

**Guide to the Oral History of
DONALDSON, MARY MACABEE (1907-)**

Biographical/Historical Notes

Mary Macabee Donaldson was community leader in Montgomery County. She was born in 1907 in Washington, D.C. She attended Smith College and the Washington School for Secretaries. Donaldson moved to Montgomery County in 1936. She held the position of Assistant Director, Public Relations, National Congress of PTA from 1930 to 1935; worked at the Landon School and YWCA; and, served as Director of Development and Alumnae Relations at Maret School from 1966 to 1967. As a resident of Montgomery County, Donaldson was a member of the Suburban Hospital Association, the Montgomery County Chapter of the American Red Cross, the YWCA, the Montgomery County Press Association, Planned Parenthood League, and the League of Women Voters.

Interview – Interviewed February 7, 1972 by Helen Scharf for MBL.

Subject

American Red Cross
Medical Care Commission
Montgomery County Press Association
Planned Parenthood League
Suburban Hospital
Suburban Hospital Association

Subject Names

Table of Contents/Index – See also Outline of Oral History Interview with Mary Donaldson for additional topics and subjects.

OUTLINE OF ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Mary Donaldson

- I. Suburban Hospital
 - A. Organization of Suburban Hospital
 1. Offer of federal government to build hospital
 2. Need for hospital in Montgomery County
 3. Role of women as supporters of hospital
 4. Location of hospital
 - B. Growth and development of hospital
 1. Need for funds to buy hospital from federal government
 2. Early attempts to merge with Silver Spring association
 3. Purchase of additional land
 4. Deficits and departure of Health Department clinics
 5. Plans for expansion of hospital
 6. Establishment of reserve funds for expanding
 7. Fund campaigns
 - a. Suburban Hospital Reporter
 - b. Initial involvement
 - c. Early campaigns
 - d. Subsequent employment of professional fund raiser
 8. Building of additional wings to hospital
 - C. Volunteer activities
 1. Running office
 2. Keeping files
 3. Attracting volunteers to work for hospital
- II. Red Cross activities
 - A. Involvement in neighborhood production unit
 - B. Information program
 - C. Social welfare aide
 - D. Blood donor recruitment chairman
 1. Difficulties in reaching quota
 2. Lack of public relations effort for blood donor program
- III. Planned Parenthood
 - A. Fund raising
 - B. Educational activities
 - C. Attempt to have Planned Parenthood included in Health and Welfare Council
 - D. Merger with D.C. Planned Parenthood

IV. Welfare activities

- A. Opportunity to see all parts of Montgomery County
- B. Opportunity to learn about community resources
- C. Observations on lack of private agencies in Montgomery County

V. Observations on county newspapers

- A. Value to community
- B. Difficulties in establishing new papers
- C. Montgomery County Press Association activities
- D. Outstanding editors of county newspapers