CIVIL WAR MEDICINE
THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL SAFFRON LECTURE
MAY 24 AT THE NASSAU CLUB

The annual spring meeting of the MHSNJ will be held Wednesday, May 24 at The Nassau Club in Princeton. The special program is devoted to Civil War Medicine and a number of intriguing papers will be presented. William D. Sharpe, MD, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School will deliver the Twenty-first Annual Saffron Lecture. Dr. Sharpe's paper is entitled "Middleton Goldsmith and Antisepsis, 1863." Frederick C. Skvara, MD will display medical philately related to Civil War medicine. Registration begins at 3:30 p.m.; the program begins at 4 p.m. A short business meeting will be held that will include the election of new society officers.

Business Meeting and Election -- Helen Sheehan, PhD, President

James Bolton, Confederate Surgeon: External Fixation in Longbone Fractures
Joshua Beck, MD, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School (NJMS)
Kenneth Swan, MD, Department of Surgery, UMDNJ-NJMS

The Identification and Autopsy of John Wilkes Booth: Myth and Reality
Jan K. Herman, Historian, Department of the Navy

Songs of the Civil War
Roberta Wedeen, BA, Folksinger, Songwriter

Dr. Samuel Mudd: Innocent or Guilty?
Marc Mappen, PhD, Associate Dean, University College, Rutgers University

Cocktails and Dinner (6-7:30 p.m.)
The twenty-first Annual Morris H. Saffron Lecture (7:30):
Members, students, and friends are invited to attend the dinner meeting. The cost is $40/members, $50/guests. Advance registration is required. For information, contact Maxine Williamson, MHSNJ, 14 Washington Road, Suite 101, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550, (609) 275-1911.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

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David L. Cowen, MA was guest speaker in April for the Twelfth Annual David L. Cowen Lecture in the History of Pharmacy at Rutgers University. Professor Cowen, celebrating the attainment of his 90th year, spoke on "Renaissance Pharmacy." A reception and dinner followed the lecture.

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George J. Hill, MD and Helene Z. Hill, PhD presented a paper in March at the Oncology Society of New Jersey Annual Scientific Symposium. The paper was entitled "Edison and Cancer: Relationships Between the Great Inventor and his Companies with X-rays, Radium, and Other Carcinogens."

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Allen B. Weisse, MD presented a paper in November at the National Library of Medicine. Dr. Weisse's paper was entitled "Certification and Re-certification: A Century of Change."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save This Date!
The fall meeting of MHSNJ will be held on October 25.

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Call for Papers and Memorabilia

The MHSNJ calls on its members to contribute abstracts of medical history papers for presentation at upcoming meetings. Interested members should contact Program Chair, Sandra Moss, MD (732) 549-5843. Members are also encouraged to share their collecting interests. If you have antique medical instruments or other interesting medical artifacts to display at meetings, please contact Dr. Moss.

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Notice:
Election of Officers
May 24, 2000

The Nominating Committee recommends the following candidates for the term 2000-2002:

Allen B. Weisse, MD  President
George J. Hill, MD    Vice-President
Frank Katz, PhD      Secretary/Treasurer

Members may propose additional nominees from the floor.

Nominating Committee
Vincent J. Cirillo, PhD
Lois R. Densky-Wolff, MA

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New Medical Museum of South Jersey
By Steven Maron, MD

Efforts are underway to create a Medical Museum of South Jersey. Participants include physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and other health professionals affiliated with the South Jersey Hospital System. The South Jersey Hospital System includes the former Bridgeton, Millville, Newcomb, and Elmer Hospitals. Divisions will be closed in the near future in order to establish one central medical center serving the entire area.

To preserve the area’s medical heritage, an effort is being made to acquire historical materials from the closing hospitals that would otherwise be discarded and lost. Retiring physicians and nurses are also encouraged to donate artifacts and books to the museum. Temporary museum headquarters are located at the Bridgeton Division. Pending the establishment of a permanent location, displays will rotate throughout the hospital system.

The Medical Museum Committee has begun demonstrations at area high schools of military medicine of the Civil and Gulf War eras. The Committee plans to offer lectures on medical history through the South Jersey Hospital System CME program. MHSNJ members are sought to present these lectures at Friday morning Grand Rounds. Please contact Steve Maron (856-692-6000) for additional information about the Museum, or if you are willing to be a speaker.
Thomas P. “Woody” Woodward, DO

A Tribute by Norm Cassett, DO

Thomas P. “Woody” Woodward, DO, age eighty-two, a member of the MHSNJ, died suddenly on March 18 at his home in Franklinville, New Jersey.

