



INTERIM NEWS & COMMENT

August 2015

Dr. Phyllis H. Larsen, reporter

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Before Boston

To make sure all AVMHS members knew something about the forthcoming program during the AVMA convention, a special postcard was mailed to everyone in June. It featured an engraving of the Harvard University School of Veterinary Medicine from Moses King's 1884 book, *Harvard and Its Surroundings*.

President Dr. Boris Brglez <bobrglez@gmail.com> suggests that we send such a keepsake card with a representative historical image each year prior to the meeting date. Please let him know if you think this is a good idea. Additional copies of the 2015 Boston postcard are available from the Secretary/Treasurer.

AVMHS Annual Meeting in Boston

Past President Dr. Helen Wojcinski conducted a very productive annual business meeting in the absence of outgoing president Dr. Ronnie Elmore. It kept Secretary/Treasurer Susanne Whitaker busy listing things to do in the coming year, as well as who would be doing them. Some included the program at San Antonio next year and whether to include an extensive tour; how WAHVM uses dues paid to it; itemizing the cost of producing issues of *Veterinary Heritage*; and problems related to updating our Web site. In addition, an honorary

membership was approved for Diane Fagen, the AVMA's librarian, for the assistance she provides regarding history. Furthermore, it was observed that an amendment is needed to the AVMHS Constitution because the AVMA now plans its program so far ahead. Instead of the incoming President-Elect being Program Chair for the coming year, it is necessary for the speakers to be identified a whole year in advance.

AVMHS CE Program in Boston

As arranged by President-Elect Dr. Boris Brglez with the help and support of the AVMA's Dr. Ron Banks, our regular program for the first time provided continuing education credit. Attendance was considerably better than our Society's usual programs for affiliated organizations held at nearby hotels.



(l.-r.) Dr. Basil Tangredi, Sarah Oates, Susanne Whitaker, Dr. Phyllis Larsen, and Dr. Howard Erickson. Photo by Dr. Boris Brglez.

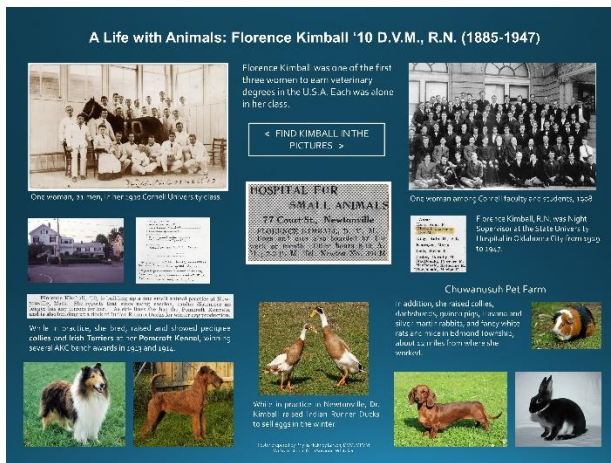
Sarah Oates, 2014 first place winner of the Elizabeth Atwood Lawrence prize in the J.F. Smithcors Student Veterinary History Essay Contest described the background of the animal equivalent of Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Howard Erickson talked about the founding of the Boston Veterinary Institute, the second veterinary college in the United States, as well as its faculty and graduates. Dr. Basil Tangredi covered efforts in eradicating bovine tuberculosis with its public health implications in the late 19th century. Dr. Henry Childers was unable to attend and present his paper on the short lives of the veterinary schools at Harvard and Middlesex

(Brandeis) Universities. Susanne Whitaker and Dr. Phyllis Larsen filled in by reading the stories of these two colleges for him.

The Sunday, July 12 issue of the *AVMA Convention 2015 Daily News* carried a large article on page 11 on the fourth topic of our program, “Boston’s History Includes Pioneering Veterinary Schools.” We were very pleased by this surprise article as it coincided nicely with the talk Dr. Childers had prepared on those same two colleges. <https://mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?i=265674>

AVMHS Exhibit Booth in Boston

Our booth featured a 56-inch x 42-inch color poster titled, “A Life with Animals: Florence Kimball ’10, D.V.M., R.N.” In it, Dr. Phyllis Larsen, with the help of Susanne Whitaker, showed how an early woman veterinarian, Florence Kimball (Cornell 1910), had retained active work with animals even though her position during most of her working life had been as a head night nurse in a large human hospital in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Born in Worcester, Massachusetts, Dr. Kimball spent most of her young life in that state before attending Cornell as the lone female veterinary student in her class of 21 men.



