

# American Veterinary Medical History Society

“Devoted to the Diffusion of Veterinary History”

## INTERIM NEWS & COMMENT

June 2019

Susanne Whitaker, reporter

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### CE Posters and Postcard for D.C.

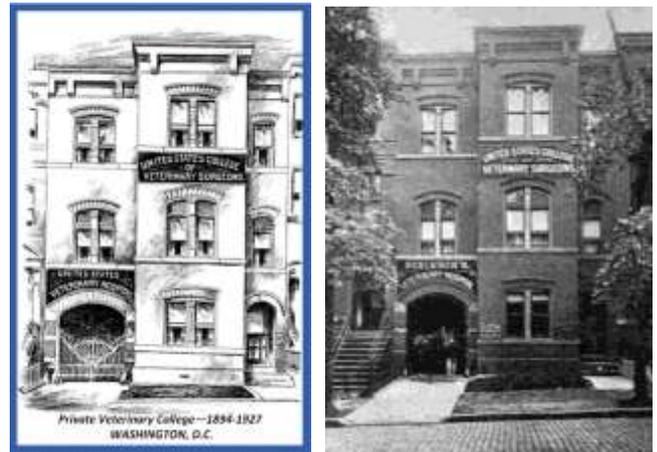
We are very excited and delighted that again two AVMHS members will display posters at the AVMA convention's CE Poster Session this summer in Washington, DC. Their proposal abstracts were accepted in April and poster numbers were recently assigned. They will be located side-by-side all hours the main exhibit hall is open for informal viewing.

#A1. “*C. Barnwell Robinson (1859-1921): Founder of U.S. College of Veterinary Surgeons, Fire-Dept and District of Columbia Veterinarian*” by **Howard H. Erickson**, DVM, PhD, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas with help from **Philip M. Teigen**, PhD, Silver Spring, Maryland

#A2. “*Washington DC's Private Veterinary Schools, 1892-1918: Case study of Daniel Salmon's Short-lived National Veterinary College*” by **Russell W. Currier**, DVM, MPH, Des Moines, Iowa

To accompany these posters, the Society has again produced a postcard for the meeting. This year's card features a line drawing of the United States College of Veterinary Surgeons, a private veterinary college in existence in the District of Columbia from 1894 to 1927. Interestingly, it was the last of the early private veterinary schools to close. This is the fifth in a series started in 2015 for Boston by Dr. Boris Brglez when he

was president. The postcard will be mailed to every AVMHS member prior to the meeting. Copies will also be available for handout in our booth, No. 1093.



Drawing on postcard from the 1894 *Prospectus*; photo of the same US College of Veterinary Surgeons building at 222 C Street, NW.

The forthcoming issue of *Veterinary Heritage* currently in production will include two articles on the background of the early Washington, D.C. private veterinary schools.

### Breakfast Business Meeting in D.C.

In addition to a booth at the AVMA convention this summer, the Society will hold its 42nd Annual AVMHS Business Meeting on Sunday, August 4, 2019, from 8am to 10am. In addition to conducting “official” matters, President Russell Currier hopes those attending will enjoy a Dutch-treat breakfast buffet together in the Anthem Restaurant of the Marriott Marquis (headquarters hotel) at 901 Massachusetts Avenue NW.

### 2019 Essay Contest Winners

Contest Committee Chair Dr. Jessica Zeiger ([jzeigervet@gmail.com](mailto:jzeigervet@gmail.com)) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2019 Smithcors Student Veterinary History Essay Contest, with prizes in honor and recognition of Dr. Elizabeth Atwood Lawrence. This year, our four judges blindly ranked two essays as first place resulting in a tie. The AVMHS Board subsequently approved awarding two first place prizes.

Winners of this year's contest are:

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize [tie] \$1,200**

**Jennifer Fan** '21 Cornell University

*Animals in Court: The Early Days of Veterinary Forensics.*

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize [tie] \$1,200**

**Scarlett Denise Welfel** '22 Iowa State University

*Doctor of Donkeys: The Story of Claude Bourgelat Who Turned His Love of Equids into a Medical Profession.*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize \$800**

**Annelise Radzin** '23 Ohio State University

*Trypanosoma brucei brucei: The Parasite that Plagued a Continent.*

**4<sup>th</sup> Prize \$500**

**Brooke Fourthman, DVM** '19 Purdue University

*A Brief History of Interventional Cardiology.*

We wish to sincerely thank Drs. Pat Kennedy Arrington, Maryanne Ash, Cynthia Hoobler, and Linda Schlater for their dedication and effort in reviewing and evaluating all of the 14 papers submitted. In addition, as an annual practice, Dr. Zeiger has sent a letter to each winners' college's dean notifying them of their students' accomplishment. And, according to tradition, these papers will be published in forthcoming issues of *Veterinary Heritage*.

