October 2011     NEWSLETTER      Volume 31 Number 2

Announcing the Online Archive of the Medical History Society of New Jersey Newsletters

The image above is the first page of the first issue of this newsletter, published in 1981. This spring, all 51 issues of the newsletter were scanned and formatted as searchable pdfs. This archive of newsletters (beta version) is now available through the UMDNJ – Special Collections website. The MHSNJ newsletters document the meetings and organizational history of the Society, and the medical history activities and publications of its members. This is the first of a series of digitization projects undertaken by UMDNJ – Special Collections to promote the study of medical history in general, and New Jersey medical history in particular. Click here or on the image to reach the newsletter archive.
FIRST ANNUAL FRIENDS OF THE SOCIETY LECTURE

The fall meeting of the Medical History Society of New Jersey will be held on Wednesday, October 12, at The Nassau Club in Princeton. **Dr. Lisa Rosner** will present the First Annual Friends of the Society Lecture, entitled “The Horrid and True Story of the Burke and Hare Anatomy Murders.”

Dr. Rosner is Professor of History at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. She has authored a trilogy of books about the medical world of Edinburgh in the 18th and 19th centuries, including *Medical Education in the Age of Improvement: Edinburgh Students and Apprentices, 1760-1826* (1991), *The Most Beautiful Man in Existence: The Scandalous Life of Alexander Lesassier* (1999), and *The Anatomy Murders: Being the True and Spectacular History of Edinburgh's Notorious Burke and Hare and of the Man of Science Who Abetted Them in the Commission of Their Most Heinous Crimes* (2009, but freshly out in paperback). She is also the proprietor of [burkeandhare.com](http://burkeandhare.com), a lovingly comprehensive website about these notorious murderers, and her book. According to her Amazon author page, “She is drawn to the seamy side of medical history through her love of murder mysteries, anatomy drawings, and Scotch whisky.”

MHSNJ past president Frederick C. Skvara, M.D. will display medical philately related to the program. Registration begins at 3:30 p.m., and the program begins at 4 p.m.
PROGRAM OF THE ANNUAL FALL MEETING OF THE MHSNJ

MHSNJ Business Meeting
Kenneth G. Swan, M.D., President

Early Twentieth-Century Johnson & Johnson Co.: Not Just Stuck on Band-Aids
Linda Whitfield-Spinner, L.C.S.W., D.M.H. (Drew University, 2011)

George Ryerson Fowler: Brooklyn’s Surgical Pioneer
Mary Kelleher, M.D. (UMDNJ-NJMS, 2011)
Denis Kelleher, J.D.
Kenneth G. Swan, M.D., UMDNJ-NJMS, Department of Surgery (mentor)

The Carpenter and the Prince: The Odysseys of John Craven and Edward Pierson, Newark’s First Civil War Surgeons
Valerie Josephson, A.B., former editor, American Journal of Industrial Medicine

Hair of the Dog that Bit You: The Identity of Remedy and Malady
Travis Fowler, M.D. (UMDNJ-RWJ Camden, 2011), Ph.D.
Vijay Rajput, M.D., Director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program, UMDNJ – Cooper (mentor)

Cocktails and Dinner (6:00-7:30 p.m.)

Medical Stamp Exhibit – Frederick C. Skvara, M.D.

First Annual Friends of the Society Lecture:

The Horrid and True Story of the Burke and Hare Anatomy Murders
Lisa Rosner, Ph.D.
Professor of History
Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

Members, students, and friends are invited to attend the dinner meeting. Cost is $50/members, $58/guests; advance registration is required. For information, contact MHSNJ, c/o UMDNJ Special Collections, G.F. Smith Library, 30 Twelfth Avenue, P.O. Box 1709, Newark, NJ 07101-1709 or contact vietrora@umdnj.edu or sandra.moss3@verizon.net.

NOTE: 2.5 category 1 CME credits will be available to meeting attendees at no cost!
MEMBERS IN THE NEWS


**Dr. Peter Carmel** became the 166th President of the American Medical Association in June 2011. Articles about his presidency appeared in the Star-Ledger and other media.

