

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Learning Lagniappe: Educator Extras

Mississippi State Department of Health Photograph Album

Series 2176/Box 8773

http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/series/2176

The series contains a photograph album of sixty-eight black and white 5 x 7 inch prints depicting general health activities throughout Mississippi. The prints are arranged by subject: State Tuberculosis Sanatorium, County Health Camp for Tuberculous Patients, Medical and Popular Health Education, Sanitation, Malaria, Child Health Conferences, Dental Hygiene, Maternity Center, Midwifery, Protection against Communicable Disease, Child Health Day Program, and Home Visits by Public Health Nurse. Most of the photographs are not dated but are believed to have been taken in the 1930s.

Subjects that can be addressed within this Digital Archive:

Public health in early 20th century Mississippi, midwifery, tuberculosis and tuberculosis sanatoriums and preventoriums, health education, sanitation, mosquito prevention, proper methods of water drainage, dental hygiene, communicable diseases, and home visits by public health nurses.

For more lessons and activities based on the Mississippi State Department of Health Photograph Album Digital Archive and other collections visit the Classroom Materials page on our website at
<http://www.mdah.ms.gov/new/learn/classroom-materials/lesson-plans-and-teaching-units/>

Teacher Discussion Guide on Reverse

Teacher Discussion Guide

Use images from the MDAH Digital Archive entitled “Mississippi State Department of Health Photograph Album, c. 1930s,” (found at http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/series/2176) to lead your class in a discussion analyzing and interpreting the following images. Note: Locate images by typing the page number in the “search for keyword” box.

- 1. Page 20 (top), Page 45 (bottom), and Page 47 (top):** What do all these homes have in common? How could this lead to disease?
 - All the homes are adjacent to standing water. Standing water breeds mosquitoes that in turn transmit malaria, dengue fever, and other diseases. It also harbors other types of bacteria and parasites. Standing water is oftentimes polluted with animal and human feces, making it dangerous to drink.
- 2. Page 20:** Discuss the change in environment with the addition of a drainage ditch. How would the ditch have changed the living conditions of the residents nearby?
 - The ditch would decrease the amount of standing water in the area, lowering the risk of disease-transmitting mosquitoes and cross-contamination of drinking water.
- 3. Page 18:** The caption to the bottom image reads “Making screen doors on a plantation.” This could imply that working hours were used to make and install screen doors and windows on the homes of tenant farmers. If this was the case, what would have been the motivation of the plantation owner to allow or finance this installation?
 - The investment (in time and money) of installing screens in the homes of employees would have been far less than the investment of time if that employee became ill from a preventable disease spread by mosquitoes.
- 4. Page 28:** How do you think segregation and racism affected health care in 1930s Mississippi?
 - At times, diseases that affected more African Americans than whites were largely ignored by politicians and even physicians. But many diseases were caused by poor diet or living conditions and thus, because many were poor farmers, African Americans had a higher incidence of certain diseases than whites.
- 5. Page 37:** What would have been the pros and cons of holding a health clinic outside in the 1930s?
 - Pros: No need to erect or maintain a permanent building. Ability to travel to patients who may not have traveled to a permanent clinic. Public display of health care could encourage others to participate (get vaccinated, improve their diet or hygiene, etc.).
 - Cons: No ability to provide long-term care to patients in a hospital setting. Restricted by weather or climate changes. Only have access to medical supplies and equipment that can be easily transported.
- 6. Page 39:** Notice that the children in the bottom photo appear to be dressed in their Sunday best. If they dressed-up to receive a vaccine, what do you think that says about how much they or their parents valued health care?