

*The Medical Heritage Center***HOUSE CALL****MHC Committee Formed**

Members of the Medical Heritage Center Advisory Committee were selected by nomination from the University and the Columbus Medical Association. They are:

- Dr. Louis Goorey, CMA Council Member
- Dr. Tom Lewis, CMA Council Member,
- Dr. Paul Metzger, Chair, CMA History Committee
- Dr. Michael Mishkind, CMA Council Member
- Dr. George Paulson, OSU physician with history interest
- Dr. Ronald St. Pierre, Chair, Prior Health Sciences Library Advisory Committee
- Barbara Van Brimmer, Curator, Medical Heritage Center
- Dr. Charles Wooley, Medical History professor
- Susan Kroll, Prior Health Sciences Library Director (ex-officio)

Currently the committee meets monthly to discuss goals and strategies for the Center. We are pleased to have contributors from the University as well as the medical community.

Editor-in-Chief: Barbara Van Brimmer  
 Production Editor: Jane Witherspoon  
 For more information please contact us via e-mail at [medhist@osu.edu](mailto:medhist@osu.edu), telephone: 292-4891 or fax: 292-9919  
 On the www:  
<http://bones.med.ohio-state.edu/heritage>



Barbara Van Brimmer

**A Note from the Curator**

Welcome to the premiere issue of the Medical Heritage Center *House Call*. We are a brand new facility located at the OSU Prior Health Sciences Library. If you wish to continue to receive this newsletter, please contact us by the return address on the last page or electronically at [medhist@osu.edu](mailto:medhist@osu.edu)

**“Preserving History” role of new Heritage Center**

The Medical Heritage Center was once a glimmer in the eye of librarian Barb Van Brimmer. In 1992, she shared her vision with members of the Columbus Medical Association (formerly the Academy of Medicine of Columbus and Franklin County) History Committee. Many agreed that the activities of the OSU Health Sciences Center needed to focus on the medical history of Central Ohio. When the library began renovating in 1995-96, plans included a design for the entire 5<sup>th</sup> floor to be designated as the Medical Heritage Center. C.M.A. provided funding to develop the areas for rare books, preparation and preservation, offices, reading room and archives. Reed Fraley, OSU Hospitals, contributed additional funds to complete the large meeting room. Barb Van Brimmer was appointed Curator and immediately began to assemble the history materials stored at various libraries during the renovation. Thus, in May 1997, the Medical Heritage Center was born. The area has been flourishing since. Reference calls come in weekly regarding information about medicine in Columbus or students that attended the various medical schools in the area. Although the history is spread out in many local area resources, efforts are being made to collect these resources at the Medical Heritage Center. The Medical Heritage Center also accepts donations again since there is

sufficient space for books as well as medical archives. Storage areas for rare books and archives are temperature and humidity controlled to provide the best possible environment to maintain the collection.

Archives are also being collected. The Dr. Robert Zollinger collection is the largest to date. Papers, records, photographs and memorabilia of other local area physicians and educators are now being collected. The Medical Heritage Center wants to make sure that a history of the health sciences community in Central Ohio will always be available.

The meeting room located on the fifth floor is intended for use by the OSU Health Sciences Center and the Columbus Medical Association. It is designed to support various meetings, lectures, symposia and other events. Currently the meeting room is not furnished, but efforts are being made to outfit it for the needs of the various activities. The room may be reserved by calling Tammy O'Brien in Health Sciences Administration (292-7346).

The Medical Heritage Center is open Monday through Friday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.; other times may be scheduled by appointment. To see the meeting room space or to schedule a brief tour please call the Medical Heritage Center staff between 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at 292-4891.

## Recent Donations and Acquisitions

The Medical Heritage Center thrives chiefly by charitable donations. We wish to thank the individuals below for recently donating books, artifacts, archives and monetary gifts.

The Hamilton family (Dr.s Edwin, Charles, Walter, and James): family memorabilia including photos from World War I · Dr. Gwen Trudeau: books and instruments · Dr. Charles Wooley: medical school histories · Dr. Richard C. Rogers: materials from Dr. Milton Lessler, including a Beck microscope · Clara Doubledee: McIntosh Polysine generator, used in physical therapy · Dr. Robert Schweikart: Continuing Medical Education audiocassette · The Medical Staff of Grady Memorial Hospital: books from their library · Monetary donations from: The OSU College of Medicine Class of '62 · Dr. Richard Johnson Ireton · Dr. E. Thomas Boles, Jr. · Dr. Lee Hebert · Drs. George and Ruth Paulson.