The Society continues to want as many students to participate as possible, and even someday receive at least one submission from each school in the US, Canada, and West Indies. Members with contacts at veterinary colleges are encouraged to reach out to prospective students who are interested in history to get the word out about the contest opportunity. Contact Dr. Zeiger with suggestions or questions.

With prize funding from the Donaldson Charitable Trust in honor of Dr. Elizabeth Atwood Lawrence, the Smithcors Essay Content will be held again in 2020. The deadline for submission of manuscripts is Wednesday, April 15, 2020.

### **Dr. Brglez Met Incoming AVMA President**

Currently on assignment in Germany for several years, AVMHS past-president Dr. Boris Brglez (Lieutenant Colonel, US Army) met incoming AVMA President Dr. John Howe at a military veterinary conference in Europe in May, 2019. Dr. Howe's year-long term begins this July.

Dr. Brglez reports that while Dr. Howe had not heard of AVMHS, he was very supportive and willing to discuss further cooperation between the AVMA and the Society. He said, "I think now AVMHS has a great opportunity to work with the AVMA, and should do so." They also discussed the value of having pictures of AVMA past presidents readily accessible for free viewing online.



Incoming AVMA President Dr. John Howe (left) with AVMHS Past-President Lt Col Boris Brglez

We hope that more AVMHS members will make the most of opportunities, such as Dr. Brglez has done, to promote and "talk up" AVMHS and the value of understanding history whenever the chance arises.

### **New History Course at UC Davis**

It is always good news worth reporting when hearing about courses related to veterinary history, especially a new one. Diana Davis, DVM, PhD, who is a life member of AVMHS and former chair of our Essay Contest Committee, has shared information about the new course she began teaching this spring. She is currently Professor in the History Department and the Geography Graduate Group at the University of California at Davis (<https://history.ucdavis.edu/people/geovet>).

A geographer and historian, Dr. Davis has kindly provided the following description of her course:

**HIST #107: MEDICINE'S HISTORIES: HUMAN & VETERINARY MEDICINE FROM THE ANCIENT WORLD TO ONE HEALTH**

The history of medicine rarely includes any information on the history of veterinary medicine and yet work in the field of veterinary medicine has been vital to the development of human medicine. This course analyzes the development of "one medicine" from the perspective of both human and

veterinary medicine, highlighting where the two histories were complementary and where one led the other and contributed to its development. We begin with the ancient world, including ancient Egypt, China, India, and Mesopotamia. The focus then narrows to the western medical tradition with coverage of ancient Greece & Rome, the Middle Ages, Renaissance, Enlightenment and the long 19th century when the age of modern, scientific medicine was born. It was primarily in the 19th century that knowledge became fractured into distinct and ever-specializing "disciplines," forever separating veterinary and human medicine. The 19th century also highlights the importance of colonialism and its legacy to human and veterinary medicine. This course concludes with the exciting development of the "One World, One Health" approach whose initiatives have been widely implemented around the world over the last decade.

"One Health" aims to bring together specialists from human and veterinary medicine and environmental science to create more comprehensive and holistic approach to public health and international development. The vast majority (70% or more) of new and emerging diseases are zoonoses (diseases spread from animals to humans). Therefore, comprehensive understanding and policy development require an integrated knowledge of human medicine, veterinary medicine, disease agents, and the environment. In response to this great need, human medicine, veterinary medicine, and environmental sciences are having to reintegrate themselves in ways not seen since before the nineteenth century. The processes of integration and communication are not always easy and One Health still has significant challenges that we will examine.

Concerning other known courses this past academic year, Dr. Howard Erickson continues to offer his veterinary history course each fall at Kansas State University, and Dr. Russell Currier has again conducted a course at Iowa State University this spring. Professor David J. Williams is recognized for his advanced and honors courses in veterinary history at Purdue University as well. We are interested in knowing about additional curricular offerings at other schools.

**QUIZ:** Who offered the first course in veterinary history in the United States? See answer on page 6.

### WSU Veterinary History Exhibit

Anyone planning to be in the Pullman, Washington area this spring and summer should stop by the Animal Health Library in Wegner Hall 170 at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University. Illustrations from the WSU Veterinary History Collection will be on display as part of their twice-yearly "Art in the Library" program. "Art in the Library" exhibits feature animal-

themed works, typically with a connection to the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine. For more information, visit <http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/news/art>.



