



Inventory of the Dr. Simon Powell (S.P.) and Martha J.O. Sebastian Collection

Contact Information

Archives and Special Collections

F.D. Bluford Library

North Carolina A&T State University

Greensboro, NC 27411

Telephone: 336-285-4176

Email: libraryarchives@ncat.edu

URL: <http://www.library.ncat.edu/resources/archives>

Descriptive Summary

Description of the physical holdings of the Dr. Simon Powell (S.P.) and Martha J.O. Sebastian Collection located in the University Archives at NC A&T SU's F.D. Bluford Library.

Repository

F.D. Bluford Library Archives and Special Collections

Creator

Dr. Simon P. Sebastian; Martha J.O. Sebastian

Title

The Dr. Simon P. and Martha J. Sebastian Collection

Call Number

N/A

Language of Materials

English

Extent

1 archival boxes, 55 items

Abstract

Simon P. Sebastian (c. 1877-1937) was a prominent physician who contributed immensely to improving healthcare for African Americans in Greensboro, NC. In 1902, Sebastian began working with The Agricultural and Mechanical College for the Colored Race (now N.C. A&T State University), where he was the assistant to President Dudley and a professor of English, foreign languages, mathematics and geography. After obtaining a medical degree from the Leonard Medical School at Shaw University he returned to N.C. A&T to serve as college physician, which he continued until 1937. With two other doctors, he opened the Trinity Hospital for Negroes in 1918 on East Market Street. Along with others, Sebastian formed the historic L. Richardson Memorial Hospital in Greensboro, N.C where he was director and administer of its Nursing School.

His wife, Martha J. O. Sebastian (1896-1948), was the first African American public librarian in Greensboro, and the influential library director of the Carnegie Negro Library (1924-1948), which she managed and optimized until her death in 1948. Her innovative community outreach initiatives partnering with local colleges and institutions made the Carnegie Negro Library one of the strongest in the south. Simon and Martha were married from 1915 until his death from a car accident in 1937. The Sebastian Health Center was named in his honor and served generations of Aggie students from 1953 until the 2010s. In 2007, Sebastian's Greensboro home was opened to become the Sebastian Medical Museum.

This collection includes primary sources and scanned reproductions of: biographical information, family information, newspaper articles, book entries, pamphlets, presentations, photographs, programs for events of the Sebastian Medical Museum, and correspondence

concerning the naming of the Martha J. Sebastian Meeting Room in the Greensboro Public Library Vance H. Chavis Lifelong Learning Branch.

Administrative Information

Restrictions to Access

No Restrictions

Acquisitions Information

Please consult the Archives Staff for additional information.

Processing Information

Processed by Anthony Arcangeli, 2018

Preferred Citation

[Identification of Item], Dr. Simon P. and Martha J. Sebastian Collection, , Archives and Special Collections, Bluford Library, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Greensboro, NC.

Copyright Notice

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College owns copyright to this collection. Individuals obtaining materials from Bluford Library are responsible for using the works in conformance with United State Copyright Law as well as any restriction accompanying the materials.

Biographical Note

Simon Powell Sebastian (c. 1877-1937) was a prominent physician who contributed immensely to improving healthcare for African Americans in Greensboro, NC. His wife from 1915, Martha J. O. Sebastian (1896-1948), was the first African American public librarian in Greensboro, and was the influential library director of the Carnegie Negro Library (1924-1948).

Catalog Subject Headings

[Medicine Southern States History 19th century.](#)

[African American physicians.](#)

[African American physicians Biography.](#)
[African Americans Medical care History.](#)
[African Americans Medical care Social aspects.](#)
[African American librarians.](#)
[African Americans and libraries.](#)
[African American women.](#)
[African American women librarians United States Biography.](#)
[African American women librarians.](#)
[African Americans Intellectual life.](#)
[Women in library science United States.](#)
[Libraries and women United States History.](#)
[African American women in the professions History.](#)

Collection Overview

Container List:

Folder 001:

- 1.1.1. Biographical Data Concerning the Names of Buildings at A & T College, "Dr. Simon Powell Sebastian: June 1886-June 23, 1937".
- 1.1.2. Image from Who's Who in Colored America: A Biographical Dictionary of Notable Living Persons of African Descent in America, "S.P. Sebastian, M.D.", 1928-1929.
- 1.1.3. "Physician's Home Becomes the Sebastian Medical Museum - Celebrates Grand Opening Oct. 6", Carolina Peacemaker, October 4, 2007.
- 1.1.4. "Notable Leonard Medical School Graduate", Carolina Peacemaker, February 2006.
- 1.1.5. "Doctor's House to Heal Blight", News & Record, November 26, 2006.
- 1.1.6. "Center is Accredited", News & Record, September 2, 1992.
- 1.1.7. "N.C. A & T", Guilford Record North, October 10, 2007.

