

# House Call

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

## FROM THE MHC ARCHIVES:



Ohio Medical University, 1892 – 1907

## 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 is born.

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## Note from the Curator

*By Judith A. Wiener, MA, MLIS*

Happy New Year and welcome to our first House Call issue of 2026! We had a busy fall, featuring a Last Lecture by Mary McIlroy, MD, and the 21st John C. Burnham Lecture, given by Deirdre Cooper Owens, PhD. We also partnered in alumni reunion activities and exhibits for The Ohio State University College of Medicine and College of Nursing reunion classes. The open houses highlighted the Health Sciences Library's EdTech Incubator (ETI) and Medical Heritage Center (MHC) collections.

As the winter months settle in, the MHC staff are busy preparing exciting spring programming. Our commitment to fostering engagement and learning remains steadfast and we are delighted to announce a lineup of events that will inspire curiosity and celebrate our rich health sciences heritage.

Among this upcoming spring's highlights are the annual James R. Wright, Jr, Lecture and the Friends of Nursing History Lecture. Like all MHC programs, these free events welcome students, faculty and community members to discover remarkable stories, people and events from health sciences history. These lectures offer a wonderful chance for attendees to connect with historical scholarship experts and fellow enthusiasts in the field.

Additionally, we are pleased to share recent donations and acquisitions that have enriched our collections. These new additions support research, teaching and discovery across disciplines, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the generous donors who make these additions possible.

Finally, don't miss Dr. Robert Stevenson's fascinating article on the Ohio Medical University football team, which uncovers a unique chapter in Ohio State history. Whether you are a sports enthusiast or a history buff, this piece offers a fresh perspective on the intersection of athletics and academia. We hope you enjoy this issue as much as we enjoyed preparing it!



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## Gridiron Medics: The Ohio Medical University Eleven, 1895–1906

By Robert B. Stevenson, DDS, MS



Ohio Medical University football team, 1897

Ohio Medical University (OMU) was established in 1890, the same year football began at The Ohio State University. The OMU campus was on Park Street, next to Protestant/White Cross Hospital. They faced Goodale Park, named for Columbus' first physician, Dr. Lincoln Goodale, who donated the land in 1851.

OMU had sufficient numbers of medical, dental and pharmacy students and organized a football team called the Medics. Several midwestern medical schools also had football teams at the time. The Medics began in 1895, sharing the old North Dorm field with the Ohio State Buckeyes. Hamilton Hall replaced this dorm and field in 1925.



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OMU held its own against Ohio Conference teams like Kenyon, Oberlin and Ohio Wesleyan. The Medics went 7-1-1 in 1898, 7-3 in 1900, 6-3 in 1905, and 6-2-1 in 1906. In 1902, when the Medics won 9 of 10, their only loss was a 6-5 squeaker to Notre Dame in Columbus.

In those days, Ohio State often scheduled teams home and away in the same year. In 1896, when Ohio State first played OMU, three games were recorded. It is the only season Ohio State scheduled the same team more than twice.

According to the media guide, the game was on Wednesday, November 11th, a 0-0 tie. Ohio State seldom played football on weekdays. During the 1890s, just two games were on a Monday, three on a Wednesday, four on a Friday. Perhaps a mix-up on the date or time led to neither team fielding the minimum 11 points, then recorded a 0-0 tie and rescheduled?

Most curious is the first game of 1897, the 4th OMU/Ohio State contest in 368 days. Ohio State's opening win was soon paled by seven excruciating losses and a tie, the all-time worst Buckeye season. There is even academic debate about the lone victory.

