



EHMHF

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EHMHF Holds Open House

On March 21, 2014, EHMHF held an open house for its supporters, unveiling its new, permanent, exhibit space. Titled “Medicine from 1800—1900, a Century of Progress”, the exhibit features displays including 19th century surgery, 19th century dental practices and instruments, the country doctor, a century of microscopes, a display of 18th and 19th century spectacles called “Man’s Quest for Vision”, and the centerpiece of our museum, a 19th century pharmacy.



The Surgical display includes examples of both ivory and ebony handled instruments. Since these would have been damaged by boiling, doctors did not sterilize surgical instruments between use,

commonly resulting in infections.

The dental display includes an assortment of dental instruments (primarily pliers for extractions) as well as a dental exam chair and an operating foot powered dental drill.

The country doctor display includes a selection of instruments, medicines and supplies such as bloodletting instruments, minor surgery kit, syringes, bandages, stethoscope and baby scale found in the doctor’s bag that would have been essential for any house call.

The microscope display highlights a selection spanning nearly a century, from student microscopes manufactured in the mid to late 1800s (one manufactured in Lancaster), to professional microscopes manufactured in the 1940s.

“Man’s Quest for Vision” showcases not only examples of spectacles spanning the 18th and 19th centuries but is beautifully illustrated by our own Dr. Paul Ripple, one of the co-founders of EHMHF.

The pharmacy display, housed in an actual 19th century cabinet from a pharmacy located in New York in 1851, includes a selection of drugs and medicines highlighting the progression of pharmacology with herbal based medicines in the early part of the century and moving to chemical based medicines later in the century.

EHMHF would like to especially thank interns Melissa Band and Eli Schneck, both from Franklin & Marshall College for all of their hard work in helping to bring our museum to life.



Eli Schneck and Melissa Band

From the President

By Nikitas Zervanos, MD

This is the fourth issue of our newsletter.

I believe you will be impressed with the progress we continue to make as our mission is to preserve the history of our medical profession and make accessible the rich heritage of the healing arts of Lancaster County. You will again enjoy reading the articles that have been put together by Mrs. Donna Mann, the editor of our newsletter.

The big news is the opening of our museum. This museum came about through the generosity and support of Lancaster General Health and the Burle Business Park and the many people including the readers of this newsletter. We conducted an open house by special invitation to all the donors and friends of the foundation on Friday, March 21, 2014. Nearly one hundred attended this event, and from all accounts those who attended were most impressed. Our museum highlighted 19th century medicine, which is fully described in the comments by Mrs. Mann in her article regarding our museum. The theme that dominates our exhibition is 19th century medical practice highlighting various surgical instruments, microscopes, infant feeders, a pharmacy, and dentistry. The visitor will be able to see various home visit treatments, including scarifiers for bloodletting, cupping, and birthing instruments. All the items are taken from our warehouse, which is contiguous to the museum and contains more than 11,000 artifacts and memorabilia. The museum will be open to the public, but because we do not have full time staff, we are unable to have regular hours. Nonetheless, we encourage groups to contact Mrs. Donna Mann (717-419-1456) to arrange a time for a showing.

In the meantime we continue to publish articles on our website, and we invite you to visit: EdwardHandMedicalHeritage.org.

The other important development is the institution of our virtual museum project. This will enable us to make our collection accessible to medical personnel, historians, and researchers as well as libraries all across America and even around the world. Artifacts will be displayed in 3D images along with a detailed description to include their historical significance. We feel fortunate to have been awarded a grant from Lancaster General Hospital to expand the working hours of Mrs. Donna Mann and add a summer research intern to do the studies, and get the project moving along. We will also be able to provide academic for-credit opportunities to the area wide college students to work with Don-

na during the school year. Donna provides a more detailed account of the project in this newsletter.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of you who continue to support the foundation. We do not have a revenue stream so all the work of the foundation is provided by donations from the community or through grant support. Please see our website: edwardhandmedicalheritage.org on how you can help, or even better, we hope you are so gratified with our progress that you would be moved to remit a generous check. Checks should be made payable to Edward Hand Medical Heritage Foundation and forwarded to PO Box 10302, Lancaster, PA 17605.



