



Dr. Ray C. Bunch Collection, 1890-2019

Collection Summary:

Title: Dr. Ray C. Bunch Collection

Summary: A collection of artifacts, business records, family records, papers, photographs, and printed materials belonging to Dr. Ray C. Bunch and his family, ranging between 1890 and 2019.

Physical Description: 21 boxes, 23.804 linear feet

Language: English

Stack Location: Archives II

Repository: Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville and Davidson County

Biographical Note:

Dr. Ray Callis Bunch (nicknamed "Daddo") was born May 4, 1891, in Bowling Green, Kentucky to Nannie Callis Bunch and R. C. Bunch. He graduated from Ogden College and went on to earn a medical doctorate degree from Vanderbilt University on May 15, 1916. He interned at the Nashville General Hospital, attended post-graduate courses in X-ray in St. Louis and New York, and further studied with the Cook County Hospital in Chicago, Illinois.

After graduating from Vanderbilt University, Dr. Bunch moved to Cowan, Tennessee to become a surgeon and physician for The Davidson, Hicks, & Greene Lumber Company, and left in 1922 in order to build his own medical practice in the Nashville area. For years he was part of the teaching staff at the Vanderbilt University's School of Medicine, the Protestant Hospital's School of Nursing, and the Nashville General Hospital. He founded the Bunch Hospital & Clinic (Bunch Clinic) located in East Nashville in 1932, and fully owned and operated the practice until his retirement in 1942. Dr. Bunch was an active member in the Nashville Academy of Medicine, American Medical Association, Masonic Lodge No. 254, Scottish Rite, and the McKendree Methodist Church. He passed away June 22, 1944, at the age of 53.

He had been married to Eliza (also Elyza) Alderson Russell Bunch since September 9th, 1914. Eliza Russell Bunch (nicknamed Bunchie) was born December 28, 1890, in Hart County, Kentucky to Patti Bell Houk Russell and Julius Russell. She was a chairman for the East Nashville Housewives' League and an active member in the Nashville Young Women's Christian Association, Inglewood Garden Club, Rock City Chapter No. 2, Order of the Eastern Star, Order of the Rainbow for Girls, and Vine Street Christian Church. She passed away June 20, 1980, at the age of 89.

Dr. Ray C. Bunch and Eliza Russell Bunch had three children – Martine Bunch McKee (nicknamed Ducky), Marcelle Bunch Glenn (nicknamed Sister), and Betty (birth name Marlene) Bunch (Dale) Forsythe.

Betty Bunch Forsythe was a teacher for the Nashville school district in the 1950s and became a home economist for Nashville Electric Service (NES) in 1960. She was an active member in the Nashville Area Home Economists, Home Economists in Business, and the American Home Economics Association. During this time, she also hosted a local television series called "Kitchen Corner" and spoke at various Davidson County Schools to teach students the skills of cooking and hosting events with the use of safe and dependable electricity. Betty Bunch Forsythe became the first female manager for NES in 1981 as a public and employee information manager, helped write *The Nashville Cookbook: Specialties of the Cumberland Region* from the Nashville Area Home Economics Association, and received the National Women's Executive Award in 1982 for her work with NES. She passed away May 28, 2014, at the age of 85.

Scope and Contents of the Collection:

The Dr. Ray C. Bunch Collection contains approximately 70 artifacts and 22 items ranging from 1890-2019, with majority of the materials covering the span of 1914 to 1944. Most of the artifacts in this collection give an overview of Dr. Ray C. Bunch's medical practice, the Bunch Clinic, which he owned and operated in East Nashville until his retirement in 1942. These medical artifacts include surgical gowns, medical tools, medicine bottles, prescription sheets, and a clientele book used by Dr. Bunch during his time as a leading X-ray technician and Internal Medicine specialist for the Bunch Clinic. This collection also contains personal memorabilia, family records, business records, correspondences, photographs, and printed materials belonging to Dr. Bunch, his wife Eliza Russell Bunch, his three daughters, and other members of the Bunch and Russell Family.

Index Terms:

Subjects:

Alumni Association of Vanderbilt University

American Home Economics Association
American National Red Cross.
A.M.A. (American Medical Association)
Bowling Green (Ky.)--Newspapers.
Chattanooga news (Chattanooga, Tenn. : Daily) The Chattanooga news.
Davidson County (Tenn.)
Forsythe, Betty
Freemasons. Grand Lodge of Tennessee
Grand Lodge, F.&A.M., of the State of Tennessee
Home Economists in Business
Knoxville News Sentinel Company
Order of the Eastern Star. Grand Chapter of Tennessee
Order of the Rainbow for Girls
Order of the Rainbow for Girls--Rituals--Handbooks, manuals, etc.
Nashville Academy of Medicine
Nashville Area Home Economics Association.
Nashville banner
Nashville Electric Service
Scottish Rite (Masonic order)
Tennessean--Indexes.
Tennessee Historical Society
Tennessee State Medical Association
Vanderbilt University. School of Medicine
Young Women's Christian Association of the U.S.A.
YWCA of Nashville and Middle Tennessee (Nashville, Tenn.)
YWCA of the U.S.A.

