

Archives and Special Collections

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MSS 51 / PSC 4 / POVB 4 / V1

Clay Ball Collection (Center for Middletown Studies), 1877-1980

2 boxes; .8 cu. ft.

History

Clay Adra Ball was born November 19, 1877 on the family farm in Monroe Township near Socum (or Sockum) in Delaware County, the fifth of six children born to George Mansfield Ball and Susannah Hale Ball. He attended school in a one-room country schoolhouse, Number 9, until he was 17. After a year of high school in Cowan, he spent a summer at another rural school taught by the Superintendent of Schools in southwest Delaware County, which qualified him to teach school. After teaching for two years, Clay enrolled in Indiana University in 1898 to further his teacher training. By 1903, he had decided to leave teaching and go into medicine and so applied to the Medical College of Indianapolis. By the time that he graduated in 1906, the medical college had merged with others in the state system and so he actually received his medical degree from Purdue.

Clay Ball's brother was a practicing attorney in Muncie, so after graduating, the young doctor also decided to settle in Muncie. He practiced alone for a while and then joined Drs. Andrews and Mix who operated a hospital in the Old Star Building Office. In 1913, Dr. Ball again went into practice for himself. This time he opened an office in the Western Reserve Building, corner of High and Jackson Streets, where he stayed until 1916, when he met and married Helen Mauk. The young couple bought a brick home at the corner of Adams and Franklin Streets and after some remodeling, Dr. and Mrs. Ball established offices downstairs and living quarters upstairs, where they raised their four sons. After World War II, one of his sons, Dr. Phil Ball joined him in his practice.

Dr. Clay Ball lived to be one hundred and two years old, passing away June 19, 1980.

Scope and Content

The collection contains various materials about the life of Dr. Clay Adra Ball. The first series, probably put together by his son, Dr. Phil Ball, includes Dr. Clay's account book, 1959-1969, his birth certificate, correspondence, organizational memberships and his will, written in 1975. The series also contains magazine articles and newspaper clippings about Dr. Clay Ball.

Two related collections, PSC 4 and POVB 4 include photographs of Dr. Ball and his office, as well as images of various medical groups.

Another related collection is V1, a videotape of Clay and Phil Ball, entitled "A Father and Son Portrait," shown on WIPB-TV, 28 January 1980

Revised by M. Read, 7/17/07

MSS 51

Container List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
1	1-5	Account Book, Nov. 1959 – Sept. 1969
2	1	Biography, Phil Ball, M.D. “Clay Adra Ball, M.D. – A Biographical Sketch,” 1979
	2	Phil Ball, M.D., “Words at 50 Years of Practice Reception,” 1956
	3	F. Haimbaugh, <u>History of Delaware County</u> , 1924
	4	Birth Certificate, 19 Nov. 1877 (issued 22 May 1953)
	5	Correspondence, 1979
	6	News clippings and Magazine Articles: Doctor of the Year, Oct. 1957
	7	Eulogies and Editorials, June 1980
	8	“ISMA’s Oldest Physician Dies at 102,” <u>The Journal of the Indiana State Medical Association</u> (Aug. 1980), pp. 540-541
	9	“Local Medical Care Makes Great Advances,” Ball Hospital’s <u>50 Years of Caring</u> , 1979
	10	Logsdon, Arthur L., “Dr. Clay Ball: A Dedicated Servant of Mankind,” <u>The ISBH Bulletin</u> (Summer 1979), pp. 3-4
	11	“Looking Back...Physician Recalls Early 1900’s,” <u>The Call-Light</u> (BMH), 50 th Anniversary Edition, 1979
	12	Retirement at age 93, July 1971
	13	White, Jane See – Middletown Article, Apr. 1979
	14	Miscellany, 1972, 1980
	15	One Hundredth Birthday, Nov. 1977
	16	Organizations – Memberships
	17	Poems, by Phil Ball, M.D., 1977, 1980
	18	Speeches and Reminiscences, 1976
	19	Will, 1975

PSC 4

Office
Physician
Portrait
Profile

POVB 4

1-3	Delaware – Blackford County, Indiana – Medical Society, 1948, 1969, 1979
4	Dr. Richard C. Cabot’s class in Physical Diagnosis, Mass. General Hospital, July 1916
5	Indiana Medical College, The School of Medicine of Purdue University, Class 1906
6-7	New York Post-Graduate Medical School (photo and certificate)

V1 Videotape – Clay and Phil Ball “A Father and Son Portrait,” on WIPB-TV, 28 Jan. 1980

