



# **Rockefeller University records, Vice President, Thomas Milton Rivers, Biographical Material, Series 6**

---

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on October 31, 2016.

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue  
Sleepy Hollow 10591

[archive@rockarch.org](mailto:archive@rockarch.org)

URL: <http://www.rockarch.org>

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Biographical/Historical note .....	3
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	5
File Plan note .....	5
Administrative Information .....	5
Other Finding Aids .....	6
Collection Inventory .....	6
Biographical Material .....	6

## Summary Information

<b>Repository:</b>	Rockefeller Archive Center
<b>Creator - aut:</b>	Rivers, Thomas M. (Thomas Milton)
<b>Creator:</b>	Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research
<b>Creator:</b>	Rockefeller University
<b>Title:</b>	Rockefeller University records, Vice President, Thomas Milton Rivers, Biographical Material, Series 6
<b>ID:</b>	FA902
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1922-1965
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3 Cubic Feet 4 boxes and 1 package.
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4 boxes and 1 package. (Boxes 1, 2, 3, and 5, Package 1).
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

### Preferred Citation note

Information regarding the Rockefeller Archive Center's preferred elements and forms of citation can be found at <http://www.rockarch.org/research/citations.php>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Biographical/Historical note

The newly adopted By-Laws of 1953 provided for an elected Vice-President who was a member of the Board of Trustees. Thomas Milton Rivers was elected the first Vice-President of the newly constituted Board of Trustees and served as Director of The Institute, Director of the Department of Laboratories and Director of the Hospital until his retirement in 1955.

August 1955 amendments to the By-Laws abolished the elected Vice-President and the requirement which provided that he be a member of the Board of Trustees and called for one or more appointed Vice-Presidents. Further amendment, January 25, 1956 provided that the Board of Trustees elect one or more Vice-Presidents to discharge such functions as may be assigned to them by the President or by resolution duly accepted at any meeting.

Between 1955 and 1959 Frank Lappin Horsfall, Jr. held the position of Vice-President for Clinical Studies; between 1955 and 1964 Douglas Whitaker served as Vice-President for Administration (between 1961-64 changed to Vice-President for Academic Administration). In 1964/65 Maclyn McCarty was elected Vice-President with special responsibilities in the clinical sciences. He is at the same time, Physician-in-Chief. In 1965 Carl Pfaffmann was elected Vice-President and Professor to develop a program of research and graduate instruction in the behavioral and social sciences. In 1969/70 a third Vice-President was added. This position carries with it the role of Secretary to the Board of Trustees and was filled by Charles Eugene Sunderlin.

In 1972 the University trustees elected Rodney W. Nichols to a new post of Vice-President for Program planning. He had been the first Director of the Office of Program Planning and Development.

In 1973 Albert Gold was named Vice-President for Academic Resources. As Vice-President he also retains his responsibilities relating to Junior faculty (Director of Postdoctoral Affairs) with additional duties in connection with organization, operation and planning at the University.

In 1974, effective September 15, Maclyn McCarty retired as Physician-in-Chief of the Hospital, which post was then filled by Dr. Attalah Kappas.

June 30, 1976 Eugene Sunderlin retired as vice-president of the RU.

June 1978 Dr. Albert Gold resigned from the University and October 1978 Drs. McCarty and Pfaffmann having reached retirement age resigned their positions as Vice-President. Mr. Rodney Nichols was elected to a new position of executive Vice-President and Mr. David J. Lyons was elected to a new position as Vice-President and Controller with new managerial responsibilities.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Biographical / Historical

---

Vice President, 1953-1955.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Scope and Contents

---

Correspondence, memorabilia and biographical materials.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Arrangement

---

Rockefeller University records, Vice President, Thomas Milton Rivers is arranged in two series:

Series 2: Administrative Correspondence. Series 6: Biographical Material.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## File Plan note

---

Former Classification: I 341-6

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Statement

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue

Sleepy Hollow 10591

[archive@rockarch.org](mailto:archive@rockarch.org)

URL: <http://www.rockarch.org>

### Revision Description

### Conditions Governing Access note

Open for research. Brittle or damaged items are available at the discretion of RAC. Researchers interested in accessing digital media (floppy disks, CDs, DVDs, etc.) or audiovisual material (audio cassettes, VHS, etc.) in this collection must use an access surrogate. The original items may not be accessed because of preservation concerns. To request an access surrogate be made, or if you are unsure if there is an access surrogate, please contact an archivist.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Other Finding Aids

