

1844-1994



*Our*

*Medical*

*Heritage*



1844-1994



# *Our Medical Heritage*



© 1995

Lancaster City & County Medical Society

## Section 2

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





*Chapter 21*  
***A Case of Prolonged Labor***  
*presented at the Lancaster City & County Medical Society*  
*November 1, 1994*

A skit in two acts and four scenes  
by Dr. Herbert Tindall

*Cast in order of appearance*

Dr. John Light Atlee (Narrator)	Dr. John Corcoran
Dr. Francis Burrowes of Strasburg	Dr. John Tyler
Penelope	Dr. Nicola Davies
Dr. Dingee of Bird-in-Hand	Dr. Alan Peterson
Dr. Samuel Humes, Jr., of Lancaster	Dr. Henry Wentz
Dr. Davis of Lancaster	Dr. Stephen Olin
Dr. Nathan Boulden of Strasburg	Dr. Roland Larrabee
Dr. William Forman of Salisbury Twp.	Dr. Dwight Eichelberger
Dr. Sylvester Handford of Salisbury Twp.	Dr. John Garofola
Dr. Frederick A. Mulhenberg	Dr. John Garofola
Dr. Henry Carpenter	Dr. Stephen Olin
Dr. Eli Parry	Dr. Alan Peterson
Mrs. Parry	Dr. Nicola Davies
Dr. Alexander Cassidy	Dr. John Tyler
Dr. Washington L. Atlee	Dr. Roland Larrabee

*Settings*

Act I, Scene 1 – The Conception – Dr. Burrowes' Home,  
Strasburg, February 2, 1823

Act I, Scene 2 – The Fountain Inn – Lancaster, one month later

*Interim*

Act II, Scene 1 – The Labor – Dr. Parry's Home,  
Lancaster, January 14, 1844

*Interim*

Act II, Scene 2 – The Delivery – City Lyceum Franklin College,  
Lancaster, one month later

*Postlogue*

Directed by Dr. James Beittel

## PROLOGUE

Narrator, Dr. John L. Atlee

### ACT I, SCENE 1 - The Conception

The setting: Dr. Burrowes' home, Strasburg, Pa. Feb. 7, 1823.  
The cast: Dr. Francis Burrowes, Strasburg (chairman)  
Dr. William Forman, Salisbury Twp. (secretary)  
Dr. Samuel Humes, Jr., Lancaster  
Dr. Dingel, from Bird-in-Hand  
Dr. Nathan Boulden, Strasburg.  
Dr. Sylvester Handford, Salisbury Twp.  
Dr. Davis, Lancaster.  
Penelope, a maid.

## INTERVAL

Narrator, Dr. John L. Atlee

### ACT I, SCENE 2

The setting: The Fountain Inn, Lancaster, one month later.  
The cast: Dr. Samuel Humes, Jr.  
Dr. Nathan Boulden  
Dr. William Forman  
Dr. Frederick A. Muhlenberg  
Dr. Henry Carpenter  
Dr. John L. Atlee

## INTERVAL

Narrator, Dr. John L. Atlee

### ACT II, SCENE 1 - The Labor

The setting: The living room in Dr. Ely Parry's home, Lancaster.  
The time: January 14, 1844.  
The cast: Dr. Washington L. Atlee  
Dr. John L. Atlee  
Dr. Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg  
Dr. Ely Parry  
Mrs. Elizabeth Parry  
Dr. Alexander Cassidy  
Dr. Henry Carpenter  
Dr. Samuel Humes

## INTERVAL

Narrator, Dr. John L. Atlee

### ACT 2, SCENE 2 - The Delivery

The place: The City Lyceum in Franklin College, Lancaster.  
The time: One month later.  
The cast: The same, except Mrs. Parry.



## PROLOGUE

Narrator, Dr. John L. Atlee

Let me introduce myself. I am Dr. John Light Atlee. I was born in Lancaster a long time ago; in fact, during the eighteenth century. My father was Colonel William Pitt Atlee, whose brother, my uncle, was Dr. Edwin A. Atlee, who, insofar as I know, was the first Atlee to become a physician. My father, Colonel William Pitt Atlee, married Sarah Light, daughter of a major in the Revolutionary War, and I, the eldest son, came along on November 2, 1799. In 1815, when I was just 16 years old, I began to read medicine with Dr. Samuel Humes. I received my M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in April, 1820, at the tender age of 20 years. I practiced in Lancaster all my life, for 65 years, and I saw a lot of changes in medicine and society during my long lifetime. Tonight I would like to relate to you a most amazing case of prolonged labor, which I was fortunate to observe and participate in. Conception began in the year 1823, at the home of Dr. Francis Burrowes, of the village of Strasburg in my native county. I must tell you that in the following account of these remarkable happenings, more people were involved than you will actually see. One person will have to represent two or more people of similar thoughts and purpose, or in some cases you will have to imagine people offstage. I didn't want to present you with mass confusion, so I am keeping my tale as simple as possible to be consistent with the facts. Besides, this sketch is being funded by the Lancaster City and County Medical Society, which has, over the past 150 years, been notorious for its frugality, and my orders were to employ as few characters as possible. Let us now move to Dr. Burrowes' living room on February 7, 1823.

## ACT 1, SCENE 1

The scene is Dr. Francis Burrowes' living room at his home in Strasburg. There are a number of chairs, and a buffet table with a bar. Present are Dr. Burrowes, in his late 20's, and a maid, Penelope, who is young, pretty, and provocatively costumed.

