



Medical History Society of New Jersey

c/o UMDNJ – Special Collections
G.F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences
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NEWSLETTER

May 2003

Volume 23, Number 1

TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SAFFRON LECTURE

The spring meeting of the Medical History Society of New Jersey will be held Wednesday, May 14th at The Nassau Club in Princeton. **Keith Wailoo, PhD**, Department of History at Rutgers University will present the twenty-fourth Annual Saffron Lecture. Dr. Wailoo's paper is entitled "The Strange Career of Race and Cancer in America." He is the author of *Dying in the City of the Blues: Sickle Cell Anemia and the Politics of Race and Health* (2001) and *Drawing Blood: Technology and Disease Identity in 20th Century America* (1997). MHSNJ President, Frederick C. Skvara, MD will display medical philately related to the program. Registration begins at 3:30 p.m.; the program begins at 4 p.m.

MHSNJ Business Meeting, Frederick Skvara, MD, President

Neurosurgical Times: A Paterson Perspective

George Becker, MD, Neurosurgery

The Medical Library of Dr. Meyer Friedman

Selby Kiffer, Senior Vice President,
Books & Manuscripts Department, Sotheby's
By Special Invitation

Revisiting Dr. William Carlos Williams:

*Public Poetry and Private Persuasions of a Famous Rutherford
Practitioner*

Norman Sissman, MD, Pediatric Cardiology

Cocktails and Dinner (6-7:30 pm)

Twenty-Fourth Annual Saffron Lecture:

The Strange Career of Race and Cancer in America

Keith Wailoo, PhD, Department of History, Rutgers University

Members, students, and friends are invited to attend the dinner meeting. Cost is \$40/members, \$50/guests; advance registration is required. For information, contact MHSNJ, c/o UMDNJ Special Collections, G.F. Smith Library, 30 Twelfth Avenue, PO Box 1709, Newark, NJ 07101-1709, (973) 972-7830, densky@umdnj.edu.

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President's Message
Frederick C. Skvara, MD

There has been a fundamental change in the administration of the affairs of the Medical History Society of New Jersey. For some time, the Academy of Medicine of New Jersey has handled, for a significant fee, the administrative duties of our organization—printing and distributing the newsletter, mailing out the dues notices and call for publications, maintaining the membership list, receiving our monies and paying our expenses, handling much of our correspondence, and staffing our meetings.

In the fall of 2001, an organizational change at the Academy led to a reduction in staff and a change in managing the affairs of their constituent societies of which we were one. Several of the societies, for which the Academy had been performing administrative duties, became sufficiently dissatisfied with these structural changes and withdrew from the Academy. This in turn contributed to a further reduction in Academy staff. Not surprisingly, we ourselves began to experience a decreased level of service. Because of the constant changes in personnel, there was a loss of continuity and consistency in how the Academy fulfilled its duties to us.

Currently, there are only 75 dues paying members in the Society. As has been shown by our treasurer in his reports, the Academy's management fee is over \$2000 per year. This fee did not include postage, printing and other miscellaneous expenses for which we paid the Academy an additional \$600 to \$800 per year.

Based on the above factors, the Executive Committee of the Medical History Society of New Jersey unanimously approved a motion on November 20, 2002 not to renew our contract with the Academy, and for all administrative operations to be assumed by the membership. To this end, we obtained a tax identification number and the treasurer established a checking account. Since we are not a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, which the Academy was, we have signed an agreement with the Foundation of UMDNJ, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization to handle the Morris H. Saffron Lecture Fund and all monies donated to the Society's Education Fund. Thus, members may continue to make tax-deductible contributions to the Education Fund, which we greatly encourage. All checks for contributions should be made out to the Medical History Society of New Jersey and mailed to our new address.

Since these decisions were reached, we have learned that the Academy notified all of its constituent societies in mid-February that it will no longer provide any administrative support for their organizations. It seems that the Academy will be concentrating on continuing medical education activities.