**Vincent J. Cirillo**, Ph.D., recently published “Wonders Unconceived; Reflections on the Birth of Medical Entomology,” in the summer 2011 Perspectives in Biology and Medicine 54(3): 384-398. His article explains the origins of the scientific understanding of disease transmission between insects and humans.


**Dr. Robert Lahita**’s experiences as a first responder on 9/11/2001 were the subject of a Star-Ledger article.

**Dr. Sandra W. Moss** is now First Vice-President of the American Osler Society, and is poised to become the AOS’s first woman president next year. She presented ‘‘I’d Rather Be Here Than in Philadelphia’: Yellow Fever Crosses the Delaware” at the American Osler Society meeting at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia in May 2011 (where she also contributed notes for an exhibit of Osler books and artifacts), and again at the College to the Medical History Section in September 2011. She will be presenting “Medicine and the Civil War Hospital in Newark” at the New Jersey Historical Commission’s 28th Annual New Jersey History Conference on November 19 at Princeton University. Her recent book The Country Practitioner: Ellis P. Townsend's Brave Little Medical Journal is available – for free – on the MHSNJ publications webpage.

**Karen Reeds**, Ph.D., organized and contributed to a session, "Readings of the Renaissance Herbal: Art, Botany, and Poetry," at the July 2011 meeting of SHARP (The Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing) in Washington DC. Her paper, "Leaves between the Leaves: The Herbal as Herbarium," discussed the connections between plants found pressed between the pages of early printed herbals and the invention of the herbarium as a botanical tool in the sixteenth century. She also read about 30 tomes as a member of the History of Science Society's Pfizer Prize committee.

**Dr. Allen Weisse** hosted the 8th annual Weisse Lecture on the History of Medicine on the Newark campus of UMDNJ in September 2011. Dr. Charles S. Bryan presented “Yellow Fever and the Myth of Walter Reed.” Many MHSNJ members attended, and enjoyed the lecture and the delicious luncheon afterwards. Dr. Weisse was invited to present “Noble
not Nobel: How Not to Win the Most Prestigious Prize in Medicine," at the University of Utah's Society Supporting Leadership in Internal Medicine lecture earlier this month. On October 17, he will present “A Fond Farewell to the Foxglove” at the 23rd Annual Cowen Lecture at the Rutgers School of Pharmacy. He also has two papers in press with the *Texas Heart Institute Journal*.

### THE MHSNJ’S 2011 DAVID L. COWEN AWARD

At the spring meeting in May, Dr. Frederick C. Skvara was presented with the 2011 David L. Cowen Award. Here are the remarks made about Fred that evening:

Dr. Frederick C. Skvara joined the Medical History Society of New Jersey in 1997, and at the October meeting that year, he presented a philatelic exhibit related to the day’s speakers. He has continued those presentations to this day, and links each talk in our program to a brilliant PowerPoint philatelic exhibit. We are probably the only history society of any type that integrates philately into every program.

Fred took over editing *Scalpel & Tongs: American Journal of Medical Philately* in January 2004 and began publishing it in full color. He contributes original articles to every quarterly issue. Without a doubt, Fred is the world’s leading medical topical philatelist.

In May 1999, Fred began writing the column “Philatelic Sketches in Medicine” for our newsletter, and this continues to be included in every issue. Non-members may enjoy these wonderful columns on our website.

Fred served as the MHSNJ president from 2002 to 2004 and piloted us through a difficult transition in the wake of the closing of the Academy of Medicine of New Jersey. For his contributions to medical philately, both to our society and to the international philatelic community, we are pleased to name Dr. Fred Skvara the 2011 recipient of the David L. Cowen Award for contributions to the history of medicine.

