South County History Center Accepts Major South County Hospital Collections

Kingston, RI – The South County History Center is pleased to announce the acceptance of new archival, photographic, and artifact collections documenting the history of South County Hospital from its founding in 1919 to the present day. These significant donations, given by South County Health and the Holley family, support the Center’s research mission and preserve the legacy of one of our community’s most valued institutions.

In March, South County Health donated an extensive collection of photographs, documents, and organizational records detailing its century-long history. This diverse collection contains thousands of items, including correspondence from founding Board president Caroline Hazard, floor plans for hospital expansions, and photographs capturing the dedicated service of the hospital’s staff and volunteers. South County Health has also made a generous donation to support the cataloging and care of these materials, which will be available to researchers in 2020.

In February, the Center was honored to accept a collection of equipment owned and used by the hospital’s founding physician, Dr. John P. Jones (1887-1980). Given by the Holley family in memory of Virginia L. Jones, Dr. Jones’ daughter, this fascinating collection includes Jones’ medical bag, testing equipment, and surgical tools. The varied nature of these artifacts highlights the versatility of Jones’ practice and the comprehensive expertise required of local doctors in the early 20th century.

These new acquisitions documenting the practice of medicine in South County augment the Center’s existing research collections, which include several items given by Dr. Jones in 1974, as well as 19th century medical tools belonging to Kingston’s Dr. Thomas A. Hazard (1813-1886) and materials from Wakefield pharmacist James Attmore Wright (1903-1994).

By accepting these items into its collection, the South County History Center is ensuring their preservation for future generations. “The Center is thrilled to celebrate South County Hospital’s centennial through the acquisition of these exciting new collections,” said Erica Luke, the Center’s Executive Director. “We’re proud to preserve the history of an institution that has been so integral to our community’s well-being.”

Photo Attachments:
1. Louis Giancola, President and CEO of South County Health, and Erica Luke, Executive Director of the South County History Center, execute the deed of gift transferring the collection to the Center’s care.
2. A sample of archival materials given by South County Health documenting its century-long history.
3. A sample of artifacts owned by Dr. John P. Jones, recently donated to the Center by the Holley family in memory of Virginia L. Jones.

About the South County History Center
The South County History Center’s mission is to lead the discovery and preservation of South County’s history. To achieve this goal, the Center provides stewardship and access to local research collections and interprets South County’s history through exhibits and programs. For more information, please visit SouthCountyHistoryCenter.org.