

# HOUSE CALL



## New Endowment Added

The James V. Warren, MD Medical Humanities Fund was approved by the OSU Board of Trustees at their May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. The income from these funds will support medical humanities education, research, and programs in the Medical Heritage Center. Our thanks to those in Internal Medicine, alumni and friends who helped establish the endowment. If you are interested in contributing to this mission, please send your check to the Medical Heritage Center (return address on back page) designated for account # 009301.



JAMES V. WARREN, MD

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On the www:  
<http://bones.med.ohio-state.edu/heritage>

## STARLING-LOVING: WATCHING OVER US?

Several patients, medical faculty and staff have been intrigued by what appears to be gargoyles perched on top of Starling-Loving Hall. The section of the building which serves as perch to the figurines, designed with Tudor and gothic influences, was completed and ready for occupancy March 1, 1926 and was then referred to as University Hospital. The top floor of the four-story building has large windows that, at the time, allowed natural lighting to flood the old operating rooms. Resting between these windows, at the edge of the roof, are the six figurines. From left to right are a cow's head, monkey, pelican, rabbit, dog, and a horse's head. Each animal is placed behind pentagon-shaped shields (the point of each shield faces down) and are arranged on top of stone columns which run the height of the fourth floor.

What is the significance of the figurines? Did the statues represent research animals, the medical college, the agricultural side of the university, or the activities inside the building? This history seems to be lost to us. It would be hard to imagine that these figures did not have any significance to the building designers and OSU staff involved with the project during the design stage in 1925. Money was always tight and almost everything had a purpose – a mystery unsolved to this day!

Since the shields are as prominent as the animals, it seemed appropriate to research heraldry, the art of blazoning, assigning and marshaling a coat-of-arms. Heraldry began in Europe in the early twelfth century, with the coat-of-arms signifying families or knights on the field of battle, and later a mark of noble status. Heraldry comes from the German "heer," meaning host or army, and the word "held," meaning a champion. "Blazon" is from the German "blason," meaning to blow the horn. Thus, at important occasions, the herald sounded the trumpet and explained the bearing of the shield or the coat-of-arms.

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Whether the animals can be considered gargoyles or symbols of some kind will be left to the viewer's imagination for now. Here are a few suggestions to define the carvings based on coat-of-arm meanings, or just plain logic.

The shield shape would normally have designated a geographic region or time period. The bar across the shield often represented "one who sets the bar of conscience, religion and honor against

## Call for Materials

The Medical Heritage Center is always seeking the following items:

- Pre-1930 medical texts and pamphlets
- Ohio medical directories
- Publications/papers of Central Ohio physicians (any year)
- Publications of Ohio hospitals (any year)
- Ohio hospital histories
- Nurses' materials (pre-1960)
- Papers, letters, pamphlets, etc. about local health related societies, organizations, fraternities, etc.
- Diagnostic equipment
- Medical instruments (pre-1900)
- Any medical instrument in a wooden case

**OSU Departments:** We are looking to you for copies of your publications and supporting materials. If you work on a departmental publication and have materials you don't have room to store please contact us. The Medical Heritage Center is here to document the activities of all OSU departments in the hospitals and health sciences; help us preserve the history of your area. **If you are interested in making a donation, please contact Barb Van Brimmer, Curator at (614) 292-4891, or [vanbrimmer.2@osu.edu](mailto:vanbrimmer.2@osu.edu).**

## MHC Receives Continued Support

The Medical Heritage Center gratefully acknowledges the Columbus Medical Association's \$50,000 grant to complete the Center's large meeting room on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Prior Health Sciences Library. This space is designed for educational and special events use by the OSU Health Sciences Center and the Columbus Medical Association. CMA's generous contribution will enhance the entire Medical Heritage Center.

Also, special thanks goes to The Ohio State University Hospitals Medical Staff. Their continued support will provide a large moveable wall, allowing the 3,400 square feet meeting room space to be divided for optimal functionality and versatility. We sincerely appreciate this wonderful addition to the meeting room.

