

House Call

A publication of the Medical Heritage Center at The Ohio State University

FROM THE MHC ARCHIVES:



New Mobile Shelving

THE MHC MISSION:

The Medical Heritage Center preserves, promotes, teaches and celebrates the health care legacy of central Ohio as the essential foundation from which the future of the health sciences are born.

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Note from the Curator

By Judith A. Wiener, MA, MLIS

As usual, the summer has provided the MHC staff with time to complete various collection projects while planning for our Fall programs.

We were thrilled to be able to renovate our archival and artifact storage areas due to a generous gift from the William G. Myers, MD, PhD Endowment. This gift allows us to improve the way we store our artifacts for long-term preservation as well as increase the amount of space we have to house new collection materials.

We are excited to announce four collections have recently been processed and are ready for researcher use, including the collections of psychiatric nursing pioneer and former dean of the College of Nursing, Grayce Sills, RN, PhD, the historical archive of the Columbus Medical Association, the Samuel A. Corson, PhD Papers, and the Thomas A. Pence Papers. All collections were processed due to the generosity of donors that supported the Grayce Sills Archive Endowment at the College of Nursing, the Columbus Medical Association Foundation, and individual donors who give to the MHC collection support funds. Without these gifts, preserving the past for future generations would not be possible.

There will be a lot of activities for visitors to enjoy at the MHC this Fall!



Courtesy National Library of Medicine

The MHC is proud to announce that we will be a host site for the *Life and Limb: The Toll of the Civil War* traveling exhibit from the National Library of Medicine from August 31 to October 10. The exhibit shares the perspectives of surgeons, physicians, and nurses who served in the American Civil War and highlights the heroism and brutality

of battlefield operations and the challenges of caring for the wounded during wartime. This exhibition was developed and produced by the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health. For more information on this exhibit, visit the MHC website or the exhibit's website at: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/lifeandlimb/>



HENTLEY'S SUCCESSFUL SECONDARY AMPUTATION AT THE HIP-JOINT.

Courtesy National Library of Medicine



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Finally, mark your calendars for our two exciting Fall lectures. Robert B. Stevenson, DDS, MS, MA, will give a lecture in partnership with the College of Dentistry, entitled the *125th Anniversary of the OSU College of Dentistry*, on September 10. The Annual John C. Burnham Lecture will be held on October 29 and will feature William Summers, MD, PhD, from Yale University. The Burnham Lecture is co-sponsored by the MHC and the OSU Department of History and is supported

by an endowment that was established by Marjorie Burnham, to support an annual lecture in honor of John Burnham, PhD. Both lectures will have a 4pm reception and will begin at 4:30pm in the MHC and are free and open to the public. More information about the lectures can be found on the MHC website. We hope to see you for one or more of these events in the Fall!

Memorial for John S. Vasko BS, DDS, MD, FACS on the 86th/ 23rd Anniversary of his Birth/ Death

*David Yashon BSM, MD, FACS, FRCS(C), FAANS Professor Emeritus, Department of Surgery, The Ohio State University
Dr. George Paulson assisted in preparing this belated memorial*

The Ohio State University was fortunate to have among its distinguished faculty Dr. John S. Vasko; a brilliant clinician, scholar, and educator. The College of Medicine over 100 years have had a large number of scholars, educators, and fine surgeons but here I wish only to describe Vasko's brilliance as a surgeon. Vasko arrived at OSU in 1966 after chief residency in cardiovascular and thoracic surgery at Vanderbilt University. He almost immediately had success in attracting large numbers of referring physicians and patients. His success was nurtured by Division Director Dr. Karl Klassen and Dr. Robert Zollinger, Chairman of the Department of Surgery. By 1973 his rank was elevated to Professor. During his 18 year career he trained dozens of residents and hundreds of students. He was author or co-author of over one hundred peer reviewed papers and an almost equal number of abstracts and presentations.



John S. Vasko BS, DDS, MD, FACS

Over all of the years of practice he treated a daily census of twenty to fifty hospitalized patients. He rarely took vacations. During the week he arrived punctually in the operating suite at 7:30 A.M. to begin a day of surgery. Year in and year out he did not leave the hospital until 11:00 P.M., midnight or later. On Saturdays he put in a full day's work. Most Sundays he stayed home but frequently came in to see ill patients. Sometimes he was known to take catnaps on his office couch of an afternoon. His office was usually filled with cigar smoke as he met with students, residents, and urgent patients. Vasko was a master surgeon. His weekly surgery schedule was filled with twenty to thirty major procedures all of which were skillfully and expeditiously performed. His patients suffered few complications. His instruction to up and coming surgeons was to "never look at the clock" while operating.



