

**REFERENCE CODE: OrPHS**

**REPOSITORY NAME: Oregon Health & Science University  
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Finding aid prepared by Karen L. Anderson Peterson, Archivist

**TITLE: ESTHER POHL LOVEJOY PAPERS**

**COLLECTION NUMBER: 2001-004**

### **OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

**Dates:** 1890-1967 (inclusive)

**Extent:** 3 boxes – 2.4 linear feet

**Language and Scripts:** The collection is in English

**Name of creators:** Esther Clayson Pohl Lovejoy

#### **Administrative/Biographical History:**

Esther Clayson was born in Seabeck, Washington Territory at her father's logging camp on the Puget Sound on November 16, 1870. After graduating with her medical degree she joined her husband Dr. Emil Pohl in Alaska in 1898 for the gold rush. While fighting a meningitis epidemic she persuaded a notorious bandit to give her money to begin a hospital in a barn. Emil died of encephalitis in 1909. Her brother Fred was murdered on the Dawson trail and she lost her only child Frederick at the age of eight to an ulcer of the bowel. Despite these difficulties she practiced medicine in Portland, Oregon where she became the first female to hold the post of chairman of the Health Department (1907-1909) in a city of that size. She installed the city's first school nurse, wrote its first milk ordinance and demanded sweeping reforms in food handling. She was an outspoken advocate for women and joined women's suffrage groups and eventually ran as representative to Congress. When she left the health department she became head of the department of obstetrics and gynecology in the Portland medical group of Coffey, Sears, Jones and Joyce. During this period she married Portland businessman George Lovejoy.

Dr. Lovejoy served during the 1<sup>st</sup> World War with the American Red Cross and in 1919 became the president of the American Women's Hospital Service. In this capacity she traveled widely to alleviate suffering from war, disaster, famine, revolution and poverty.

She organized the relief services of the AWHs throughout the Near East and especially in Greece. A bust of Dr. Lovejoy stands in the town square of Nikea, Piraeus, Greece. “When the Turks burned the port of Smyrna, which they’d just wrested from the Greeks, Dr. Lovejoy was the only American woman on the scene. Mistaken for a Greek she was beaten with a rifle by a Turkish soldier. Several times, armed only with a terrible look of anger, she stared down Turkish soldiers about to abduct young girls. She rescued others by strapping them down on stretchers.” Esther also was the first president of the Medical Women’s International Association of which she helped to found in 1919. A mural with a portrait of Dr. Lovejoy is displayed in the Esther Pohl Lovejoy Hall at the Philippine Medical Women’s Association building in Manila.

In 1938 she finished, *Women Physicians and Surgeons*, a monumental task completed by researching archives and searching in attics all over the world. Twenty years later she published *Women Doctors of the World*, a work that reached back into Biblical times. Her next book, *Certain Samaritans*, documented the complex work of the AWHs. The collection contains her unpublished autobiography, *Saltwater and Sawdust*.

She lived without extravagance and worked endless hours. In 1963, four years before her death she traveled to Alaska, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Manila. She revisited the University of Oregon Medical School where she had established the Pohl Memorial Scholarship Fund in memory of her first husband and son, saying that she was glad to have had “the chance to remind the trustees that one third of the scholarships should go to girls”. Esther Pohl Lovejoy died at 97 years of age and was buried at the Lone Fir Cemetery in 1967 after a very long and successful career.

### **Medical Practice**

Portland, Oregon

Alaska

New York

World Wide: with the American Women’s Hospital Service: Medical Women’s International Association and American Red Cross

### **Memberships**

#### **Honors**

Gold Cross of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem

Cross of Saint Sava, Serbia, Yugoslavia

Legion of Honor, France

War Cross, Greece

Order of the Redeemer, Greece

Cross of the redeemer, Greece

White Russian Red Cross badge

Gold Cross of George I

Elizabeth Blackwell Centennial Award, presented in 1949

Medaille de la Reconnaissance Francais, presented in 1949

#### **Publications**

*Certain Samaritans*. The Macmillan Co.: New York. 1933

*Women Doctors of the World.* The Macmillan Co.: New York, 1957

*Women Physicians and Surgeons.* The Livingston Press: Livingston, New York, 1939

**Scope and Content Description:**

The collection consists of photographs, manuscripts, news clippings, pamphlets, booklets, correspondence, publications, press releases, biographical data and reports. The bulk of the materials are dated 1890-1967. For more detail see inventory of materials.

