



National Museum of Health and Medicine

Otis Historical Archives

OHA 371

World War Reconstruction Aides Association Collection

Date of Records: 1919-1951

Size: 1.3 cubic feet, 3 boxes

Finding Aid by: Eric W. Boyle (2012)

Access and Use: The Otis Historical Archives is committed to providing open access to its collections as far as possible within the limits of privacy and confidentiality. Some of the records may contain restricted material. Access to this collection is at the discretion of the Otis Historical Archives and material contained within the records may be subject to review before access is granted.

Biographical Note: The World War Reconstruction Aides Association (WWRAA) was an organization of nurses who pioneered in the physical therapy (PT) and occupational therapy (OT) fields in World War 1. In June 1920, a group of PT and OT aides began by forming the Organization of Fort Sheridan Military Reconstruction Aides, in order “to augment friendships and interests developed during the period of service” and “to effect as soon as possible a national organization.” By December 1920, the organization had been officially renamed the National Association of Military Reconstruction Aides and posted 323 members, all women who served in army hospitals during WWI.

The association updated members on the activities of units nationwide through the quarterly publication, *The Re-Aides Post*, which also acted as an organ for aides to lobby for issues like the compensation of disabled aides and the professional development of PTs and OTs more broadly. In 1929, at the first national convention of reconstruction aides, members voted to rename the association the World War Reconstruction Aides Association.

At the eighth national reunion, and 30th anniversary of the WWRAA in 1949, an aging membership voted, despite reservations, to disband the group as “no one felt equal to taking over the responsibility of the National organization.” At a luncheon meeting on July 23, Colonel Emma E. Vogel, a pioneer among physical therapists, thanked the members of the WWRAA for helping to put PTs and OTs “on the map” during WWI.

Series/Scope and Content Note: Series in the collection are divided primarily by the type of material included and are arranged chronologically wherever possible.



SERIES 001: REPORTS, BIOGRAPHICAL DATA, AND PHOTOGRAPHS

This series includes a wide range of materials including a newspaper circulated at the USN training station in Great Lakes, IL in 1919, treasurer's reports from the WWRAA, a dues logbook, biographical information for Reconstruction Aides, photographs, a scrapbook documenting WWRAA activities from 1918 to 1938, and material from the final WWRAA reunion in 1949.

SERIES 002: *THE RE-AIDES POST*, 1920-50

This series includes copies of *The Re-Aides Post*, in newspaper form from 1920-1926, and as a bound journal from 1926-1950. SEE ALSO the Montgomery Collection and Angier and Hitchcock Collection for WWRAA material.

BOX AND CONTENT LIST

SERIES 001: REPORTS, BIOGRAPHICAL DATA, AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Box 001:

- 00001: Great Lakes Bulletin (Newspaper), 2/19-4/19
- 00002: Great Lakes Bulletin (Newspaper), 4/19-7/19
- 00003: Treasurer's Report, 1945-47
- 00004: Treasurer's Account, 1931-49
- 00005: Final National Treasurer's Report, 1947-51
- 00006: History of the World War Reconstruction Aides, 1933
- 00007: WWRAA Photographs, 1919-49
 - 1. Poster: Mrs. Mason in Action
 - 2. Mrs. Mason's Shop, Fort Sheridan, 1919
 - 3. Fort Snelling, MN, 1919
 - 4. Fort Des Moines, 1919
 - 5. Harvard Medical School Advance Course for PTs, 1919
 - 6. Social Service Department, 1919
 - 7. Estelle Angier, 1920
 - 8. Estelle Angier in Charge, 1920
 - 9. Convention Photo, 1933
 - 10. WWRAA Convention, 1935
 - 11. WWRAA Banquet, 1941
 - 12. "Mother Mason," Noreen Regan, and Estelle Angier, 1941



13. Daisey Gallois and Dora Dysart, 1941

14. Final Reunion, 1949

15. WWRAA Reunion, 1949

16. Emma Vogel, 1949

17. Final Reunion, 1949

00008: Scrapbook—Fort Sheridan, WWI, and After, 1918-38

00009: WWRAA—Greetings to 1949 Reunion, Questionnaires

SERIES 002: *THE RE-AIDES POST, 1920-50*

Box 002:

00001: *The Re-Aides Post*, 1926

00002: *The Re-Aides Post*, 1927

00003: *The Re-Aides Post*, 1928

00004: *The Re-Aides Post*, 1929

00005: *The Re-Aides Post*, 1930

00006: *The Re-Aides Post*, 1931

00007: *The Re-Aides Post*, 1932

00008: *The Re-Aides Post*, 1933

00009: *The Re-Aides Post*, 1934

00010: *The Re-Aides Post*, 1935

00011: *The Re-Aides Post*, 1936

00012: *The Re-Aides Post*, 1937

00013: *The Re-Aides Post*, 1938

00014: *The Re-Aides Post*, 1939

00015: *The Re-Aides Post*, 1940

00016: *The Re-Aides Post*, 1941

00017: *The Re-Aides Post*, 1942

00018: *The Re-Aides Post*, 1943

00019: *The Re-Aides Post*, 1944

00020: *The Re-Aides Post*, 1945

00021: *The Re-Aides Post*, 1946



00022: *The Re-Aides Post*, 1949-50

Box 003:

The Re-Aides Post, 1920-26 (Loose copies of newspapers)