Hurrying is a major cause of complications. As an example it took him forty-five minutes from skin to skin to complete a carotid endarterectomy. Anecdotally it took me one hour and fifteen minutes for the same procedure and that is good time. With his permission I scrubbed with him twice to find out what surgical skills allowed him to shave a half hour off my time. There were none, he was just more efficient. He deftly carried out the procedure while laughing, chatting, and whistling. Looking up at the clock it had taken forty-five minutes. House officers some of whom were less industrious took their yearly vacations rather than rotate through his service because of heavy clinical burdens placed on them. Others enlisted for double rotations because of their realization of the educational value, both in and out of the operating suite of working with Vasko. Vasko, in an era prior to lengthy patient conferences, spent considerable time reassuring patients and their families. He had a colorful, confident personality and wore a sheriff's badge on his white coat.

John Samuel Vasko was born March 17, 1929 the only child of Jacob and Marie (Stasko) Vasko in Cleveland Ohio. He graduated from Cleveland West Technical High School in 1947. In 1950 he graduated from OSU (Phi Beta Kappa) with a BS. He received his DDS (cum laude) in 1954. He received the MD degree from OSU (cum laude, AOA) in 1958. Vasko worked his way through college, dental school, and medical school doing various types of work including cab driver and dentist. From 1958 through 1961 he was an intern and resident at John Hopkins University. 1961 brought him to Vanderbilt University where he was chief resident under Dr. David Sabiston 1963-1964. He was the Chief, Laboratories of Experimental Surgery as well as Senior Attending Surgeon at the National Institutes of Health 1964-1966. He returned to OSU in 1966 as Associate Professor and was promoted to Professor in 1973. He served as a Lieutenant Commander in the Naval Reserve from 1953 to 1964. In addition to OSU he was a surgical staff member at Riverside-Methodist, Doctor's, St. Anthony,

Grant, and Childrens Hospitals. He was certified by the American Boards of Surgery and Thoracic Surgery in 1965 and 1966. He served on many local, national, and international heart and surgical committees as well as acquiring memberships in many important societies related to his profession.

The Vasko family including his wife Billie (deceased) sons Stephen, Michael, John and Mark; and daughters Catherine and Annette reveled in their stable of sixty Arabian horses and six canine Mastiffs. He bred, raised, and sold these pedigree animals. When visiting his 300 acre farm, barn, and home out in the country near Circleville I saw him take a misbehaving Arabian to the ground by grabbing the horse in a headlock and bringing him down. On driving up to the Vasko property one was met by several huge Mastiffs surrounding the car. I was fearful of getting out of the car until John would order them away and they immediately disappeared. When on tour of his renovated home and visiting his and Billie's bedroom there was a king-sized bed. At the foot of the bed there was a twin bed. Upon inquiring whose bed that was he told me that's Mike the giant Mastiff's bed.

John had a massive ischemic stroke in February of 1984. His life was saved by Dr. George Paulson and Dr. Richard Lewis. He was left with severe problems with language and a dense right hemiparesis. After partial recovery he could no longer do surgery or continue his brilliant career. He understood most everything however. A group of his close physician friends would meet with him for Saturday luncheons monthly for about a year. During those times John was always interested in contemporary news regarding medicine and medical care in Central Ohio. On June 29th 1992 he took his own life by gunshot wound to the head at age 63. A brilliant surgeon as well as a man with the highest ethics and morals was lost. His family, friends, colleagues, and students grieved for him. I, for one, still do and frequently relive the times we had together. They are always inspiring and pleasant.



Collection Highlight:

Grayce M. Sills, RN, PhD Papers

Presently spanning 23 linear feet with a date range of 1920 to 2014, the Grayce M. Sills, RN, PhD Papers is one of 150 collections that comprise the MHC archives. Documenting her career as a psychiatric nurse professional, the Papers contain awards, documents, papers, and media.



Grace M. Sills, RN, PhD

Grayce Lucille McVeigh Sills (April 18, 1926–) grew up in Bremen, Ohio and graduated from high school in 1944. She then attended Ohio University for two years but a summer program at Rockland State Mental Hospital in New York resulted in her deciding to become a nurse. She graduated from Rockland State Hospital School of Nursing (1950) and attended Teachers College, Columbia University (1950-51).

Sills accepted a position at Dayton State Hospital (1955). In 1956 she obtained her Bachelor's degree from the University of Dayton. During this time she also married and had a daughter.

In 1964, Sills received a Master's in Sociology from The Ohio State University. In this same year she also began her teaching career in the School, later College, of Nursing. She received her PhD in Sociology from Ohio State in 1968.

During her tenure on the nursing faculty, Sills developed the graduate level clinical nurse specialist program in psychiatry; helped develop the doctoral program in nursing; was Director of the Advanced Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Program; Chair of the Department of Family and Community Nursing; Director of Graduate Studies; and, Acting Dean. She also helped the School of Nursing achieve independent status as a College within the University. She remained at the OSU College of Nursing until retiring with the title Professor Emeritus in 1993.