The son of a career army officer - a West Point-trained brigadier general - Woody was imbued at an early age with a love of the military. Following graduation from George Washington University, he served in World War II as a captain with the 507th Parachute Infantry of the 82nd Airborne Division. He jumped in France on D-Day in the Normandy Invasion; participated in many other combat missions, was twice wounded and was decorated for meritorious service.

Woody graduated from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1954. He interned at the South Bend Osteopathic Hospital in Indiana, followed by a period of private practice and VA hospital employment in South Bend and Marion, Indiana. Woody and his family then moved to South Jersey, where he was employed at the Ancora Psychiatric Hospital for twenty years, until 1987. Thereafter, until the time of his death, he worked as a psychiatrist at several community mental health centers in South Jersey.

Woody was an avid student of history and his knowledge of military history was profound. He loved the outdoors, and spent much of his spare time fishing, boating or duck hunting. Active in many organizations, he was a member of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, American Association of Osteopathic Physician Specialists, New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians, American Osteopathic Association, Irish Society of Palmyra, 507th Paratroopers Association of America, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Ducks Unlimited of America.

Soldier, Physician, Historian, and Outdoorsman, Woody lived life to its fullest, and will be sorely missed by those who knew him well.

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On Exhibit at the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey

Two new exhibits are currently on view at the UMDNJ-George F. Smith Library in Newark. The exhibits are free and open to the public.
A State of Health: New Jersey's Medical Heritage, first shown at Rutgers University in 1999, traverses more than four centuries of medicine in New Jersey - from a native American stone mortar and pestle to brand-new vaccines. Through artifacts, documents, books, photographs, works of art, and postcards, it invited viewers to explore epidemics, children's health, healers and hospitals, and to recognize New Jersey's unique position as the heart of the world's pharmaceutical industry. The A Sampler From, A State of Health: New Jersey's Medical Heritage, is an abridged version, highlighting material in the UMDNJ Libraries' Special Collections.

Exhibit highlights include:

- Charles William Harrison's "Notebook of Medicinal Recipes," Newark, 1845, demonstrates the use of New Jersey plants among ingredients in the preparation of early medications.

- Diphtheria testing kit and a diphtheria antitoxin syringe originally used in the old Newark City Hospital, circa 1906.

- Turn of the century postcards depicting New Jersey hospitals and sanitariums.

- Johnson & Johnson Insurance First Aid Cabinet, circa 1937, containing original first aid equipment. J & J originally manufactured first aid kits in 1890, responding to the need for medical supplies at railroad accidents.

- A full-scale model of The New Jersey Knee, invented in 1977 by Frederick Buechel, MD, an orthopedic surgeon and graduate of the UMDNJ-NJMS, and Michael Pappas, PhD, a structural engineer at the New Jersey Institute for Technology. The New Jersey Knee was the first artificial knee to move in every direction.

The Doctors Elmer: A South Jersey Medical Legacy, a mini-exhibit installed at the Smith Library, highlights new manuscript acquisitions that record the lives of an unusual South Jersey medical family. The display features Jonathan Elmer (1745-1817) and his progeny, William Elmer (1788-1832), and William Elmer II (1814-1885).

Jonathan Elmer, born in Cedarville, NJ, studied medicine in Philadelphia under Dr. John Morgan, founder of the first American medical school that became part of the University of Pennsylvania. Elmer was one of ten who received the degree of bachelor of medicine from this institution's first graduating class of 1768.
He obtained his medical degree in 1771. In 1772 he was elected a member of the New Jersey Medical Society whose president he became in 1787.

In addition to the practice of medicine in Roadstown and Bridgeton, Dr. Elmer was actively involved in political and civic affairs, serving his country with distinction. He was a delegate to the Provincial Congress, member of the Continental Congress, Legislative Council of New Jersey, and a U.S. Senator. Dr. Elmer was a trustee of the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University), and, at various times, clerk, surrogate, judge and sheriff of Cumberland County.

Dr. Elmer was the first New Jerseyan to receive an MD from an American medical school. As a member of Congress during the Revolutionary War, he served on the medical committee and investigated military hospitals. Dr. Elmer was instrumental in 1790 of procuring from the state legislature legal recognition of the Medical Society New Jersey.

