

1844-1994



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# *Our Medical Heritage*



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Lancaster City & County Medical Society

## Section 2

# *Lancaster City & County Medical Society Celebrates 150 Years*



## Chapter 19

### *D. Holmes Morton, M.D. A Special Clinic for Special Children*

Dr. D. Holmes Morton is a special physician for special children among predominately Amish and Mennonite families. He founded and built a special clinic for special children near Strasburg in 1990.

In accordance with his work, this meeting of the Lancaster City and County was held at the Amish home and farm of Samuel Smucker. Automobiles and buggies were parked side by side on the outside and kerosene lamps lighted the inside.

Dr. Holmes Morton is renowned for his research in metabolic and neurological diseases identifying genetic disorders so that treatment will lead directly to better care of these children.

As a part of the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Lancaster City and County Medical Society, Dr. Morton was honored with its first Edward Hand Award.

The citation read,

*Edward Hand Award  
The Lancaster City and County Medical Society  
presented to  
D. Holmes Morton, M.D.  
In recognition of his outstanding service  
in the health of the community  
this 13th day of September, 1994*

Dr. John Garofola, President of the Lancaster City and County Medical Society, upon presenting the award told Dr. Morton the award was "only a small way" to honor him.

In accepting the award, Dr. Morton said, "The entire budget of the Clinic for Special Children, building the building, setting up the lab we use for testing could be totally justified by the 32 children with maple syrup urine disease we provide care for."

Maple syrup urine disease and glutaric aciduria are only two of the forty metabolic diseases the doctor has treated at the clinic.

The clinic was built with 225 donations from people nationwide who read a *Wall Street Journal* article in 1989 about Dr. Morton's medical house calls to the Amish and Mennonite farms in Lancaster County.

The doctor told about his first patient here, the late Daniel Lapp, whom he had treated from 1988 until his death in 1993. Daniel had been misdiagnosed as having cerebral palsy. Actually he had glutaric aciduria. When he was 14 months old, he had a bout with diarrhea which resulted in his

inability to stand, sit, control his head or talk. These children become acutely ill when they develop common illnesses, such as sore throat, diarrhea, earache, etc. Dr. Morton successfully manages these children to prevent these crises.

Dr. Holmes Morton is the recipient of the 1993 Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism. Previous recipients include former President Jimmy Carter, Norman Cousins and former Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop.



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