

**Roanoke Public Libraries
Virginia Room
Manuscript Collection Finding Aids
Ruth Elizabeth Davis Manuscript Register**

Collection Description:

Repository: Roanoke Public Libraries, Virginia Room

Accession Number: N/A

Title: Ruth Elizabeth Davis Manuscript Register

Physical Characteristics: 1 box

Donated by: Unknown

Creator: Ruth Elizabeth Davis

Reproduction Restrictions: No known restrictions on publication. Virginia Room copy fees apply.

Processor: Connie Carter, November 14, 2005

Biographical Note:

Ruth Elizabeth Davis was born on December 8, 1892 in Davis Fancy Groseclose, Virginia. She was the youngest daughter of George W. and Ella Sprinkle Davis and a descendent of James Davis, the first permanent settler in the Smyth County, Virginia community known as Davis Fancy. Ruth Davis was a graduate of the Jefferson Hospital School of Nursing and worked as a registered nurse in Jefferson Hospital and Roanoke Community Hospital until her retirement. She died in Roanoke on August 27, 1978.

Scope and Content:

This manuscript is a collection of materials related to Ruth Davis' enrollment in the Jefferson Hospital School of Nursing from which she graduated in 1926. The collection includes five folders that contain items such as newspaper articles about Jefferson Hospital and its founder, Dr. Hugh H. Trout, memorabilia about Florence Nightingale, nursing, and unidentified photographs. The collection also contains Ruth Davis' Nurses New Testament Bible and her Memory Book that holds many unidentified photographs, most likely of fellow nursing students, doctors, and other hospital staff.

Jefferson Hospital, located on Franklin Road, was founded in 1907 by Dr. Hugh H. Trout, Sr., and served Roanoke for 50 years. Originally organized as a proprietary organization, it became a charitable hospital in 1957. A training school for nurses was opened in 1914. 660 nurses graduated from the Jefferson Hospital School of Nursing which eventually merged with the Lewis-Gale Hospital School of Nursing to form the School of Nursing of the CHRV (Community Hospital of Roanoke Valley) in 1965. The hospital and school of nursing were closed for approximately a year during World War I when Dr. Trout went to France to direct an Army Mobile Operating Unit. During this time, the nursing students were sent to Baltimore to continue their studies. In 1967, Jefferson Hospital merged with Lewis-Gale Hospital to form the Community Hospital of Roanoke Valley.

Container List:

Folder 1 –Davis, Ruth Elizabeth

1. Poem entitled, “This Cap of White”, author unknown
2. Statement from Smyth County Public Schools certifying Ruth Davis’ school attendance
3. Memorial record and *Roanoke Times* obituary on Ruth Elizabeth Davis, RN; died August 27th, 1978, age 86
4. Transcribed obituary of Ruth Elizabeth Davis

Folder 2 – Nightingale, Florence

1. Booklet entitled, “A Little Journey to the Home of Florence Nightingale”; C. V. Mosby, MD, author; first printing April, 1938
2. Copy of the Florence Nightingale Pledge

Folder 3 – Jefferson Hospital Demolition

1. Newspaper clipping entitled, “Jefferson Hospital Turns to Dust – and Memories, undated

Folder 4 – Trout, Hugh H., Founder and President of Jefferson Hospital

1. Obituary for Dr. H. H. Trout, Sr., undated
2. *Roanoke Times* editorial on death of Dr. Hugh H. Trout, January 14, 1950

Folder 5 – Photographs of Ruth Elizabeth Davis and Others

1. Photographs (7 images), undated and mostly unidentified

Nurse’s New Testament Bible

My Memory Book, of Ruth Davis (scrapbook)

1. “Friends of Mine” entries, dating from June 26, 1926 to August 17, 1926 – Names, addresses, and personal notes, possibly from fellow nursing school graduates
2. Numerous unidentified and undated photographs - possibly fellow nursing students and doctors, images of Jefferson Hospital, etc.
3. Collection of name cards, possibly fellow nursing school graduates
4. Newsletter, undated, about collecting items to include in a book about the fifty years existence of Jefferson Hospital called, “The Year Book”
5. Bible verse, not referenced
6. Postcard of the Homestead, Hot Springs, Va.
7. Postcard of Jefferson Hospital, Roanoke, Va.
8. *Roanoke Times* article entitled, “You Hold Your Torch in Pride”, October 28, 1936.
9. *Roanoke Times* article entitled, “Our Community’s Most Critical Need! What’s Wrong With Our Hospitals?”, January 12, 1950
10. Drawing of a house, undated and unsigned

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Bibliography

“A Loss to the Entire Community.” Roanoke Times. 14 January 1950.

“Davis Obituary.” Roanoke Times. 27 August 1978.

“Jefferson Hospital Founded in 1907.” Roanoke Times. 6 August 1967.

Ruth Elizabeth Davis Obituary. Unknown Source. 27 August 1978.