19th Century Optician's Lens Kit



The Doctor

Educating our Community Through our Collection

EHHMF has initiated an effort by Lancaster County medical practitioners to document and preserve the history of the medical specialties and allied health professionals. These stories will be featured on our web site, edwardhandmedicalheritage.org. The first of these includes the histories of ophthalmology, the history of Lancaster General Hospital, the First 100 Years, and the History of Contact Lenses. Other histories include that of radiology, urology, gastroenterology, and mental health services. The following are excerpts from articles that appear on our web site.

Excerpt from:

Forty Eight Years of Experiences in the OR at Lancaster General

*By Jean Benneth Grover, Medical Secretary—
OR Systems User Coordinator*

1. After graduating from Central Penn Business

School, I applied for a job at LGH and came for an interview with Mr. William Harris in 1965; and he told me there were two positions open in the hospital. One was in the OR and the other in Medical Records. I told him that I didn't want the OR; but he suggested I go to the OR and meet the supervisor or head nurse. I spoke with the head nurse, Miss Alexander and she said she felt I would be an asset to the OR. Miss Anna Mae Ney was the OR Supervisor. She was on vacation when I applied for the position. Then Mr. Harris told me that he would hire me and if I didn't like the OR, he would transfer me after the first week. Well it has been a long week in the OR! I was happy that I got the job because the salary was more at LGH than at the Polyclinic Hospital in Harrisburg or the Good Samaritan Hospital in Lebanon. The starting salary as a Medical Secretary was \$1.45 an hour.

2. My first day, September 20, 1965, I had to change into a scrub dress, wear a cloth hood to cover my hair, cloth shoe covers that had a conductive strip- because we had ether in the OR which was very flammable and they didn't want us creating any sparks. I was told that I could buy shoes with a conductive plug insert and that way I didn't have to wear the shoe covers. Each morning you had to check if your shoes were conductive before you started your day.

Excerpt from:

History of Pulmonary Medicine in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

By Harshadkumar B. Patel, MD

As with any specialty of medicine, there is a certain knowledge base that has to develop in a particular discipline before a specialty is created. This was also the case in Pulmonary Medicine. Thus prior to the arrival of pulmonary specialists in Lancaster, the general practitioner took care of the pulmonary problems in the county. At the turn of century pneumonia was the primary pulmonary problem requiring hospitalization. There were a total of 62 cases of pneumonia that were admitted to Lancaster General Hospital (hereafter will be referred to as LGH) between 1893 and 1908. The mortality rate of pneumonia then was 22%. In 1910 there were 15 cases of pneumonia with 33% deaths. In 1916, there were 80 cases of pneumonia and 14 deaths. The cost per day's stay at LGH was \$2.

Infantile paralysis or polio was one of the most dreadful of all pulmonary medical problems and obviously one of the most challenging illnesses confronting the medical practitioner. Acute respiratory distress was a common cause of death. Along with money donated by the March of Dimes, the first respirator, or so-called "iron lung," was purchased

by LGH in 1938. A Polio unit under the direction of Dr. William Saul was created at LGH in 1944. In 1946, Dr. Edgar Meiser became the director and along with Dr. Henry Wentz helped to care for the polio patients until the closure of the unit in 1957. The unit was closed as there was no need after the availability of the Salk Polio vaccine and later the Sabin oral polio vaccine. The polio unit at LGH was a government designated unit for Lancaster and Lebanon Counties. Although there were usually 1-2 iron lungs in operation at any given time; at the peak of the epidemic, LGH had 5 iron lungs caring for as many as 14-16 polio patients.

Lancaster had its share of tuberculosis patients also. In 1920, there were 150 deaths in Lancaster County secondary to TB. In those days there was no specific effective treatment for TB. The treatment consisted of rest, good nutrition, sunshine and rest of the affected lungs by certain surgeries. The patients of TB were placed in isolation if they had pulmonary TB. The lungs were and are the most frequently affected organ in TB. The national trend was to put them in hospitals that were called TB Sanatoriums. The Rossmere Sanatorium came into being in Lancaster in 1925. Dr. Murray Spillman was the only Medical director of the sanatorium from 1925 until its closure in June 1957. Miss Mary Herr was the superintendent of the sanatorium.