One of the characters in this portion of the skit is Dr. DINGE. He pronounces it "Dinge" to rhyme with "hinge." Dr. Burrowes pronounces it "Dingy" (din-gee). The other physicians pronounce it "Dinghy", (ding-ee) like the boat. These pronunciations are indicated in the script as "Dinj", "Dingy", and "Dinghy".

*Dr. Burrowes:* Now, Penelope, it looks as if we are all ready for our distinguished guests. Do you have some tea ready?

*Penelope:* Yes, Dr. Burrowes. It's all ready in the kitchen. I baked a few scones to go with it. Do you think that's enough?

*Dr. Burrowes:* That's fine, Penny. I appreciate your coming tonight on such short notice. It's tough on a bachelor getting ready for something like



this. I planned this little get-together pretty much on the spur of the moment, and I thought of you right away.

*Penelope:* When you called me at the Pig and Whistle, I asked the tavern keeper, and he said for such a good cause I could have the night off.

*Dr. Burrowes:* I didn't call you, Penny. I sent you a note by messenger. This is 1823, and Don Ameche didn't invent the telephone until 1876.

*Penelope:* Oh, I keep forgetting. I'm not very good on history.

*Dr. Burrowes:* And, Penny. I'd appreciate your not mentioning to the other doctors how I know you. They might not realize that my visits to the tavern are strictly professional. By the way, you don't mind me calling you Penny, do you?

*Penelope:* No, Dr. Burrowes. All my friends call me Penny. I'll go out to the kitchen and see to the tea.

*Penelope exits right.*

*Dr. Burrowes* busies himself at the bar, holding up the brandy flask to examine it, and fussing with the glasses. He exits right, after which there is a knock on the door, left. Penny enters right, crosses the room and answers the door, left. A chilly Dr. Dingo, also a man in his middle to late 20's, enters left.

*Penelope:* Come in, Sir. May I take your coat?

*Dr. Dingo:* Thank you, miss. It's a mite chilly out there tonight. Will you be so kind as to tell Dr. Burrowes that Dr. Dingo is here.

Just then Dr. Burrowes. enters right, greets Dr. Dingo and shakes his hand heartily.

*Penelope exits right.*

*Dr. Burrowes:* Welcome, Doctor Dingo. It's nice of you to come. Sorry you had such a long trip on a cold night like this.

*Dr. Dingo:* It's Dingo. I left Bird-in-Hand early and stopped over at the Pig and Whistle, and had a bit of grog and a snack. They've got the ugliest barmaid there. The barkeep said she's just substituting for the regular barmaid, whose grandmother died.

Just then Penelope is entering right to put the tea set on the buffet table. Dr. Burrowes turns and gives her a quizzical look. She just shrugs.

*Dr. Burrowes:* Penny, get Dr. Dingo a cup of hot tea. I'm sure he'll appreciate it after his long cold trip.

*Dr. Dingo:* It's Dingo. If you don't mind, Doctor, I'd just as soon have a spot of that brandy I see on the buffet.

*Dr. Burrowes:* Certainly, Doctor.

*Dr. Burrowes* goes over and pours him a stiff drink.

*Dr. Burrowes:* Here you are, sir. This should warm the cockles of your heart.



Dr. Ding takes drink and sniffs it and looks at it.

*Dr. Ding:* The cockles of my heart aren't what are cold, Dr. Burrowes. Down the hatch!

Dr. Ding swallows the brandy in one gulp. There is a knock on the door left, and Penelope enters right and crosses the room to answer the door. Two shivering gentlemen are at the door. Dr. Samuel Humes is 40-ish and short, and Dr. Davis is younger.

*Dr. Burrowes:* Ah, come in Dr. Humes and Dr. Davis. Nice of you to come all the way from Lancaster on such a night.

Penelope takes their coats and hats, and the two doctors rub and blow on their hands.

Penelope exits right with the coats and hats, and immediately returns.

*Dr. Humes:* Yes, it's a bit nippy out there, Burrowes. I would just as well have liked to stay home in front of the fire, but this is an important mission, and I don't think a little cold weather should hold us back, eh Davis?

*Dr. Davis:* Oh, yes. Quite right, Dr. Humes. At least it isn't snowing.

Meantime, Dr. Ding has been pouring himself another stiff brandy at the bar, and is sipping it generously as he turns to greet the new arrivals.

*Dr. Burrowes:* You know Dr. Dingy from Bird-in-Hand.

*Dr. Ding:* It's Dinj. (they shake hands)

*Dr. Burrowes:* Penelope, would you pour these two gentlemen a cup of tea? Penelope serves tea to the two newcomers as there is another knock on the door. The two new arrivals are Drs. William Forman and Sylvester Handford, both from Salisbury Township). Dr. Burrowes answers the door.

*Dr. Burrowes:* Ah, the Gap contingent! Come in, come in. Glad you both could come.

There are greetings all around, as Penny takes coats, and immediately returns, then pours and serves more tea and the participants make small talk with each other. Dr. Ding, having spilled some of his brandy during the greetings and having drunk the rest, pours himself another libation, as there is another knock on the door.

*Penny answers:* Dr. Nathan Boulden, from Strasburg, is at the door.

*Penny:* Oh, hello Dr. Boulden.

*Dr. Boulden:* Good evening, Miss Penny.

Dr. Burrowes comes across to greet him as Penny takes his coat and hat.

*Dr. Burrowes:* Good evening, Nate. I think you know all of the others?