So now the affairs of your Society are in the hands of its members. The Morris H. Saffron Lecture Fund, the Education Fund and all of our operating funds have already been transferred from the Academy.

As you can see from the masthead of this newsletter, we have a new permanent address and telephone number. We are very pleased that our editor, Lois Densky-Wolff, MA secured permission from the UMDNJ Libraries to allow us to use the Special Collections Department as our permanent mailing address and contact. I think it is a perfect fit with our Society.

Our Secretary/Treasurer, Frank F. Katz, PhD will handle the mailing of dues notices, and collecting and disbursing all funds including dues, contributions, and meeting registrations. He will be responsible for transferring all contributions to the Foundation of UMDNJ, and receiving all distributions from the Foundation to pay our Foundation and Saffron lecturers' fees and expenses.

Program Chair, Sandra Moss, MD will continue to arrange for program speakers and meetings. Volunteers will handle the registration table at the meetings. The newsletter editor will send her copy to me for printing and distribution. Membership Chair, Daniel P. Greenfield, MD, our Vice-President, will endeavor to increase the membership and has formulated a plan.

Unfortunately, one of the consequences of these changes has been delay in some of our functions. We ask for your understanding.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Executive Committee for all their efforts and work during this transition, for without their suggestions and support, the process would have been much more difficult. I am sure that the increased number of meetings, e-mails, and telephone conversations that were necessary to effect the changeover all took time away from other pursuits. The willingness of the members of the Executive Committee to agree to undertake the increased work and responsibility that will now be necessary is evidence of their deep commitment to our Society. We should all be, as I am, very grateful for their presence and contribution.

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MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Lois R. Densky-Wolff, MA taught a section on medical history resources in March to graduate students attending a Rutgers University's School of Communications, Information and Library Science class entitled, "Introduction to Information Resources in the Health Sciences."

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William H. Helfand, presented a slide lecture on April 16th entitled, "Jersey Pills for Jersey Ills," at the UMDNJ-G.F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences, in conjunction with a new exhibition, "*Rough on Coughs*": *Patents & Pharmaceutical Medicines in New Jersey.*' (Please see below.)

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Sandra Moss, MD taught a lunchtime lecture series last fall at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School entitled, "How We Got Here: Three Hundred Years of Jersey Medicine."

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Karen Reeds, PhD was a co-organizer in February of "Picturing the Healing Arts, 1100-1500," for the College Art Association in New York City. Dr. Reeds has been appointed to the Advisory Editorial Board of the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*. She will serve as the delegate of the American Association for the History of Medicine at the May inauguration of Richard McCormick, the new president of Rutgers University. In May, Dr. Reeds will also serve as co-

organizer, "Illustrating Medieval Medicine and the Natural Sciences" and as panelist of "Art, Technology, and Science: Interdisciplinary Studies Today" at the 38th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo. In November, Dr. Reeds will serve as Isis Current Bibliography co-organizer, "New Plants and Botany before Linnaeus."

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Margaret (Peg) Shultz, MA received her Masters from William Paterson University in May 2002, where she received the Phi Alpha Theta Regional Prize in New Jersey history for her thesis, "From Victorian Asylum to Modern Psychiatric Hospital: a History of Greystone Park State Psychiatric Hospital, 1876-1950."

Allen B. Weisse, MD will present a paper entitled "Confessions of a Semiprofessional Medical Historian" before the American Osler Society in Scotland at the end of May. Dr. Weisse reports that in 2002 he recorded some segments for Documania Films that are to be incorporated in a series on the history of medicine, scheduled to appear on the History Channel later this year.