**Arrangement:** Series I: Documents includes correspondence, pamphlets, maps, booklets,  
Manuscripts, news clippings, certificates, notebooks  
Series II: Photographs  
Series III: Publications  
Series IV: Medals  
Series V: Miscellany

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:**

**Acquisition Information**

The materials have been created and/or accumulated by Esther Pohl Lovejoy and her personal secretary Estelle Fraade. Esther Pohl Lovejoy, Estelle Fraade, and Dr. Mabel Akin made donations received by Bertha Hallam and Margaret Hughes librarians, University of Oregon Medical School. The OHSU Library Special Collections staff processed the materials August 2001.

**Processing Note**

The collection was not rearranged during processing except for removing oversized materials to oversized boxes.

**Separated Materials**

None

**CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS AND USE**

**Restrictions on Access**

The collection is open to the public.

**Technical Access**

No special equipment is needed to access the materials

**Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use**

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**Preferred Citation**

Esther Pohl Lovejoy Papers 2001-004, Oregon Health & Science University Historical Collections & Archives

**ACQUISITION AND APPRAISAL****RELATED MATERIALS**

Esther Pohl Lovejoy Papers 2001-011

**NOTES**

None

**SUBJECTS**

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the online catalog. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog using these headings.

**Detailed Description of the Collection****B1/F1A**

## Photograph

- Esther Pohl Lovejoy autographed "To Drs. Mabel and Otis Akin, with love, Esther Pohl Lovejoy". Presented to the Library by Mabel Akin, 1956 November 26.

## Manuscript

- "My Medical School (1890-1894) As I Remember" in envelope dated 1970 April 22 from the American Medical Hospitals Service Inc. NY, NY addressed to Bertha Hallam with a note to see *Oregon Historical Society Quarterly*, 1974 March, p7.

## Document

- Scholarships and cemetery plot [ND]

## News clippings

- Oregonian*, 1967 November 15, obituary
- Journal* 1967 November 16, obituary
- 1968 February 14, biographical
- 1967 August 21, biographical
- 1967, obituary
- New York Times*, 1967 August 18, obituary

## Pamphlet

- In memory of... from American Women's Hospital Service

Memorial Tribute

-Medical Women's International Association, Golden Jubilee Souvenir, 1970

News clipping

-*Oregonian*, 1950 June 27

Publication

-*Medical Women's Journal*, 1944 June, biographical sketch

Correspondence

-Elizabeth Thomson to Dee Ann Tegart requesting biographical information 1978  
September 28

Publication

-*Old Oregon*: University of Oregon Alumni Association, 1957 August-September

Photograph

-Grave marker, Lone Fir Cemetery [ND]

**B1/F1B**

Articles

- *The Woman Physician*. 1970 March v25 n3: "Honors from Greece"  
-*Journal of the American Medical Women's Association*. 1948 May 28 v3 n7  
-"The London Meeting of the Journal of American Medical Women's  
Association" 1946 November

Press release, written by Estelle Fraade 1969 August 1

News clipping

-*Journal*, 1969 July 14 "Greeks to Honor Woman Doctor"  
-*Oregonian*, 1969 June 28 "Greeks to Honor Dr. Esther Pohl Lovejoy"

Press release, 1969 June 19

Document

-Donation information, 1968 March

News clipping

-1963 August 6 "Ex-official, Now 93, Visits"

Biography [ND]

List of degrees and honors [ND]

Article

-*The Bulletin*, Multnomah County Medical Society, 1960 May

Correspondence:

-Lovejoy to Bertha Hallam, donations; Hallam's appreciation, 1952 July 25  
- E.G. Chuinard Chairman of the Committee on Oregon History, 1959 August 12

Article

-*Journal of American Medical Women's Association* v10 n4, 1955 April

News clipping

-*Oregonian*, "Women of Distinction" 1951 October 21

Correspondence

-Lovejoy to R.B. Dillehunt 1951 July 2  
-Lovejoy and Hallam 1948 October 7, 1948 September 1, 1947 October 1, October 8, note from Olaf Larsell concerning publishing "My Medical School"  
-Lovejoy and Hallam, 1947 July 25  
-Lovejoy and Margaret Hughes 1947 August 6

Donation information

-Photographs 1940, 1959  
-Letters: 1963 August  
-Awards and certificates: 1954, 1959

News clipping

-*Oregonian* 1944 March 24, "Medical School Will Honor Dr. Lovejoy"  
-*Oregonian* [ND] "Portland Woman Head of Physicians"