Dr. Skvara’s publications since 2010 include the following articles, all appearing in *Scalpel & Tongs: American Journal of Medical Philately*:

- Saint Damien of Molokai. 54(1):16-19
- Ludwik Hirsfeld and Human Blood Groups. 54(2):42
- Medicine in Art: Los Meninas. 54(2):44-45
- Acosta's Disease (Altitude Sickness). 54(3):64-65
- Servants of the Sick of Saint Camillus. 54(4):82-83
- (with J-L Meunier)250th Anniversary of the First Veterinary School. 55(2):32-33
- "Gentlemen, This Is No Humbug!" 55(2):38-39
Nicole Salomone, who presented “What Doesn’t Kill You May Cure You” at the MHSNJ spring 2011 meeting, has recently published a novella entitled Forgotten. She has provided this summary:

“All her life, Abigail Jones has been in the pinnacle of colonial American society. But, when her house is maliciously destroyed, she becomes a camp follower of the Continental Army. Ill-prepared or trained for such a life, she finds friends in the medical community. Before long, she is thrust into a world of politics and disease, where loyalty is a preciously rare commodity. Using her wits and personality, she treads the fine line between the intentions of the officers and the suffering of the soldiers, all while trying to fit in.”

Here is Dr. Gregg S. Pressman’s review on Amazon:

“This is an eminently readable piece of historical fiction involving an American woman, a well to do lady living in Manhattan, who gets caught up in the early storm of the American Revolution. The story moves at a brisk pace and accurately reflects life at that time. It opens a window onto the rupture in American society that resulted from the war and introduces us to ordinary citizens as well as Founding Fathers. Race relations and class relations are realistically portrayed. However, the real value of the book is in its depiction of the medicine of the time and the horrors of the infirmary tents.

While the prose is sometimes a bit overworked, the characters are well drawn and the story moves along with force. I would recommend this book to anyone interested in colonial history and especially those wanting to learn about camp life in the Revolutionary army.”
Dr. Michael Nevins’s latest book, *Meanderings in New Jersey’s Medical History*, is a collection of essays written over the last three decades, some previously published, but all newly revised. The book's 22 roughly chronological chapters include essays about New Jersey medicine from Hackensack's first hospital in 1776 to the Karen Quinlan case of 1976. Physicians discussed include Elijah Rosencrantz, William Carlos Williams, Henry Neer, William Vroom, Francis Peabody, Henry Cotton, Stewart Alexander, Mario Jascalevitch, and Irving Selikoff. Here is an excerpt from the Introduction:

“Just For the Fun of It”:
By Dr. Michael Nevins

I never enjoyed studying history while in school. As far as I was concerned, all it involved was memorizing names, dates, and events which seemed irrelevant to my world. It wasn’t until I was in my mid-thirties that I had a change of heart. By then I was married, the father of three and launched on a medical career as an internist-cardiologist in northern New Jersey.

One of the first established physicians to welcome me when I arrived in the Pascack Valley in 1968 was Dr. Stewart Alexander. His father, Samuel, who preceded him in practice had settled in Park Ridge in 1910 taking over for the area’s first physician Henry Neer who came in 1865. By the time my colleague retired, that three generation practice spanned 117 years and it seemed to me as if they’d never thrown anything away. Not only did Stewart Alexander enjoy telling stories about the old days, he sometimes showed me old medical records, equipment and photographs and when I suggested that he write about it all, he replied he was too busy – that I should do it!
Well that sounded absurd, but in 1976, the year of the American bicentennial, it’s precisely what happened. That was a time of heightened interest in history nationwide and two years later, my small town of River Vale had its own Revolutionary moment to celebrate – an obscure skirmish which captured the imagination of everyone in the community. When a grand recreation of “The Baylor Massacre” was planned, I got caught up in the spirit and as my contribution chose to gather stories about our area’s pioneer doctors. Building on Dr. Alexander’s tales and memorabilia, I collected a number of entertaining anecdotes and from these came my literary first-born *Early Physicians of Northeastern Bergen County*. With a title like that, small wonder it attracted no notice beyond northeastern Bergen County. Indeed, that very same year I jealously noted that a pathologist in Hackensack received acclaim for his newly published book about the venereal diseases of Victorian English writers; its title was *Boswell’s Clap*. I never was very good at thinking up sexy titles.

