

Accession 2009-20  
 Davenport Hospital (Davenport, IA)  
 Sara Elizabeth Foulks, M.D.

Collection of nine images taken in 1911 and 1912 of the Davenport Hospital, nurses home, and staff members. The donor provides the following biographical information:

Sarah Elizabeth Foulks was born on October 12, 1880 on the family farm in Burlington Township, New Jersey, the second of four sisters. She and two sisters attended Normal School. She later attended an osteopathic type program, and then Women’s Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, graduating in 1907. According to the family story, she and several other doctors started the Davenport Hospital after that. They trained nurses there, including her sister-in-law “Motz” Martha Stokley who then worked in Europe during World War I. Martha later married Robert McCosh and lived in Davenport.

Sara headed the American Women’s Hospitals in Athens, Greece in the the early 1920’s-a volunteer effort to aid Greek refugees returning to Greece from Turkey. She received a medal from the Greek king-and was let go due to lack of funds.

Sara spent some years working at Elwyn Training School outside Philadelphia. She retired about 1950 and died in 1962.

Dr. Sara E. Foulks appears to have made Davenport, Iowa her home from 1911 until 1924.

Image Number	Identification written on back	Notes
2009-20.1	Nurses Home, Davenport Hospital	
2009-20.2	Davenport Hospital 140 South Avenue	South Avenue became East 29 <sup>th</sup> Street
2009-20.3	4 adults and 1 child – identified as Foulks and Stokley family members	
2009-20.4	View from operating room Davenport Hospital, 1911	
2009-20.5	Dr. Glynne [sic] May 25, 1912 at hospital	Charles Glynn was president of the Davenport Hospital from its inception in 1908 until _____
2009-20.6	On the roof garden Davenport Hospital-Dr. Sara Foulks on left 2/21/1911	The Davenport City Directory advertisements state it is a new fire proof building with a roof garden, automatic push-button elevator, modern and complete equipment, sanitarium department, electric and dry heat baths for rheumatism and a training school for nurses
2009-20.7	Sara E. Foulks M. D. and Eleanora Gallen May 1912	
2009-20.8	“These are a few of the nurses. I have 4 others – 2 on vacation and 2 others busy. I am the handsomest of them all with my cheeks full of sour balls.”	Postcard photograph
2009-20.9	In the operating room. Davenport Hospital. 2/21/1911	Postcard photograph

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Research below by KO'Connor [8/2010]:

Dr. Sara E. Foulks, Medical Director American Women's Hospitals, Greece, 1923-26.



Two hospitals were conducted on the Island of Corfu until August, 1923. At that time, Dr. Sara E. Foulks, head of this service, was appointed general director of the American Women's Hospitals in Greece, and served in this capacity until February, 1926. She was assisted by Mrs. Cruikshank, Miss Frances MacQuaide, and a committee including Mrs. Carl Blegen, Dr. Minnie Mills and Dr. Mary Kalopothakis (whose mother was an American), who has practiced medicine in Athens for many years.

<http://www.ourstory.info/library/2-ww1/Lovejoy/awh10.html>

Foulks, Sara E. "Sara Foulks, M.D." *Medical Woman's Journal*. 51:5 (May 1944) 36-37, 41.  
[Graduate of Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, was working in NY State Dept of Health in 1944.]  
<http://www.med.umkc.edu/teams/cml/womendrs.html>

## TIMELINE

1880 October

born in New Jersey to Joseph D. and Mary E. Foulks.

1900 census

Living with parents and two sisters in Burlington Twp. NJ at age 19. No occupation listed

1907

Granted NJ state medical license in July

1908

Davenport Hospital (Inc.) is opened in Davenport, IA

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1910 census - April

Living in Trenton, Mercer Co., New Jersey on East State Street as head of household/physician; sister Eva lives there as well, teaching school; a married couple board with them

1911 - 1916

Davenport City Directory lists Sarah E. Foulks as superintendent of Davenport Hospital (Inc.) and Davenport Hospital Nurses Training School.

She is listed individually as a physician and superintendent, living at hospital, 140 South Avenue nr Brady

Photographs are dated 1911 and 1912 and include the hospital, Dr. Foulks, Dr. Glynn, and others.

1915 Iowa State Census

Sara E. Foulks M.D. is listed as M.D. and Superintendent of hospital

Age 34

Earning \$1200 in 1914 from her occupation

Birth place Florence, New Jersey

Does not own her own home or farm

Church affiliation is St. John's Methodist

Father's birthplace Bordentown N.J.