Illustration from George Stubbs, *The Anatomy of the Horse*, published in 1766.

As explained by Suzanne Fricke, WSU animal health sciences librarian, "We hope that in some small way, the exhibit might bring greater student awareness of the collection, greater faculty awareness of the process and work behind these large historical collections, and greater public awareness of the need for preservation in times of natural disaster."

In describing background on the Collection and this exhibit, "In 1978, shortly after a fire threatened their home in Santa Barbara, Calif., Dr. J. Fred Smithcors and his wife, Ann, began donating their extensive collection of some 1,200 printed books, pamphlets, manuscripts and ephemera to WSU. Today, the WSU Veterinary History Collection consists of almost 1,900 items dating from the 16th to the 20th century.

Considered one of the finest collections devoted to the history of veterinary medicine, the WSU collection contains such landmark works as *Anatomia del Cavallo* (1707) by Carlo Ruini, considered the father of equine anatomy; Andrew Snape's *Anatomy of an Horse* (1683), and George Stubbs' folio, *The Anatomy of the Horse* (1766). Smithcors also collected the earliest American imprints on veterinary topics, including multiple editions of *The Citizen and Countryman's Experienced Farrier* (1764, 1797, 1803 and 1839).

For a complete inventory, see *Five Centuries of Veterinary Medicine: A short-title catalog of the Washington State University Veterinary History Collection*, compiled and annotated by J. Fred Smithcors and Ann Smithcors. (Pullman, WA: WSU Press, c1997).

“Ann counts among her favorites in the collection a book her husband wrote, *Evolution of the Veterinary Art*, published in 1957. It is a narrative account of veterinary practices through 1850.” It is accessible online at <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.39015004413582>

“This really tells the story of veterinary medicine in a very readable way,” she said. “You do not need to be in the profession to enjoy learning about the early years.”

“For those who visit the exhibit, Ann said she hopes they will take away ‘a new enthusiasm for the profession, excitement about what huge contributions veterinarians have made both to human and animal health, and a desire to explore more by visiting WSU Manuscripts, Archives and Special Collections and handling some of these antiquarian books, which were so lovingly collected over the years.’ ”

See more at <https://news.wsu.edu/2019/02/18/library-exhibit-highlights-veterinary-ory-collection/>

### Dr. Jerry Owens’ History Writings

More than likely each AVMHS member has at least one favored area of veterinary history interest for reading, collecting, or maybe ongoing research with intentions to write on the subject as time permits.

In the case of our President-elect Dr. Jerry Owens, his interests are very broad indeed. In particular, he reports, “I am actively writing articles and chapters on many facets of veterinary history, including individual chapters on the North American veterinary schools and about many of the pioneers of the veterinary profession during the 20th century. These articles will be available for inclusion in the *Veterinary Heritage*.” He is also actively coordinating papers compiled by other experts in respective veterinary specialties. For example, the June 2019 issue of *Veterinary Heritage* will include recollections on veterinary endoscopy by Dr. David Twedt. Other papers by Drs. Robert Leighton and Martin De Angelis have appeared in earlier issues and more will be forthcoming in the future. Much of this content will be incorporated as part of Dr. Owens’ more extensive and evolving book in preparation to be entitled, *The History of Veterinary Medicine in North America*.

Dr. Owens further indicates, “As the President elect of the AVMHS, one of my desires is to increase awareness of the AVMHS and to actively recruit new members, including students as well as practitioners. An affiliation of AVMHS with the Society of Veterinary Medical Ethics (SVME) <https://www.svme.org/> and the

American Veterinary Medical Law Association (AVMLA) (<https://www.avmla.org/>) is under consideration. It may be beneficial for these three small subject groups to work together, rather than separately. I look forward to seeing everyone in Washington on August 2-3!”

### Dr. Elinor McGrath Scholarship

In 2012, Juliette Fassett founded the Dr. McGrath's line of animal shampoo products (<https://drmcgraths.com/>). She has partnered with the American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF) to establish a scholarship for veterinary students. This \$500 scholarship is offered to a student in his/her first, second, or third year in veterinary college. An early woman veterinarian, Dr. Elinor McGrath (1888-1963), graduated from the Chicago Veterinary College in 1910 and went on to practice veterinary medicine in Chicago for about 40 years, primarily for small animals. Dr. McGrath was the first woman admitted to membership in the AVMA.