Arrangement:

This collection is arranged into five series, including artifacts, business records, family records, photographs, and printed materials. Series are arranged alphabetically.

The *artifacts* series ranges from 1913-1944, and contains medical items belonging to Dr. Ray C. Bunch when he was the owner and physician at the Bunch Clinic in East Nashville, and personal belongings owned by Dr. Bunch and his wife Eliza Russell Bunch.

The *business records* series ranges from 1917-1944, and contains stock purchases, receipts, check stubs, and other papers pertaining to Dr. Ray C. Bunch and the Bunch Clinic business operations.

The *family records* series ranges from 1890-2019, and contains name cards, medical cards, licenses, war food stamps, property deeds, diplomas, certificates,

printed copies of records, correspondences, scanned photo album images, scanned scrapbook images, and various handwritten notes belonging to the Bunch Family.

The *photographs* series ranges from 1890-1980, and contains photograph collections of Dr. Ray C. Bunch, Eliza Russell Bunch, the Bunch Clinic, their children Marlene (Betty), Martine, and Marcelle Bunch, the Bunch Family home, members of the Russell Family, and a collection of film negatives showing portraits taken of various Bunch family members.

The *printed materials* series ranges from 1901-1995, and contains blueprint collections of the Bunch Family home, medical books owned by Dr. Ray C. Bunch, and personal books and Bibles owned by members of the Bunch and Russell families. This series also contains a collection of newspapers regarding medical events that occurred at the Bunch Clinic, stories on Dr. Ray C. Bunch, published cooking recipes by Eliza Russell Bunch, her participation with the Nashville Young Women Christian Association (YWCA), a story on Betty (Marlene) Bunch Forsythe being a home economist for Nashville Electric Service (NES), stories on the 1933 twister and 1935 flood that the Bunch family experienced in Nashville, and obituary articles for Dr. Ray C. Bunch and Eliza Russell Bunch.

Contents Listing:

Box 1: Artifacts--Medical (1 of 4)
Box 2: Artifacts--Medical (2 of 4)
Box 3: Artifacts--Medical (3 of 4)
Box 4: Artifacts--Medical (4 of 4)
Box 5: Artifacts--Personal (1 of 3)
Box 6: Artifacts--Personal (2 of 3)
Box 7: Artifacts--Personal (3 of 3)

Box 8:

Folder 1: Business Records
Folder 2: Family Records (2 of 2)
Folder 3: Family Records--Correspondence
Folder 4: Family Records--Deeds

Box 9:

Folder 1: Family Records (1 of 2)

Box 10:

Folder 1: Photographs--Bunch, Dr. Ray (1 of 2)
Folder 2: Photographs--Bunch, Dr. Ray (2 of 2)

Folder 3: Photographs--Bunch, Eliza
Folder 4: Photographs--Bunch Clinic
Folder 5: Photographs--Bunch Family
Folder 6: Photographs--Bunch Family Home
Folder 7: Photographs--Russell Family
Folder 8: Photographs--Unknown

Box 11: Photographs--Negative Film
Box 12: Printed Materials--Blueprints (1 of 2)
Box 13: Printed Materials--Blueprints (2 of 2)
Box 14: Printed Materials--Medical (1 of 6)
Box 15: Printed Materials--Medical (2 of 6)
Box 16: Printed Materials--Medical (3 of 6)
Box 17: Printed Materials--Medical (4 of 6)
Box 18: Printed Materials--Medical (5 of 6)
Box 19: Printed Materials--Medical (6 of 6)
Box 20: Printed Materials--Newspapers
Box 21: Printed Materials--Personal

Restrictions:

Restrictions on Access: In-library use only. Access is available by appointment during Metro Government Archives' open hours, which can be found at http://www.library.nashville.org/locations/loc_all.asp. Please inquire in advance of visiting Metro Government Archives as items are in closed stacks.

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Administrative Information:

Copyright: The Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County retains intellectual property rights to this collection. Some restrictions may apply.

Provenance: Donated by Debby Dale Mason, April 2022.

Processing Information: Processed by Jamie Erwin, October 2023.

Accruals: No further accruals expected.