American Veterinary Medical History Society
“Devoted to the Diffusion of Veterinary History”

INTERIM NEWS & COMMENT
March 2022
Susanne Whitaker and Helen Wojcinski, reporters

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Congratulations to Dr. John de Jong
AVMHS is thrilled that our board member Dr. John de Jong will become president-elect of the World Veterinary Association (WVA) on March 30. This is truly an honor and recognizes his many contributions to the veterinary profession. For more information, see https://www.avma.org/news/de-jong-elected-president-world-veterinary-association

In addition to being past president of AVMA, Dr. de Jong is currently completing a 2020-22 term as honorary treasurer of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association. With the WVA, he previously served as chair of the Ad Hoc Constitution & Bylaws Revision Committee. Dr. de Jong became an AVMHS At-Large Board Member in 2020 and in fall 2021 was instrumental in revising and updating the Society’s Bylaws.

Membership Committee Survey
The objectives of the Membership Committee are to increase membership in our Society, retain existing members, and encourage more member involvement in committees and the board. These three goals are important to ensure the sustainability of the AVMHS.

In order to accomplish these goals, we need YOUR input. Please complete the short 5+ min. online Membership Survey at: https://form.jotform.com/220724082747052
(Note: Depending on your browser, this survey may take a few minutes to load, so please be patient.)

In addition to being past president of AVMA, Dr. de Jong is currently completing a 2020-22 term as honorary treasurer of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association. With the WVA, he previously served as chair of the Ad Hoc Constitution & Bylaws Revision Committee. Dr. de Jong became an AVMHS At-Large Board Member in 2020 and in fall 2021 was instrumental in revising and updating the Society’s Bylaws.

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Members of the Membership Committee include Dr. Helen Wojcinski (chair), Drs. Pat Arrington, John De Jong, Shannon Greeley, Jerry Owens, and Bob Treat.

AVMHS Virtual Board Meeting, December 13
On December 13, 2021, from 7-9pm EST, a virtual Board Meeting was convened by President Pat Arrington via Zoom videoconferencing. In addition to committee updates and introductions of new board members, Dr. Karen Hassan provided an overview and update on the status of the Fort Ord Equine Foundation’s bid to establish a living museum in Marina, California. There was also discussion about how to handle periodic inquiries regarding vintage veterinary instruments, books, and other memorabilia and what assistance the Society could offer. Rather than establishing a new committee, the present Museum Committee will
investigate this matter and compile some suggestions regarding maximizing these older items. In response to a presentation regarding approval for AVMHS to serve as publisher for a small book on the lives of five 19th century Irish veterinarian brothers, a more specific cost estimate will be needed. Those present also talked about whether the Society should host a booth at the AVMA convention in Philadelphia this summer. Another virtual board meeting will be scheduled in coming months prior to the annual business meeting in mid-2022.

**Updated Lists on the AVMHS Website**

In 2018, our Web manager Dr. Kevan Flaming (kpflaming@isu.edu) moved the AVMHS website to the Wix.com platform. Due to recent advances in functionality, it has been necessary to replace all of the non-supported list templates being used on various pages with newer updated “repeaters.”

As a result, many pages under the “Resources” tab (https://avmhs.org/) have required attention. This includes the list of veterinary-related locations on the US National Park Service’s National Registry of Historic Places. The page presenting Past Veterinary Colleges from 1852 to 1938 has also been revised along with those for history organizations, veterinary books and journals, and bibliographies of memoirs written by veterinarians since 1900.

Maintaining a website is a “work in progress.” Please let us know what else you would like to see on our AVMHS pages to continue making the content useful for connecting to information about veterinary medical history and about the Society. Send suggestions for additions and/or updates to the Secretary-Treasurer for forwarding to the appropriate individuals.

We are also delighted to welcome Dr. Justin Kastner (jkastner@vet.k-state.edu) to our website team.

**Historical Mural at Kansas State CVM**

Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine has a beautiful new historical mural. Dr. Howard Erickson (erickson@vet.k-state.edu) reports that Dean Bonnie Rush, who is also an AVMHS member, had seen a historical timeline at Auburn University. She proposed that K-State might do something similar for the entry to their newly constructed auditorium between Mosier Hall and Trotter Hall. Drs. Erickson and Justin Kastner both served on the committee. To obtain ideas, a visit was made to the historical display at the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy’s old-time pharmacy center. The production firm also suggested more visual images and fewer words.