That same year of 1979, a popular television series based on Alex Haley’s novel *Roots* inspired many people to explore their own genealogy; I among them. My grandparents had emigrated from Eastern Europe during the 1890s and after intense research, I published a *yizkor* (memorial) book about Dubrowa Białystoka, the small Russian town from where my father’s parents came. Next, having explored both my medical and my Jewish roots, I thought it might be amusing to combine these two interests by studying my *Jewish medical roots*. This project absorbed me for more than a decade and resulted in four books about early Jewish physicians culminating in 2006 with *Jewish Medicine: What It Is and Why It Matters*.

Over the years, I’d occasionally had other opportunities to write or lecture about topics related to Bergen County’s or New Jersey’s medical history and one thing which I learned was that studying history doesn’t have to be dull, so long as it’s framed in a way that relevant to one’s own experience. Morphing from the familiar cliché that all politics is local, I came to understand that all history is personal – the challenge being to figure out how? For me the creative process often followed a similar pattern – encountering an unusual case, feeling inspired to read everything I could find about it and then widening my focus. Like a stamp or butterfly collector, I loved to gather stories about doctors because it was narrative more than facts which brought history alive.

This book is the first of two collections of my history writings. Its companion, *Meanderings in Medical History* will differ in that the essays will not feature New Jersey, but will consider general subjects including selected material concerning Jewish medical history. Scholars may be disappointed that I’ve eschewed specific references, but these anthologies were intended for a general audience and, after all, my “medical meanderings” were written just for the fun of it.

*Dedicated to The Medical History Society of New Jersey whose members help keep the glorious tradition alive.*
By Dr. Steven Lomazow, M.D.

[Reprinted with Dr. Lomazow’s permission from his review at Amazon.com]

As a medical historian and physician, I sat down with Dr. Mukherjee's book and, as the title suggested, expected to read a comprehensive historical review of the topic. The book was informative and written in an easy style yet the contents were extremely limited and disappointing.

For a supposedly authoritative work, it is unconscionable that the seminal role of Memorial Hospital in New York (since 1948 Memorial Sloan Kettering), the epicenter for cancer treatment and research for decades, was completely ignored. Reading this book, one would get the impression that nothing of value in cancer treatment ever occurred outside of Massachusetts! James Ewing, the most important figure in the history of cancer in America, is barely mentioned. Fred Stewart, Chief of Pathology at Memorial, a giant in his field and the first editor of the journal CANCER is not mentioned at all, neither is pioneering surgeon Hayes Martin nor a host of other seminal figures. George Pack, perhaps the most complete oncologist of the twentieth century, is written off as "Pack the Knife.”

The history of radiation therapy, still one of the backbones of cancer treatment, is notably under-treated. In fact, it is virtually absent. Gioachinno Failla, Edith Quimby and others that established the principals of dosimetry that are still utilized today are nowhere to be found.

Obviously, Dr. Mukherjee's practice is based on chemotherapy and this aspect is addressed quite well, but essentially ignoring the value of surgery and radiation therapy is
an inexcusable flaw in any work that professes to be a comprehensive treatise. A far more appropriate title would have been "A History of Chemotherapy".

Aside from this, there are numerous factual errors that an uninformed reader would not recognize. For example, streptomycin was not discovered in 1949 as Dr Mukherjee states; the first human dose was given at the Mayo Clinic in 1944.

Perhaps someday a truly authoritarian work on the history of cancer will appear. This work does not qualify as such.

DRS. GEORGE J. AND HELENE Z. HILL DONATE HISTORICAL MEDICAL BOOKS TO MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

From 1976 to 1981, Dr. George J. Hill served as Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Marshall University’s new medical school. At that time, Dr. Hill donated his collection of rare books and pamphlets concerning leprosy to Marshall University Libraries Special Collections – Dr. Charles A. Hoffman Library of the History of the Medical Sciences. Marshall has recently created a website about the collection which provides bibliographic information about the collection and biographical information about Dr. Hill.

