Civil War Medicine Exhibit: The George F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences is presenting an exhibit commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, which will be on display through June. The materials were drawn from the holdings of UMDNJ – Special Collections and the personal collections of Dr. William Sharpe and MHSNJ President Dr. Kenneth Swan. The exhibit featured artifacts, artworks, and classic books, including the above illustration from the landmark six-volume *Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion*.

Charles P. Betts from New Jersey survived being shot by a canister of grapeshot in May 1863. He removed the projectile from his chest by himself. Despite his wound, a shattered sternum, and a collapsed left lung, Betts “ultimately recovered perfectly.” In an 1872 letter from Newark, Betts reported that his chest was tender and his lung was susceptible to cold, but “I suppose there is no use crying over spilt milk . . . .”
The spring meeting of the Medical History Society of New Jersey will be held on Wednesday, May 16, at The Nassau Club in Princeton. Dr. Stephen Pemberton will present the 33rd Annual Morris Saffron Lecture, entitled “The Bleeding Disease: Hemophilia and the Unintended Consequences of Medical Progress.”

Dr. Pemberton is Associate Professor, Federated Department of History, New Jersey Institute of Technology and Rutgers University-Newark. He is a historian of medicine and public health, biomedical sciences, and technology, and his research specialty is the history of diseases and their management. His 2011 book pictured above examines the promising and perilous history of American efforts to manage hemophilia in the twentieth century. With 2003 Saffron Lecturer Dr. Keith Wailoo, Pemberton co-authored The Troubled Dream of Genetic Medicine: Ethnicity and Innovation in Tay-Sachs, Cystic Fibrosis and Sickle Cell Disease (2006), which treated the histories of these diseases as a lens for understanding how innovative medicine and cultural diversity have intersected in America.

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 SPRING MEETING OF THE MHSNJ

MHSNJ Business Meeting
Election of Officers for 2012 - 2014
Kenneth G. Swan, M.D., President

The Chain Saw During the American Civil War
Kenneth G. Swan, M.D., UMDNJ-NJMS, Department of Surgery
Presidential Address

From Horse’s Hair to Precious Metals:
The Technological Evolution of Cerebral Aneurysm Treatment
Charles Prestigiacomo, M.D.
UMDNJ-NJMS, Department of Neurological Surgery

Hampton’s Hump: The Man Behind the Shadows
Neal Patel, B.A., and Ronak Patel, B.A., UMDNJ-NJMS
Kenneth G. Swan, M.D., UMDNJ-NJMS, Department of Surgery (mentor)

Pioneers of the Essex County Medical Society:
Scenes From a Documentary Film
Barry Prystowsky, M.D.

Cocktails and Dinner

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

Thirty-Third Saffron Lecture:

The Bleeding Disease:
Hemophilia and the Unintended Consequences of Medical Progress
Stephen Pemberton, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Federated Department of History
New Jersey Institute of Technology and Rutgers University-Newark

Members, students, and friends are invited to attend the dinner meeting. Cost is $58/members, $63/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 vietora@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

Vincent J. Cirillo, Ph.D., presented a lecture entitled “Detectives, Doctors, and Disease: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as Storyteller and Physician” at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Retired Faculty Association meeting in February 2012.

Dr. Norman Ertel presented “A Medical Adventure in Turkey: Hermaphrodites and Pseudohermaphrodites,” as the Fourth Annual Dr. Francis P. Chinard Lecture at New Jersey Medical School in April 2012.


Donald M. Levine, Ph.D., presented a series of three talks entitled "RNA, DNA, and Protein Synthesis" to the Science Group of the Glen Rock Activities Club in April, May, and July, 2011.

Dr. Sandra Moss has recently assumed the presidency of the American Osler Society. She is the first woman president in the 42 year history of the Society. Congratulations! She has been chosen to deliver the 24th annual David L. Cowen Lecture on the History of Pharmacy at the Ernest Mano School of Pharmacy, Rutgers University, in fall 2012.

Dr. Michael Nevins traveled to Paris this month, and planned to visit Charcot-related destinations. His next book, *More Meandering in Medical History,* contains twenty-one essays about miscellaneous subjects “this time unrelated to New Jersey,” and will likely be published in June.

Frederic C. Pachman, AHIP, director of the Altschul Medical Library, presented a table-top exhibit commemorating the 125th anniversary of Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch, during Archives and History Day at the Monmouth County Library in October 2011. A set of facsimile postcards featuring historical views of the medical center was presented to attendees.

