"Images of Healing: Guatemala": This photograph was taken by Dr. Richard Wedeen, a past president of the Medical History Society of New Jersey. He will be speaking at the MHSNJ’s luncheon meeting at the Rutgers Faculty Club in New Brunswick on February 6, the first event of the MHSNJ’s reconstituted Lunar Society.

Dr. Wedeen states that “medical care for the Mayan Indians was provided largely by shaman and Mayan rituals . . . The indigenous people of Guatemala do not have Obamacare or any sustained contact with modern medicine. My presentation shows the settings and performance of ancient Mayan rituals today - medical care as it exists.” The image above shows “Mayan people in the village of Santiago Atitlan paying homage to Maximon (the doll-figure in the photos) to bring health and prosperity to their people.”
2012 FALL MEETING CANCELLED!!!

The fall meeting of the Medical History Society of New Jersey was to be held at the Nassau Club in Princeton on November 7. However, in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, the MHSNJ Executive Committee cancelled the meeting, an unprecedented occurrence in the Society’s thirty-two year history. The satellite image above, taken by NASA, shows the sheer size of Sandy a day before its New Jersey landfall.

The MHSNJ is fortunate that Sandy cancelled the meeting: on the scheduled evening, much of New Jersey saw substantial snowfall, which would have made driving home difficult for many members. We have learned our lesson, and will avoid November meetings going forward!

The spring meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 1, 2013, and the 34th Saffron Lecturer will be Dr. Lawrence K. Altman, the longtime medical writer for the New York Times. He is the author of *Who Goes First? The Story of Self-Experimentation in Medicine* (1987), and more than 4000 *New York Times* articles. More about Dr. Altman will appear in the spring MHSNJ newsletter.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

By Michael Nevins, M.D.
Mnevmd@att.net

Yes – the MHSNJ is still alive and well, albeit our fall program was washed out by Sandy – the storm, not the Moss. We hope that all of you weathered the event without too much disruption. After due consideration, we decided to scrap the program altogether and start again with renewed energy in May, per usual. However, I do want to make some comments and announcements which I wasn’t able to do because of the cancellation.

Our recomposed Executive Committee has been doing its due diligence, and there’s been a smooth transfer of the administrative reins to the new team. Also, during the summer many of you participated in an e-survey in which we solicited your ideas and hope to implement some of them. From this input, several things seem evident.

Although the MHSNJ is fiscally solvent with a fairly stable membership, our group is aging, and there’s been little influx of new members in recent years. Obviously, it’s a very different world than when our society began some 33 years ago, and as with every such organization, it is incumbent on leadership to periodically assess present realities and consider future opportunities.

Over the years, we’ve been fortunate to have a small cadre of dedicated individuals who’ve provided the life-blood of this organization, and many continue to do so. But if we’re going to remain viable, we need an infusion of more people to become active in organizational affairs. In fact, several responders to the survey said that they were willing to do so, but because the e-survey was anonymous, they could not identify themselves. If you were one of those responders, please contact any of the officers and we can discuss how you can help.

Of course, we want to be responsive to members’ wishes, and we know that some among us are concerned about driving home in the dark after meetings at the Nassau Club. Some have suggested that we start earlier or perhaps have a luncheon meeting. Indeed, there are things to be said both for and against these ideas, but at least for the present, we’ll continue doing what’s been so successful in the past. However, some of our other plans may help to address this issue.

Here are three new ventures which we hope will help to revitalize the MHSNJ:

1. Those who have visited our website are probably aware that in recent years we’ve increased the number of articles and even books reproduced in the publications section. We intend to expand this feature by including previously published gems about New Jersey’s medical history from now-defunct journals. In effect, our website will becomes a permanent and easily accessed source to find the best of what’s been written about our state’s medical heritage.
2. Bob Vietrogoski will soon be rolling out a New Jersey Medical History blog in which the MHSNJ, UMDNJ, and perhaps other sponsors will collaborate. Everyone else is blogging these days, so why not us? The blog will provide a public forum where people with comments, questions, or announcements can post and interact. We hope that many of you will participate. If you know someone who enjoys medical history but for whatever reason can’t attend our meetings, it will be a great way to engage them. What’s more, it’s free! In this way, we hope to expand our “virtual footprint.”

3. We’re planning to take the society on the road by holding satellite meetings for members at other times and venues. We’ll be calling these our “Lunar Society” meetings. Why that name? See page 6 for details about small group meetings in February and June 2013. We hope to experiment with various formats as well and to hold programs in other parts of the state. It’s another way we hope to expand our membership. Please talk to us if you have ideas.

That’s a sampling of several new things to come. We intend to continue to offer what’s worked well in the past, but also to innovate: attracting new members by varying and expanding our activities. Again, if anyone wishes to join in helping to reinvigorate the MHSNJ, all you have to do is let us know and I’m sure we can find ways you can become more involved.