Recently, Dr. Hill and Dr. Helene Z. Hill have donated their entire medical history book collection of over one thousand volumes to Marshall University Libraries Special Collections. Their collection spanned from the 1500s through the present, and included many classic American and European medical works from the 19th century, a rare autographed Pasteur offprint, and rich holdings of books concerning the medical aspects of polar exploration. Congratulations to the Hills for their generosity!
DIGITAL PROJECTS AT UMDNJ – SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Internet has transformed, well, almost everything, and libraries and archives are no exception. UMDNJ – Special Collections and its website are also changing. A new homepage, a new A-Z listing of collections, and a new emphasis on digital collections are all in progress, and should “go live” in the fall of 2011.

The largest pending transformation of the web page is the development of more digital resources. The front page of this newsletter features the new Medical History Society of New Jersey Newsletter digital archive. Over the past year, UMDNJ – Special Collections has been developing the following projects:

**Oral Histories:** 50 of 55 oral history transcripts have been scanned and made searchable. This represents several thousand pages of unique New Jersey and UMDNJ materials. Rutgers School of Communication and Information graduate student Rory Phalen will be revising the existing oral history web page this fall.

**Bulletin of the Passaic County Medical Society:** With the help of George F. Smith Library reference librarian Nancy Blankenhorn, approximately 60 issues of the Bulletin from 1945 to 1951 have been scanned and made searchable. More issues will be scanned, and a web page will be developed in 2012.

**The Country Practitioner:** A digital version of 24 of the 27 issues of this rare New Jersey medical journal was acquired from the New York Academy of Medicine. The digital Country Practitioner will be available in 2012.

**New Jersey AIDS materials:** With the help of Rutgers Department of History graduate student Jason Chernesky, many New Jersey reports, publications, and hearing transcripts concerning the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s and 1990s, comprising over one thousand pages, have been scanned and made searchable. A web page will be developed in 2012.

**Newark site hearings:** All six 1968 public hearings concerning the controversial location of the medical school in Newark were scanned and made searchable, totaling nearly 800 pages. Several researchers have employed these unusual sources in the past few years. These records are available as pdfs at the following bare bones web page: http://libraries.umdnj.edu/History_of_Medicine/Digital/NewarkSiteHearings/index.html

**Digital exhibits:** Materials from recent small Smith Library exhibits have been scanned, including the Essex County Medical Society health legislation meeting posters, the 50th anniversaries of the Seton Hall College of Medicine and Dentistry Classes of 1960 and 1961, and the 100th anniversary of the Flexner report. With the help of George F. Smith Library’s webmaster Natalie Wadley, the ECMS posters have been made into a beta exhibit page at: http://libraries.umdnj.edu/History_of_Medicine/exhibits/ECMSposters.

The next page features a snapshot view of this digital exhibit.
Essex County Medical Society – Posters

"New Legislation Affecting the Medical Profession"

Current debates over health care reform represent only the latest transformations of health insurance and financing over the last half-century.

This slideshow presents meeting posters dating from 1954 to 1979 from the archives of the Essex County Medical Society. At these meetings, local physicians learned about such radical new concepts as Medicare and HMOs.

Then, as now, change was constant.

Slideshow list:

- 1954, New Legislation
- 1958, Voluntary Health Insurance
- 1958, Impact of Unions on Health Plans
- 1959, Blue Shield benefits
- 1960, Recent changes in Blue Shield and Blue Cross
- 1961, How Health Insurance Affects You
- 1966, The Doctors' Role in Medicare
- 1968, Medicare as it affects the Doctor Today
- 1969, Doctor's Future in the Hospital
- 1972, Contract Medicine, Prepaid Group Practice
- 1975, National Health Legislation
- 1979, Federal Legislation and Other Proposals
THREE UPCOMING HISTORY OF MEDICINE LECTURES
AT THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS IN PHILADELPHIA

(With thanks to Dr. Steven J. Peitzman for the news, and Eric Miller for permission to copy straight from their website!)

Thursday, October 20 | 6:30PM
The Annual Samuel X Radbill Lecture: Measured Breath: Asthma, Diagnosis, and Death in Urban America
Internist and historian Carla Keirns, MD, PhD, MSc, will share some findings and ideas from her forthcoming book on the history of asthma, a disease which has become alarmingly prevalent among both children and adults. Dr. Keirns, Assistant Professor and Director of the Program on the History of Medicine at Stony Brook University in New York, did her medical and historical training at the University of Pennsylvania. A question and answer session with the audience will follow the lecture.