There are mutual greetings, as Penny brings more tea. The participants are standing or sitting around the room.

*Dr. Humes:* Francis, how many are you expecting?

*Dr. Burrowes:* I really don't know, Dr. Humes.



*Dr. Humes:* Why don't we get started, then, so we can get home before it's too late? By the way, how come our good colleague Dr. Dingy is pickling himself with your best brandy while the rest of us are being restricted to this abominable tea?

At this time, Dr. Dingy is busy pouring himself another brandy.

*Dr. Burrowes* (obviously embarrassed): I'm sorry, Dr. Humes I should have given you all a choice. In all the confusion of everyone coming at once, I just didn't think. Please step up to the bar, those of you who wish, and help yourself to the brandy. There's plenty more.

*Dr. Humes:* The hallmark of a good physician, Burrowes, is the ability to think clearly despite being surrounded by confusion. (He strolls toward the bar to get a drink. Dr. Dingy is making his way unsteadily to a chair.) Unfortunately, I don't think our good friend and colleague Dr. Dingy will be thinking clearly under any circumstances for the rest of the evening."

Dr. Dingy starts to get up from his chair, but is restrained by another physician. Dr. Humes sits down with his brandy, which he sips decorously.

*Dr. Burrowes:* O.K., we'll get started. As you all know, Dr. Humes and I felt that it was about time that we discuss forming some sort of a professional society in Lancaster County, so that we could have a forum for discussing topics of mutual interest. I think the first thing we should do is to appoint a chairman for this meeting.

*Dr. Humes:* You're the host, Francis. I nominate you for chairman. *Dr. Burrowes:* Thank you Dr. Humes. Any further nominations? (silence)

*Dr. Humes:* I move that Dr. Burrowes be declared chairman by acclamation. All: Hear, hear!

*Dr. Burrowes:* Thank you all. Now, we need a secretary to record the transactions of this group. Dr. Dingy, would you act as secretary?

At this moment, Dr. Dingy, falls off his chair and sprawls on the floor.

*Dr. Burrowes:* May I take that as a refusal, Dr. Dingy? How about you, Dr. Forman?

*Dr. Forman:* I'll be glad to do it.

*Dr. Burrowes:* Any other aspirants for the job? No? Any objections to Dr. Forman as secretary.? O.K. Bill, you've got the job.

*Dr. Burrowes:* O.K. At this point I would like to exercise my chairman's prerogative, and ask a couple of you to remove Dr. Dingy from the floor? He is disturbing my concentration.

Two of the doctors carry Dr. Dingy out of the room, right.

*Dr. Humes:* I must say, Francis that is the most unusual motion from the floor I ever experienced.



*Dr. Burrowes:* I think that inasmuch as this is our first meeting, we can dispense with both the reading of the minutes and old business.

*Dr. Humes:* Come on, Francis. Get with it.

*Dr. Burrowes:* Sorry, Dr. Humes. The chair will now entertain any business from the floor.

*Dr. Humes:* Mr. Chairman, I would like to present the following resolution for consideration of the assembly: RESOLVED: that we constitute an association to be called "The Medical Society of the City and County of Lancaster, whose object it shall be to promote harmony among the members of the profession and to improve medical science."

*Dr. Burrowes:* Thank you Dr. Humes. God knows we have experienced an alarming amount of personality conflicts, carping, and backbiting among our colleagues in the profession.

*Dr. Boulden:* I would humbly suggest that the chairman refrain from editorializing until we have a motion on the floor for discussion.

*Dr. Handford:* This is a most momentous occasion. It must be the first time that Dr. Boulden ever did anything humbly.

*Dr. Burrowes:* Gentlemen! Gentlemen! Order! Dr. Handford, I have the floor, please. I move that Dr. Humes' resolution be adopted. Not that I think it's that great, but we have to get it up for discussion.

*Dr. Burrowes:* I have a motion on the floor. Will the secretary please read the motion?

*Dr. Forman:* That Dr. Hume's resolution be adopted, not that I think its that...

*Dr. Handford:* No! No! just the first part.

*Dr. Forman:* The motion is "that Dr. Humes' resolution be adopted."

*Dr. Burrowes:* Do I hear a second?

*Dr. Davis:* I second the motion.

*Dr. Burrowes:* It has been moved and seconded that Dr. Humes' resolution be adopted. The motion is now open for discussion.

*Dr. Handford:* I don't think we have addressed all of the objectives that such a society should encompass.

*Dr. Davis:* I think you mean "I don't think we have encompassed all the objectives that such a society should address."

*Dr. Handford:* How do you know what I mean? Are you a mind reader, or something?

*Dr. Davis:* Yeah, and how about all those charlatans out there who are making outrageous claims and pushing nostrums and poisons and killing more people than they cure?

*Dr. Burrowes:* Order, order! Gentlemen, please show a little decorum.

*Dr. Humes:* Mr. Chairman, I would like to respond to my esteemed colleague



Dr. Handford. He has a valid point, and I gave much consideration to the issue he raises. My thought, having been involved in previous organization work, is that we should keep it as simple as possible. By keeping the objectives broad, we avoid presenting a laundry list of specific items which lend themselves to nit-picking by every Tom, Dick and Harry who comes down the pike. We can hone things a little finer when we develop a Constitution and By-Laws. I think just our little exchanges here tonight demonstrate the necessity for promoting harmony among the members of the profession, and, in answer to Dr. Davis, the charlatans and irregular or incompetent physicians are addressed by "improving medical science". Let's at least start with this, or something like it, so that we can get things started."