Although 2012 ended badly, we’re optimistic that 2013 will be a banner year. Plan on joining us in Princeton next May 1, with featured speaker Dr. Lawrence K. Altman.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Dr. George J. Hill visited Tibet! His latest book,’Proceed to Peshawar’: When the U.S. Entered the Great Game, in November 1943. From the Journals and Photos of a Naval Intelligence Officer was accepted by the Naval Institute Press. The book is the story of his father-in-law's experiences as the Naval Liaison Officer in charge of the Karachi station, and includes many medical aspects. He presented “Footsteps of Edison” to the Yale Club of Central New Jersey (in his home!) in January 2013.

Valerie Josephson published Stirring Times: The Lives of New Jersey’s First Civil War Surgeons in December 2012. More about this exciting book in the spring newsletter!

Dr. Alan J. Lippman was appointed to the editorial board of MDAdvisor: A Journal for the New Jersey Medical Community, a peer-reviewed MEDLINE® indexed medical journal published by MDAdvantage, providing important healthcare information to physicians and other licensed medical practitioners, hospital CEOs, and public health professionals. Congratulations!

Dr. Richard Marfuggi published “Medical Humanities Role in Medical Education,” World Medical & Health Policy: 4 (2) Article 12 (2012), with co-author Thomas
Zimmerman. The article discusses changes to the United States medical school admission exam that incorporate liberal studies and social sciences, and seeks to develop medical education to produce a more broadly and humanely educated physician.


**Dr. Michael Nevins** published *More Meanderings in Medical History* in June 2012. This book’s twenty chapters concern various medical history subjects, especially Jewish medicine. He also presented “Adventures of a Medical Historian” at the Belskie Museum in Closter, NJ, in September 2012. His lecture was in conjunction with the exhibit, “Is There a Doctor in the House?” which showcased artworks by physicians.

**Karen Reeds** was interviewed about the photographer Jonathan Singer’s botanic images in conjunction with an exhibit of his work she curated at the New Jersey State Museum from April through August 2012.


**Nicole Salomone** presented “Popular Medicine and Remedies of Infectious Disease in London and the US Colonies 1600 – 1800” at the Introductory Symposium of the Philadelphia Area Center for History of Science in September 2012. She is also involved in some innovative blogging and transcribing – see pages 8 and 9 for details!

**Dr. Allen Weisse** hosted the 9th annual Weisse Lecture on the History of Medicine at the Newark campus of UMDNJ in October 2012. Dr. Gerald Imber discussed his book, *Genius on the Edge: The Bizarre Double Life of Dr. William Stewart Halstead*. Many MHSNJ members attended the talk and the luncheon. Dr. Weisse also reviewed Denton A. Cooley’s *100,000 Hearts: A Surgeon’s Memoir* for Baylor University Medical Center Proceedings 2012; 25(3) 297-299.
THE LUNAR SOCIETY:
NEW PLANS AND PROJECTS FOR THE MHSNJ

By Sandra Moss, M.D.
MHSNJ Program Chair and Past President

The Lunar Society:
In the late eighteenth century, a few men from the Midlands of England formed a society that pushed the boundaries of scientific knowledge and practical invention. The original Lunar Society men gathered at members homes in Birmingham for monthly discussions and demonstrations covering a vast range of scientific topics – then called natural philosophy. The journey back from their Birmingham meeting place was lit by the full moon – and thus their name. They did not seem to mind being called “Lunarticks” or “Lunatics.” Physician members included Erasmus Darwin, a man of insatiable curiosity and unlimited imagination, and William Withering, who pushed the clinical and botanic knowledge of his day to introduce digitalis into medical practice. Other members included potter Josiah Wedgwood, inventor James Watt, chemist/preacher Joseph Priestley, and industrialist Matthew Boulton.

The First Project of Our Own Lunar Society:
Some years ago, a few members of the Medical History Society of New Jersey met monthly for lunch and history at the home of David Cowen, late professor of the history of medicine in the Rutgers School of Pharmacy. Cowen was one of our founders; our annual award for work in the history of medicine is named the Cowen Award. Over luncheon we talked about history and kept David, who was in his mid-90s and still a productive historian, “in the loop.” We called our little group the Lunar Society, though we met at noon (Solar Society seemed a little pretentious – we could never outshine the original Lunar men.) We disbanded after David’s death some years ago.