A sampling of donations are on display quarterly.

Donations of any size are most welcome and always appreciated. Gifts may be tax deductible. Contributions can be added to our development account (Medical Heritage Center Account #535434). Please contact the Medical Heritage Center Curator, Barbara Van Brimmer (292-4891), for additional information.

## ST. FRANCIS DEDICATED AS 1ST TEACHING HOSPITAL

By Dr. George Paulson

On June 13, 1997, Grant Hospital, The Columbus Medical Association, and The Ohio State University assembled to unveil a historical marker that claimed St. Francis Hospital was the first hospital built primarily for the teaching of medicine. After initial uncertainty, which led to research encouraged by The Ohio Historical Society, the History Committee of the Columbus Medical Association achieved acceptance that St. Francis Hospital, once located at 311 East State Street in Columbus, Ohio, was the first hospital in America established by a medical college and designed from its origin for both clinical instruction and patient care.

On January 14, 1847, the General Assembly of Ohio amended the act of 1834 incorporating Willoughby University at Lake Erie to enable Willoughby Medical College to transfer to Columbus. The first lectures in Columbus began on March 11, 1847. Located at West Gay Street close to High Street, the medical college building included an amphitheater of sufficient size to seat the expected 150 students. Mr. Lyne Starling, an early settler and successful entrepreneur in Columbus offered \$30,000 "to sustain an infirmary or hospital, or some other benevolent institution, under the supervision and control of said medical college, and in said city of Columbus." In response to

this largess, the Willoughby Medical College promptly metamorphosed into the "Starling Medical College," and contracted with R. A. Sheldon, an architect of New York, to build a medical college and hospital in what was then "a frog pond" on East State Street. Starling agreed to sign another deed of trust for an additional \$5,000 to erect the college and hospital. The hospital was completed and received classes in 1851, but the college was broke with a debt of \$40,000. The medical faculty agreed to teach for nothing and assumed the debt.

Thus, what was later St. Francis Hospital appeared first as the hospital of Starling Medical College. The building was described in September 1851 as being divided into three sections, each with its own entrance, buttress, gable, and tower. There was a library on the first floor, a museum on the second floor, a room 44 feet long by 25 feet wide on the third floor for the study of practical anatomy, a middle section with lecture and faculty rooms which could seat as many as 450 students, and 'the west section was fitted up for the family of the janitor and also for a hospital.' The architecture was classed as "old Norman Gothic" and was considered by many the handsomest structure in central Ohio. There were still insufficient funds to complete the section that contained the hospital. Dr. Richard L. Howard and the other trustees bound themselves to complete the other portions of the hospital

and one reads that "Through the liberality of Professor R. L. Howard, funds were advanced for the finishing and furnishing of the hospital department."

Management of the hospital turned out to be even more difficult than its construction until rescue by a remarkable group of nuns who had earlier moved from Aachen, Germany to Cincinnati at the request of the daughter of Thomas Worthington, first governor of Ohio. The Sisters of the Poor of St. Francis arrived in Columbus to start a facility for the sick and poor initially in a house on Rich Street. The staff of the medical school and hospital, particularly Dr. Starling Loving who had been president of the class of 1849 and who was destined to be its last survivor, persuaded the sisters to assume management of the hospital. The sisters were awarded a 99-year lease on the section of the building intended for hospital purposes.

St. Francis grew in size and service. By 1898 an addition had been added to the east wing of the building with new clinical laboratories. In 1886 the Columbus Police Department donated \$1,400 for the installation of an elevator, clearly necessary since carrying stretchers up the lovely spiral staircase was, at the very least, memorable. St. Francis acquired what was considered the first x-ray machine in the area. There is no way to review every hospital and medical college that existed in the first half of the nineteenth century but there is ample data locally regarding St. Francis and Starling Medical College. Paul Metzger, M.D., of the History Committee of the Columbus Medical Association, combined with Barbara VanBrimmer, Curator of the Medical Heritage Center at The Ohio

State University, helped develop the current historical marker standing at what is now Grant Hospital in honor of "the grand old lady" that states she was the first facility built to combine instruction and care.

Since the Starling Medical College became The Ohio State University College of Medicine, the medical center can properly claim to have been the first medical school to erect and have exclusive control of its own hospital, with a continuous operation since the founding. That first hospital was St. Francis. As stated by Dr. Jonathan Forman, professor of medicine at Ohio State in past decades and a revered clinician, teacher and historian: "The plan to build a hospital and medical school together under one roof and controlled by a single board of trustees was years ahead of its time and thus established for the first time in this country a sound principle in the administration of medical education, the combination of instruction and patient care." Although other hospitals have linked early with a medical college for instruction and Dr. William Osler and other individuals receive credit for encouraging bedside teaching, our own St. Francis and Starling Medical College were among the true pioneers in these innovations in the teaching of medicine.