In addition to our usual AVMHS brochures, we handed out a one-page, double-sided “Uncommon ‘Tour Guide’ to Medical and Veterinary History In and Around Boston.” It included a number of museums and exhibits worthy of visits by those interested in history. Contact the office to obtain a copy.

As suggested for the Boston meeting by Brig. Gen. Dr. Thomas G. Murnane, a notebook was displayed containing copies of six articles written by Dr. Everett Miller in 1976 titled, “Cavalcade Salutes America’s 200th Year.” The papers described “a study on the use of horses

and animal-drawn transport on one of the most significant days in American History—April 19, 1775,” including Paul Revere’s famous ride from Boston to Concord. These articles are accessible online from the *Animal Cavalcade & Today’s Animal Health* Web page at <http://www.animalhealthfoundation.net/magazines/>

Visitors to the booth included former AVMHS President Dr. Sidney Ewing, who was in Boston to give a paper on parasitology (see more below). Dr. Ewing is retired, but he still teaches students veterinary history at Oklahoma State University.

Other History Talks at AVMA

In addition to AVMHS’s program, there were several other historically oriented presentations.



Dr. Sidney Ewing in the AVMA booth. Photo by Dr. Helen Wojcinski

- **AAVP Talk by Dr. Sidney Ewing**

On Monday, July 13 at the Revere Hotel, Dr. Sidney Ewing presented his 45-minute paper on “Foundations of Veterinary Parasitology in the Bureau of Animal Industry” at the 60th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists.

- **AAAP Annual Lasher-Eckroade History Lecture**

Each year, the American Association of Avian Pathologists holds its annual multi-day conference in association with the AVMA convention. In Boston this summer, their yearly Lasher-Eckroade History Lecture was delivered by Dr. Richard H. McCapes speaking on “The Life and Times of Ray[mond A.] Bankowski.” Dr. Bankowski was Professor Emeritus at the School of

Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis. His active research program focused on the study of infectious viral diseases of animals and their control. Next year in San Antonio, Dr. Karel “Ton” Schat, Emeritus Professor of Veterinary Virology at Cornell University, will deliver the AAAP history lecture on the discovery and developments related to Marek’s Disease.

AVMHS members are welcome to attend these interesting presentations focusing on historical topics. Also, check out the American Association of Avian Pathologists (AAAP) history web pages at <http://www.aaap.info/history>

Erickson Interviewed for VetWrite Blog

Dr. Anna O’Brien, a veterinary practitioner and writer, interviewed Dr. Howard Erickson about veterinary history. The piece titled, “The Heralds of (Veterinary) History” at <http://www.vetwrite.blogspot.com/> appeared on her *VetWrite* blog dated May 4, 2015. This blog explores creativity, literature and art within veterinary medicine. She found the result so interesting that she had added the exploration of veterinary history to her blog, and had joined our Society.

Dr. O’Brien is looking to interview veterinarians who are writers, poets, artists, and entertainers in order to learn and hopefully inspire others. In addition to her blog, she can be contacted at <sunsetblvd1982@yahoo.com>.

History of Wisconsin Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Fred Born <fjborn@att.net> has completed a 132-year veterinary history. Over a period of about 18 months, he spent countless hours researching and compiling it. *The History of Veterinary Medicine in Wisconsin* widely discusses veterinary medicine and veterinary personalities in the state. Some of the latter exerted influence on the profession as a whole, making Dr. Born’s history of much wider interest than just for Wisconsin veterinarians.

For instance, Melvin W. Downing, D.V.S., who graduated from the Grand Rapids Veterinary College (1897-1918) in Michigan in 1904, began practice in Waukesha, Wisconsin in 1907, first with Dr. David Roberts, then a few years later went on his own. He was one of the first members of the young Wisconsin VMA established in 1915. Dr. Born further indicates that “Waukesha County was then known as ‘Cow County of the World’. Waukesha, through the efforts of Dr. Melvin Downing, was the first county in the United States to have cattle tested for tuberculosis...In 1940, Dr. Downing and his son, Dr. Glenn Downing, were

involved in promoting the calf-hood Bangs vaccination program in Wisconsin and the nation.”



Dr. Melvin W. Downing is shown here with his buggy and team in June, 1914. Photo courtesy Dr. Fred Born.



Dr. Downing got his first automobile in 1916. Photo from *Waukesha Daily Freeman*, January 7, 1949.