*Dr. Burrowes:* Any further discussion?

Dr. Humes goes to the bar to refill his brandy glass. He is joined by Dr. Davis.

*Dr. Handford:* I take exception to the implication that we have demonstrated disharmony here tonight. I request the secretary to read my last remarks.

*Dr. Forman:* How do you know what I mean? Are you a mind-reader or something?

*Dr. Handford:* O.K. I apologize. Question.

*Dr. Burrowes:* You have a question?

*Dr. Handford:* No. I'm calling for the question.

*Dr. Burrowes:* All those in favor of the motion say aye.

At that time, Dr. Dingy has staggered on stage right.

*Dr. Dingy:* What wash the moshun?

*Dr. Boulden:* Shut up, Dinghy.

Dr. Dingy collapses on the floor.

*Dr. Burrowes:* All those in favor, say aye. All but Dr. Handford say "Aye"

*Dr. Burrowes:* Those opposed?

*Dr. Handford:* No.

*Dr. Burrowes:* The motion has passed. Any further business?

*Dr. Humes:* Yes. We will need to develop a constitution and by laws.

*Dr. Burrowes:* I will exercise the prerogative of the chair by appointing a committee to develop such a document and present it at the next meeting. The committee will consist of Drs. Humes, Boulden, Handford, Davis, Forman and Dingy.

*Dr. Dingy (from the floor):* I object!

*Dr. Boulden:* Shut up, Dinghy!

*Dr. Burrowes:* Order. Any further business?

*Dr. Humes:* I fear that our few numbers and lack of representation of the city and certain areas of the county may lead to accusations of domination



and secrecy. I feel that everyone who wishes should be given a chance to participate, and that the next meeting be held in the city, as a more central location. We want as little criticism and dissension as possible. I therefore present the following resolution. RESOLVED: that this meeting adjourn to convene at the house of Mr. John Whiteside, the Fountain Inn...

*Dr. Ding* (from the floor): Hear! Hear!

*Dr. Boulden*: Shut up, Dinghy!

*Dr. Humes*: ...in the City of Lancaster, on Monday of March next, at 2 o'clock P.M., when and where the physicians of Lancaster and adjoining counties are respectfully invited to attend."

*Dr. Davis*: I move the resolution be adopted. *Dr. Boulden*: Second.

*Dr. Burrowes*: All those in favor say aye. All: AYE!

*Dr. Burrowes*: Thank you all for coming. This meeting stands adjourned.

Penny enters right:

*Penny*: Dr. Burrowes, as soon as the gentlemen leave, I have something hot waiting for you in the kitchen.

(BLACKOUT)

#### INTERIM

Dr. John L. Atlee

Well, it was a start. I wasn't there; not that I wasn't invited, but it was a very cold night and I had some professional duties elsewhere. I would like to point out that my esteemed colleague, Dr. Frances Burrowes, who hosted the meeting in Strasburg, was unmarried at the time, not marrying his lovely bride, Miss Harriet Carpenter, until almost three years later: December 28, 1825.

The second meeting was held as scheduled. This time Dr. Humes was appointed chairman, and Dr. Boulden secretary. There was a better representation from the city. The founding resolution was even further trimmed, and now read: "Resolved, that it is expedient for the practicing physicians in the city and county of Lancaster to form an association to be called "The Medical Society of the City and County of Lancaster."

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee was reconstituted for better representation, and now consisted of Drs. Boulden, Burrowes and Forman of the County, and Drs. Muhlenberg, Carpenter and me from the City. The next meeting was set for the same place, on Monday, April 19th, at 2 P.M. All practicing physicians in the city and county were respectfully invited to attend. We now move on to that meeting to see what happened.



## ACT 1 - SCENE 2

The place: The Fountain Inn, Lancaster

The time: April 19, 1823.

The cast: Drs. Humes, Boulden, Burrowes, Forman, Muhlenberg, Carpenter and Atlee.

There is a head table, and enough chairs for everyone. Dr. Humes is standing at the head table, and Dr. Boulden is busy writing at the head table. The other doctors are seated in the chairs.

*Dr. Humes:* This meeting will please come to order. We are gathered to consider the deliberations of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, and to elect the permanent officers of the organization. Dr. Muhlenberg, as chairman of the Constitution and By-Laws committee, are you prepared to present your document to this assembly for their consideration?

*Dr. Muhlenberg:* We are, Mr. Chairman.

*Dr. Humes:* Would you please read your proposal to the group?

*Dr. Carpenter:* Just a minute. The first thing we should do is elect the officers of this organization. They should certainly be in place before we consider the Constitution and By-Laws.

*Dr. Humes:* The chair decrees that there is no organization until we have a constitution and by-laws. We don't even know what the offices will be.

*Dr. Carpenter:* If there is no organization, then you are the chairman of nothing. How can you preside over our new organization if you are chairman of nothing?

*Dr. Humes:* We have already passed a resolution that we have an organization, and have a name for it, The Medical Society of the City and County of Lancaster." And, lacking any agreed upon constitution and by-laws, I am the chairman of that organization.

*Dr. Carpenter:* Then, if we do have an organization, we have to have a chairman first.

*Dr. Forman:* I move that we elect a president of this organization.

*Dr. Humes:* I think we should at least listen to the Constitution and By-Laws.

*Dr. Burrowes:* There is a motion on the floor.

*Dr. Muhlenberg:* But the By-Laws...