## THE HISTORIAN'S NOTEBOOK: "What's in a name?"

by George Paulson, MD

What is now called Starling-Loving Hall opened in January 1917 and was initially planned as the new Homeopathic Hospital (now that's a story,) and for over 30 years Starling-Loving was the University Hospital. Five major additions produced a complex structure with over 140,000 square feet. From the 1930s until the 1960s the B wing was used for private and clinic ward rooms. The outpatient areas occupied the south area of the A wing on 3 floors; the ground floor included Radiology, Pharmacy, Cafeteria, Morgue and even for a time the ER. Both Drs. Robert Murphy and Robert Wall recount a busy 24 hours wheeling patients from Starling-Loving to the new University Hospital (now Doan Hall) when it was completed on June 15, 1951. But, why the name? It was to be Lyne Starling Hospital, in fact it is so recorded by the Board of Trustees on August 2, 1921. President Wm. O. Thompson seems to keep the issue open at the same time that he explains the reason for the current name in his statement of February 8, 1923: "I'm aware that the Board of

Trustees informally considered the proposition to name the new university hospital the Lyne Starling University Hospital. Our faculty have discussed this proposition and while, of course, no formal action has been taken, it is our opinion that if possible the hospital should be designated as the Starling-Loving University Hospital. The name of Dr. Starling Loving is almost synonymous with Starling Medical College. For many years Dr. Loving was Professor of Medicine in this college. It will be recalled further that he was named for Lyne Starling (Loving's great uncle), the founder of Starling Medical College and St. Francis Hospital. In using the name above referred to, we do honor not alone to Lyne Starling but also to Dr. Loving and to Starling Medical College."

So what's in a name? Now you know. It does memorialize, honor, both Lyne Starling and Starling Loving, M.D., by a felicitous juxtaposition with a hyphen. Surely both would be pleased.

**Editor's note: *The Historian's Notebook* was started by the Ohio State Medical Association in 1936 by the History Committee chair, Dr. Jonathan Foreman. It ran in their journal until 1968. Following this tradition, we are pleased to present this article written by Dr. George Paulson. Dr. Paulson, Kurtz Professor of Neurology, is currently working on a history of the OSU Medical Center, 1968-1998.**

## Watching...cont.from p.1

angry passions and evil temptations.” In this case it would seem the designer might have liked the symmetry of the shape and design.

Beginning from the left, the first carving could be a cow or ox with a shield bearing a diagonal bar from the upper left to lower right corner. If it is an ox, it would represent valor and generosity. The second carving, a monkey, is holding a copy of the first shield. The monkey could be considered a true gargoyle based on its facial features. The monkey could represent evil, or possibly an OSU medical research animal.

The third figure is a pelican. The pelican represents “self-sacrifice and charitable nature.” The shield, held under the pelican’s beak, has a Greek cross on the top half and five lines drawn vertically and parallel to each other on the bottom half. The cross generally stood for “service in the crusades” or a sign of Christianity. The significance of the parallel bars on the bottom half of the shield is not known.

The fourth sculpture is of a rabbit sitting on a tree stump. The rabbit would have normally signified “one who enjoys a peaceable and retired life.” The shield is

engraved with the caduceus, a symbol of medicine. In Greek this symbol means “herald.”