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In Memoriam

Angelina Campo
Richard J. Cross, MD
Sherman Garrison, MD

The MHSNJ extends its condolences to the families of these members.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Karen Reeds Selected to Receive MHSNJ Cowen Award

By David L. Cowen

Upon the recommendation of the Awards Committee and approval of the Executive Committee, Karen Reeds, PhD has been selected to receive the 2003 David L. Cowen Award for Achievement in Medical History. Dr. Reeds receives the Cowen Award for her book, *A State of Health: New Jersey's Medical Heritage* (2001, Rutgers University Press). The book is the first historical study of the state's medical history in over thirty-five years. Dr. Reeds is, unfortunately, unavailable to receive her award at the annual meeting; it will be presented to her at the October meeting.

A State of Health: New Jersey's Medical Heritage was meticulously researched and judiciously written. It is artfully and intelligently illustrated, and has been widely disseminated. The book is a permanent catalogue of an exhibit by the same name, mounted under Dr. Reeds' initiative and curatorship. A traveling version has been displayed at thirteen sites throughout the state, with more sites planned in the near future. She has been creatively successful in bringing to the attention of the public New Jersey's medical history. In addition, Dr. Reeds is active in and serves as curator of the Military Medicine Museum, recently established at the Veteran's Hospital in East Orange.

Dr. Reeds' achievements go beyond New Jersey medical history. She is the author of **Botany**

in **Medieval and Renaissance Universities** (1991) and co-author of **Today's Medicine, Tomorrow's Science: Essays on Paths of Discovery in the Biomedical Sciences** (1978). An independent scholar, Dr. Reeds continues to devote her time and effort to research in the field.

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Change-of-Address Reminder

Members are reminded to transmit any address change or new e-mail address to the Society. Without up-to-date contact information, we are unable to maintain an accurate membership database and produce a correct membership directory. Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated!

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"Rough on Coughs": Patent & Pharmaceutical Medicines in New Jersey

In celebration of the completion of a renovation at University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey - George F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences, a new exhibition has opened on the Newark Campus. *"Rough on Coughs": Patent & Pharmaceutical Medicines in New Jersey* details the rich history of one of New Jersey's premier industries through the use of books, illustrations, medical ephemera, postcards, and pamphlets from the University Libraries Special Collections department.

Patent medicines were widely advertised in New Jersey, as examples in the exhibit will demonstrate. Companies used various methods to attract an unwary public - newspaper ads, almanacs, humor booklets, trade cards, flyers, and traveling shows. Physicians and pharmacists condemned these nostrums and the companies who made them and engaged them in an ongoing battle that culminated in the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906. While New Jersey was not a major source of proprietary medicines, there were several manufacturers who held wide acclaim due to extensive advertising. E.S. Wells and O. Phelps Brown of Jersey City, and G.G. Green of Woodbury, were three of the larger establishments in the state.

At the same time New Jersey patent medicine manufacturers were in business, the state was also in the midst of the development of the ethical pharmaceutical industry and employing pharmaceutical chemists who made drugs with pure and unadulterated ingredients. The nineteenth century saw a large number of companies who had their American roots in New Jersey and remain in the state today. Pharmaceutical manufacturers were on the cusp of a major change taking place during the latter part of the nineteenth century -- the rise of scientific medicine and the corresponding breakthroughs made by the pharmaceutical and medical technology industry. New Jersey companies developed so many pharmaceutical innovations that by the 1960s the state called itself "The Medicine Chest of the Nation."

For more information about the exhibit, please contact Lois Densky-Wolff at densky@umdnj.edu or telephone 973-972-7830.

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MEMBERS' PUBLICATIONS IN THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE, 2002

Cowen, DL, et al. Drug store memories: American pharmacists recall life behind the counter, 1824-1933. Madison, WI: American Institute of the History of Pharmacy, 2002.

Grob, GN. The deadly truth: a history of disease in America. Boston: Harvard University Press, 2002.

Moss, SW. The power to terrify: eclampsia in 19th-century American practice. *JOGNN* 2002; 31:514-20.

Nevins, M. 300 years of memorable Bergen County physicians. S.l.: s.n., 2002 [16pp].