Karen Reeds, Ph.D. was an invited speaker at the Northwestern University medical humanities conference, "Constructing the Human: Culture and the Body from Antiquity to Vesalius," in March 2012. She discussed her work on St John's wort in the age of Paracelsus and Vesalius. Her essay on her research and the contemporary implications of her findings will appear soon in *Herbs and Healers from the Ancient Mediterranean through the Medieval West: Essays in Honor of John M. Riddle* (Ashgate, 2012, in press).
She also served on a panel of “historians and comedians” discussing “Life, Sex, Death and Food” (!) at the Chemical Heritage Foundation in April 2012 as part of the Philadelphia Science Festival.

**Dr. Alan Rushton**, M.D., Ph.D., will lecture at the European Society of Human Genetics meeting on genetics in Nazi Germany to be held in Nuremberg in June 2012. The topic is "How did Prince Charles Edward, grandson of Queen Victoria, become involved in the Nazi eugenics program?" He presented a preliminary version of this talk at the Holocaust Center at Drew University in April 2012. His article “Leopold: The ‘Bleeder Prince’ and Public Knowledge about Hemophilia in Victorian Britain” is forthcoming in the *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*.

**Dr. Frederick Skvara** was selected as the American Topical Association's 2012 Distinguished Topical Philatelist. The award will be presented on June 23, 2012, at the ATA annual banquet in Lancaster, PA. In addition to his philatelic presentation at every MHSNJ meeting and the “Philatelic Sketch in Medicine” in almost every newsletter since 1998, he has edited *Scalpel & Tongs*, the quarterly journal of the ATA Medical Subjects Unit, since 2004. Congratulations!


**Bob Vietrogoski**, M.L.S., presented “Expelled! A True Story of Race, Medical Education in the 1850s, and the New York City Draft Riots” at the UMDNJ – Smith Library History of Medicine Lecture Series in March 2012.

**Dr. Allen Weisse** has recently published “Cardiac Surgery: A Century of Progress” in the *Texas Heart Institute Journal* 2011; 38(5): 486-490, and “Self-experimentation and Its Role in Medical Research” in the *Texas Heart Institute Journal* 2012; 39(1): 51-54. He presented "Noble, Not Nobel: How Not to Win the Most Prestigious Prize in Medicine" at the Annual Society Supporting Leadership in Internal Medicine Lecture at the University of Utah School of Medicine, in October 2011, and at the UMDNJ – Smith Library History of Medicine Lecture Series in April 2012.

EXHIBITS GALORE

Trail of the Magic Bullet: The Jewish Encounter with Modern Medicine, 1860 – 1960

The Yeshiva University Museum is currently displaying “Trail of the Magic Bullet: The Jewish Encounter with Modern Medicine, 1860 – 1960.” An article from New Jersey Jewish News notes that the exhibit features 40 items from Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, including “the hospital’s original charter and minutes from its board meetings, as well as ledgers, photographs, medicine bottles, and nurses’ items from capes to caps.” These items are on loan from the Jewish Historical Society of Metrowest in Whippany, which holds a notable collection concerning the history of “the Beth.” For more information, see the exhibit’s tumblr site. The exhibit runs through August 12, 2012.

Botanica Magnifica: Photography of Jonathan Singer

MHSNJ past president Karen Reeds is the Guest Curator for the exhibition, "Botanica Magnifica: Photography of Jonathan Singer," now showing at the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton through August 26, 2012. The exhibition brings together Dr. Singer's spectacular, huge digital closeups of beautiful, rare flowers with 18th and 19th natural history illustrations by Mark Catesby and John James Audubon in the museum's collection.

Dr. Singer was a foot surgeon in Bayonne until Parkinson's disease forced him to retire from his practice and return to his early passion for art and photography. Dr. Singer has collaborated with scientists at the Smithsonian and New York Botanical Garden on the volume, Botanica Magnifica: Portraits of the World's Most Extraordinary Flowers and Plants (Abbeville Press, 2009). His new book, Fine Bonsai: Art and Nature, is due out later this year. In a glowing review from the May 2012 issue, the leading contemporary art journal, ARTnews, described Dr. Singer's photographs as "irresistably seductive ... faithful to the scientific...yet filled with esthetic revelations of form...a radiant vision of the delicate, and threatened, natural world."
The Weary and the Wounded: 72 Hours in the Life of a Civil War Nurse

At Liberty Hall Museum at Kean University, the ongoing exhibit during 2012 is “The Weary and the Wounded: 72 Hours in the Life of a Civil War Nurse.” Not long after the Civil War broke out, Christine Kean Griffin, a widow from Elizabeth, volunteered to serve as a battlefield nurse with the U.S. Sanitary Commission, and served as a nurse and administrator during the Battle of Seven Pines/Fair Oaks in General McClellan’s Peninsula Campaign in 1862. Mrs. Griffin and her colleagues saw firsthand the horrors of the war. The exhibit is based on the letters of Christine Kean Griffin, which describe a 72-hour span of ceaseless effort as nurses tended to wounded soldiers. This exhibit commemorates Christine Kean Griffin’s service, and the service of all Civil War nurses.