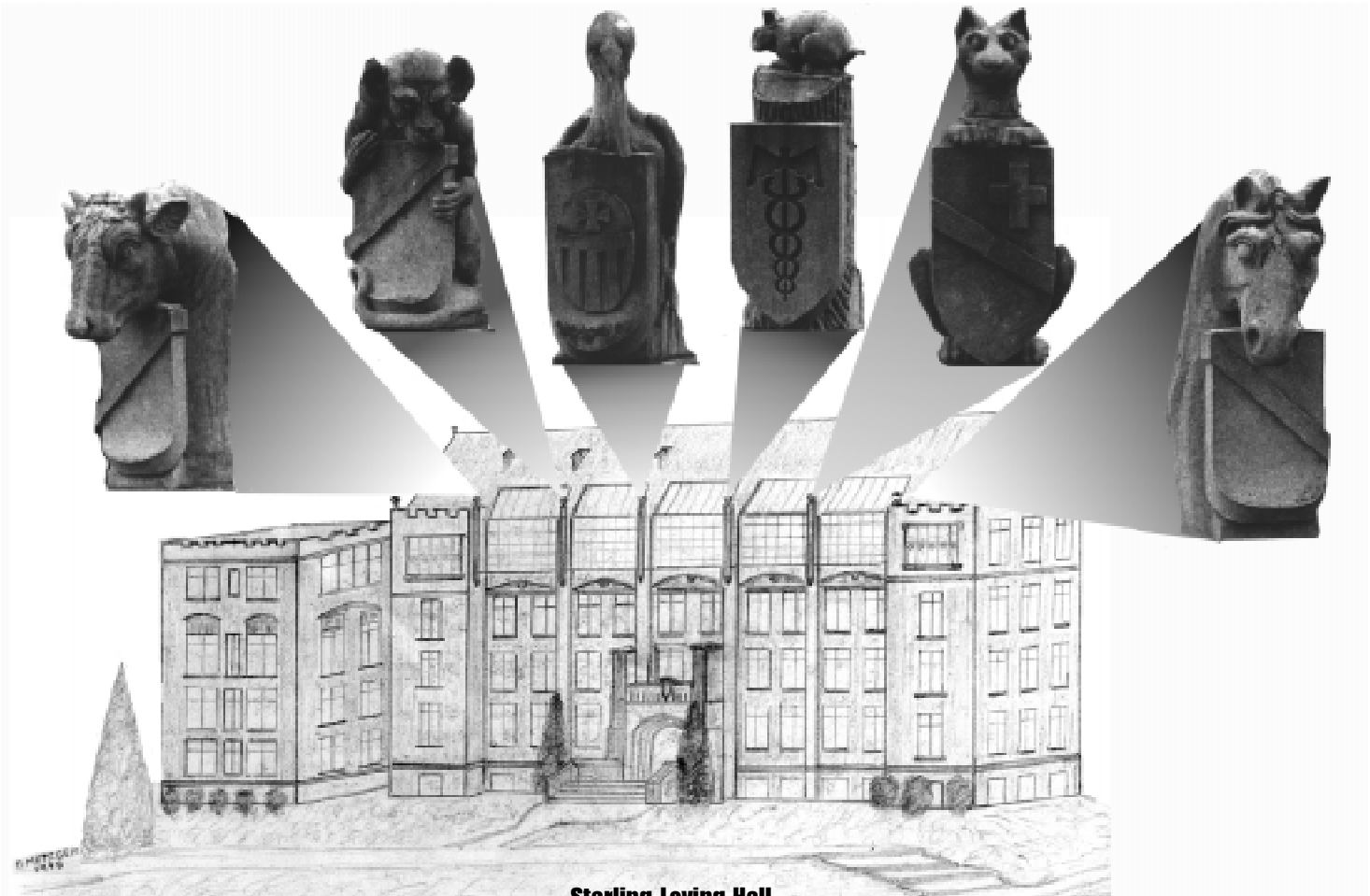
The fifth figure is a dog wearing a collar, sitting on his haunches holding up the shield with its front paws. The bar on the shield runs diagonally from the upper left corner to the lower right corner. A cross, which appears to be quite medical in design, is positioned in the upper right corner.

The sixth figure is a horse’s head with the shield positioned under its muzzle. The horse usually signified “readiness for all employments for king and country.” The shield has a bar from the upper left corner to the lower right, which compliments the shield of the first figure.

Of course this possible explanation is always subject to debate, since a written historical explanation has yet to be found. The search will continue to find a historical account of these carvings. If you are aware of any information regarding the origin of the statues, please forward it to the Medical Heritage Center and it will be shared in future newsletters.

## On Display

Currently on display in the main hallway of the Medical Heritage Center is a tribute to Dr. James Warren. Included are several of his awards and some beautiful photos taken by him. Our thanks to Mrs. Gloria Warren for providing us with much of the memorabilia on display. There is also a display which exhibits how nurses and nursing have changed. The College of Nursing provided much of the material, including a cape and lantern. There are also older yearbooks from two local nursing schools. Another case provides historical information on Riverside Hospital. It includes the art boards for the timeline that can be seen there, as well as renditions of the building over the years. Inside the meeting room are two more display cases. One is dedicated to the Columbus Medical Association’s History Committee; the other typifies instruments and materials used by a turn-of-the-century physician.