FA221 Rockefeller University records, Vice President, Thomas Milton Rivers, Administrative Correspondence, Series 2

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Collection Inventory

### Biographical Material, 1922-1965

#### Biographical/Historical note

Biographical note	
1888	Born September 3, Jonesboro, Georgia
1909	A.B. Emory College
1909-1911	Johns Hopkins Medical School (dropped out because of poor health)
1911-1913	Assistant pathologist, Santo Tomas Hospital, Panama
1913	Reentered Medical School (in 3rd year)
1915	M.D. Johns Hopkins Medical School
1915-1916	Interne, Medicine, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore
1916-1917	Assistant Resident, Pediatrics, Johns Hopkins Hospital
1917-1918	Resident, Pediatrics, Johns Hopkins Hospital
1918-1919	1st Lieutenant Medical Corps U.S. Army Special duty with pneumonia commission, empema commission and pneumonia board

1919-1921	Instructor in Bacteriology, Johns Hopkins University
1921-1922	Associate in Bacteriology, Johns Hopkins University
1920-1922	Pathologist, St. Joseph's Hospital, Baltimore
1922-1925	Associate Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research Hospital
1925-1927	Associate Member RIMR Hospital
1927-1955	Member RIMR Hospital
1936	Sc. D. (Hon.) Emory College
1937-1955	Director Dept. of the Hospital RIMR
1938	Sc. D. (Hon.) University of Rochester
1940-	Commander Med. Corps. U.S. Navy (retired as Rear Adm. in 1955)
1955	Member Emeritus Rockefeller University
1956-1958	Director National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis
1958	Vice-President for Medical Affairs National Foundation
1961	Sc. D. The Rockefeller University
1962	Died May 12. Buried Arlington National Cemetery

Member of: American Association Advancement of Science, American Society Clinical Investigations (president 1932), Association American Physicians, Interurban Clinical Club (president 1942-1943), American Pediatric Society, American Epidemiological Society, American Society Experimental Pathology, Society American Bacteriologists (president 1934), Harvey Society, American Association Pathologists and Bacteriologists, American Clinical and Climatological Association, National Academy Sciences, American Philosophical Society, Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Omega, Sigma Nu, Pi Mu

Thomas Milton Rivers, pediatrician and virologist at The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research from 1922-1955 was the discoverer of Bacillus Parainfluenzae and Virus III. He cultivated vaccine virus for human use and carried on researches in bacteriology, viruses and infectious diseases including influenza, chicken-pox, measles, vaccinia, psittacoses, lymphocytic-choriomeningitis. He was the author of numerous papers and editor and contributor of Filterable Viruses (1928) and Viral and Rickettsial Infections of Man, 1948, 1952, 1958.

**Served as:**

1930	Speaker, 3rd International Congress of Cytologists, Amsterdam Delegate and speaker 1st International Congress of Microbiologists, Paris Speaker, 5th International Congress of Botanists, Cambridge, Eng.
1931	Speaker, British AAS, London
1934	Lecturer, 5th National Congress of Medicine, Rosario, Arg.
1936	Delegate, 2nd International Congress Microbiologists, London
1939	President, 3rd International Congress Microbiologists, New York