The exhibit features Dr. Elmer’s handwritten miscellaneous writings that contain a wealth of notes and information on classical history, medicine, colonization, and English law, which influenced both his medical and Federalist views.

William Elmer, the youngest son of Dr. Jonathan Elmer, received his medical degree in 1811 from the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Elmer established a short-lived practice in Bridgeton, where he was born. Upon the death of his father, Dr. Elmer inherited a large estate and, in 1822, retired from practice, turning his attentions to agricultural pursuits. Both aspects of his life are reflected in his Ledger Book of Medical Practice, on view, as well as an unusual legal document.

The 1806 document is an Article of Agreement between Dr. Samuel Moore Shute (1762-1816) and Dr. Charles Hood (1783-1806), both of Bridgeton, and witnessed by William Elmer. The articles were executed between the physicians to establish a partnership in “their Profession [sic] of Physic Surgery.”

A Sampler From, A State of Health: New Jersey's Medical Heritage and The Doctors Elmer: A South Jersey Medical Legacy are on view through September in the Exhibition Gallery, UMDNJ-George F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences, 30 Twelfth Avenue, Newark. Viewing hours are Monday-Thursday, 8 am-11 pm; Friday, 8 am-10pm; Saturday, 9 am-5pm; and Sunday, 10am-9pm. For more information, please contact Lois Densky-Wolff at (973) 972-7830 or <densky@umdnj.edu>.

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As the Civil War began, it was quickly apparent that more soldiers were dying from disease than from combat. Thus an effort was launched to form a sanitary commission in the United States that would be similar to the British Sanitary Commission which was formed after the Crimean War (1853-1856). The British Commission was largely due to the efforts of Florence Nightingale whose sanitary methods introduced during the Crimean War were shown to be highly effective in reducing the number of deaths among British soldiers.

In the spring of 1861, a group of New York City’s most influential women founded the “Woman’s Central Association of Relief for the Sick and Wounded of the Army”. Shortly thereafter, “The Advisory Committee of the Board of Physicians and Surgeons of the Hospitals of New York” and the “New York Medical Association for Furnishing Medical Supplies in Aid of the Army” met and formed “The Commission of Inquiry and Advice in Respect of the Sanitary Interests of the United States Forces”. The name was shortened to the United States Sanitary Commission. Its members were appointed by order of Simon Cameron, Secretary of War, and approved by President Lincoln. Henry W. Bellows, D.D. (divinity) was elected president of the commission but day-to-day operations were carried out by the Secretary & General Manager, Frederick Law Olmsted. Olmsted was among other things a landscape architect who, along with Calvert Vaux, designed Central Park in New York City. On September 12, 1999, the USPS issued a 33 cent stamp (above left) for Olmsted showing his portrait and a scene from Central Park.

While the Commission’s initial emphasis was on improving sanitation in the field and care of the injured, their objectives broadened as the war progressed and came to include the collecting and distributing of medical supplies and food, establishing proper diets, transporting the sick, inspecting hospitals and providing battlefield services. The one thing the government did not authorize for the Commission were funds to carry out its duties. Private donations sustained their operations during the early days of the war but as the war dragged on, donations decreased and other sources of funds had to be found.

One of the most successful ideas was holding a fair or bazaar at which there would be exhibits and booths selling goods and services. Farmers would bring produce to be shipped to the troops, well-known persons would sell their autographs and military souvenirs would often be available for purchase. Another service at all the fairs was a small post office staffed by “attractive young women” who for a small fee would write and address a note and at the fairs at which they were available place a Sanitary Fair stamp on the envelope. These notes would be picked up at the fair post office by the addressee. If however, the note was to be mailed, the proper U.S. postage would also have to be affixed as the Sanitary Fair stamps were not official U.S. postage stamps. Only eight fairs had Sanitary Fair stamps and all the stamps were issued in the period from December 1863 to December 1864. Fifteen different types of Sanitary Fair stamps are known and very few exist on covers.

The stamp illustrated (above right) is one of three stamps issued at the Great Central Fair in Philadelphia which was held from June 7 through June 28, 1864. No fairs were held in New Jersey although the Sanitary Commission certainly performed its duties here at military hospitals in Beverly, Newark, Jersey City and Trenton.