The large mural sections depict four visions for the College at K-State: Exceptional Teaching, Impactful Research, Outstanding Service, and Extraordinary Graduates. A kiosk is also being planned to explain the content of the mural, including when the first hospital was built, who was the first Black graduate, first female graduate, and more. See mural images on pages 9-10.

Plaque recognizing Dr. and Mrs. Erickson’s donation of the mural. Photo courtesy Dr. Justin Kastner, March, 2022.

Much appreciation is given to Dr. Howard and Mrs. Ann Erickson who supported and funded this project and are so honored with a special wall plaque nearby.

**Drs. Wojcinski’s Travel to Lyon and Alfort**

In October 2021, Past President Zbigniew Wojcinski (zwwojcinski@gmail.com) and his wife, Dr. Helen Wojcinski (HelenWojcinski@gmail.com), traveled to France for a well-deserved vacation. They have shared their experience in visiting the location of the first veterinary college at Lyon before moving on to Paris to view the Fragonard Museum with its dehydrated specimens near the veterinary college established at Alfort. Please see pages 11-12 for photographs.

**Fort Ord Station Veterinary Hospital Status**

As Society members are aware, the fate of the only remaining World War II equine military hospital has been in jeopardy in recent years. AVMHS member Dr. Karen Hassan (bigreypony@yahoo.com), an equine veterinarian, Greg Krenzelok, a military veterinary historian, and others formed a foundation intended to save the historical buildings at the Fort Ord Station Veterinary Hospital (FOSVH) at Marina, California, for preservation as a living museum.
After a highly contested and protracted political battle, the City Council decided last fall to award a vendor contract to a regional company to operate horseback riding and other recreational activities in the large public park overlooking Monterey Bay. While the Foundation’s bid was not approved, Dr. Hassan remains optimistic that some arrangement can still be reached to save FOSVH. The Fort Ord Equine Foundation continues to seek support for this important historical purpose. See https://www.fortordequinefoundation.org/ or by email to info@fortordequinefoundation.org

**Insulin’s 100th Anniversary**

As a member of the American Osler Society (AOS), Past President Dr. Russ Currier (ruscurrier@yahoo.com) alerts us to the 100th Anniversary of the successful use of insulin, which occurred on Monday, January 23, 1922, in Toronto, Canada.

On that day 100 years ago, the first widely reported successful clinical use of insulin in a human patient with diabetes occurred. A young boy named Leonard Thompson was seriously ill with impending diabetic coma at Toronto General Hospital. When given Collip’s purified insulin extract, he recovered as his blood glucose levels fell and his urinary ketones and glucose were effectively eliminated. Banting and Best’s extract had been trialed on January 11, 1922, but was not nearly as successful.

Veterinarians remember Banting and Best’s remarkable historic discovery and experimental trials with dogs, including Marjorie, the Beagle.

Dr. Currier reports that a video of Charles Best’s (1899-1978) historical 1957 Oslerian oration on “The Discovery of Insulin” has been released for viewing on YouTube for members of The Osler Club of London. It was explained that the original magnetic reel recording was discovered in 2018 when sorting through the Club’s archive of Oslerian orations and has been digitized in anticipation of and for marking this anniversary.

With permission from the AOS, this oration is being shared with AVMHS members for viewing at: The Discovery Of Insulin: The 1957 Osler oration by Charles H. Best (1899-1978) - YouTube

In association with this release, Immediate Past President Dr. Zbigniew Wojcinski remarks, “What a wonderful recollection by Dr. Best. Thank you for sharing. I was especially intrigued to hear that Dr. Best worked at Connaught Laboratories in Toronto, Ontario, Canada (https://connaught.research.utoronto.ca/history/article4/#:~:text=Charles%20H.,Director%20from%201931%20to%201941). For a brief period after I graduated with a BSc from the University of Toronto, I also worked at Connaught Laboratories as an animal technician just before being accepted into the veterinary program at the Ontario Veterinary College.”