Sheehan, HE and BP Brenton, eds. Special Issue: Global perspectives on complementary and alternative medicine. *Ann Amer Acad Political and Soc Sci*; 2002; 563, and authors of "Preface" to the special issue, pp 6-11.

Sherk, HH. Continued learning: Edward J. Ill, MD, and the Academy of Medicine of New Jersey. *NJ Med* 2002; 99(9):15-19.

_____. David Hosack, MD, and Rutgers. *NJ Med* 2002; 99(7-8):17-23.

_____. Garfield at Elberon, New Jersey: the death of President Garfield. *NJ Med* 2002; 99(11):35-38.

_____. Mosquito Smith. *NJ Med* 2002; 99(3):33-36.

_____. Two doctors Elmer of Cumberland County. *NJ Med* 2002;99(5):35-39.

Weisse, AB. Heart to heart. The twentieth century battle against cardiac disease: an oral history. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2002.

_____. The oral examination: awesome or awful. *Persp. in Biol & Med* 2002; 45:569-78.

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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. **Deadline for the next newsletter is September 2, 2003**. Short articles (250 words) on medical history topics are especially welcome. Please send correspondence and submissions to:

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Philatelic Sketches in Medicine

Frederick C. Skvara, M.D.

William Carlos Williams, M.D.

Born on September 17, 1883 in Rutherford, New Jersey, William Carlos Williams obtained his doctorate in Medicine in 1906 from the University of Pennsylvania, studied pediatrics in Leipzig, and returned in 1910 to Rutherford to practice medicine and write poetry. Although he has never been commemorated on a postage stamp, there are some philatelic connections to Paterson the subject of his poem in five parts that was written over a twelve year period from 1946 to 1958. It is these philatelic associations that I would like to present.

In 1791, the New Jersey Legislature chartered, the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures, an enterprise proposed by Alexander Hamilton, the first secretary of the treasury, to set up a manufacturing site to help the new republic gain industrial independence from Europe. Hamilton selected the area around the Great Falls of the Passaic River because of its potential to generate power and the planned city was named Paterson after Governor William Paterson of New Jersey, one of the framers of the Constitution. Paterson became a major industrial city with cotton mills being one of the first industries to be established within its confines. Soon afterward, silk manufacturing became prominent and Paterson enjoyed a reputation as the main silk manufacturing center in the United States.

In the mid-1800s, locomotives were being produced in Paterson by the Rogers, Ketchum and Grosvenor Company. On July 28, 1994, the United States Postal Service issued a booklet illustrating five historic locomotives, one of which was produced by the above company. Known as *Hudson's General*, it was manufactured in 1855 and sold to the Western and Atlantic Railroad for \$8,500. During the Civil War, it was stolen by a group of Union raiders from Georgia and driven north. The Confederates gave chase on foot, by handcar and with commandeered locomotives, eventually capturing the *General* and hanging the Union men as spies. In 1956, Walt Disney Studios made a movie about this episode, *The Great Locomotive Chase*.

The airplane industry also played a role in Paterson's industrial history when a deserted Paterson silk mill became the home of the Wright Aeronautical Corporation. It was a manufacturer of airplane engines, one of which was the Wright Whirlwind, the engine used by Lingbergh on his plane, *The Spirit of St. Louis*, when he made his transatlantic flight in 1927.

The large number of workers employed in the industries of Paterson helped lead to a number of social reforms in the early part of the 20th century. The reforms which were promoted by Woodrow Wilson who was governor of New Jersey from his election in 1910 to 1913, when he became President of the United States.



United States - Jan 11, 1957
Alexander Hamilton
& Federal Hall, NYC



United States - Jul 28 1994
Hudson's General



United States - May 20 1977
50th Anniversary of
Lindbergh Transatlantic flight



United States - Sep 23 1978
75th Anniversary of 1st powered flight,
Kill Devil Hill, NC - Dec 17 1903



United States - Jan 10 1956

