

A Guide to the Henry Hanson papers, 1919-1971 MS.52

Henry Hanson papers

1919-1971



Title Statement

A Guide to the Henry Hanson papers, 1919-1971 MS.52

Subtitle: A Collection in Historical Collections, Claude Moore Health Sciences Library, MS-52

Publication Statement

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Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-03-05 18:01:18 +0000.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Revision Description

2021-06-30 The finding aid title changed from "Diary of Henry Hanson" to the "Henry Hanson papers" when new items were added to this collection.

2024-05-17 Finding aid inventory was updated when additional accession was processed and interfiled with existing collection.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS.52

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

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Unit ID

/repositories/7/resources/154

Unit Date

1919-1971

Language

English Spanish; Castilian

Creator

Hanson, Henry (1877-1954)

Extent

1 Linear Feet

Extent

2 boxes, 5"x10.5"x15.5," 1 linear foot, 28 folders

Repository

Claude Moore Health Sciences Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions on access to the items in this collection.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions governing the use of the items in this collection.

Acquisition Information

Jane H. Monroe, a granddaughter of Henry Hanson, donated the diary in 2011.

Ingrid Brunt, also a granddaughter of Henry Hanson, donated the rest of the collection in 2021. Brunt also donated additional materials in 2024.

Processing Information

Additional material was processed in 2024 by Amanda Greenwood.

Preferred Citation

Henry Hanson papers, MS-52, Claude Moore Health Sciences Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.

Biographical/Historical Information

Henry Hanson was born July 4, 1877 in Glenwood, South Dakota and credits his father for passing down a "pioneer spirit" that led him to "scientific and medical research." He received an A.B. in 1902 and an A.M. in

chemistry in 1904 from the University of South Dakota. He then moved to Baltimore to pursue an M.D. at the Johns Hopkins University which he achieved in 1908. After briefly working in Milwaukee, in 1909, Hanson moved to Florida to become Director of the Division of Bacteriological Laboratories of the State Board of Health.

When the U.S. entered World War I, Hanson joined the Army Medical Corps and was stationed in Panama for the duration. Hanson distinguished himself and was appointed Chief Sanitary Inspector of the Panama Canal Zone in 1918. When the Peruvian government recruited him in 1919, Hanson brought his family to Peru. He recounted their adventures in *The Pied Piper of Peru: Dr. Henry Hanson's Fight against "Yellow Jack" and Bubonic Plague in South America, 1919-1922* which was published posthumously in 1961 by the Florida Department of Public Health. Hanson also summarized this work in his diary, stating that there were almost 20,000 cases of yellow fever during this period and nearly two million house inspections and five million container inspections carried out in the massive campaign.

After the successes in Peru, Hanson went to Columbia under the auspices of the International Health Board and the Columbian government to continue work on eradicating yellow fever and other tropical diseases. Hanson's wife, Jane, and their two children, Martha and Karl, stayed in Panama. Jane was expecting the couple's third child (Virgil), and sadly passed away in childbirth. Hanson wrote in his diary on the anniversary of his wife's death: "El dia mas triste de mi vida el 19 diciembre 1923." (Translation: The saddest day of my life on December 19, 1923).

Hanson's struggle in deciding to join the West Africa Yellow Fever Commission only a couple of years after his wife's death is shown through letters to Dr. Henry Rose Carter. "While I am becoming somewhat reconciled to this individual existence pattering along with one specimen after another I still 'feel the call of the wild' and should like to be out fighting again." Hanson spent the majority of his time in Southwestern Nigeria focused on work with over 5,000 house visits in twenty-two months.

After returning to the United States in 1927, Hanson and his family moved to Florida where he accepted a position with the Bureau of Communicable Diseases, State Board of Health of Florida. He became the State Health Officer in 1929 and served two terms from 1929-1935 and 1942-1945. In the intervening years, Hanson worked as the traveling representative of the Pan-American Sanitary Bureau 1936-1942.

Dr. Hanson's focus on public health issues included rodent eradication (perhaps recalling the "burning of Paita" when he burned houses to kill rats and thus end a bubonic plague outbreak in the Peruvian town of Pieta in 1920) and establishing statewide mosquito control efforts. After a very successful career, he retired in 1945 and moved to Jacksonville, Florida.