For further reading, see:

**Cheville’s Book for 2021 Student Essayists**

In addition to awarding cash prizes for the top 4 essays, AVMHS has a long-standing tradition of giving a book or other item as a token of appreciation for their effort to all of the students who submit papers to the Smithcors Student Veterinary History Essay Contest each year.


Submission for Student Veterinary History Essay Contest due 2022 April 15
Prizes $1200, $1000, $800 and $500.
See details at https://www.avmhs.org/essay-contest

**Honors for AVMHS Sec-Treasurer Whitaker**

After having served as AVMHS’s Secretary-Treasurer for 11 years, Dr. Leo Lemonds decided to “retire” in spring 2004. In identifying a replacement candidate,
nominating committee member and AVMHS Past President Dr. Phyllis Larsen (1923-2018) approached Susanne Whitaker from Ithaca, New York, about her possible interest in being considered. In Susanne’s role as veterinary librarian at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, she and Dr. Larsen had communicated often over many years and clearly shared mutual interest in the history of veterinary medicine. For example, Susanne helped Dr. Larsen and Dr. Sidney Ewing in their search for information about Dr. Florence Kimball, one of the 2 women veterinarians in 1910, and helped create a poster for the AVMHS annual meeting in Boston that year.

After initial hesitancy and uncertainty about being elected at Philadelphia in 2004, the rest is history. Time has passed but devoting effort and her energy into supporting the functions of AVMHS continues to be one of Susanne’s greatest pleasures and sources of satisfaction. After retiring from Cornell in 2013, she was increasingly able to devote further time to helping Professor David Williams produce Veterinary Heritage and support Dr. Larsen in compiling the periodic newsletter, News & Comment.

To this day, Susanne remains committed to fulfilling her pledge made in person to AVMHS’s founder Dr. J. Fred Smithcors at the Minneapolis meeting to do whatever ever she could to see the Society succeed in remaining a viable and active organization. His immediate response with a smile was, “I know you will.”

In appreciation for her unwavering service to the AVHMS, Susanne Whitaker was presented with a plaque by Past President Dr. Zbigniew Wojcinski on behalf of the AVHMS at the 2021 Annual Business Meeting.

Susanne is most grateful to AVHMS for the honor this plaque bestows. The inscription reads: “…in recognition of her years of service to this Society and for the many contributions she had made to the history of veterinary medicine.”

Guideposts for Veterinary Professionals
2022 College Distribution
With disruptions to college academic schedules easing this year, Dr. Peggy Carter (peggycarterdvm@aol.com) is already gearing up for our second year of distributing free copies of Guideposts for Veterinary Professionals to veterinary students in the US and Canada. Last year, she shipped 3800 books to 16 veterinary schools.

Copies of Guideposts for Veterinary Professionals can be ordered (price $15 with member discount) from the AVMHS website at https://www.avmhs.org/guideposts-for-vet-professionals

Women in Military History
March is Woman’s History Month. Dr. Russ Currier (ruscurrier@yahoo.com) and Dr. Peggy Carter (peggycarterdvm@aol.com) point out the historical contributions of Dr. Mary Edwards Walker (1832-1919) to military medicine that “served to open the door for all women serving throughout the Department of Defense and Military Health System today.” Not only is Dr. Walker “the first woman appointed as an assistant surgeon in the U.S. Army” during the Civil War, but “also the only woman to date to have received the Medal of Honor, the U.S. government’s highest and most prestigious military decoration.”

Dr. Mary Edwards Walker.
From: National Woman’s History Museum

A photo by Mathew Brady of Dr. Mary Edwards Walker circa 1866, shown wearing her Medal of Honor. Photo from National Archives.

Background on Dr. Walker can be found at:

**Papers Wanted for Veterinary Heritage**
Our semi-annual *Veterinary Heritage* journal is not only an AVMHS member benefit but intends to educate as well as record and communicate aspects of the history of veterinary medicine, and may also provide reading enjoyment.

Manuscripts, or subjects for papers, are always welcome. If you have a topic in mind or may be interested in sharing any research or writing you are doing or want to do, the editorial team will be happy to work with you to develop it into a publishable paper.