Miss E. McGrath



2017 and 2018 recipients of this award were selected on the basis of how they are working toward achieving their veterinary goals, in light of the strength and determination possessed by Dr. McGrath in her career.

<https://www.avmf.org/programs/avmf-scholarships/>

### New Book on Military Veterinary Medicine

The new book entitled *Military Veterinary Services*, is a welcome addition to the history of veterinary medicine in America. Just published by the Borden Institute of the Office of the Surgeon General and the US Army Medical Department Center and School, it is edited by AVMHS member Dr. Leslie G. Huck and Dr. Ronald L. Burke.

As noted, “*This book is the first dedicated solely to military veterinary medicine. Its chapters outline the history and the diverse duties that make the practice of*

*military veterinary medicine significantly different from the practice of civilian veterinary medicine. Yet is an integral part of Army medicine.*” A wide range of topics include history, working dogs, laboratory services, zoonotic disease surveillance, food safety, pathology, and marine mammal programs, to name a few.

Congratulations, Drs. Huck and Burke!



Horses receiving sulfur gas treatment for sarcoptic mange during World War I. US Army Signal Corps photo.

Department of Defense personnel may obtain complementary copies, while civilians can purchase the printed book through the Government Printing Office (GPO) Web site at <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/> or via telephone at 202-512-1800. Individual chapters can also be downloaded from:

<https://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/borden/bookDetail.aspx?ID=69073488-6f1c-4a6d-b01a-dfc2455233c4&pageTitle=Military%20Veterinary%20Services>

### Dr. Born's Vintage Instrument Quiz

Dr. Fred Born ([fjorn@att.net](mailto:fjorn@att.net)) has again issued a challenge to identify the following veterinary instrument. What is it and why was it used? See page 6 for answer.



### New History Time-Bites on VIN

Dr. Susan Aiello ([susan@words-world.net](mailto:susan@words-world.net)), our Time-Bites Coordinator and retired Editor-in-Chief of *The Merck Veterinary Manual*, indicates that these stories continue to be produced, but more topics and possible

“authors” as always needed. Any subject related to veterinary history is appropriate, but the stories should be less than 1000 words, if possible, accompanied by source references and several representative illustrations. When published on VIN, announcements under “Community Updates” in *VIN This Week* newsletters. Contact Dr. Aiello at any time with your ideas and suggestions.

Among the history stories just completed include:

“Dr. Louis [sic] H. Quitman Wounded by Cabaret Singer; May Die”  
*Chicago, IL, U.S.A., 1917*

An Ebola filovirus Is Discovered in the USA  
*Reston, VA, U.S.A., 1989*

Eclipse and the London Veterinary College  
*England, 1764*

First English Use of “Veterinarian”  
*London, England, 1646*

From Whence Cometh Theriogenology  
*Madison, WI, U.S.A., 1970*

Origin of the Veterinarian's Oath  
*Seattle, WA, U.S.A., 1954*

Rinderpest through the Ages  
*Rome, Italy, AD 376 and 2011*

### New Registry of Veterinary Heritage Practices

We are pleased to welcome the following new Registry member:

**Los Coches Animal Hospital** (*Los Coches, California*), Estab. 1959

Send information about any practices that are older than 50 years to Dr. Jerry M. Owens [jowensdvm@aol.com](mailto:jowensdvm@aol.com)

### Meeting and Event Calendar

<u>2019</u>	
Aug 2-6	AVMHS 42nd Annual Business Meeting and Program, Washington, D.C.
<u>2020</u>	
Feb 27-29	44th International Congress, World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine (WAHVM), South Africa
April 15	Student History Essay Contest

## New AVMHS Members

We are pleased to welcome:

Margaret Brosnahan, DVM, PhD (*Scottsdale, AZ*)  
 John H. de Jong, DVM (*Weston, MA*)  
 Monica Murphy, DVM (*Brooklyn, NY*)  
 Michel Pépin, DMV (*Laval, QC, Canada*)  
 Jon E. Quinn, MD (*Lake View, IA*)  
 Misha Park Robyn, DVM, MPH (*Atlanta, GA*)  
 Adam Townsend, DVM (*Madison, WI*)

## New Books

Barnhart, Matthew D. and Karl C. Maritato. *Locking Plates in Veterinary Orthopedics*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Blackwell, 2019. 240 pgs. ISBN: 9781119380122  
 Includes: A Brief History of Veterinary Locking Plates Applications, by Karl C Maritato

Fitzpatrick, Noel. *Listening to the Animals: Becoming the Supervet*. London: Orion Books, 2019. 375 pgs. ISBN: 9781409183761