Curator/Archivist Update

By Donna M. Mann

With the opening of our new museum exhibit space complete and ready for private tours, we are now able to concentrate on our growing collection. We continue to receive additions to our collection that will be cataloged, photographed and researched.

This summer EHMHF will have two research interns working on the beginnings of an exciting new project. Joining us is Jillian Hickman, a pre-med student at Emory University, and Ellen Hendrix, a pre-med student at Franklin and Marshall College.

Through the generosity of Lancaster General Hospital, work has begun on the creation of a “virtual museum” that will make our collection of historic medical artifacts available for viewing online. This virtual museum will include a detailed description and history of each artifact along with a three dimensional image. To create the three dimensional image, each artifact will be photographed from fifteen to twenty different angles. These photos are then merged, using 3D imaging software to create the 3D image. This project is expected to take approximately two years to complete but as the project progresses, sections will be available for viewing from our website; www.edwardhandmedicalheritage.org.

The first installments of the virtual museum will be available to view on our website by the end of June. Be sure to visit our website frequently and watch our progress.

If you would like to schedule a tour of our museum as well as get a look at our work in progress on the collection, contact us by phone at 717-419-1456 or send us an email at curator@edwardhandmedicalheritage.org.

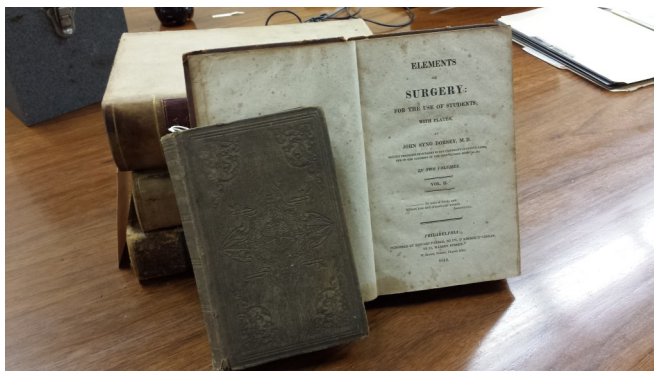
Our extensive library of medical books also continues to expand, giving researchers, students and historians a unique insight into evolution of medical practice and history. The collection includes many 19th century medical books such as the *Cyclopedia of Diseases*, *Coopers Surgery*, *Woods Practice of Medicine*, and *Cyclopedia of the Diseases of Children* as well as early-mid 20th century books such as the three volume set *Treatment of Cancer* from 1940. Recent additions have put our medical library collection at over three hundred volumes and spans over one hundred and fifty years from 1820 to 1980.



19th century medical book collection



1857 collection of medical books



1813 Elements of Surgery for Students

Archival collection of the Kuhn Doctors

A recent addition to the EHMHF archives is a collection of letters and documents from the Kuhn family. Dr. John Kuhn was a Lancaster doctor who graduated from the College of Physicians in Philadelphia. His brother Adam, the writer of the following letter, practiced medicine in Philadelphia and was the president of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia from 1808 until his death in 1817. Dated between 1799 and 1813, these letters give a unique insight into medicine and the daily lives of those in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The following is from a letter to Dr. John Kuhn from his brother, Dr. Adam Kuhn dated March 6, 1810, discussing an illness and recommended treatment.