The editorial team currently consists of Drs. Susan Aiello, Russ Currier, Howard Erickson, and Susanne Whitaker. Please send drafts or ideas to avmhs.info@gmail.com or skw2@cornell.edu

**Capturing History via StoryCorps**
Dr. Mary-Elizabeth Ellard (meellard@hotmail.com) from Atlanta, Georgia, reports on an educational webinar she attended that was conducted by the Corona Collective Oral History Project of the Atlanta History Center. She and a shelter medicine colleague were interested because of the significant effect COVID has had on her practice and wanted to know more about how to capture those experiences. In addition to providing some sample questions to ask concerning the COVID epidemic, the program covered what would be involved in making a recording and using the StoryCorps smartphone app or “StoryCorps Connect” for remote computer-based interviews.

Even beyond COVID issues, Dr. Ellard recommends that others interested in history should watch for similar orientation programs in their area to capture and preserve valuable animal health-related background for reference by future generations. She also says, “I wonder if other veterinarians might want to tell our profession’s story with this tool. A quick search for ‘veterinary’ at their site only yields a few that I think really are veterinarians talking about veterinary medicine.”

StoryCorps ([https://storycorps.org/about/](https://storycorps.org/about/)) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization begun in 2003 committed to collecting, sharing, and preserving people’s stories about their lives and times as a public service. Recordings are filed with the Library of Congress. To date, over half a million people have told their personal stories for posterity.

**2022 WAHVM Congress Call for Papers**
A Call for Papers has been issued for the 45th International Congress sponsored by the World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine (WAHVM) and Italian Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine and Farriery. This biennial conference will be held on August 31-September 3, 2022, in Brescia, Italy. Please see [https://www.wahvm.co.uk/brescia2022](https://www.wahvm.co.uk/brescia2022) and [https://storiamedicinaveterinaria.com/novita/](https://storiamedicinaveterinaria.com/novita/).

Topics for presentations include:
1. History of Animals, Veterinarians, and the Military
2. Historical Intersections of Human, Animal and Environmental Health
3. Free Topics
4. Informal Contributions

“Informal Contributions” is a new category for short papers or posters that discuss memories, anecdotes, oral histories, and biographies.

Entry forms and abstracts were due by March 15, 2022, for submission to segreteria.aismevem@unito.it For more information, contact Dr. Jons Straatman, WAHVM Secretary (WAHVM17@gmail.com)

AVMHS members are encouraged to join WAHVM, individually, and if interested to participate by submitting as abstract proposal or simply attending the meeting in Italy this August. Early registration opens June 30 or regular registration on July 31.

**New Veterinary History Book**
British veterinary historian Dr. Bruce Vivash Jones’ latest book entitled, *The History of Veterinary Medicine and the Animal-Human Relationship*, was released last month. A summary of his new volume notes, “This comprehensive book is an exploration of the history of veterinary medicine from the ancient world to the present as well as an examination of the development of man’s
relationship with animals through early domestication and usage as food, fibre, and traction to modern therapy animals and companions. The book is organised so that it can be read in a linear way or that researchers interested in a particular aspect can access specific content.”

In addition, to numerous original papers and editorials in Veterinary History, he has authored several other history-related books, including Twentieth-Century Veterinary Lives (2012), Robert Stordy in Abyssinia: An Extraordinary Life, with Clare Boulton (2014), and Major-General Sir Frederick Smith: His Life and Work (2016).

Dr. Jones became founding Editor of the Journal of Small Animal Practice in 1960, and in 1966 wrote and partly edited Animal Nursing for the BSAVA; later editions were then named Jones's Animal Nursing. The BSAVA annually presents the Bruce Vivash Jones Nursing Award.

Copies can be ordered from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Target, and other booksellers. However, AVMHS members will receive a 30% discount from the publisher at https://5mbooks.com/ (Coupon code AVMHS30), or in North America from the Independent Publishers Group at https://www.ipgbook.com/the-history-of-veterinary-medicine-and-the-animal-human-relationship-products-9781789181180.php

As described by PBS, “All Creatures Great and Small returns for an all-new season of heartfelt moments, friendship, and mischief! Transport yourself back to the Yorkshire Dales once again with James, Siegfried Farnon, Tristan Farnon, Helen Alderson, Mrs. Hall, and more. After the events of the Season 1 finale, will James and Helen find their way together? Will James decide to call the Dales home? And can Siegfried and Tristan manage to work together without complete and utter disaster? More laughs, more love, and more animals (and yes, more Tricki Woo) await in Season 2!”