*Dr. Humes:* Alright. There is a motion on the floor. Mr. Secretary, will you please read the motion.

*Dr. Forman:* We need a new secretary, too.

*Dr. Boulden:* The motion reads: "that we elect a president of this organization."

*Dr. Humes:* Dr. Forman, would you like to make your motion more specific?

*Dr. Forman:* I move that we elect a president of the Medical Society of the City



and County of Lancaster.

*Dr. Humes:* Very well, Is there a second?

*Dr. Carpenter:* Second.

*Dr. Humes:* It has been moved and seconded that we elect a President of the Medical Society of the City and County of Lancaster. Is there any discussion?

*Dr. Carpenter:* Question.

*Dr. Humes:* O.K. All those in favor, say Aye:

All: Aye.

*Dr. Humes:* The motion has passed unanimously. The chair will now entertain nominations for President.

Nothing but silence.

*Dr. Humes:* We certainly can't have a president if we don't have any candidates.

*Dr. Carpenter:* O.K., I nominate Dr. Henry Carpenter for president.

*Dr. Burrowes:* You can't do that!

*Dr. Carpenter:* Do what?

*Dr. Burrowes:* Nominate yourself.

*Dr. Carpenter:* Why not?

*Dr. Muhlenberg:* It must be against the by -laws.

*Dr. Carpenter:* We don't have any by-Laws.

*Dr. Muhlenberg:* If you weren't all so stubborn, we would have by-laws.

*Dr. Humes:* Order! Order! I'll accept that nomination. Is there a second?

(SILENCE)

*Dr. Humes:* The nomination dies for lack of a second. Are there any further nominations?

(SILENCE)

*Dr. Carpenter:* Let's just vote, then, for heaven's sake..

*Dr. Boulden:* But we don't have anybody to vote for.

*Dr. Carpenter:* Vote for anybody. Vote for President Monroe. Vote for yourself.

*Dr. Humes:* If there are no nominees, it is proper to enter a write-in vote. We'll have to vote by ballot. Mr. Secretary, will you please provide paper and pencils to each of the delegates?

Dr. Boulden tears up some paper and passes out paper and pencils to each participant, except Dr. Humes. They dutifully write, and Dr. Boulden collects the ballots.

*Dr. Humes:* Dr. Boulden, will you and Dr. Atlee please count the ballots.

They dutifully do so, and hand the tally to Dr. Humes.

Dr. Humes opens the tally sheet and stares at it for a few moments.

*Dr. Humes:* Gentlemen, we have a six way tie for President. I will have to cast the deciding vote.

*Dr. Carpenter:* Who says so?

*Dr. Humes:* Robert's Rules of Order.

*Dr. Atlee:* Fiddlesticks. Robert didn't write them until 1876.

*Dr. Humes:* Then I say so. As chairman, I have as much right to vote as all of the rest of you.

*Dr. Humes* takes a pencil and paper and casts his vote, and hands it to *Dr. Boulden*.

*Dr. Boulden:* Mr. Chairman, we now have a seven way tie.

*Dr. Humes:* We will have to have a revote.

*Dr. Carpenter:* The hell with that. It wouldn't do any good with this bunch of selfish egoists. They'll all just keep voting for themselves.

*Dr. Muhlenberg:* Perhaps we should consider the by-laws...

Much grumbling by the participants.

*Dr. Humes:* I have put a lot of time and energy into this project, as has *Dr. Burrowes* and some of the others. I would hate to see it go down the drain. Would any of you consider changing your vote?

(NO RESPONSE)

*Dr. Humes:* If any of you would consider changing your vote, please raise your hand.

No takers.

Everyone starts milling around and haranguing the others.

*Dr. Humes:* In view of the circumstances, I declare this meeting adjourned.

*Dr. Muhlenberg* (waving the by-laws in his hand, and shouting above the participants): Maybe if we considered the by-laws...

BLACKOUT

## INTERIM

*Dr. John L. Atlee*

Well, the conception in this case of prolonged labor ended in confusion and indecision, as I presume many other conceptions have. One would expect, after such a rocky beginning, that there would be a reasonable gestational period, and hopefully a normal delivery of a healthy offspring.

The gestational period was little noted by the attending physicians, except for an incident which took place three years into the pregnancy. In March, 1826, there was a meeting of the gentlemen of the medical faculty and a number of gentlemen from Lancaster, presided over by *Dr. Samuel Humes*, president, and *Dr. Frederick A. Muhlenberg*, vice-president. I'm not sure what, by this time, they were president and vice-president of, but titles die hard. At



any rate, this was quite a wing-ding, held at the home of Samuel C. Slaymaker, to honor our fellow citizen John Eberle, M.D., Professor of Materia Medica at Jefferson Medical School in Philadelphia. The format of the meeting included the drinking of 32 toasts to everybody and everything, from toast No. 1 to the University of Pennsylvania to toast # 32 by Dr. Humes to Dr. George McLelland, the eloquent and distinguished professor of surgery in the Jefferson Medical College. I got into the act with toast number 17, "to American Medicine untrammelled by the dogmas of European schools; it has assumed that rank among the sciences to which its unlimited sources entitle it." Near the end of the toasts, most of us were feeling no pain, so I felt compelled, as I noticed in the report in the newspaper, to offer toast number 30, "to Benjamin Champley, Esq. His industry, talents and honorable conduct in the legislature entitle him to the esteem and support of his constituents." When a physician offers a glowing accolade to a lawyer, especially one who is a politician, you know it's been a long night.