Dr. Henry Hanson passed away at age 76 on February 13, 1954. In 1959 the Florida State Board of Health laboratory building was renamed "The Henry Hanson Building." This information is taken from a biographical sketch written for the UVa Historical Collections web exhibit on Hanson.

Scope and Content

This collection includes articles, correspondence, a scrapbook, journals, a manuscript, photographs, an expense ledger, an interview, a diary, biographical sketches, post cards and invitations, and other materials that document the professional life of Henry Hanson. It also includes materials related to the naming of the Henry Hanson building in Jacksonville, Florida.

Keywords

World War, 1914-1918
Yellow Fever
South America
Panama
Columbia
Florida
Hanson, Henry, 1877-1954
Peru

Description of Subordinate Components

Diary

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/209637

Unit Date 1925-1927

Language English

Scope and Contents

The diary begins October 4, 1925, the day after Hanson boarded the S.S. Majestic in New York City to cross the Atlantic as the first leg in his journey to Nigeria to be part of the West Africa Yellow Fever Commission. Hanson summarized his work in the Peruvian campaigns from July 1919 to May 1922 as well as mentioned the time he spent in Central America, but the bulk of the diary describes his work in southwestern Nigeria which included 5,000 house visits to inspect for containers with water and breeding mosquitoes in 22 months. Hanson stated the language barrier and climate were major difficulties. He left Nigeria on May 17, 1927 and the diary ends on July 27, 1927 when he is in England.

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/36613

Unit Date 1925-10-04-1925-12-27

Mixed Materials [3470523844] 01 (box)

Container 001 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/36614

Unit Date 1926-01-01-1926-06-30

Mixed Materials [3470523844] 01 (box)

Container 002 (folder)

Extent TM

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/36615

Unit Date 1926-07-01-1926-12-31

Mixed Materials [3470523844] 01 (box)

Container 003 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/36616

Unit Date 1927-01-01-1927-06-30

Mixed Materials [3470523844] 01 (box)

Container 004 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)
Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)
Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)
Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)
Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/36617
Unit Date 1927-07-01-1927-07-27
Mixed Materials [3470523844] 01 (box)
Container 005 (folder)

Articles, manuscripts, and interviews

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)
Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)
Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/209652
Unit Date 1921-1954
Language English
Scope and Contents

This file includes the draft and published articles, books, and interviews of Henry Hanson.

"The Danger of Yellow Fever in Lima"

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)
Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)
Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)
Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)
Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/209644
Unit Date 1921-11-15
Mixed Materials [3470523844] 01 (box)
Container 006 (folder)
Language English

Scope and Contents

This is an English translation of an interview Henry Hanson gave about the danger of yellow fever spreading to Lima, Peru in 1921 and 1922. "El Comercio," a newspaper in Lima, originally published this interview in Spanish.

"Fighting Yellow Jack in Peru: Experiences of Dr. Henry Hanson during an Epidemic of Yellow Fever and Bubonic Plague in Peru 1919-1922"

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)
Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)
Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)
Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)
Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)
Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)
Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)
Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/209639
Unit Date 1923-1954
Mixed Materials [3470523844] 01 (box)
Container 007 (folder)
Language English

Scope and Contents

Henry Hanson wrote this manuscript describing his experiences in Peru from 1919 to 1922. The Florida Department of Public Health posthumously published the manuscript in 1961 under the following title: "The Pied Piper of Peru: Dr. Henry Hanson's Fight against "Yellow Jack" and Bubonic Plague in South America, 1919-1922."

"Personal Experiences in an Attack of Yellow Fever"

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/209645

Unit Date 1926-02-20

Mixed Materials [3470523844] 01 (box)

Container 008 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

This is a reprint of an article Henry Hanson authored. It was originally published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

"Sanitary Conditions in the Province of Loja"

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/209648

Unit Date 1936-1954

Mixed Materials [3470523844] 01 (box)

Container 009 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Henry Hanson drafted this article sometime between 1936 and his death in 1954.