Sills has been an international consultant for community-based mental health nursing, as well as a visiting professor at Case Western Reserve University, Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, and Fairfield University School of Nursing. She was president and journal editor of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association and is a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, recognized as a Living Legend in 1999. She chaired the Study Committee on Mental Health Services for Ohio, and, in 1986, was chosen as a Woman of Achievement by the Columbus YWCA. A past chair of the OSU Hospitals Board of Trustees, she was instrumental in gaining board support for magnet hospital status, achieved in 2005. She has had the rare distinction of receiving three awards from OSU: a Distinguished Teaching Award, a Distinguished Service Award and an honorary doctorate in public service (2005), as well as honorary doctorates from Indiana University and Fairfield University in Connecticut.

The funding for these Papers was provided by the Grayce Sills Archives Endowed Fund (Fund #411446) at the College of Nursing.

Recent Donations (January 1 – June 1, 2015)

The staff of the Medical Heritage Center would like to acknowledge and thank Drs. George and Ruth Paulson for their generous donation to provide long-term publication support for the House Call newsletter.

Material

Additions to the Arthur G. James, MD Papers • Additions to the Ohio Nurses Association Records • Dr. John Burnham (book) • Dr. Ronald Coen (article) • Columbus Medical Association Records • Dr. Sandy Cornett (3 books) • Mrs. Debbie Freece (nursing artifacts and 29 books) • Drs. Louis and Nancy Goorey (37 artifacts and 1 book) • Dr. Jack Gottschalk (91 dental books and 19 dental artifacts) • Dr. J.T. and Mrs. Jennifer Guy (6 books) • Dr. John and Mrs. Anne Hohmann (102 books and 21 artifacts) • Mrs. Pauline Keyes (microscope) • Dr. James King (8 books) • Mrs. Kitty Kisker (additions to the OSU College of Nursing Records) • Mrs. Frances McNew (279 books) • Drs. George and Ruth Paulson (2 books) • Dr. Phyllis Stevenson (3 books) • Dr. Barbara Zollinger Sweeney (Richard Zollinger, MD Papers) • Mrs. Ann M. Twiggs (book) • Dr. Joseph P. Whitlatch (17 artifacts)

Financial

Ms. Pamela Bradigan • Mr. Evan W. Dixon • Mrs. Marilyn Johnson • Mr. Andrew Korsak • Dr. Carl Leier • Mr. Tom Denune and Dr. Teresa Long • Mrs. Mary Beth Mathews • Dr. Bruce Meyer • Dr. Krzysztof Mrozek • Drs. George and Ruth Paulson • Dr. John Sauer • Mr. Jack Shaffer • Mr. Laurence and Dr. Linda Stone (in memory of Ms. Karen Hartker) • Dr. Manuel and Mrs. Madeline Tzagournis • Mr. Michael and Mrs. Judith Wiener • Dr. Steve Wilson

For information on how to make a material or financial donation to the MHC, please contact Judith Wiener at judith.wiener@osumc.edu or visit our website at go.osu.edu/mhc

Storage Expansion and Tours Available

By Kristin Rodgers, MLIS

It has always been a wish list item to replace the old wooden cabinets that housed most of our artifact collection with proper shelving. Wooden cabinets are not an ideal storage solution as wood naturally off-gasses over time. Since these cabinets were originally used from the time the Health Sciences Library had a rare book alcove, the need to replace them was increasingly apparent. As we were also out of room on our archival shelving, we needed to find a way to maximize our shelving in that area too.

Through the generosity of the William G. Myers, MD, PhD Endowment Fund, we were not only able to better



house his collection of artifact and archival material, but expand our overall collection space. Mobile shelving was installed in one section which increased our overall archival storage space by 42%. A wide span shelving range was installed as well to house the oversized boxes, primarily photographs and posters, as well as new cabinets to replace the wooden ones for the artifacts.

As photographs of this shelving does not do it justice, if you would like a behind-the-scenes tour of the Center to see all of the fabulous work we do and where we store everything, please contact me to arrange a time. Tours generally last an hour and include all of our collection areas (rare books, archives and artifacts).



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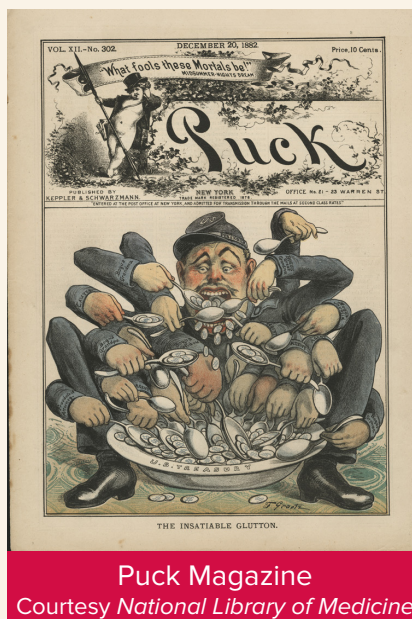
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Image from the *Life and Limb: The Toll of the Civil War* traveling
exhibit from the National Library of Medicine, hosted by the
Medical Heritage Center from August 31 to October 10.



Puck Magazine
Courtesy National Library of Medicine



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