The exhibit runs through August 31, 2012. Admission to this exhibit is free; a fee applies for a tour of Liberty Hall, located at 1003 Morris Avenue in Union, New Jersey, and open to the public Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mali Today

Photographs by MHSNJ past president Richard P. Wedeen, M.D.

An Online Exhibition

From the website of the African Art Museum, Society of African Missions (SMA):

“These photographs of Mali were taken in November and December 2011 by Richard P. Wedeen, M.D. They were intended to capture the vitality of the contemporary indigenous culture. Handmade textiles were collected along with the photographs of everyday life in Mali. Although these textiles are often treated as souvenirs, they represent the finest artistic traditions in continuous use in Africa. Unlike modern art that is dominated by individualism, traditional textiles hold tenaciously to communal designs modified by subtle changes introduced by individual artisans within socially defined limits of color and style. They reflect community traditions more than individual invention. Dr. Wedeen has done similar photography and textile collecting in India, Laos, Cambodia, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, and Bolivia.”

“Dr. Wedeen is a Professor of Medicine, and Professor of Preventive Medicine and Community Health at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – The New Jersey Medical School, Newark, NJ. As a physician-scientist, he has used photomicroscopy professionally for five decades. His photographs of indigenous people have won three First Place Awards and a Best in Show Award in New Jersey.”
MEMBERS’ PUBLICATIONS IN THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE, 2011


THE USUAL EDITORIAL FINISH :) 

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: Vincent Cirillo, Gerald Grob, George Hill, Sandra Moss, Donald Levine, Michael Nevins, Frederic Pachman, Rebecca Pinnelas, Alan Rushton, Frederick Skvarra, Kenneth Swan, Richard Wedeen, and Allen Weisse.
Philatelic Sketches in Medicine
Frederick C. Skvara, M.D.

A Brief Look at Some Hospitals in the American Colonies

1658 - “Old Hospital” or Five Houses”

To celebrate the three hundred anniversary of the founding of New York City in 1653, the United States Post Office issued a three-cent commemorative stamp on November 20, 1953 showing a ship of the Dutch West India Company in the harbor of New Amsterdam. In 1658 a Dutch surgeon, Jacob Hendricksen Varrevanger, erected a hospital known as the “Old Hospital” or Five Houses to care for sick soldiers and slaves.

1731 - Philadelphia General Hospital

Although the colonies had a number of almhouses or pest houses in the latter half of the seventeenth century and the first part of the eighteenth century, the Philadelphia Almshouse built in 1731 and also known as Green Meadows was the first of its kind to care for the sick indigent, insane, infirm and orphans in one building. It evolved into the Philadelphia General Hospital.

1736 - Bellevue Hospital

At the present site of the New York City Hall, the “Publick Workhouse and House of Corrections of the City of New York” was built in 1736 at a cost of £80 and 50 gallons of rum. A single room on the top floor was set aside for the sick indigent and continued to be used until sometime in the 1790s when, due to a yellow fever epidemic in the city, a place for isolation of persons with yellow fever was needed. The hospital was moved to a five-acre plot on the Belle Vue estate on the East River where in 1811 a cornerstone was laid for a new almshouse and hospital, named Bellevue Hospital. It officially opened on April 28, 1816.

1751 - Pennsylvania Hospital

Dr. Thomas Bond, a port inspector for infectious diseases, and Benjamin Franklin presented a bill to the Pennsylvania Assembly to establish a hospital “to care for the sick poor of the Province and for the reception and care of lunatics”. On May 11, 1751 a provincial charter was granted to establish Pennsylvania Hospital and, using the home of recently deceased John Kinsey, a Quaker and former Speaker of the Assembly, the first patients were admitted in 1753. On land purchased from the Penn family, a new building was opened in 1755 and in 1756 the first patients were admitted to what was known as the Pine building.

1771 - New York Hospital

In 1767 a medical department was established at King’s College (now Columbia) and in 1769 at the graduation exercises in Trinity Church, Dr. Samuel Bard urged the need for a general hospital in New York City. In 1771 a royal charter was given to “The Society of the Hospital in the City of New York”, but due to a fire and the American Revolutionary War it wasn’t until 1791 that New York Hospital was finally opened for the treatment of patients. On the right is the indicia from a postal card issued in 1971, the bicentenary of the the founding of New York Hospital.