This detailed history is being distributed in several ways. In addition to a complete version on CD-ROM available upon request, Dr. Born is producing a serial version issued weekly and forwarded by e-mail. Eventually, the full text may also be posted on the AVMHS Web site.

Williams’ Illustrations Being Archived

We have learned that David J. Williams, Professor Emeritus and former Director of Medical Illustration and Communications at the Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine, has deposited his massive collection of medical and other scientific illustrations in the Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center at Purdue University (<https://www.lib.purdue.edu/spcol>). He has signed legal documents, giving them all rights to his superb collection.

An excellent example of Professor Williams’ exquisite work appeared on the cover of the November 2015 issue of *Veterinary Heritage*.

2016 Student Essay Contest - 25th Year

It's not too soon to begin encouraging interested veterinary students in thinking about topics that they would enjoy researching to submit to the 2016 Smithcours Student Veterinary History Essay Contest. Committee chair Dr. Russ Currier has set the deadline as April 15, 2016. For more information, check the AVMHS Web site at <http://avmhs.org/smithcoressay/15essay.html> or contact Dr. Currier at russcurrier@aol.com.

2015-2016 AVMHS Officers

For the coming year, the new 2105-2016 AVMHS officers and board members will be:

President:

Boris Brglez, DVM, MPH, DACVPM, VC, LTC,
(Frederick, MD)

Program-Chair/President-Elect:

Peter Cowen, DVM, MPVM, PhD (Chapel Hill, NC)

Past President:

Ronnie G. Elmore, DVM, MS, DACT (Manhattan, KS)

Secretary/Treasurer:

Susanne Whitaker, MSLS, AHIP (Ithaca, NY)

At-Large Board Members:

Ana Alcaraz, DVM, PhD, DACVP (Claremont, CA)

Lisa Cox, PhD (Guelph, Ontario, Canada)

Cynthia Hoobler, DVM, MPH, DACVPM (Friendswood, TX)

[Fourth board member to be named at later date]

Veterinary Heritage Indexed in PubMed

As you know, our journal, *Veterinary Heritage*, continues to be indexed in PubMed, a national database of medicine produced by the NIH's National Library of Medicine that is freely accessible on the Internet at <http://pubmed.gov>. Currently, there are 198 references in the database back to 1982. However, we recently noticed that some issues have been completely missed along with sporadic articles.

To remedy this, two AVMHS members, Dr. Phil Teigen with advice from Michael North, head of rare books at the National Library of Medicine, have pursued this matter with the Indexing Section. We hope that the gaps will soon be closed.

MSPCA-Angell Animal Medical Center Celebrates Its 100 Anniversary

March 5, 2015 marked the 100 anniversary of the establishment of the Angell Animal Medical Center in Boston. In honor of that occasion, *The Boston Globe Magazine* published an article by Bella English

describing how the hospital evolved from the initial animal welfare activism of George Thorndike Angell, Esq. that was followed by Dr. Francis H. Rowley. <http://www.mspca.org/about-us/history/>



George T. Angell, Esq. (1823-1909)

The Angell Archive Project “is dedicated to preserving and protecting all material in its possession related to its rich history.” These are “an irreplaceable source of information about the history of the humane movement, the city of Boston, the state of Massachusetts, and the society at large.” The Archives is accessible for research purposes. Jan Holmquist is actively seeking artifacts, memorabilia, and other items related to the history of the Angell Memorial Animal Hospital as it was known until 2003. For more information about the Archives Project and types of items in the collection, see <http://www.mspca.org/about-us/history/archive-project.html>, or contact Jan at 617-541-5005 or jholmquist@mspca.org

New AVMHS Members

We are pleased to welcome:

Dr. Henry E. Childers (Cranston, RI)

Dr. Kenneth and Ratre Platt (Ames, IA)

Dan Walsh (West Lafayette, IN)

Dr. Howard H. Erickson (Manhattan, KS) and

Dr. Marianne Ash (Lafayette, IN) have upgraded their memberships to become our latest Life Members.