According to the media guide, the Buckeyes prevailed 6-0. However, historian James Pollard cites a different version from a Lantern story. It said the game ended "in a row," with Medics walking off the field and Ohio State claiming victory by forfeit. The squabble started while the Medics were leading by one touchdown. When Harry Hawkins, Ohio State's captain, scored from about a yard out, the Medics immediately protested, arguing that Hawkins had been "pushed" over the line by Ohio State coach David Edwards, but referees ignored the claim. "One OMU man, green with rage," according to the Lantern, "sprang on Captain Hawkins while he was down and attempted to catch him by the throat with his teeth." It was at this point that Edwards "jumped in and pulled

the man off," the account continued. "The game was recorded as a forfeit," writes Pollard. The Medics 11-6 victory on November 17, 1900, handed the Buckeyes their first loss since November 19, 1898. Entering the game, Ohio State rode a near-perfect 16-0-1 record under new coach John Eckstorm, hired in 1899. One week later, Ohio State played Michigan to a scoreless tie in Ann Arbor. The Medics might have beaten the Wolverines that year.

The last OMU/Ohio State game was on Thanksgiving Day, 1906, with Ohio State winning 11-8. In 10 years, the teams played nine times: Ohio State won six times, OMU twice and there was one tie. In 1907, OMU merged with Starling Medical College, established in 1847 in Columbus, to form Starling-Ohio Medical College (SOMC). SOMC operated until 1914 when it merged with

The Ohio State University to establish its Colleges of Medicine and Dentistry.

The Colleges of Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy presented graduates of all precursor schools (Willoughby Medical, Starling Medical, Columbus Medical, Ohio Medical, Starling-Ohio Medical), degrees from The Ohio State University with their names and date of graduation. A ceremony was held on the Oval to deliver the diplomas.

From the beginning, in Columbus, medicine and football were intertwined into a Gordian knot.

*References: James Pollard, Ohio State Athletics 1879-1959 Athletic department Ohio State University, 1959. Raimund E. Goerler, The Ohio State University An Illustrated History, The Ohio State University Press, 2011. Jack Park, The Official Ohio State Football Encyclopedia, Sports Publishing LLC, 2001.*



## Recent Donations (June 1 – November 7, 2025)

### Material

David Baker (photograph of 1907 Ohio Medical University sophomore class) • Anthony Bowersock (additions to his archival papers) • Sandy Cornett (Additions to Strayer Oral History) • Andrew Dagg-Murry (books) • Diane De Luco (Additions to OHLA Records) • Additions to the Ohio State University College of Nursing Records • Steven Passoa (microscope, brochures and reports) • Robert M. Zollinger, Jr. (Zollinger's Atlas of Surgical Operations in multiple languages and editions)

### Financial

Jean Boyd • Leslie Stein Buerki • Farrell Hamill • Anne Hohmann • Marc Kaufman • Krzysztof Mrozek • Linda Stone • Judith and Michael Wiener

For information on how to make a material or financial donation to the MHC, please [email](#) our staff or visit our [website](#).

## The MHC spring 2026 lecture series is set!

*Please mark your calendars for the following events:*

- James R. Wright, Jr, MD, PhD, Lecture featuring Craig A. Miller, MD, FSVS, FACS – April 9, 2026, from 4:30 – 6 p.m. (reception at 4 p.m.) at the Health Sciences Library, Prior 550. Dr. Miller will give a lecture based on his latest book, *Genius Unbroken: The Life and Legacy of Dr. Charles R. Drew*. Drew was one of the founders of blood banking, which is now part of pathology and laboratory medicine.
- Annual Friends of Nursing History Lecture featuring local Columbus, Ohio author Mindy McGinnis – April 23, 2026, from 4:30 – 6 p.m. (reception at 4 p.m.) at the Health Sciences Library, Prior 550. McGinnis will share the research behind her Edgar Award-winning Gothic historical thriller, *A MADNESS SO DISCREET*. Learn how doctors treated brain injuries in the 1890s and the different aspects of care for the mentally ill – for better or for worse. A brief history of the Athens Lunatic Asylum, the setting for the novel, will also be included.

As always, all events are free and open to the public. More details to come on our [website](#). Look for your invitation postcards in the mail!

House Call is published by the Medical Heritage Center, the special collections of The Ohio State University Health Sciences Library.

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