List

-Attendees at dinner in honor of Lovejoy, 1944 March 25

News clipping

-*JAMA*, re: gifts to medical museum at UOMS, 1944 January 22

Biographical data ca.1944

News clipping

-*Oregonian* "Dr. Pohl Lovejoy Leaves for East", 1936 August 16

Correspondence

-Lovejoy and Hallam, 1939 December 2, November 27  
re: *Women Physicians and Surgeons*  
-Lovejoy and Hallam, 1939 July 14, November 21

Article

- Old Oregon*, UOMS Alumni Association, "Just Tribute to Esther Pohl Lovejoy"  
1937 March

Biographical notes

- Written by Lucy Davis Phillips, 1945 December 20
- Biographical notes [ND]
- Biographical notes 1943

Correspondence

- Lovejoy and Hallam, re: donations, 1943 July 29

Article

- Medical Woman's Journal*, 1944 June

List

- Medals and honors, partial, handwritten

**B1/F2**

Correspondence

- Elizabeth Thomson, biographer, to Nancy K. Barnes, re: biography notes, comments that dates by other writers are inconsistent, 1978 October 23

Reports

- To faculty of [?] pointing out the conditions by which the school falls short of Class A classification [ND]
- To the UOMS faculty [F. R. Menne] [ND]
- Suggested plan of development of the Medical School [ND]
- UOMS, Plan of Intercommunication Between faculty and Students and Self Government of Later [ND]
- Budget and Appropriations; Medical School absorbing the Willamette University Medical Department, received from Raymond R. Staub M.D., 1951 June 14

Petition

- To Board of Regents of Oregon State University, drafted by States District Judge Mathew P. Deady, 1887, re: need for a medical department in Portland, Oregon [Removed to oversized folder]

Document

- Organization of Lawrence and Rosedale [medical schools] [ND]

Report

- To the faculty of the Medical Department of the University of Oregon from the committee signed by S.E. Josephi, H.C. Wilson and Wm. Jones,

photocopy, 1903 April 2

**B1/F3** original title: correspondence

Booklet

-*The Service of Old Oregon*, University of Oregon, Eugene: A Partial Record of Achievement, 1924 [2copies]

Correspondence

-Office of the Board of Health, re: inspection of schools [ND]

Annual report

-Board of Health, 1908 December 31 [removed to oversized folder]

Newsletter

-*Collections*, 1987 June Issue 16

Correspondence

-Hallam and Mabel Akins, re: amount donated to the UOMS by Esther Pohl Lovejoy, 1944 April 27

Christmas cards

-American Women's Hospitals, from Lovejoy; 1945, 1948, 1955, 1957, some with personal notes

Correspondence

-Hallam and Estelle Fraade re: information for book and articles to be published, 1973 April and March  
-Hallam and Fraade re: information on Lovejoy, [ND]  
-Hallam and Lovejoy re: donations, 1942 November 28  
-Hallam and Lovejoy re: donations, 1942 December 3  
-Hallam and Lovejoy re: donations, 1943 September 15  
-Hallam and Lovejoy re: donations, 1943 September 9  
-Hallam and David Baird re: donations, 1943 September 9  
-Hallam and Lovejoy, re: exhibit of donated materials, 1943 July 26  
-Hallam and Lovejoy, re: donations, 1943 July 24  
-Hallam and Lovejoy, re: donations, 1943 June 25  
-Hallam and Lovejoy, re: donations, 1943 July 3

News clipping

-Re: donations 1943 April 23

Correspondence

-Hallam and Lovejoy, re: Grand Cross award, 1943 July 30  
-Hallam and Lovejoy, re: donations, 1943 July 19



- Hallam and Lovejoy, re: death of Lucy Davis Phillips (October 8, 1943), 1943 October 20
- Hallam and Lovejoy, re: 1943 December 1
- Hallam and Lovejoy, re: donations, 1945 March 15, 21, 29
- Hallam and Lovejoy, re: requests for information, 1946 December 14, 24
- Hallam and Lovejoy, re: requests for information, 1947 February 6
- Hallam and Lovejoy, re: dates of matriculation [1890 September 23] [date of graduation, 1894]
- Hallam and Lovejoy, re: 1947 July 8, 1949 December 29, 1951 February 28, 1951 March 16

#### Document

- List of Matriculation of women physicians; catalog 1889-1890; catalog 1888-1889 [there was only one]