1.1.8. "Peacemaker Announcements - October 5 & 6", Carolina Peacemaker, September 27, 2007.

1.1.9. "Dr. S.P. Sebastian", Greensboro Daily News, June 27, 1937.

1.1.10. "Sebastian House Slated to be Refurbished", Carolina Peacemaker, November 2006.

1.1.11. Biographic entry in *Medical Shoulders during the 19th and 20th Centuries in Greensboro, North Carolina: Biographical Sketches of Over 800 Physicians in Greensboro*. By Robert L. Philips and the Greensboro Historical Medical Library. Published by The Printworks, 1993.

1.1.12. "Movement Started for Negro Patients - Increased Accommodations for Tuberculosis Victims", Greensboro Daily News, March 17, 1935 (Page 4, Section D, Column 6).

1.1.13. "Injuries are Fatal to Negro Physician: Dr. Sebastian Succumbs to Hurts Suffered Wednesday in Collison - Funeral is Saturday", Greensboro Daily News, June 25, 1937.

1.1.14. "The Sebastian Infirmary", A & T Register, September 19, 1962.

1.1.15. Periodical, e-VillageLink.com - Print edition, "Sebastian House: A Legacy Reawakened & Revitalized", Fall 2007.

1.1.16. Program, "The Sebastian Medical Museum: Men and Women in Science and Medicine Awards Banquet", Event for Friday, October 5, 2007.

1.1.17. "Leonard Medical School: The Making of African American Physicians", Carolina Peacemaker, February 16, 2006.

1.1.18. "Sebastian Infirmary" in *The Historic Tour of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University*. By Albert W. Spruill. 1982.

1.1.19. "L. Richardson Memorial Hospital" in *History of the Hospitals in Greensboro, North Carolina: Including Sanitariums, Infirmarys, and Institutes*. By Robert L. Philips, M.D. Published by The Printworks, 1996.

1.1.20. "L. Richardson Memorial Hospital" in *Visual Medical History of Greensboro*. By Robert L. Philips, M.D. Published by The Printworks, 2001.

1.1.21. "History of Integration of Medicine in Greensboro, North Carolina Chronological Documentation". By Robert L. Philips, M.D. for the Greensboro Medical Historical Library and the Greater Greensboro Society of Medicine, November 1990.

1.1.22. Entry on the history of the L. Richardson Memorial Hospital in *A Biographical Dictionary of Notable Living Persons of African Descent in America: 1933-1934-1935-1936-1937 (Fourth Edition)*. By Ethel Steven Arnett. Published and edited by Thomas Yenser, 1955.

1.1.23. Program, "Ground Breaking & Dedicatory Ceremony: Historic Landmark - Grace Lutheran Church - Sebastian House - L. Richardson Memorial Hospital". Event for November 8, 2006.

1.1.24. "Bluford Library Archives: The Medical Legacy of Dr. Jones and Dr. Sebastian". By James Stewart and Lee Love. Published by the NC A&T Alumni Times, December 21, 2017.

Folder 002: Photographs

1.2.1. Photograph. Portrait shot of S.P. Sebastian.

1.2.2. Photograph. Landscape shot of Nurses with Map of the City of Greensboro. "Nurses Indicating Individual's Area. Reading from left to right - nurses are: Mrs. Minella Jones, Mrs. Kathryn Paylor, Mrs. Carrie Mock, Mrs. Lillie Bell Barber, and Mrs. Frances Martin". 1964.

1.2.3. Photograph. Landscape shot of the Sebastian House, Greensboro, NC.

1.2.4. Photograph. Portrait shot of Walter J. Sebastian and Edward Powell Sebastian.

1.2.5. Photograph. Landscape shot of the old L. Richardson Memorial Hospital, Benbow Rd. Greensboro, NC.

1.2.6. Scanned Photograph. Portrait shot of Martha J.O. Sebastian.

Folder 003: Martha J. O. Sebastian

1.3.1. Program, "The Dedication of the Martha J.O. Sebastian Meeting Room". Greensboro Public Library, Vance H. Chavis Lifelong Learning Branch (with copy). Event for: Saturday, April 30, 1994.

1.3.2. "Martha J.O. Sebastian was Library Pioneer", Carolina Peacemaker, September 3-9, 1992. Contains copies.

1.3.3. Newspaper. "Martha J.O. Sebastian was Library Pioneer", Carolina Peacemaker, September 3-9, 1992.

1.3.4. "Only Carnegie Library for Negroes in North Carolina is Located in Greensboro", Daily Record, December 15, 1928.

1.3.5. "After 31 years Librarians to Retire at Carnegie Branch". Guilford Files?, Mrs. Willie M. Grimes and Mr. T.H. Jeffers. Note: Grimes was Martha Sebastian's successor in managing the Carnegie Library after 1948.