"Yellow Fever in the Perene and Its Significance"

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/209646

Unit Date 1937-1954

Mixed Materials [3470523844] 01 (box)

Container 010 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Henry Hanson authored this draft of an article sometime between 1937 and his death in 1954.

Correspondence of Henry Hanson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/209647

Unit Date 1919-1945

Mixed Materials [3470523844] 01 (box)

Container 011 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

This file consists of a few pieces of Henry Hanson's correspondence. It includes his resignation letter from the Florida Health Department and letters from William Gorgas and Hideo Noguchi.

Correspondence related to the publication of a manuscript

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/209649

Unit Date 1959

Mixed Materials [3470523844] 01 (box)

Container 012 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

This file contains two letters related to the posthumous publication of Henry Hanson's book, "The Pied Piper of Peru: Dr. Henry Hanson's Fight Against "Yellow Jack" and the Bubonic Plague in South America, 1919-1922."

The naming of the Henry Hanson building

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/209650

Unit Date 1959

Mixed Materials [3470523844] 01 (box)

Container 013 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

This file contains an event program and letters related to the naming of the Henry Hanson building in Jacksonville, Florida.

Photographs of Natal, South Africa

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/209642

Unit Date 1920-1950

Mixed Materials [3470523844] 01 (box)

Container 014 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

This is a collection of photographs labelled "Natal" and "Natal, South Africa" that show unidentified people. Henry Hanson does not appear in the photographs. It is not known when these photographs were created or who created them. It is also unclear if they truly were taken in Natal.

Scrapbook

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/209638

Unit Date 1929-1959

Mixed Materials [3470523844] 01 (box)

Container 015 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

The scrapbook contains newspaper clippings that document the work of Henry Hanson between 1929 and 1931. It also contains clippings documenting his death and the naming of the Henry Hanson building.

"Campana Sanataria Contra La Fiebra Amarilla"

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/209643

Unit Date 1921

Mixed Materials [3470523845] 02 (box)

Container 001 (folder)

Language Spanish; Castilian

Scope and Contents

This handmade book documents the 1921 campaign Henry Hanson led against yellow fever in Peru. It includes notes, photographs, data, and maps.

Invitations and Postcards

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/249076

Unit Date 1922

Mixed Materials [3470523845] 02 (box)

Container 002 (folder)

Newspaper Clippings

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/249077

Unit Date 1922-1959

Mixed Materials [3470523845] 02 (box)

Container 003 (folder)

Photograph journal for the sanitary campaign in Peru

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/209641

Unit Date 1922

Mixed Materials [3470523845] 02 (box)

Container 004 (folder)

Language English

Ledger book

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/209640

Unit Date 1923-1942

Ledgers [3470523845] 02 (box)

Container 005 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

This ledger book is a record of some of Henry Hanson's expenses.

"The Yoruba Version of Creation"

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/209651

Unit Date 1920-1954

Mixed Materials [3470523845] 02 (box)

Container 006 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

This is an English translation of the Yoruba creation story.

"A Bill To Be Enacted"

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/209653

Unit Date 1923

Mixed Materials [3470523845] 02 (box)

Container 007 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

This is the draft of an untitled bill for the State of Florida to create "a County Welfare Board for each County having a population of over one hundred thousand; prescribing its powers and duties; providing for its financial support and providing the qualification of its members and repealing Chapters 7336 and 8535, Laws of Florida."

"Some Observations on Dengue"

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/249078

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials [3470523845] 02 (box)

Container 008 (folder)

Biographical Sketches of Henry Hanson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/249079

Unit Date 1954-1959

Mixed Materials [3470523845] 02 (box)

Container 009 (folder)

"Highlights of Florida Medical History- Henry Hanson"

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/249080

Unit Date 1971

Mixed Materials [3470523845] 02 (box)

Container 010 (folder)

"El Paludismo en Balzapamba"

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/249081

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [3470523845] 02 (box)

Container 011 (folder)

Language Spanish; Castilian

Photographs

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/249082

Unit Date undated

Photographs [3470523845] 02 (box)

Container 012 (folder)

"La Recepcion en la Legacion Belga"

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/249083

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [3470523845] 02 (box)

Container 013 (folder)

Language Spanish; Castilian