Future Plans for a MHSNJ Lunar Society:
Our president, Michael Nevins, is committed to expanding the activities of the Medical History Society of New Jersey beyond the two annual meetings (forgetting for the moment our missed meeting following the unfortunately named Hurricane Sandy). These new programs will come under the name of the Lunar Society. Several Lunar projects are in the works:

1. A mid-winter daytime luncheon meeting is a first priority – many of our members prefer not to drive at night and this has limited their attendance at meetings. We are therefore organizing a luncheon meeting for Wednesday, February 6, 2013, at 11:30-2:30 to be held at the Rutgers Club in New Brunswick. The address is 199 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 and there is free valet or self parking in a private lot next to the Rutgers Club. A buffet luncheon with two entrees (terrific chefs!) will be $25 inclusive. Attendance will be limited to paid-up members of the Medical History Society of New Jersey. There will be two speakers who will have 30 minutes each, and the facility is equipped for Power Point projection. If this proves successful, we will continue the meetings annually in January or February. Notices are being sent to each
member by e-mail. The conference/dining room at the Rutgers Club is limited to about 30 people, so reservations will be on a first-come first-serve basis. We hope this will evolve into an annual third meeting in addition to the Spring and Fall meetings in Princeton at the Nassau Club. At our first meeting, past president Dr. Richard Wedeen will present “Images of Medicine: Guatemala,” and current president Dr. Michael Nevins will speak on “Diary of a Rutgers Medical Student in Olde New York, Class of 1828!”

2. History study trips are another exciting new project. Michael Nevins has arranged a meeting in June 2013 at the Belskie Museum of Art and Science in Closter, New York. Attendees will view the museum’s collection of artist/sculptor Abram Belskie’s medical teaching models and hear a talk on “Medical Illustration in America” by acclaimed medical illustrator Robert Demarest. President Nevins will be speaking on “Charcot’s ‘Leçons du Mardi’ at La Salpêtrière, Paris, 1882.”

3. A Lunar works-in-progress group is under discussion. This will allow members who are actively engaged in medical history projects to read their texts and discuss their projects with colleagues—a sort of combined study group, editorial board, and research advisory committee. In addition, members who are working on their first research project in the history of medicine can seek advice on research, writing, presentation, and publishing from more experienced writers and presenters.

THE DAVID L. COWEN LECTURE ON THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY: MHSNJ CONTRIBUTIONS

By Vincent J. Cirillo, Ph.D.

In 1989, on the occasion of David L. Cowen’s eightieth birthday, the Rutgers College of Pharmacy (now the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy) established the nation’s first lecture series in the history of pharmacy and named it in his honor. Dave had taught the history of pharmacy at the College for twenty-two years. His seminal works on the history of the Edinburgh Pharmacopoeia, British pharmacopoeial literature, America’s pre-pharmacopoeial literature, and American colonial laws pertaining to pharmacy are credited with putting the discipline of the history of pharmacy on the academic map.

It is a source of great pride for the MHSNJ to note that one-third of the twenty-four Cowen lecturers to date have come from our membership:

1999: Jeffrey L. Sturchio, “Can We Explain a Century of Successful Innovation?”

2000: David L. Cowen, “Renaissance Pharmacy”


2006: Gerald N. Grob, “Deinstitutionalization of the Mentally Ill: Failure or Success?”

2008 (fall): Vincent J. Cirillo, “‘More Fatal Than Powder and Shot’: Disease in the United States Army from the Mexican War to the Spanish-American War”

2011: Allen B. Weisse, “A Fond Farewell to the Foxglove? The Decline in the Use of Digitalis”

2012: Sandra Moss, “Regulating the Circulation: Bloodletting from the Lancet to the Pharmacy”

INNOVATIVE BLOGGING AND TRANSCRIBING!

Nicole Salomone has been working as a transcriber on the Papers of the War Department initiative, a project of the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media at George Mason University, funded by the National Historical Publication and Records Commission and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

She reports that she “had the honor of transcribing a letter to Henry Knox regarding Alexander Hamilton falling ill during the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793. In addition, I supplied the project with a short history of the importance of the letter and the social implications of Hamilton’s choice of physician. In response, both the transcription and the historical blurb were highlighted in their July 10th blog write up.”
Nicole was also interviewed about her transcribing efforts on the blog itself in September 2012. She was also noted in Historians Ask Public to Help Organize the Past, a September 2012 article in The Chronicle of Higher Education on innovative crowdsourced historical efforts. The Chronicle article poses a provocative question: “How will the Wikipedia model of open participation change humanities scholarship?” Nicole “participates . . . because she loves to leave comments explaining documents whose context she knows, making them more useful to others.”

**MONMOUTH MEDICAL CENTER CELEBRATES 125 YEARS: 1887 - 2012**

By Frederic Pachman, AHIP, Director, Altschul Medical Library

Monmouth Medical Center marks 125 years of providing high-quality health care to the region. From its earliest beginnings, in four rented rooms above a Broadway storefront, to its current state as a regional medical center, Monmouth Medical Center has a longstanding history of adapting and expanding to offer the latest advancements, treating patients with compassionate care and providing clinical excellence.