1.3.6. Correspondence, "The Friends of the Chavis Branch Would Like to Present the Following Recommendation for Approval". From: James R. Jarrell, Program Chair, Friends of the Vance H. Chavis Library. To: Board of Trustees of the Greensboro Public Libraries.

1.3.7. "First Black Librarian: Pioneer Librarian may be Honored", Greensboro News & Record, November 15, 1993.

1.3.8. "Greensboro Negro Library Heads List: Of Nine Public Libraries in State Greensboro has Largest Circulation", Daily News, September 28, 1930. "Negro Library Topic of Talk: Interracial Group is Addressed Thursday by Head of Carnegie Library", Greensboro Record.

1.3.9. Obituaries of the Sebastian Sons. "Deaths: Edward P. Sebastian", died on May 10, 1975. "D.C. Physician: Sebastian Rites Set Monday" (Dr. J.W. Sebastian), Washington Post, April 1, 1956.

1.3.10. "Martha Josephine Oxford Sebastian: A Profile Sketch". Vertical File document from the Greensboro Public Library, Vance H. Chavis Lifelong Learning Branch (with copies).

1.3.11. Correspondence. From: C.C Stewart, M.D., A.I.C.S. G. Alexander, M.D. P.O. Box 72 Greensboro, NC. To: "My dear Walter" (Dr. Walter John Sebastian). August 13, 1951.

1.3.12. Program, "The Welcome and Occasion: The Dedication of the Martha J.O. Sebastian Room". The Friends of the Vance Chavis Branch, April 1994.

1.3.13. Correspondence, "Confirmations of Participation at the Dedication of the Martha J.O. Sebastian Room". From: Greensboro Public Library - Blanche S. Benjamin Branch, James R.

Jarrell, Chair Dedication Committee. To (separately): Dr. Pearl G. Bradley, Mr. Vance Chavis, Mrs. Waldo C. Falkener Sr., Rev. James A. McDaniels, Pastor, Mr. Steve Sumerford, Mrs. Ruth Wilcox. Letters from April 23, 1994. Event on Saturday, April 30, 1994.

1.3.14. Correspondence, "Participants, The Dedication of the Martha J.O. Sebastian Meeting Room". From: Greensboro Public Library - Blanche S. Benjamin Branch, James R. Jarrell, Chair Dedication Committee. To (group correspondence): Dr. Pearl G. Bradley, Mr. Vance Chavis, Mrs. Waldo C. Falkener Sr., Rev. James A. McDaniels, Mrs. Mona Steck, Mr. Steve Sumerford. Event on Saturday, April 30, 1994. Letters from May 3, 1994.

1.3.15. Correspondence, [Considerations Presented to Board Concerning the the Naming of Library and Public Property]. From James R. Jarrell.

1.3.16. Handwritten Notes. A List of Some Public Libraries Around the Nation. From James R. Jarrell. August 17, 1992.

1.3.17. Correspondence, Inquiry Concerning Biographical Research into Martha Sebastian. From: Greensboro Public Library - Blanche S. Benjamin Branch, James R. Jarrell. To: Dr. Robert D. Stueart, Dean of Graduate School of Library/Information Science at Simmons College, Boston, MA. November 5, 1993.

1.3.18. Program. "Agenda, Greensboro Public Library Board of Trustees". Event on October 18, 1993, Northeast Branch Library.

1.3.19. Handwritten Notes. Biographical Research on Martha J.O. Sebastian. December 10, 1993.

1.3.20. Application Form with Policy Document. "Greensboro Public Library Application Form - Naming Public Library Facilities". From (Applicant): Friends of the Vance H. Chavis Branch Library. Application Date: October 7, 1993. Policy Document Revised by Library Board on October 19, 1992.

1.3.21. Correspondence, Concerning the Naming of Library and Public Property and the Initiating of Dedication Procedures for Martha J.O. Sebastian Meeting Room. From: James R. Jarrell, President, Friends of the Vance H. Chavis Branch Lifelong Learning Library. To: Editor, Greensboro News and Record (includes CC recipients). August 24, 1992.

1.3.22. Presentation Manuscript. "History of the Carnegie Negro Library Greensboro, North Carolina". By: Martha J. Sebastian, Librarian. Presented on the Twentieth Anniversary of the Carnegie Negro Library: October 27, 1944.

1.3.23. Obituary for: Mrs. Willie Morehead Grimes (Martha Sebastian's Carnegie Library Successor). "Librarian Succumbs at 74", Greensboro Daily News, April 6, 1965.

1.3.24. Excerpts Concerning Martha Sebastian, "The Greensboro Public Library: The First 100 Years". By: Helen Snow. Publisher: The Donning Company Publishers, 2003.

1.3.25. "Innovative Librarian Influenced Many". Advertising Supplement to the News. Researched and written by Gayle Fripp, retired assistant director of the Greensboro Historical Museum.