

Title: Frank, Louis F., Papers, 1816 – 1981

Call Number: Mss-1316

Bulk: 4.8 cu. ft.

Location: WC, Sh. 45-46; MV, Sh. 80, Sh. 58; WHS, TBD

Abstract:

Collection includes the papers of Dr. Louis F. Frank and family. Most of the collection consists of the original diaries of Dr. Louis F. Frank from 1899 to 1916. These diaries were written in German. Translations of the diaries are included in the collection. Other materials include proof copies and manuscripts of Dr. Frank's publications, Kerler Family and Frank Family correspondence, and Kerler-Frank Family history.

Biographical Note:

Dr. Louis F. Frank was born in Milwaukee on April 15, 1857, to a pioneer German-American family. His father, August Frank, was born in Germany in 1821 and came to the United States in 1850. Dr. Louis F. Frank went to parochial schools in Milwaukee and then went on to study medicine at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He transferred to the University of the City of New York, where he graduated in 1878.

He returned to Milwaukee in 1880 and established a medical practice. He married Emily Inbusch in 1881. They had three children: Edwin, Elsa and Emily. In 1890 his wife died and in 1892 he was married to Ella Schandain. They had two children: Armin and Louise.

Frank was very prominent in the Milwaukee medical field. He specialized in dermatology and introduced Milwaukee to the X-ray and the Finsen ultra violet ray lamp for the treatment of malignant skin diseases. He was a member of the Milwaukee Medical Society, the Milwaukee County Medical Society, the State Medical Society of Wisconsin, and the American Medical Society. He also was one of the organizers and first president of the Johnston Emergency Hospital.

Frank was actively involved in various musical organizations throughout the city. He was one of the founders of the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. He also served as the president of the Milwaukee Musical Society for several years. Later in life, he slowed his practice to work on his literary pursuits. He published his family letters in a book entitled *Pionier-Jahre der Familien Frank-Kerler*. He also completed a book entitled the *History of the Medical Profession of Milwaukee*. Dr. Frank died after a lingering illness on May 12, 1918.

Administrative Note:

The diaries were translated in 1989. The collection was reprocessed by Amanda Wynne in 2010.

Addition of a substantial accretion and minor reprocessing was done by Michael Barera in October 2022.

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