



## Summary Information

**Title:** Angelina County Medical Society Minutes Book

**Collection Number:** 2001:005

**Creator:** Angelina County Medical Society

**Collection Dates:** February 25, 1920 - November 27, 1936

**Extent:** 1 Volume

**Language:** English

## Collection Abstract:

Angelina County Medical Society Minutes Book is a 9 x 14.5 x 3 ledger book containing the minutes and meeting records of the Angelina County Medical Society. Each meeting's record describes the proceedings, papers read, topics discussed, guests and members present, dues paid, and officers at the time.

## Repository:

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**Processing Information:** Processed by Emily E. Hyatt in December 7, 2004

**Historical Note:** From these records, it appears that the meetings of the Angelina County Medical Society were intended to be times for the county's doctors to socialize, discuss problem cases, reach a consensus concerning fees, and decide on a united response to social issues. Doctors took turns presenting papers on issues of interest to them or that were especially relevant at the time. The floor was usually open for discussion and various doctors aired their opinions regarding the day's topic. Frequently the doctors presented more than one topic – many times these topics revolved around a particularly puzzling or unusual case they were currently treating or had treated in the past, with the doctors' present acting as a sounding board for treatment advice. Their responses changed over time and with new leadership within the society. Overall, these doctors seemed extremely concerned with the health and well being of Angelina County's population and used these meetings as a time to converse as colleagues and present a united solution to health care issues within the county.

An important member of the Medical Society was Dr. Thaddeus Taylor. Born July 21, 1875 in South Carolina and died on July 17, 1952, Dr. Taylor specialized in anesthesia and internal medicine, beginning his practice in Lufkin in 1908. During the course of his career, he invented an oxygen therapy tent that became common in naval hospitals during World War II. He also published numerous articles about oxygen therapy. Dr. Taylor was elected president of the Angelina County Medical Society in 1930 and 1934 and regularly represented Angelina County and various state and national medical society meetings. He is listed as in attendance for most meetings and usually had some constructive comment about the day's topic. On November 27, 1931, the meeting minutes state that he described his Taylor Oxygen Apparatus. He gave a paper on oxygen therapy on January 22, 1932.

**Collection Scope and Content:** Angelina County Medical Society Minutes Book chronicles a time of growth within Angelina County and its medical community, when Lufkin attempted to gain prominence as the medical center for deep East Texas and its hospital endured the many growth pains associated with fledgling institutions. These doctors attempted to ensure the professionalism and high quality of medical care in Angelina County, working with county and state agencies for such tasks as eradicating mosquitoes and indigent medical care. In an attempt to respond to the economic crises of the time and balance trends in social services and demands for poor relief with their own economic survival and to ensure quality medical care, these doctors faced the same issues as service providers and governments across the United States, particularly in rural areas.

### Subject Terms

#### Topics

- Angelina County (Tex.)—History
- Medical -- United States -- History -- 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Medical Society of Texas. Meetings

#### Corporate Names

- Angelina County Medical Society

#### Personal Names

- Taylor, Thaddeus, 1875-1952

#### Occupations

- Medical
- Doctors

#### Locations

- Angelina County (Tex.)
- Lufkin (Tex.)

### Access and Use

**Access Restrictions:** There are no restrictions on this volume

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### Collection Inventory:

1 Volume

**Issues of Interest:**

**Page 201** – February 25, 1933 – Resolution sent to state and federal representatives calling for a repeal of laws requiring government support for medical treatment of non- combat illness and injury for War veterans.

**Page 209** – May 26, 1933 – General consensus among the doctors that glaucoma is caused by worry.

**Page 219** – November 14, 1933 – Consensus that poor/indigent patients should be required to pay half of a normal fee.

**Page 227** – January 12, 1934 – Doctors consider whether to move African American and poor patients out of the main hospital building into another building specifically designated for this group; they also consider whether to permanently separate paying and non-paying customers within the hospital.

**Page 244** – September 1934 – Doctors issue a resolution in response to social pressures and legislation attempting to provide health care for the many victims of the economic crisis. They agree that providing care for large groups of children at school is not feasible or necessary.