Speaker: Carla Keirns, MD, PhD, MSc, Assistant Professor, Director of the Program on the History of Medicine, Stony Brook University

Sponsored by the College’s Section on Medical History.
Click here to register!
Image © Ugljesa Radivojac | Dreamstime.com

Tuesday, November 1 | 6:30PM
Open Wound: The Tragic Obsession of Dr. William Beaumont
In 1822, an accidental gunshot leaves a young fur trapper severely wounded. He is saved from almost certain death by Dr. William Beaumont but suffers a remarkable injury -- a hole into his stomach. Based on historical events that took place along the early 19th century American frontier, Open Wound: The Tragic Obsession of Dr. William Beaumont is a novel about how ambition drives a physician to use his patient's injury to secure his own wealth and career, and how his increasingly desperate acts lead him to destroy what he most desires, reputation and the immortality of fame. Open Wound incorporates historical events, documents and characters. It also draws on the author's experiences as a physician, researcher, and bioethicist at the University of Pennsylvania. The result is a dark, compelling and ultimately redemptive story that reads like The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks meets Blood Meridian. To learn more visit www.jasonkarlawish.com. Jason Karlawish will read from Open Wound and lead a discussion of the ethical and social challenges that continue to shape contemporary researchers as they labor to advance both science and their careers.

Speaker: Jason Karlawish, MD, FCPP, Professor of Medicine and Medical Ethics, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania

Sponsored by the College's Section on Medicine and the Arts. Click here to register!
Wednesday, November 9 | 6:30PM
Comparative Responses to the Outbreak of Deadly Epidemics from the Revolutionary Era to Today

*Bring Out Your Dead* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1993) is a classic study of the 1793 yellow fever epidemic and the massive impact it left on Philadelphia. Join us as the three co-authors of the introduction (*Anne Coxey Toogood, Kenneth R. Foster, PhD, PE*, and *Mary F. Jenkins*) to *Bring Out Your Dead* compare the response of the medical community to the 1793 yellow fever epidemic to that of contemporary responses to HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis A and B and other viruses. The speakers will set the social, demographic, geographic, and rudimentary medical context for the outbreak of this epidemic in 1793.

Joining the discussion will be College Fellow and Trustee *Patrick J. Brennan, MD, FCPP*, Chief Medical Officer for the Penn Health System, and an expert in the field of health care epidemiology and infection control, who will review contemporary strategies to handle outbreaks of deadly epidemics and other highly infectious diseases.

Speakers:
- *Patrick J. Brennan, MD, FCPP*, Chief Medical Officer for the Penn Health System
- *Anne Coxey Toogood*, Park Historian of Independence National Historic Park
- *Kenneth R. Foster, PhD, PE*, Professor of Bioengineering, University of Pennsylvania
- *Mary F. Jenkins*, Supervisory Park Ranger and Supervisor of the Dolley Todd Madison House and Visitor Center at Independence National Historical Park

*Co-sponsored by The College of Physicians of Philadelphia and The American Revolution Center.*

*The lecture is supported by a grant from the Richard Lounsbery Foundation.*

[Click here to register!](#)

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**A HISTORY OF MEDICINE LECTURE AT COLUMBIA**

*The Neurological Patient in History*, by Stephen T. Casper, Clarkson University

When: Thursday, Oct. 13: Reception & light refreshments at 5:30; Lecture at 6pm.
Where: Russ Berrie Medical Science Pavilion, 1150 St. Nicholas Ave. at West 168th St., Room 1. For more information, contact hslarchives@columbia.edu

Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s, Tourette’s, multiple sclerosis, stroke: all are neurological illnesses that create dysfunction, distress, and disability. With their symptoms ranging from impaired movement and paralysis to hallucinations and dementia, neurological patients present myriad puzzling disorders and medical challenges. Throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, countless stories about neurological patients appeared in newspapers, books, medical papers, and films. Often the patients were romanticized; indeed, it was common for physicians to cast neurological patients in a grand performance, allegedly giving audiences access to deep philosophical insights about the meaning of life and being. Beyond these romanticized images, however, the neurological
patient was difficult to diagnose. Experiments often approached unethical realms, and
treatment created challenges for patients, courts, caregivers, and even for patient
advocacy organizations. This lecture illustrates how the identity of the neurological
patient was constructed in history and came to occupy its role in Western culture.