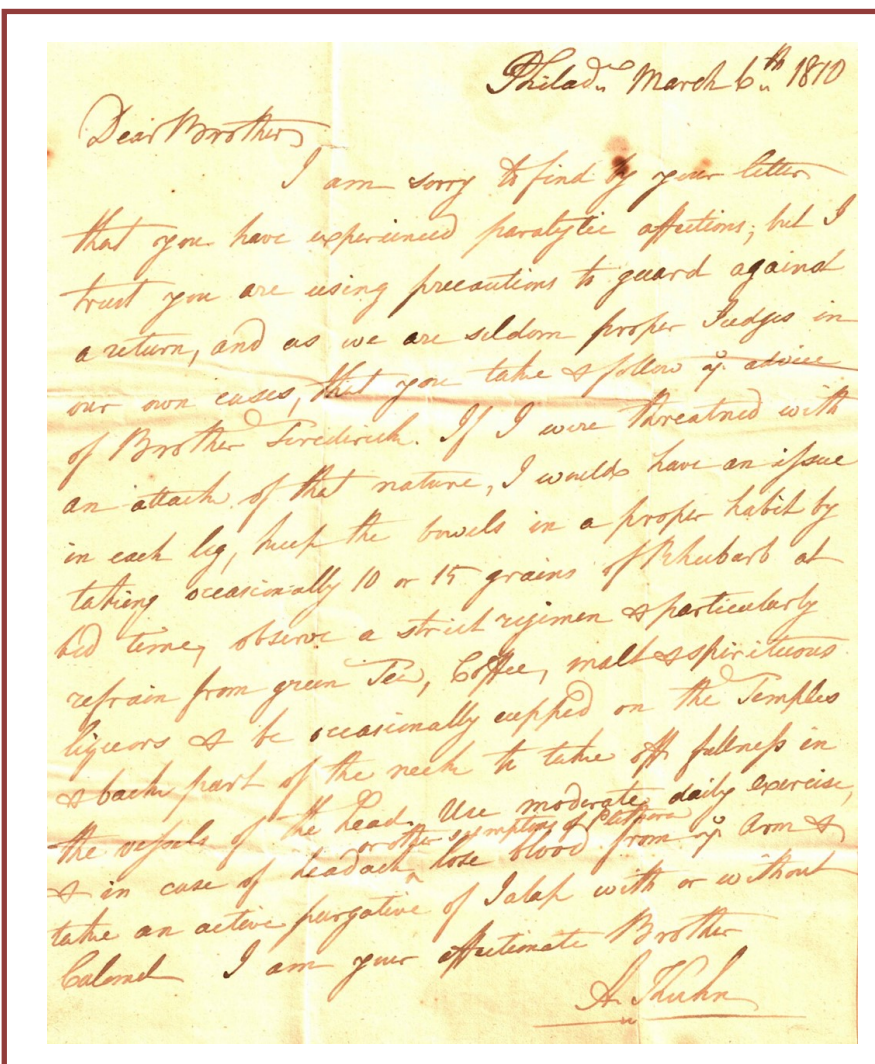
Phila. March 6th, 1810

Dear Brother,

I am sorry to find by your letter that you have experienced paralytic affections; but I trust you are using precautions to guard against a return, and as we are seldom proper judges in our own cases, that you take and follow the advise of Brother Frederick. If I were threatened with an attack of that nature, I would have an issue in each leg, keep the bowels in a proper habit by taking occasionally 10 or 15 grains of rhubarb at bed time, observe a strict regimen and particularly refrain from green tea, coffee, malt spirituous liquors and be occasionally cupped on the temples and back part of the neck to take off fullness in the vessels of the head. Use moderate daily exercise, and in case of headache or other symptoms of plethora lose blood from my arm and take an active purgative of Jalap with or without Calomel.

I am your affectionate Brother

A. Kuhn



Scarifier, glass cupping jars, Jalap Root, and Calomel as recommended by Dr. Adam Kuhn to his brother Dr. John Kuhn for treatment of his illness

The Doctor's Bag

In the early 18th century, many doctors carried their instruments in their pockets. Since there were few instruments available to doctors, there was no need for carrying a bag. As more medical instruments and medicines were developed, doctors just did not have enough pockets to carry everything needed to treat patients resulting in the development of "The Doctor's Bag".

In the later part of the 18th century, during the Revolutionary War, doctors began the practice of carrying their instruments and medicines in wooden chests. Sometimes these chests were plain wooden boxes; others were more elaborate, made of high quality hardwood such as oak or mahogany with decorative brass handles. Some were even faced with leather. These wooden chests had compartments to hold bottles of medicines and typically contained drawers to hold medical instruments. Some contained hidden compartments at the back of the chest to carry poisons.