Harvey, Jacky Colliss. *The Animal's Companion: people & their pets, a 26,000-year love story*. New York, NY: Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers, 2019. 294 pgs. ISBN: 9780316466219

Huck, Leslie G. and Ronald L. Burke, eds. *Military Veterinary Services*. Fort Sam Houston, Texas: The Office of The Surgeon General, Borden Institute, US Army Medical Department Center and School, Health Readiness Center of Excellence, 2019. 530 pgs. ISBN: 9780160949388

Kean, Hilda and Philip Howell, eds. *The Routledge Companion to Animal-Human History*. Abingdon, Oxon, UK; New York: Routledge, 2019. 560 pgs. ISBN: 9781138193260. "...provides an up-to-date guide for the historian working within the growing field of animal-human history." Chapter by Abigail Woods. "Animals in the history of human and veterinary medicine." pp.147-170.

Neumann A.J. and Renae B. Vander Schaaf. *Get Up, Get Going: Tales of a Country Veterinarian*. Pella, IA: The Write Place, 2019. ? pgs. ISBN: 9781732352636

Schott, Philip. *The Accidental Veterinarian: Tales from a Pet Practice*. Toronto: ECW Press, 2019. 281 pgs. ISBN: 9781770414808

Sterckx, Roel, Martina Siebert, Dagmar Schäfer. *Animals through Chinese History: Earliest Times to 1911*. Cambridge, U.K.; New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2019. 277 pgs. ISBN: 9781108428156  
 "This volume opens a door into the rich history of animals in China... Drawing on an extensive array of primary sources, ranging from ritual texts to poetry to veterinary science, this volume explores developments in the human-animal relationship through Chinese history and the ways in which the Chinese have thought about the world with and through animals."

Vacchetta, Massimo, Antonella Tomaselli and Jamie Richards. *A Handful of Happiness*. London: Quercus, 2019. 199 pgs.

### Veterinary Course Answer:

In 1955, while on the faculty of Michigan State University in East Lansing, Dr. J. Fred Smithcors developed the first course in veterinary history to be taught at any school or college of veterinary medicine in the United States. Later, as a visiting professor to the Pullman campus of Washington State University, he lectured on veterinary history every fall from 1978 until 1998.

### Instrument Answer:

It is a Bovine Pelvis Splitter for use in a heifer, or young cow, having difficulty delivering a first large but alive calf. Prior to the 1960s, it was employed infrequently but when it was not possible, or the veterinarian was unwilling to do a C-section, to surgically remove the calf. After splitting the mother cow's pelvis at the pubic symphysis, this allowed her pelvis bones to open wider allowing the calf to be delivered alive. The heifer was then hobbled for two weeks, turning the animal every four hours to prevent "bed sores," also called pressure sores or decubitus ulcers. The cartilage of the pelvis would heal quickly. Then, the heifer could walk normally, but slowly for another two weeks. This instrument is 48 inches long and weighs 18 lbs.

\* \* \*

Send news, comments, and suggestions for the next *News & Comment* to: AVMHS Secretary-Treasurer Susanne Whitaker, 23 Wedgewood Drive, Ithaca, NY 14850-1064, phone 607-257-9248 or email [skw2@cornell.edu](mailto:skw2@cornell.edu) or [avmhs.info@gmail.com](mailto:avmhs.info@gmail.com).

"The farther backward you look, the farther forward you are likely to see."

Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

## 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. 19, no. 4, 2019 [Feb]**  
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### Recent Journal Articles & Chapters Related to the History of Veterinary Medicine

Al-Salihi KA. The epidemiology of foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks and its history in Iraq. *Veterinary World*. 2019 May;12(5):706-712

Askari Z, Mas-Coma S, Bouwman AS, et al. *Fasciola hepatica* eggs in paleofaeces of the Persian onager *Equus hemionus onager*, a donkey from Chehrabad archaeological site, dating back to the Sassanid Empire (224-651 AD), in ancient Iran. *Infection, Genetics and Evolution*. 2018Aug;62:233-243. doi: 10.1016/j.meegid.2018.04.028.

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[https://issuu.com/ksucvm/docs/wildcatveterinarian\\_winter19\\_foriss](https://issuu.com/ksucvm/docs/wildcatveterinarian_winter19_foriss)

Müller FT, Freuling CM. Rabies control in Europe: an overview of past, current and future strategies. *Revue Scientifique et Technique (International Office of Epizootics)*. 2018 Aug;37(2):409-419. doi: 10.20506/rst.37.2.2811.

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