## About the Author



George W. Paulson, M.D. is Kurtz Professor of Neurology at The Ohio State University Medical Center. He is from North Carolina originally, received a B.S. degree from Yale

and M.D. from Duke in 1956. Currently Dr. Paulson serves full-time at OSU in the Department of Neurology, with an interest in the history of local medicine. He is presently compiling a history of the Medical Center.

Dr. Paulson has published over 200 peer-reviewed articles and over 40 book chapters, and has been president or medical advisor of the local boards of epilepsy, MS, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, mental retardation, etc. In the past, Dr Paulson has also served as Chief of Staff at OSU Hospitals, Chairman of the Department of Neurology; he is also a past president of the Columbus Medical Association. Medical students from both OSU and at Riverside have honored him with Teacher of the Year awards. In the fall of 1997, he received a distinguished alumnus reward from Duke, and a distinguished teacher's award from the alumni of OSU. He and his wife Ruth, a D.D.S., have 5 children and 9 grandchildren, so far, and are certain each one is exceptional in every respect.



Look for an expanded version of this article in *Timeline*, a publication of the Ohio Historical Society.

# On Display

In honor of Eye Awareness Month, a display of optical instruments, primarily from the turn of the century, is set up in the north hall of the Medical Heritage Center.

Another display recognizes the demolition of Neil Hall. Most recently used for the Medical Center Bookstore, demolition of the relic dormitory began in December of 1997. The black and white photos were taken by Jim Brown, photographer for Hospital Public Relations and Marketing.

Also featured this quarter is a display of Dr. Theodor Billroth. Dr. Billroth was a prominent European surgeon, noted for his high standards in the quality of medical education. Included in the display are books by and about Billroth, as well as surgical instruments of the time.

In addition, replica gynecological instruments produced for Dr. Charles Pavey, a noted Columbus obstetrician, show what types of tools were used in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Obstetrics and gynecology were

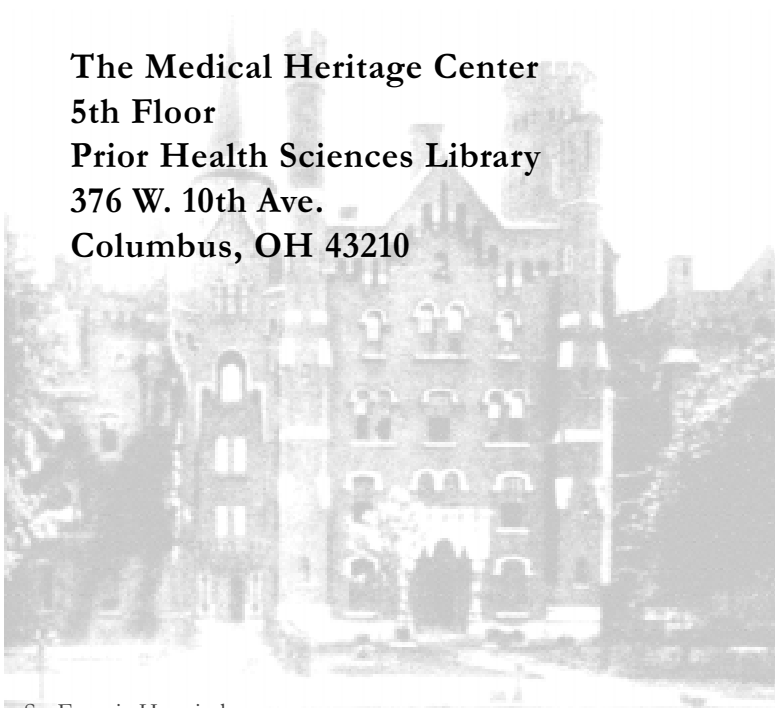


Photo of an early gynecological instrument

regarded as quite torturous during that time. Our display demonstrates that although crude, some of the principles involved are not all that different from what is used today.

The displays in the Medical Heritage Center are changed quarterly. We invite you to stop by for a brief tour of history, as well as a glimpse of what the Center offers.

The Medical Heritage Center  
5th Floor  
Prior Health Sciences Library  
376 W. 10th Ave.  
Columbus, OH 43210



St. Francis Hospital