**Starling-Loving Hall**  
**Sketch by Dr. Paul Metzger, Photos by Jim Brown.**

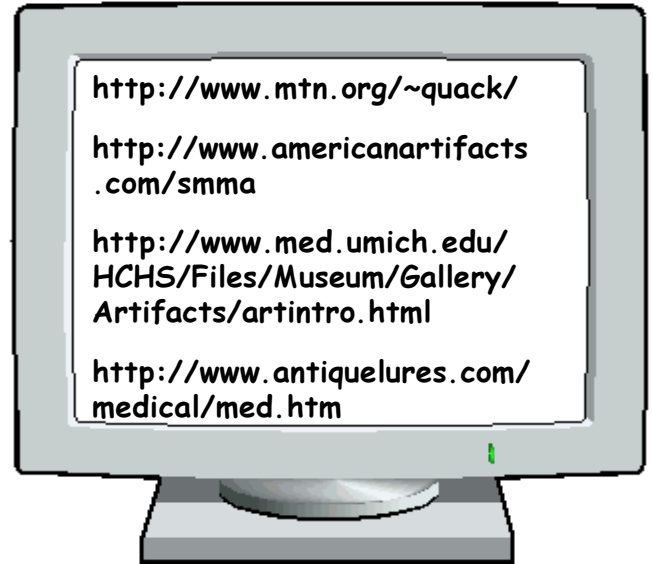
## Recent Donations

The Medical Heritage Center is grateful to the following individuals who have recently made donations. We thank them for their generous contributions of books, archives, artifacts and monetary support.

Dr. J. Richard Briggs: president's copy of CMA bulletin · Dr. Donald E. Hoffman: books, gastroscope · Dr. Charles Wooley: artifacts from Doan Hall, medical history books · Dr. George Bell: State Hospital history · Dr. Norman Browning: additions to Zollinger Archives, instruments · Dr. Donald J. Vincent: Yearbooks, class photo · Jim Miles: artifacts from the office of Dr. Jack Miles · Dr. John E. Hohmann: Anesthesiology books · Patricia Dinsmore: Nursing materials · Dr. Tearle Meyer: books, Grant Hospital memorabilia, examination instruments · Dr. Emil Pinta: historical articles of area physicians · Dr. William F. Bradley: original Bill Arter Sketch of Old Starling Medical, St. Francis ashtray · Dr. Jack Postle: Fanning watercolor of construction of the OSU Medical Center · Dr. Greg Loper: ECG Machine · Rodger Lynch: physiology instruments · Dr. P. Tennyson Williams: instruments, personal archives and Thomas Rardin archives.  
Monetary donations: Dr. Charles V. Meckstroth · Drs. George & Ruth Paulson · Drs. Edwin, Charles, Walter and James Hamilton · Dr. Nick Triefolos · Marie Hill Butler · Dr. Nathan S. Hale · Dr. John Thomas Goswitz .

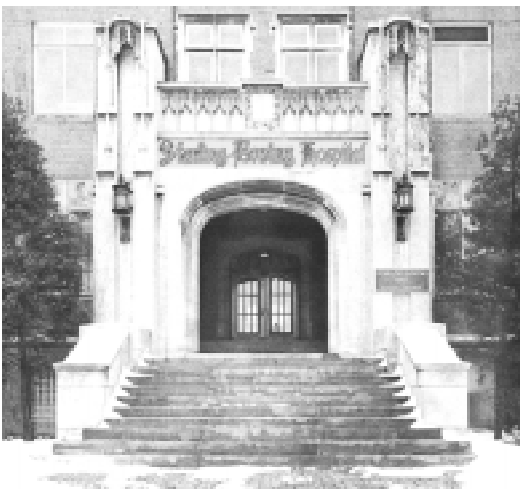
## LINKS TO THE PAST

Even in the hi-tech world of the internet, there is much history to be found. In this issue we decided to offer some web sites that show medical artifacts. If you would like more information, give us a call. Chances are we may have a similar instrument, or a commercial catalog listing.



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Starling-Loving Hospital (Hall)