The pregnancy continued without incident for twenty-one years. Labor pains commenced early in 1844, at a meeting at Dr. Ely Parry's house on January 14.

#### ACT 2 - SCENE 1

The scene is Dr. Ely Parry's house. On stage are Drs. Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, Alexander M. Cassidy, John L. and Washington L. Atlee, Dr. Ely Parry, Dr. John S. Carpenter and Dr. Samuel Humes. Offstage in the audience are the other five physicians attending the meeting: Dr. Henry E. Muhlenberg, Patrick Cassidy, J. Leonard, Charles H. Cameron, and Dr. E. Landis. Dr. Parry sits at a small table at stage right, and the others are seated in chairs arranged in two rows in front of him. Dr. Parry's wife, Elizabeth, is seated at Dr. Parry's right.

*Dr. Parry:* Thank you all for coming today. I sent invitations to all the physicians in the city, and I am not disappointed that only 13 of you came. Our obligations are heavy, and our time at a premium, and I am sure others deterred by the call of duty have an interest in our proposed project. I'm sorry that we don't all fit in this small room, but I'm sure that if we speak up, those of you in the next room can hear o.k. Mrs. Parry has asked permission to sit in on the proceedings; I trust there will be no objections from you gentlemen.

*Dr. Cassidy:* Get the show on the road, Ely. I've got a lady in labor.

*Dr. Muhlenberg:* Yeah, Ely. Let us proceed post-haste.

*Dr. Parry:* O.K., O.K., guys. You all know why we're here. I would like to ask Sam Humes, who is an old hand at this sort of thing, to preside. I'm sure he'll expedite things. And Washington, will you please act as secretary? You seem to like to write things.



Dr. Humes assumes the chair, and Dr. Washington Atlee brings his chair up and sits at the table, takes some paper and a pencil from his pocket, and prepares to write.

*Dr. Humes:* Thank you, Ely. Yes, I had a similar experience twenty-one years ago, but it ended in disaster. I have kept up my interest, and tried to hold things together a bit in the interim, but I sensed that the time was not ripe until now. I have a good feeling about it now, and we'll see what you fellows think. This meeting is now in order.

Dr. W. Atlee takes a cigar from his pocket, puts it in his mouth, and prepares to light it.

*Mrs. Parry:* Dr. Atlee, I am sorry but I must insist that you not smoke in the house.

Dr. W. Atlee mutters an embarrassed "Sorry!" and puts his cigar away. Dr. J. L. Atlee holds up his hand.

*Dr. J. Atlee:* Mr. Chairman!

*Dr. Humes:* The chair recognizes our distinguished colleague, Dr. John L. Atlee.

*Dr. John L. Atlee:* I also was in the group which tried to start a society in 1823. I would like to present the following resolution for your consideration. RESOLVED, That it is expedient that a medical society, to be composed of the physicians of this city and county, be organized.

*Dr. Humes:* That's all?

*Dr. J. Atlee:* That's it.

*Dr. Carpenter:* I second that motion.

*Dr. Humes:* I have a motion and a second. Any discussion?

*Dr. Cassidy:* I call for the question.

*Dr. Humes:* O.K. All those in favor, say Aye.

*Chorus:* Aye.

*Dr. Humes:* Opposed nay.

*Mrs. Parry:* Nay.

*Dr. Humes:* I rule that Mrs. Parry is not a voting member of this group. The motion passes unanimously.

*Dr. Cassidy:* I would like to point out to the chair and the assembled gentlemen that all of us are from the City, with the exception of my brother Pat from Millersville, who wouldn't be here if I hadn't told him about the meeting.

*Dr. Parry:* That's my fault, Alex. In the interest of expediency, I only sent notices to the city doctors.

*Dr. Humes:* An excellent point, Alex. We can't afford to take any chances at all; this thing has to be completely democratic, in order to avoid any hint of the proposed organization being dominated by a clique. We have already



demonstrated that we physicians are a bunch of prima donnas, and we just can't risk another fiasco. I believe the climate is better now, but we have got to put aside our petty jealousies and vanity, and handle this matter with kid gloves or the whole project will go down the drain.

*Dr. Muhlenberg:* Mr. Chairman, I have already considered that aspect, and would move that the following resolution be adopted: RESOLVED, that the chairman and the secretary cause to be placed in public print the following announcement: 'The medical gentlemen of Lancaster County are respectfully invited to meet the physicians of the City in the room of the City Lyceum, at 11 o'clock A.M., on Wednesday the 14th of February, 1844, for the purpose of organizing a city and county medical society. A general attendance is desired, and those who cannot attend are requested to return an answer to this invitation to either of the subscribers. To be signed by Samuel Humes, Chairman, and Washington L. Atlee, Secretary.'

*Dr. J. Atlee:* I second the motion.

*Dr. Humes:* Thank you, Drs. Muhlenberg and Atlee. Is there any discussion?

*Dr. Carpenter:* That's Valentine's Day. Maybe that will help.

*Mrs. Parry:* Are you gentlemen sure that this is a good idea? It seems to me that it would be very time-consuming and lead to a lot of bickering and dissension.

*Dr. Cassidy:* Certainly it's a good idea; and it's also a good idea making this RSVP. We just can't afford to hurt anyone's feelings.

*Dr. Washington L. Atlee:* Who's going to pay for the ad?

*Dr. Humes:* If you guys can take care of it for now, we'll reimburse you from the treasury when we get going.

*Mrs. Ely Parry:* If you get going.