New Registry of Veterinary Heritage Practices

We are pleased to welcome new Registry members:

MSPCA-Angell Animal Medical Center (Boston, MA),
Estab. 1915

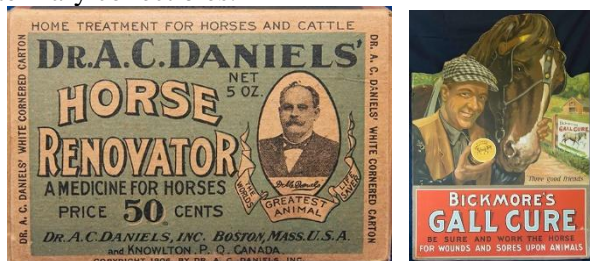
North Shore Veterinary Hospital (Gloucester, MA),
Estab. 1935

Fall 2015 Collectibles Auction

Timing is right to include an announcement of Dr. Michael Smith's fall 2015 Veterinary Collectibles Roundtable Auction in this issue. Instructions and details along with a complete list with descriptions and color photos of all of the advertising, paper ephemera, patent medicine, instruments, and many more items can be found at <http://www.veterinarycollectibles.com>

Bids can be placed to his cell phone 770-361-7255 (or 404-660-7001) or by email to petvet@mindspring.com until the auction ends on **Saturday, September 12, 2015**.

This is a fantastic periodic opportunity for collectors to add important veterinary collectible items to their holdings, and learn more about this aspect of veterinary history. Dr. Smith's newsletter (available by subscription) also has many informative articles about veterinary collectibles.



Meeting Calendar

2015

Nov. 13-14 61st DVG-Vet Kongress, Hannover History Section Conference, Berlin, Germany

2016

June, tba 3-day 100th anniversary celebration of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Uniformed Veterinary Medical Assoc.
 Aug 5-9 tba AVMHS Annual Business Meeting and Program, San Antonio, Texas
 Sept tba 42th WAHVM International Congress

2017

July 21-25 tba AVMHS Annual Business Meeting and Program, Indianapolis, Indiana

Contents of Recent Veterinary History Journal Issues

Copies of articles may be obtained through interlibrary loan services provided by your local college or public library, or from the AVMHS Secretary-Treasurer if unavailable from other sources.

Veterinary History: Journal of the Veterinary History Society (U.K.), vol. 18, no.1, 2015 August

Jones, Bruce Vivash. Editorial: In praise of standing on shoulders... 1-Your start with A, B, C. ... 1-4

New Books

Birch, Anna and Anna Baatz. *Call the Vet*. Bath, U.K.: Oakhill Publishing Ltd, 2015. [Audiobook]. 7 sound CD's (about 8 hours). ISBN: 9781784332839

Borelli, Giovanni Alfonso (1608-1679). *Borelli's On the Movement of Animals - On the Natural Motions Resulting from Gravity*. Cham: Springer, 2015. 292 pgs. ISBN: 9783319085364 (Studies in History and Philosophy of Science (Dordrecht, Netherlands), no. 38)

Botting, Jack H.; edited by Regina M. Botting. *Animals and Medicine: The Contributions of Animal Experimentation to the Control of Disease*. Cambridge: Open Book Publishers, 2015. 1 online resource (224 pgs.) ISBN: ISBN: 9781783741199
<http://www.openbookpublishers.com/reader/327#page/1/mode/2up>

Brown, Chris. *Tales from a Bondi Vet*. Sydney, N.S.W., Australia: Hachette Australia, 2015. ? pgs. ISBN: 9780733633270

Vogelsang, Jessica. *All Dogs Go to Kevin: everything three dogs taught me (that I didn't learn in veterinary school)*. New York: Grand Central Publishing, 2015. 323 pgs. ISBN: 9781455554935

Wilson, David A.H. *Welfare of Performing Animals: Historical and Modern Perspectives*. [S.l.]: Springer, 2015? 278 pgs. ISBN: 9783662458334

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Send news, comments, and suggestions for the next *News & Comment* to: Dr. Phyllis H. Larsen, 1675 Ellis Hollow Road, Ithaca, NY 14850, phone/fax 607-539-6181, or by email to phlarsen@clarityconnect.com, or AVMHS Secretary-Treasurer Susanne Whitaker, 23 Wedgewood Drive, Ithaca, NY 14850-1064, or phone 607-257-9248 or email skw2@cornell.edu or avmhs.info@gmail.com.

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 Tailpiece: Clewlow, John. Doctor, can you vet my horse? Vet, can you doctor my cat?...112.

Brock PM, Murdock CC, Martin LB. The history of ecoimmunology and its integration with disease ecology. *Integrative and Comparative Biology*. 2014 Sep;54(3):353-62. doi:10.1093/icb/icu046.

Brown JH, Catterall WA, Conn PJ, Cull-Candy SG, Dingledine R, Harden TK, Insel PA, Milligan G, Traynelis SF. The First 50 Years of Molecular Pharmacology. *Molecular Pharmacology*. 2015 Jul;88(1):139-40. doi: 10.1124/mol.115.099564.

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