#### Correspondence

- Hallam and Lovejoy re: Hallam informs Lovejoy that she was not the first woman to register at UOMS but Helen Scammon was the only one of those to graduate, 1952 September 25
- Hallam and Lovejoy, re: Lovejoy replies that she was the first to graduate and practice medicine, 1952 October 2
- Hallam and Lovejoy, re: graduation, 1952 September 17
- Hallam and Lovejoy, re: requesting information on courses, lecturers, professors, teachers, 1953 February 11
- Hallam and Mabel Akin, re: donation, 1956 November 26
- Hallam and Lovejoy, re: donations, 1963 August 23
- Hallam and Estelle Fraade, re: Lovejoy burial site, death notice and offer of further donations, 1967 August 28
- Hallam and Fraade, re: donations, 1967 August 30
- Hallam and Fraade, re: 1967 September 26
- Hallam and Fraade, re: memorial service in Portland, 1967 October 6
- Fraade and Reverend V. Louis Livingston, re: memorial service, 1967 October 23
- Hallam and Fraade, re: memorial service, 1967 October 24
- Hallam and Fraade, re: memorial service, 1967 October 30
- Hallam and Baird, re: memorial service, regrets that he cannot attend but noting Lovejoy's contributions and achievements, 1967 November 15

#### Schedule

- Handwritten itinerary for Fraade's arrival and stay in Portland [ND]

#### Correspondence

- Hallam and Fraade, re: thank you, 1967 December 1
- Fraade and Margaret Hughes, re: thank you, 1967 December 1
- Hallam and Fraade, re: publishing book, 1973 February 16
- Hallam and Olive W. Burt, card, 1971 October 11, re: dates for her book

[*Physician to the World: Esther Pohl Lovejoy*. New York: Julian Messner, 1973.] She decries the carelessness of other authors

## **B1/F4**

### Photo-negative

- Classroom in medical school [ND]

### Notes

- Handwritten, 4 [1967] others [ND]

Legends for a scrapbook or exhibit, 2 [ND]

### Announcement

- Eighth Annual Announcement University of Oregon Medical Department Session 1894-1895

### Documents

- Order of the Saint Sepulchre Orthodox, 1925 May 13
- Description of the Cross of the Holy Sepulchre [ND]
- Donation Sheets**, 1938-1963, list of donations, dates, and itemized list
- Survey: advice to prospective women Medical students [ND]

### Correspondence

- Re: French decoration, 1923 November 19
- Lovejoy and the Consul General de France re: bestowing Cross of Chevalier de la Legion de Honneur, 1923 November 22

### Document

- States in handwriting: "1929 [Am Hps] no mention of hist[orical] items (Jan 1930) "Jan[uary] 31 1930 PNW College started to contain hist[orical] and biog[raphical] material relating to medicine or medical education] in Ore[gon] Wn [Washington] Ida[ho] esp[ecially] publ[ished] or written material"

## **B1/F5** original title: photographs

### Photographs

- Esther Pohl Lovejoy [ND]
- Negative of Class 1897
- Lovejoy with son Fredrick Clayson Pohl, 1905
- Dr Emil Pohl, 1894

### Correspondence

- Hallam and Lovejoy, re: donations, 1959 March 2
- Hallam and Lovejoy, re: donations, 1959 March 9

Photograph

- Fredrick Clayson Pohl, 1909, 7 years old
- Lovejoy [ND]
- Lovejoy [ND]

Correspondence

- Hallam and Fraade, re: donation of photographs, 1974 January 11, February 21

Photographs

- Lovejoy, 1904 or 1905
- Lovejoy, [ND] donated by Mabel Akin, 1956 November 26
- Lovejoy and unidentified male, 2 [ND], negatives

**B1/F6**

Photographs

- Medals on exhibit: 3 photos with 1 copy of each

**B1/F7** Original title: published materials mentioning Dr. Lovejoy

Photographs

- 2, grave marker with a letter from Harold Meeks of Meeks Monument Works, 1968

Correspondence

- Hallam and Fraade, re: photographs, 1968 March 28

Document

- Information from Who's Who Among Physicians and Surgeons, 1938

Publications

- Thermometer*: Hospital of the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania. 3<sup>rd</sup> Year N2 Spring 1952. Re: Honorary degree
- Scope Weekly*, 1958 July 9. Re: Participant at the American medical Women's Association Luncheon: photograph with caption
- Campus Gram*, v7 n35 1967 August 28, re: death notice
- Scope Weekly*, 1957 June 26, re: "Woman MD Medallist"
- World Famous, [ND] [NP]
- Journal of the American Women's Medical Association*. 6:29-38, 1951 January re: an historical sketch; illustration with pictures