**Related Archival Materials note:****Related Archival Materials note**

From the Library of T.M. Rivers, Presented to The Rockefeller University Archives, by Arthur T. Pearlstein (Most have been integrated into library collection): Baldwin, E., *Dynamic aspects of biochemistry*, ed. 2, Cambridge, University Press, 1952. Bayless, W.M. *Principles of general physiology*, ed. 2, London, Longmans, Green, 1920. Bernheim, B.M. *Medicine at the crossroads*, N.Y. William Morrow, 1959. Boyd, W.C., *Fundamentals of immunology*, New York, Interscience, 1943. Brennemann, J., ed. *Practice of pediatrics* v. 1-4, Hagerstown, W.F. Prior, 1937. Cabot, R.C. *Physical diagnosis*, ed. 4, New York, William Wood, 1909. Carter, R. *The gentle legions*, New York, Doubleday, 1961. Cohn, A.E. *No retreat from reason*, New York, Harcourt, Brace, 1931. Coombs, C.F. *Rheumatic heart disease*, London, Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton and Kent, 1924. Cushny, A.R. *A textbook of pharmacology and therapeutics*, ed. 5, New York, Lea & Febiger, 1910. Delafield, F. and Prudden, T.M. *A textbook of pathology*, ed. 8, New York, William Wood, 1909. Dubos, R.J. *Bacterial and mycotic infections of man*, Philadelphia, J.B. Lippincott, 1948. Dubos, R.J. *The bacterial cell*, Cambridge, Harvard UP, 1945. Duncan, I. *My life*, New York, Boni & Liveright, 1927. Eisendrath, D.N. *Surgical diagnosis*, ed. 2, Philadelphia, W.B. Saunders, 1909. Emerson, CP. *Clinical diagnosis*, ed. 3, Philadelphia, J.P. Lippincott, 1911. Ewing, J. *Neoplastic diseases*, ed. 2, Philadelphia, W.B. Saunders, 1922. Falta, W. *The ductless glandular diseases*, Philadelphia, P. Blakiston, 1915. Fantham, H.B. & others. *The animal parasites of man*, New York, William Wood, 1922. Forchheimer, F., ed. *Therapeutics of internal diseases*, v. 1-4, New York, D. Appleton, 1913. Ford, W.W. *Textbook of bacteriology*, Philadelphia, W.B. Saunders, 1927. Fosdick, R.B. *Chronicle of a generation*, New York, Harper, 1958. Garrod, A.E. and others. *Diseases of children*, London, E. Arnold, 1913. Gaskell, A. *What is life?*, Springfield, C.C. Thomas, 1928. Green, D.E. & Knox, W.E., eds. *Research in medical science*, New York, Macmillan, 1950. Harvard University. *Notes on the Harvard tercentenary*, Cambridge, Harvard UP, 1936. Hawk, P.B. *Practical physiological chemistry*, ed. 2, Philadelphia, P. Blakiston, 1909. Hess, A.F. *Collected writings*, v. 1-2, Springfield, C.C. Thomas, 1936. Hirschfelder, A.D. *Diseases of the heart and aorta*, Philadelphia, J.B. Lippincott, 1910. Holt, L.E. *The diseases of infancy and childhood*, ed. 6, New York, D. Appleton, 1913. Horsfall, F.L., ed. *Diagnosis of viral and rickettsial infections*, New York, Columbia UP, 1949. Howell, W.H. *A textbook of physiology*, ed. 3, Philadelphia, W.B. Saunders, 1909. Jenner, E. *The notebook of Edward Jenner*, Oxford UP, 1931. Kant, I. *Critique of pure reason*, rev. ed., New York, Willey, 1900. Kelly, H.A. *Medical gynecology*, New York, D. Appleton, 1909. Kolle, W. & Wassermann, A. von, eds. *Plandbuch der pathogenen Mikroorganismen* v. 1-8, Jena, G. Fischer, 1912-1913. Martin, E. *Surgical diagnosis*, Philadelphia, Lea & Febiger, 1909. Morgan, J.L.R. *The elements of physical chemistry*, ed. 5, New York, John Wiley, 1914. Neal, J.B. *Encephalitis - a clinical study*, New York, Grune & Stratton, 1942. Nothnagel's practice. 4 vol., Philadelphia, W.B. Saunders, 1908-1910. Opie, E.L., Blake, F.G., Small, J.C. & Rivers,



T.M. Epidemic respiratory disease, ST. Louis, C.V. Mosby, 1921. Paine, T. Age of reason, New York, Willey, 1794. Pfaundler & Schlossmann, A. eds. The diseases of children v. 1-7, Philadelphia, J.B. Lippincott, 1908-1914. Piersol, G.A. Human anatomy, v. 1-2, Philadelphia, J.B. Lippincott, 1908. Rivers, T.M. ed. Filterable viruses, Lane Medical lectures, Stanford, Stanford UP., 1939. Rivers, T.M. & others. Virus diseases, Ithaca, Cornell UP, 1943. Robertson, T.B. Principles of biochemistry, Philadelphia, Lea & Febiger, 1920. Schaeffer, M. & Muckenfuss, R.S. Experimental poliomyelitis, New York, National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, 1940. Starr, M.A. Organic and functional nervous diseases, ed. 3, New York, Lea & Febiger, 1909. Stelwagon, H.W. Treatise on diseases of the skin. ed. 7, Philadelphia, W.B. Saunders, 1914. Stewart, P. The diagnosis of nervous diseases, ed. 3, New York, E.B. Treat, 1913. Stimson, L.A. A practical treatise on fractures and dislocations, ed. 6, New York, Lea & Febiger, 1910. Vanderbilt University. Infantile paralysis, New York, National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, 1941. Wells, B.G. Chemical pathology, ed. 4, Philadelphia, W.B. Saunders, 1920. Williams, J.W. Obstetrics, ed. 2, New York, Appleton, 1911. Woods, H.M. & Russell, W.T. An introduction to medical statistics, London, P.S. King, 1936.