Monmouth Medical Center is one of New Jersey's largest academic medical centers and has been a teaching affiliate of Philadelphia's Hahnemann University and now the Drexel University College of Medicine for more than 40 years.

The origins of Monmouth date back to 1887, when area leaders recognized the need for a hospital in Monmouth County. In its earliest years, the hospital moved three times before establishing itself in what was formerly Long Branch's Central Hotel.

A 16 page brochure with historical photographs and vignettes and an anniversary video is available.
A NOTE ON MEMBERSHIP

WHY BECOME AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF MHSNJ?

By joining the Medical History Society of New Jersey as an Active Member, you will be instrumental in helping to achieve our mission of promoting interest, research, and writing in the history of medicine and allied fields. Annual dues are only $35, and Life Membership is $350. Dues help keep the costs of meetings down, especially for medical students and residents, and support our growing online projects, including our award-winning newsletter, an expanded website, and, soon, a New Jersey Medical History Blog. Members pay reduced fees at our biannual meetings in Princeton at the Nassau Club, and also at other new programs which will be held at different venues and times. Contact president Michael Nevins, secretary John Abrams, or newsletter editor Bob Vietrogoski for more information.

(ALMOST) THE USUAL EDITORIAL FINISH :)

For personal, professional, and even meteorological reasons, this issue is very very late! The next issue will appear in mid-April 2013, only about ten weeks from now. The issue will feature information about the MHSNJ spring meeting, members’ news, a bibliography of members’ publications in 2012, news of research in progress, recent acquisitions at UMDNJ – Special Collections, and information about online medical history resources. Send in your news!

The Newsletter of the Medical History Society of New Jersey is published biannually, generally 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: vietzora@umdnj.edu

Susan La Flesche Picotte, M.D.

Susan La Flesche Picotte, the first Native American woman to earn a medical degree in the United States, was born on the Omaha reservation in northeastern Nebraska. Her father, Joseph La Flesche (Iron Eye), was the last chief of the Omaha tribe and the son of a French trader Joseph La Flesche and a woman of the Ponca tribe. Susan’s mother was the daughter of Dr. John Gale, a United States Army surgeon with the 6th regiment, and Ni-co-mi, a woman from the Iowa tribe.

At the age of fourteen Susan Picotte was sent to the Elizabeth Institute for Young Ladies in Elizabeth, New Jersey, where she studied philosophy, physiology and literature. After graduating in 1882 she returned to the reservation to teach at the Quaker Mission School. She returned east in 1884 to enter the Hampton Normal & Agricultural Institute in Virginia. The school is now known as Hampton University and is a historically Black and Native American university. While at Hampton she met Martha Waldron, resident physician at the Institute who encouraged Susan to apply to the Woman’s Medical College of Pennsylvania, Dr. Waldron’s alma mater.

After receiving scholarship funds from the United States Office of Indian Affairs, she entered the Woman’s Medical College in 1887 and graduated at the top of her class in two years (1889) from the three-year medical program with a medical degree. She spent a year of internship in Philadelphia and then returned to the Omaha reservation where she became the physician at the government boarding school and for the Omaha tribe assuming the health care for over twelve hundred tribal members.

In 1894 she married Henry Picotte and they moved to Bancroft, Nebraska, where she set up a private practice caring for white and non-white patients and raising two sons. After her husband died from the effects of alcoholism in 1905, the family moved to Walthill, a new community on the Omaha reservation. Her dream of having a hospital for her people came to fruition in 1913 when a one and one-half story frame structure was built in Walthill as a facility for her practice. In her honor the hospital was subsequently named the Susan LaFlesche Picotte Hospital and has been designated a National Historic Landmark. Designed by William Steele, a Sioux City, Iowa, architect the hospital contained two general wards, five private wards, a maternity ward, operating room, kitchen, reception room and two bathrooms. It operated as a hospital until the 1940s and today is used for community affairs as well as housing a museum displaying photos and artifacts commemorating Dr. LaFlesche Picotte’s medical work and life.

A founder of the local county medical association and a member of the state medical association, she was actively involved in public health issues, especially working to combat alcoholism and tuberculosis among the Omaha. She was an active spokesperson for her tribe battling government bureaucracy and working for the economic, social and spiritual advancement of Native Americans. She died on September 18, 1915.

Notes:
1. The Omaha are a tribe of the Dakota family and were moved to the northeastern part of what is now Nebraska in 1855 after ceding much of their lands in an 1854 treaty.
2. Originally known as the Union School, it was founded in 1861.
3. The world’s first medical college for women, it opened as the Female Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1850.
4. The stamp on the first day cover is from a set of four stamps issued by the United States in 1977 as part of the American Folk Art Series, this time showing art of the Pueblo Indians. The pottery shown on the stamp on the cover is in the Museum of New Mexico (Scott 1706)