MEMBERS’ RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Dr. Francis Chinard is writing his memoirs.

Valerie Josephson continues to research nine New Jersey surgeons who served in the
Civil War. See her website: http://www.civilwarsurgeonsmemorial.org/

Dr. Steven Lomazow is researching pioneers in early cancer treatment.

Dr. Sandra Moss continues her research on Dr. Henry Kessler, Dr. Edgar Holden, and
other New Jersey notables.

Dr. Kenneth Swan is researching “chain-saw” medical procedures in the Civil War.

Bob Vietrogoski continues researching the racial boundaries of antebellum medical
education.

(ALMOST) THE USUAL EDITORIAL FINISH :)

Your editor is proud to announce that this newsletter received Second Prize in the
League of Historical Societies of New Jersey 2010 Kevin M. Hale Annual Publications
Award in Recognition of Distinguished Achievement for the Publication of a Newsletter.

The Newsletter of the Medical History Society of New Jersey is published in May and
October by the Society, and is a benefit of membership. Short articles on medical history
topics are especially welcome. Please send comments, suggestions, and submissions to:

Medical History Society of New Jersey
c/o UMDNJ Special Collections
George F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences
P.O. Box 1709
Newark NJ 07101-1709
Tel: 973-972-7830
Email: vietrora@umdnj.edu

Thanks to Contributors: John Abrams, Vincent Cirillo, Gerald Grob, George Hill, Valerie
Josephson, Frank Katz, Steven Lomazow, Ellen Mandel, Sandra Moss, Michael Nevins,
Steven Peitzman, Karen Reeds, Nicole Salomone, Frederick Skvara, Kenneth Swan, and
Allen Weisse.
Papain (papoid) is the dried purified latex of the papaya fruit (*Carica papaya*) also known as paw paw. It is a digestant and has been used to promote the digestion of foods in the gastrointestinal tract. The papaya tree is found in many tropical countries and is a popular food there.

**PAPOID.**

Papain is a vegetable ferment, prepared from a particular variety of the South American paw paw, and in its preparation the corrosive deleterious properties of the juice are avoided. The ferment is derived direct from the reserve store of the plant. Its properties differ from any other known ferment; it has a solvant action on the albumen, but will not affect living tissue; it will act upon abnormal tissues down to the flesh, and then its action ceases. It will digest proteins, meat, eggs, vegetables, milk, etc.—in acid, alkaline or neutral medium, converting them into peptone. It will curdle and digest milk; it will emulsify fats; it will change starch foods to dextrin and sugars; it acts upon all kinds of food under greatly varying conditions, few chemicals or drugs in any way affect its action. It acts in greatly varying temperatures, having an action in the cold, and temperatures reaching the boiling point do not destroy it. The properties shown to reside in the Papoid do not exist in any other ferment, whether from animal or vegetable source.

The image on the left is the top part of a four-page brochure advertising ‘Papoid’, a “vegetable ferment prepared from...a particular variety of the South American paw paw. The image below, from the back of the brochure shows who produced it, but there is no indication of the year in which it was produced.

Carico papaya (Pawpaw, papaya)

A brochure produced in 1886 and naming Johnson & Johnson, Inc. as the author was entitled *On the Treatment of Diphtheria and Dyspepsia with “Papoid”: Being a Resumé of Our Present Knowledge of the Drug*. It was 32 pages in length.

The image on the left is the reverse of a postal card sent from The Papoid Company, Johnson & Johnson Agents to a Dr. F.P. Thompson in St. Louis, Missouri. The clipping is from the New England Medical “?”, dated April 1893. The postal card was sent in August 1893. The clipping and the handwriting are promoting the benefits of Papoid which at some point were renamed Johnson’s Digestive Tablets.