Title/Description	Instances	
Memorabilia		
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1.5 Cubic Feet		
<u>Immediate Source of Acquisition note:</u>		
<b>Immediate Source of Acquisition note</b>		
Date received or inventoried: October - December 1976 (from Dr. Pearlstein)		
Bibliographies	box 1	folder 1
NAS Biographical Memoir by Frank L. Horsfall, Jr. 38: 263-294, 1965	box 1	folder 2
Photographs		
Portrait of TMR at microscope	box 1	folder 3
Portraits of TMR - Miscellaneous	box 1	folder 4
TMR in WWII uniform	box 1	folder 5
Groups photos - Miscellaneous	box 1	folder 6
U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit No. 2 Guam	box 1	folder 7
Group - 1939 World's Fair, 1939	box 1	folder 8
TMR report, "A Trip to South American" presented 26 Oct 1934	box 1	folder 9
Miscellany	box 1	folder 10
Genealogy, 1935-1936	box 2	folder 1
Holograph account written by mother; includes letters 1935 August 14 and undated. Typescript copy made 1936 April 10: Holograph letter from W.W. Rivers on genealogy 2 genealogical charts		
Telegram signed "Teresa", 1961 January 23		
Christmas card (no identification)		
Winter photo of house (found in Dubos, R. "The Bacterial Cell")		

Request from National Academy of Sciences for biographical data, 1933		
Paper weight: Presidential award "International Poliomyelitis Congress"	box 2	folder 2
Images	box 2	folder 3
Pencil self-drawing, initialed T.M.R. (Found in Starr, "Organic and Functional Nervous Disorders")		
Five young men including T.M. Rivers (appears to be group of cln:: classmates or house staff)		
Photograph of T.M. Rivers, 1927		
Photograph of T.M. Rivers, 1932		
Photograph of T.M. Rivers, undated		
Autographed photo of Anton j. Carlson, 1950		
Photo of Simon Flexner at desk		
Photo of house with eight figures on porch (no dates or identification)		
Two glossy prints of January 15, 1957 event, 1957 January 15		
Apparently taken in U.S. Post Office T.M. Rivers in both; seem. to include Mary Lasker and Basil O'Connor but not positively identified		
Pages from 1948 National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis Grant Book	box 2	folder 4-6
Membership card, 1958 New York State/County Medical Society Program 1954 September 8 III International Poliomyelitis Conference Birthday Memorial "Franklin D. Roosevelt" 75th January 30, 1957, 1954-1957	box 2	folder 7
75th Conference on Cellular Biology, Nucleic Acids and Viruses: Program, 1957 January 30	box 2	folder 7
Invitation New York Academy of Science dinner in honor of Basil O'Connor and booklet of guests and table arrangements, 1957 January 8	box 2	folder 7
University of Rochester 91st Commencement Addresses by Winston Churchill, Eve Curue, Robert P. Peterson, 1941 June 16	box 2	folder 7
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine Class of 1915, 25th Reunion (president: T.M. Rivers), 1940 February 23-24	box 2	folder 7
Booklet for campaign of National Conference of Christians and Jews with personal note from Basil O'Connor, 1941	box 2	folder 7
Citation from members of New York City Board of Health (includes individual signatures) at time of T.M. Rivers resignation from the Board, 1957	box 2	folder 7