*Dr. Carpenter:* Don't be so negative, Mrs. Parry. We all have to approach this from a positive viewpoint.

*Dr. W. Atlee:* That's easy for you to say, Henry. It's not your money.

*Mrs. Parry:* Already you're bickering. I'm just not quite sure that this whole thing is a good idea.

*Dr. Muhlenberg:* Gentlemen, payment for the notice will be taken care of. And, with all due deference, I fail to see that this is any of Mrs. Parry's business. I call for the question.

*Dr. Humes:* I'm afraid I must agree. All those in favor of the motion say "aye". A chorus of "AYE's".

*Dr. Humes:* Any nays?

*Dr. Parry* clamps his hand over Mrs. Parry's mouth.

*Dr. Washington Atlee:* Nay.

*Dr. Humes:* The motion carries. (Mrs. Parry stalks out of the room). Wash and



I will take care of the notice. Any further business... (Silence). Okay, I would like to appoint a committee consisting of Dr. Frederick Muhlenberg, Dr. John Atlee and Dr. Ely Parry to prepare a preliminary set of by-laws, then we can get the county guys in on it at the next meeting.

*Dr. Muhlenberg:* I still have a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws that we drew up in 1823. The paper's a little yellowed, but I think we can read it.

*Dr. Humes:* Fine. This meeting stands adjourned. See you all next month. Let's blow this joint.

## BLACKOUT

### INTERIM

#### DR. JOHN ATLEE

So, labor appeared to be progressing. On February 14, 1844 a large group of physicians from the city and county gathered at the City Lyceum, on the Franklin College campus. Sam Humes explained the purpose and format of the meeting, and appointed a committee consisting of three physicians from the city, including me, and three from the county, to review the preliminary Constitution and By-Laws, make what modifications we felt necessary, and present them for consideration of the group. A nominating committee was appointed to consult with the By-Laws committee and come up with a slate of officers as designated in the by-laws. Another committee was appointed to consider the selection of medical publications for the society. The meeting then broke for lunch, and reconvened at 2 P.M. We're going to show the same group as in the preceding scene, to avoid confusing you with a lot of new characters. We'll pick them up at that point, just as the water broke.

## ACT II, SCENE 2.

The scene is similar to that in Dr. Parry's house, but there is an American Flag (26 stars. please!) in its standard, and the head table is bigger, and there is a rostrum for the chairman and speakers. The same doctors are seated on the stage as in the last scene, just to make it easier. A bulletin-board with the Constitution and By-Laws displayed thereon is to one side.

*Dr. Humes* is presiding, at the rostrum.

*Dr. Humes:* The afternoon session of this meeting will now come to order. I gathered from the very productive morning session that we are all in favor of establishing a medical society. While most of you were out partaking of the bountiful larder to be found nearby, the committee on constitution and by-laws was busy putting on the finishing touches, and the document displayed here, which I trust all of you have read by now, is a product of their combined ingenuity and wisdom. I will ask Dr. John L. Atlee, Chairman of the By-Laws Committee, to offer his report.

*Dr. Humes* takes his seat at the head table.



Dr. Atlee comes to the rostrum.

*Dr. J. Atlee:* Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank all of the committee members, Dr. Burrowes, Dr. Parry, Dr. Stubbs, Dr. Duffield and Dr. Sample, for giving up their lunch hour to finalize this important document. A special word of thanks to Dr. Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, who was chairman of the committee who composed the first draft of this document twenty-one years ago, and whose vision and foresight made our task much easier. We really didn't have to change that much from the original document. I trust that you have all had a chance to read and digest the document by now, and that it will not be necessary to take the time to read it to the entire assemblage at this time. Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of the Constitution and By-Laws as finalized by your committee and displayed on the bulletin board.

*Dr. Cassidy:* Second.

*Dr. Humes:* It has been moved and seconded that the Constitution and by-laws be accepted. Any discussion?

(SILENCE)

*Dr. Humes:* Hearing none, all those in favor say "aye."

An enthusiastic chorus of "ayes."

*Dr. Humes:* Contrary, nay.

(SILENCE)

*Dr. Humes:* Gentlemen of the Medical Profession, I am delighted to announce that after better than a score of years, the Lancaster City and County Medical Society is now established. I shall now, as the last official duty of this interim chair, ask for the report of the nominating committee, chaired by Dr. Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg.

*Dr. Muhlenberg:* Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the committee members for their diligence and impartiality in fulfilling their task. We respectfully offer the following slate of candidates to fill the offices stipulated in the Constitution and By-Laws you have just adopted:

For Treasurer and Librarian, Dr. Ely Parry.

For Corresponding Secretary, Dr. Washington L. Atlee

For Recording Secretary, Dr. Henry Carpenter

For Second Vice-President, Dr. Samuel Duffield

For First Vice-President, Dr. F. A. Muhlenberg.

You thought I was saving my name for last, didn't you? And now for the piece-de-resistance, the committee offers for your consideration for the office of President, Dr. Samuel Humes, Jr.

Great cheering and applause.

*Dr. Humes:* Thank you for your report, Dr. Muhlenberg. The chair will now



entertain any motions from the floor.

(SILENCE)

*Dr. Cassidy:* Mr. Chairman, I move that the secretary be instructed to cast a ballot by acclamation for the slate as presented.

*Dr. Washington L. Atlee:* Second.

*Dr. Humes:* Any discussion? Any objections? So ordered.

