830	M-N
77	1-126		1831	A-C
78	1-116		1831	D-G
79	1-114		1831	G-K
80	1-97		1831	K-S
81	1-99		1831	S-W
82	1-44		1831	V-Z
83	1-127		1832	A-C
84	1-114		1832	C-F
85	1-120		1832	G-L
86	1-114		1832	L-O
87	1-116		1832	O-S
88	1-108	Schewerman- Wyer	1832	
89	1-87	Nesbet-Levey	1830	
90	1-99	Sanborn- Wynkaop	1830	
91	1-133	Lamb_ Myers	1831	
92	1-40	Kammon- Lyman	1832	
93	1-110	Alexander- Custis	1833	
94	1-111	Daly- Gurnex	1833	
95	1-110	Hackel- Kurtz	1833	
96	1-124	Lanahan-Myers	1833	
97	1-110	Maguire- Rudolph	1833	
98	1-93	Sallade- Tyson	1833	
99	1-50	Vierling- Zane	1833	
100	1-136	Adams Cusack	1834	
101	1-110	Dallas- Gorves	1834	
102	1-105	Hafner- Kurtz	1834	
103	1-126	Laffarty- Myers	1834	
104	1-117	Neal- Swope	1834	

105	1-73	Taber- Zeiber	1834	
106	1-112	Aaron- Clifton	1835	
107	1-106	Cobb- Furst	1835	
108	1-109	Gallagher- Lyle	1835	
109	1-125	MacFerran- Quinn	1835	
110	1-121	Ray- Yerkins	1835	
111	1-119	Abels- Cuttin	1836	
112	1-112	Dance- Murray	1836	
113	1-114		1836-1837	
114	1-115	Brooks- McCune	1837	
115	1-115	McDevitt- Trimble	1837	
116	1-119		1837-1838	
117	1-126	Davidson- Priestley	1838	
118	1-113		1838-1839	
119	1-118	Lane- Turner	1839	
120	1-120	Walker- Crockett	1839-1940	
121	1-120	Dangerfield- Otway	1840	
122	1-92	Peters- Wright	1840	
123	1-45	Abdill- Butler	1841	
124	1-98	Macanulty- Musser	1841	
125	1-62	Nickerson- Worrell	1841	
126	1-111	Acalay- Myers	1842	
127	1-82	Maloy- Way	1842	
128	1-115	Adams- McConkey	1843	
129	1-115	McConnell- Butler	1843-1844	
130	1-115	Cahoon- McNamee	1844	
131	1-99	Mcnanny- Wyman	1844	
132	1-129	Akin- McConomy	1845	
133	1-124	McCoy- Tyrell	1845	
134	1-108	Wager- Custis	1845-1846	
135	1-114	Daulk- McHugh	1846	
136	1-110	McIlvane- Turner	1846	
137	1-106	Walters0- Byrnes	1846-1847	
138	1-119	Calhoun- Murray	1847	
139	1-119	Nelish- Wright	1847	
140	1-106	Abboott- Buzby	1848	
141	1-111	Caldwell- Guest	1848	
142	1-93	Lafferty- Ashton	1848-1849	
143	1-121	Bailey- Byron	1849	
144	1-115	Carin- Griffin	1849	
145	1-141	Griffin- Risk	1849	

146	1-122	Taylor- Berry	1849-1850	
147	1-115	Bissett-Crooks	1850	
148	1-113	Dacosta- McFarland	1850	
149	1-115	McGinley- Robinson	1850	
150	1-141	Robinson-Burridge	1850-1851	
151	1-153	Calhoun-McGlensey	1851	
152	1-107	McGloughlin-Quinn	1851	
153	1-135	Ramirez-Avery	1851-1852	
154	1-124	Bailey-McGinley	1852	
155	1-114	McGinnis-Weyunger	1852	
156	1-129	Wheeler-Dyer	1852-1853	
157	1-117	Fance-Poetrel	1853	
158	1-145	Valentine-McKnight	1853-1854	
159	1-99	McLaughlin-Long	1854-1856	
160	1-48	Anderson-Louchery	1853-1856	Accident Admission Slips

### **Notes on Restricted Access:**

All patient records are closed for 100 from creation. All of the Patient Admission Slips in this collection are open to the public. Restrictions apply to any patient who was admitted suffering from mental illness. Terms that might have been used in diagnosis would be “mania” “hysteria” “madness” “lunatic” and so forth. These documents are not open to the public. The database has been structured to filter restricted material or to de-identify patients’ names.

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**See Also:**

“A guide to the Pennsylvania Hospital Records, 1751 - 1978 [Bulk 1751 - 1929].”

<http://www.uphs.upenn.edu/paharc/collections/finding/arrangement.html>

A finding aid for the archival holdings in the Historic Collections of the Pennsylvania Hospital.

Graham, Kristen A. *History of the Pennsylvania Hospital*. Charlestown, SC: The History Press (2008).