Lantern slides	box 3
Guam	
7 of sections and chart (not identified)	
6 of sections; 2 charts (not identified)	
22 labeled "Monk TBC" package	
18 x-rays Psittacosis marked Dr. Barry package	
19 x-rays Psittacosis marked Dr. Barry package	
20 Typhus package	
Third International Congress of Microbiology	
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	
Report of Proceedings, presented to T.M. Rivers, President of the Congress by his associates of the Executive Committee. Flyleaf bears all signatures, New York, June 1940.	
<u>Separated Materials:</u>	
<b>Separated Materials</b>	
Relocated to RAC Library 8/9/88.	
Dubos, René. The bacterial cell. Autographed and presented to "Tom Rivers"	
<u>Separated Materials:</u>	
<b>Separated Materials</b>	
Relocated to RAC Library 8/9/88.	
Rivers, Thomas M. Lane Medical lectures: Viruses and virus diseases (Stanford UP publication, 1939) signed "Rivers", 1939	
<u>Separated Materials:</u>	
<b>Separated Materials</b>	
Relocated to RAC Library 8/9/88.	
Virus diseases by members of the RIMR (delivered as the Messenger Lectures at Cornell University, 1942	
<u>Separated Materials:</u>	
<b>Separated Materials</b>	
Relocated to RAC Library 8/9/88.	
Basil O'Connor 65th birthday: photo, menu, program, 1957 January 8	package 1
Thomas M. Rivers photograph (Harris V. Ewing, Washington, DC, undated	package 1

Thomas M. Rivers photograph (Irving Penn), 1947	package 1
Presidential appointment. 1st Lieutenant in the Medical Section ORC U.S. Army, 1917	package 1
William H. Welch photograph, undated	package 1

Correspondence, 1922-1965

### Scope and Contents note

This group of correspondence was given to the Archives from the Office of Faculty and Student Records and consists, primarily, of correspondence with the Business Manager, Dr. Gasser and a few with Dr. Bronk.

The correspondence deals with employment matters and appropriations and is a combination which deals with personal as well as administrative matters. Included are some photographs; newspaper items; announcements of appointment as Director of The Rockefeller Institute Hospital and a carbon copy typescript of a portion of the oral history interview conducted by Saul Benison.

### Arrangement note

Arranged in chronological order.

#### Immediate Source of Acquisition note:

### Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Date received or inventoried: June 1980

Photographs and curriculum vitae and news items	box 5	folder 1
Correspondence, 1922-1943	box 5	folder 2
Biography from National Foundation	box 5	folder 2
Bibliography	box 5	folder 2
Typescript of oral interview	box 5	folder 2
Correspondence with Mrs. Rivers and photocopy of news items at time of death, 1944-1965	box 5	folder 3

Collected papers

#### Separated Materials:

### Separated Materials

BOX 6 NO LONGER EXISTS - VOLUMES RELOCATED  
TO RAC LIBRARY 8/9/1988.

1916-1929

Physical Description: volume

Separated Materials:

## Separated Materials

Relocated to RAC Library 1988.

---

1930-1934

Physical Description: volume

Separated Materials:

### Separated Materials

Relocated to RAC Library 1988.

---

1935-1939

Physical Description: volume

Separated Materials:

### Separated Materials

Relocated to RAC Library 1988.

---

1940-1954

Physical Description: volume

Separated Materials:

### Separated Materials

Relocated to RAC Library 1988.

---

Rivers, Thomas M., ed. Viral and rickettsial infections of man.  
Philadelphia, J.B. Lippincott Company, 1948

Immediate Source of Acquisition note:

### Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Presented to the Archives by Cynthia H. Pierce.

Separated Materials:

### Separated Materials

Relocated to RAC Library 1988.

---

Tom Bensons: reflections on a life in medicine and science, an  
oral history memoir prepared by Paul Benson, MIT press, 1967,  
1967

### Scope and Contents note

(moved from R.G 341.6 box 1).

Separated Materials:

### Separated Materials

Relocated to RAC Library 1988.

---

Typewritten C.V. with note from Adrienne Barry to Miss  
Olmstead, circa 1922

Processing Information note:

**Processing Information note**

Found 1986 August 7. Apparently misfiled in personnel file of McCartney, James E. (Old number 450.1) in box 21).

**Scope and Contents note**

Date is approximate and based on McCartney file, circa 1922.

Separated Materials:

**Separated Materials**

Relocated to RAC Library 1988.

---

Tom Rivers: reflections on a life in medicine and science; an oral history memoir prepared by Saul Benison. M.I.T. Press, 1967, 1967

box 1

**Scope and Contents note**

[note: Moved to TRG 341. 341. 6, box 6].

Separated Materials:

**Separated Materials**

Relocated to RAC Library 1988.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)