(Applause). *Dr. W. Atlee* relinquishes his seat to *Dr. Carpenter*, and shakes his hand. The other "visible audience" jumps up and congratulates *Dr. Humes*.

*Dr. Humes:* Thank you all. Thank you all so much. As my first official duty as president of the Lancaster City and County Medical Society, I will call on *Dr. Ely Parry*, who chaired the committee for selection of literature for the Society, for his report.

*Dr. Parry:* Thank you, President *Humes*. (cries of "Hear! Hear!") The committee has given due consideration to the very important educational task of selecting literature to begin the library of the Society. We suggest the purchase of the following publications:

Foreign: British Foreign Medical Review

Johnson's Medico-Chiurgical Review

Dublin Journal of Medical Science

Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal

American: American Journal of the Medical Sciences

New York Journal

Boston Medical and Surgical Journal

Western Medical Journal, Louisville.

I move that the Society subscribe to the recommended list of journals.

*Dr. Carpenter:* *Dr. Parry*, as both librarian and treasurer in addition to chairman of the ad hoc committee, should know that we do not have any money in the treasury.

*Dr. Humes:* You are out of order, *Dr. Carpenter*. There is an unseconded motion on the floor.

*Dr. Carpenter:* Then I second the motion.

*Dr. Humes:* The motion as proposed has been seconded. Any discussion.

*Dr. Carpenter:* Sure there is discussion. I just offered some. We don't have any money. Besides, such an ambitious and lavish expenditure hardly befits the coffers of such a neophyte organization. Now I withdraw my second.

*Dr. Humes:* You realize, *Henry*, that by withdrawing your second you have precluded any further discussion.

*Dr. Carpenter:* Good.



*Dr. Humes:* Do I hear a second to the motion?

*Dr. Washington L. Atlee:* Will the secretary please read the motion?

*Dr. Carpenter:* I was so busy objecting that I didn't have a chance to write down the motion. It had to do with subscribing to that list of expensive journals that Ely presented.

*Dr. Humes:* Do I hear a second to the motion? .... Hearing none, I am wondering if Dr. Parry, in his capacity as librarian, would consider withdrawing his motion until such time as Dr. Parry, in his capacity as treasurer, could assure us that such a purchase is fiscally sound?

*Dr. Parry:* I withdraw the motion.

*Dr. Humes:* Is there any further business to come before this body? If not, I would like to say a few words.

Gentlemen, this is a momentous occasion. I thank you for your confidence, and I assure you I will do my very best to promote the development of this organization and to foster its goals and objectives as outlined in the Constitution. I must honestly admit that there have been many times in the past 21 years that I have felt like chucking the whole idea. But I realized that we did have a wonderful medical community here in Lancaster County, and that it would be a shame to let a glorious idea die due to the personal jealousies and selfish interests of a few of its potential members. So, a few of us hung in there, and I cannot tell you how grateful and how elated we feel about today's events.

I pray that the momentum that we all feel on this occasion may propel the Lancaster City and County Medical Society to great heights, and that it may flourish and prosper and be a leader in developing the art and science of medicine in this great land of ours, so that a hundred years from now....nay, one hundred-fifty years from now.... our descendants will look back and say. "Well done, humble founders! We salute your pioneer efforts, and will ever remember your struggles and perseverance for a lofty ideal." God bless you all. This first meeting of the Lancaster City and County Medical Society stands adjourned!

*Dr. Humes* bangs the gavel, and all freeze for a FADEOUT.

## OPTIONAL POSTLOGUE

Dr. John L. Atlee

So, after a twenty-one year gestational period, the labor and delivery occurred with remarkable smoothness, producing a healthy and vigorous baby. Forty-three physicians became charter members in 1844, 150 years ago.

I had married Sarah in 1822. I didn't know that I was destined to become the second of an illustrious group of Atlee's to practice medicine, many right here in Lancaster. My father's younger brother, Edwin, practiced here in Lancaster and Columbia in his early days -in fact, before he graduated from



medical school — he was the first of the bunch. My kid brother Washington, as we have seen, was a founding member of the Society. My sons Walter and John grew up to be doctors, as did the my brother Bill' son. It just seemed to take off from there.

Four years after the birth of the Society, in April 1848, I received a communication from the Chester County Society, suggesting that we start a State Medical Society. We invited the interested parties to a meeting in Lancaster, at the Methodist Church on South Queen Street, and there the Pennsylvania Medical Society was born. Sam Humes was the first president, the first of 6 Lancaster County physicians, including me, to be president of that body. George Kerfoot and I were delegates to the convention in Philadelphia where the AMA was born, a prestigious organization of which I had the honor of being president in 1882.

Now, 150 years after it's birth and 109 years after my death in 1885, the Lancaster City and County Medical Society is alive and well, its prolonged gestational period only exceeded by its longevity. Perhaps in 2044, you will invite me back for the 200th birthday party. In the meantime, I wish you all a happy birthday, and thanks for asking me to stop by.

—THE END—

#### PROPERTIES

##### Act I, Scene 1

7 chairs

1 small writing table (for secretary)

buffet table with bar

tea set

brandy bottle with tea (for brandy)

brandy glasses

##### Act I, Scene 2.

head table

chairs in theatre set-up

banner (sign) "Fountain Inn"

pencils and paper for ballots

##### Act II, Scene 1

head table

chairs

pencil and paper for secretary

##### Act II, Scene 2

same as Parry's house (Act II, Scene1)

American flag (26 stars)

on-stage rostrum (moved in from narrator's spot)

bulletin board with constitution and by-laws