An excellent example of a Revolutionary War era doctor's chest is on exhibit at the EHMHF display at Rock Ford Plantation. This mahogany chest includes the original glass medicine jars and, although now empty, includes the hidden rear compartment used to store poisons.

During both the 18th and 19th centuries, surgical kits were often carried in either wooden cases or wallets. The wooden cases not only protected what were at the time very expensive instruments but also made it easy to carry them as well as keeping them all together. Wallets, typically made of leather were soft cases used to carry surgical instruments and medicines. They could be easily rolled up and carried.

The doctor's bag was first used in the early 19th century and was originally a saddle bag that carried medical supplies. Later in the century the satchel style bag became popular with many doctors. As shown in the photo below, the bag held all of the necessary supplies, instruments and medicines needed for a visit to a sick patient.



18th century doctor's medicine chest



19th century surgical kit in wooden case



19th century surgical kit in leather wallet



Shown at left, this 19th century doctor's bag carries a stethoscope, bandages, sutures, scarifier, syringe with metal case, minor surgical kit with leather wallet, and medicines (calomel).

Quack Medicine Devices

Quack medicine refers to unproven or fraudulent medical practices, often through the sale or application of medicines or devices claiming to cure almost any ailment.

The collection at EHMHF includes several examples of Quack medical devices. With the development of electricity, many individuals, patients, doctors, and charlatans alike, thought that electricity and shock therapy was an effective treatment for anything from relief of pain, to curing the flu.

First appearing in the mid 19th century, these devices were very popular well into the 20th century. Until passage of the Food, Drugs, and Cosmetics Act of 1938, there was no regulation for these “medical” devices. The first person to be prosecuted under to act for making false claims about the therapeutic effects of a medical device was C. W. Kent, the inventor of the Elec-Treat Mechanical Heart.

Patented in 1919, Kent claimed that the Mechanical Heart could be used to treat constipation, insomnia, weight loss / gain, blood purification, sinus congestion, weak lungs, rheumatism, gout, sexual weakness, menopause, paralysis, deafness, weak eyes, burns, nervousness, to enlarge busts, dandruff, asthma, flu, pimples and make hair thicker and luxurious. However, all of these claims were proven to be false.



1890 battery operated electric shock machine



Elec-Treat Mechanical Heart, 1919



1854 Davis & Kidder Patent Magneto Electric Machine. Hand cranked shock treatment machine used to treat women's "nervous disorders".

Lancaster Pennsylvania Microscopes

From the Lancaster City and County Medical Society

In 1878 a medical school professor, J. E. Smith, while attending a microscopical meeting, complained about the high cost of custom-made microscopes for medical students. A John S. Sidle took up the challenge and teamed up with a Mr. Poalk and designed an inexpensive microscope referred to as “Acme Microscope”.

They designed about five different scopes, although the first one was never manufactured. John S. Sidle & Company, located at Cherry and James Streets in Lancaster, began to manufacture in 1878, and their scopes were sold by Queen & Company of Philadelphia.

In 1882, J. W. Queen & Co. of Philadelphia purchased Sidle and Poalk, and they manufactured some of the eye pieces and objectives under the direction of Henry Oxford, although most of the Acme Scopes were still made in Lancaster until the end of the century.

By 1886, the scopes had all interchangeable parts—a very new concept in microscopes.

Thus, by employing mass production techniques, Mr John Sidle and Mr. Poalk contributed to improved medical teaching of the day, by manufacturing here in Lancaster an inexpensive microscope for medical students.

One of these microscopes is in the possession of the Edward Hand Medical Heritage Foundation and another can be seen at the famous Walter Reed Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, which houses the most extensive collection of microscopes in the world.

Taken from:

Lancaster Medicine, Vol. 52, No 2. October 1976

A History of Medicine in Lancaster County.



Microscope manufactured by John W. Sidle & Co. Of Lancaster, PA, 1878

Currently on display in the Edward Hand Medical Heritage Foundation's exhibit of 19th century medicine.