Mother's birth place Barnshore N. J.

White, single, reads, writes

4 years in Iowa

1917

not listed in Davenport City directory-passport application states her father passed away 18 October 1917 at Burlington N.J. – perhaps she was spending time there with her family.

1918

Davenport City Directory lists Sara E. Foulks of Drs. Glynn & Foulks

Director Clinical and X-Ray Laboratories

319-320 Whitaker Building

Resides 2710 LeClaire

Applies for passport – This dated November 22, 1918

states born in Florence, NJ to Joseph D. Foulks who was born in NJ and is now deceased. That she never has lived outside the United States before. Her permanent residence being Burlington, New Jersey where she follows the occupation of physician and that she intends to return to the U.S. in one year after visiting Serbia, Italy, Great Britain and France with a Red Cross Unit.

She is described as age 38

5' 9 ½ " tall

Low forehead, brown eyes and glasses, straight nose, regular mouth, oval chin, dark brown hair, fair complexion, oval face and a slight difference in the height of her eyes.

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Identifying witness was Eric Allen.

She swears she has no near male relatives serving in the armed forces, that she is going to France solely as a Red Cross worker, she will make no effort to visit her brother in France under any conditions, and she has no intent to marry an officer or soldier in the American Expeditionary Forces after her arrival in France. [Note: donor indicated she had sisters, but not a brother.]

Josephine B. Osmond, aunt of Sara E. Foulks, confirms birth information of Sara and lists her own occupation as housewife and address as Bradentown NJ .

Passport photo

American Red Cross letter dated Feb. 4, 1919 endorses her passport application, stating she will be obliged to travel in Great Britain, France, Italy and Serbia.

January 1919 document from War Dept. in Washington states they have no objection to Sara E. Foulks of 2710 Leclair St. Davenport Iowa being sent for duty with the A. E. F. in connection with the American Red Cross.

1920 & 1921

Davenport City Directory  
Sara E. Foulks Physician, 601-603 Kahl Building  
Resides 2034 ½ Farnam [Mrs. A. E. Lorig at 2034 Farnam]

1920

Ships passenger list: from Boulogne to NY-home address Davenport, IA

Dr. Sara E. Foulks, Davenport, who has been engaged in post war work in Albania for more than a year has returned home. [can't access rest] *Journal of American Medical Association*

1922 & 1923

Davenport City Directory  
Dr. Sara E. Foulks, superintendent Davenport Hospital (Inc.), res same [326 East 29<sup>th</sup> St.]  
--she is not the superintendent for the nurses training school

1922

April issue of *Journal of Iowa State Medical Society*  
Lists Dr. Sara as resident of Davenport – gave talk on her Red Cross work in Turkey

1923

Dr. Sara E. Foulks, formerly superintendent of Davenport Hospital, has been appointed field director of American Women's Hospitals in Greece and the...[can't access rest] *Journal of American Medical Association*

March – letter printed in *Democrat* regarding her efforts off coast of Greece.

August 2010  
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April – letter printed in *Democrat* regarding her efforts on island of Corfu (Italy?) – picture of Dr. Sara

1924 Davenport City Directory  
Listed individually as superintendent of hospital, but is not listed in hospital entry

May – article in *Democrat* says Dr. Foulks is superintendent of all American Women’s hospitals and dispensaries in Greece, Albania and Thrace.

1926  
Dr. Sara E. Foulks, Burlington, NJ appointed obstetrician for division of maternity, infancy and child hygiene...[can’t access rest] *Journal of American Medical Association*

1928  
Ships passenger list from LeHavre to NY – her address 89 Chestnut Street, Albany, NY

1930 census

1931  
Ships passenger list from England to NY – her address Lancaster Ave., Albany, NY

1934 & 1935  
Doing prenatal consultations for the Division of Maternity, Infancy and Child Hygiene for the New York State Department of Health

1935  
Ships passenger list from Southhampton to NY – her address is 593 Park Ave. Rochester, NY

1939 and 1940 Working for New York State Department of Health at Albany, NY

1950 retired

1962 died  
No obituary located as of 8/2010

2009 “Davenport Hospital” building razed

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No images of Dr. Foulks in Hostetler collection  
Newspaper items accessed through ACCESS News Archive  
Medical journals accessed through web browser