And, with Masterpiece PBS’s confirmation in January that production has been renewed for several more seasons with the same cast, all of us who have enjoyed this series can look forward to Seasons 3 and 4 for the next couple years.

**Meeting and Event Calendar 2022**

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<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>Student History Essay Contest Deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>AVMHS 45th Annual Program and Business Meeting</td>
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<td>Aug 31-Sep 3</td>
<td>World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine 45th International Congress, Brescia, Italy</td>
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**Status Report:** AVMHS life member Dr. Susan Jones (jone0996@umn.edu) indicates that the eagerly awaited book she and Dr. Peter Koolmees have compiled is in final production stages and expected to be released by Cambridge University Press in August 2022. It is titled, *A Concise History of Veterinary Medicine.*
New AVMHS Members (as of March 15)
We are pleased to welcome:
Katherine J. King (Grafton, MA)
Margaret J. Lindem (Philadelphia, PA)
Helen O. Noble, VMD (Rowley, MA)
Marvin Smith, DVM (Eau Claire, WI)
Sara Thompson, DVM (Germantown, MD)

New AVMHS Life Members (as of March 15)
G. Sierra Schneider, DVM (Terrebonne, OR)
Candace A. Jacobs, DVM (Olympia, WA)

New Registry of Heritage Veterinary Practices
We are pleased to welcome the following new Registry practices:
Abell Veterinary Hospital (Chicago, IL)
Estab. 1965 by Dr. Abell

New Books and Videos


* * *
Send news, comments, and suggestions for the next News & Comment to Dr. Helen Wojcinski helenwojcinski@gmail.com, or to AVMHS Secretary-Treasurer Susanne Whitaker, 23 Wedgewood Drive, Ithaca, NY 14850-1064, phone 607-257-9248 or email skw2@cornell.edu or 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.

Recent Journal Articles and Chapters Related to the History of Veterinary Medicine


Jones GC. Veterinary history and the development of human relationships with animals. Veterinary Record. 2022 Jan;190(2):84. doi: 10.1002/vetr.1420.


This colorful **HISTORICAL MURAL** is proudly displayed over the entrance doors to the new Auditorium recently completed in 2021 at the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine. It was proposed by Dean Bonnie Rush and donated by Dr. Howard and Mrs. Ann Erickson. Using carefully chosen images, each section depicts the transition and advancement from past to present in four areas of excellence.

Architectural elevation drawing of wall of auditorium entrance produced by Eisterhold Associates, Inc. Provided courtesy of Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

See panel enlargements below.
France: The Real Tourist Attractions
By Drs. Helen and Zbigniew Wojcinski

Most people go to France to see the traditional “must-see tourist attractions.” In October 2021, Zbig and I were on a river cruise in France and took the opportunity to visit both the site of the original veterinary school in Lyon and the Fragonard Veterinary Museum in Alfort, near Paris.

We were on a tour bus excursion when our guide pointed to a building and said that it was the National Conservatory for Music and Dance. She also mentioned that the building originally sheltered the Convent of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth (17th century), and after the Revolution, it became home to the first Veterinary School in France and in the world.

Although we could not explore the building (closed due to a public holiday), a few remnants were visible alluding to its history. The plaque above the archway reads: “Operating on this site, from 1795 to 1978, the first veterinary school in the world, created in 1761 by Claude Bourgelat in Lyon, the cradle of world veterinary education.”

After our river cruise ended in Lyon, we spent a few days in Paris. The Musée Fragonard is located on the campus of the National Veterinary School at Alfort. It is one of the oldest in the country and easily accessible from downtown Paris via the metro.
The collection consists of more than 5,000 artifacts. Its highlights include wax and plaster casts, skeletons, and anatomical and zoological papier-mâché models and specimens.

The collection also includes dissected dehydrated animals and human cadavers, called écorchés, created by Dr. Honoré Fragonard, an 18th-century anatomist and veterinary professor. These extraordinary works, which have survived nearly 250 years, reside in this museum which bears his name.

Claude Bourgelat founded the National Veterinary School in Lyon and insisted on a museum being part of the school to provide a natural history office where professors could borrow the elements to teach in their classes. The school and museum were moved to Alfort in 1776.