**B1/F 8** Original file box stated: Received by UOMS Library 1968 January from Dr. Lovejoy's secty. in NY [Estelle Fraade] at American Women's Hospital Office

Photograph

-Lovejoy [ND] removed from frame during processing. Written on back:  
presented to Library by Shannon Phillips, October 15 1943

News clipping

-*NY Times*, Obituary, 1967 August 18

Annual Reports of the Board of Health

-1907 December 31, 1908 December 31, 1909 June 30, one page of the 1908  
January 8 report [removed to oversized file folder]

Report

-Lovejoy to the Mayor and Council, Re: schools 1908 August 10

Photographs

-Lovejoy and unidentified colleagues [ND]

Correspondence

-From Hospitality Committee, Worth W. Caldwell, re: welcome to Portland  
1931 July 28

Booklet

-*Oregon: Yesterday - Today - Tomorrow*, University of Oregon Semi-Centennial  
1896-1926  
-*Old Oregon*, University of Oregon Alumni Association 1941 May

Correspondence

-Resignation of Lovejoy 1909 April 30  
-Turns down State chairmanship for Oregon, 1911 October 13

Documents

-Ordinance 19468: for the prevention of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 1909 May 26  
and 28  
-Ordinance 19090 for the maintenance of dairies, 1909 March 26 and April 5

Correspondence

-To the electors of Multnomah County, re: endorsement for the candidacy for  
Democratic nomination of Representative for 3<sup>rd</sup> Oregon District in  
Congress 1920 May 15  
-From C. H. Wheeler Health Officer re: spinal meningitis or cerebra meningitis  
1907 march 27

## Documents

- TB Sunday; Consumption [ND]
- Ordinance 19468 for the prevention of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Passed 1909 May 26, approved 1909 May 28
- Description of the Cross of the Holy Sepulchre [ND]
- Ordinance for the inspection of dairies, 3 copies [ND]

## Correspondence

- From Caris E. Mill announcing the translation of the Gold Cross of Jerusalem 1925 August 31

## Photograph

- Photocopy from a book, unidentified male [ND]

## Pamphlet

- In Memory of... American Women's Hospital Service, President 1919-1967

## Reports

- The Health Department: It's Activities and It's Needs [ND]
- State of Health Issues in Portland [ND]
- State of School Health Conditions 1908 March 2
- Detection of Diseases 1908 December 18
- Milk and Dairies [ND]
- Impure Milk and Infant Mortality [ND]

## Publication

- Old Oregon*: University of Oregon Alumni Association, 1937 March

## **B2/F1**

Oversized materials: see folders in box 1 for materials removed

## **B3** Diplomas, Licenses, Honors and Certificates

### **Emil Pohl**

College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Northwest Territories of Canada, 1898  
February 24

The British Columbia Medical Council, 1896 September 4

Chicago Polyclinic, 1896 May 2

University of Oregon Medical School, 1893 April 3

Certificate of Physical Diagnosis, 1891 April 1

**Esther Pohl Lovejoy:**

Philippine Medical Women's Association, 1959 December 13

American Medical Women's Association, Medical Woman of the Year 1954

American Medical Women's Association, Ambassador Extraordinary of  
International Goodwill, 1954 November 13

The Alumnae Association of The Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania;  
honorary membership, 1952 June 12

UOMS Alumni Association, Lifetime membership award, meritorious  
achievement award

University of Oregon, Doctor of Laws, 1942 May 31

West Chicago Post Graduate School and Polyclinic, 1897 February 21

Chicago Clinical School, certificate of attendance, 1897 December 7

Physical Diagnosis certificate, 1893 June

University of Oregon Medical School, Degree of Doctor, 1894 April

Diploma: L'Insigne Honoraire de la Croix Rouge Russe, 1926 April 23

Diploma: Board of Trustees of the National Orthodox Charitable Institutions of  
Constantinople , 1925 May 18

The Order of Saint Sava, Third Class, 1928 May 24 and June 10

Correspondence: Bertha Hallam and Esther Pohl Lovejoy. Re: donation of  
Photographs, 1959 March 2

The Cross of the Order of Saint Sepulchre, 1925 May 13

Golden Cross of the Order of the Redeemer, 1942 September 2

Ordre National de la Legion D' Honneur, 1923 November

Golden Cross of our Order of George I, 1923 March 8

The War Cross Third Class, 1923 February 4

The Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania, 1952 June 12