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Dr. Brglez to Chair Oral History Committee
Dr. Fred Born recently asked to step aside as chair of AVMHS’s Oral History Program Committee. We certainly thank him for all of his enthusiasm and strong support in promoting oral history. It is a pleasure to announce that Dr. Boris Brglez has agreed to assume this responsibility from now on.

AVMHS past president Brglez is well-qualified for this role. In recent years, he has begun interviewing retired U.S. Army Veterinary Corps members. He gave a presentation on this work at the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association Summer Conference held at Ocean City in August 2017.

New AVMHS Web Site Launched
It’s no surprise that everything seems to have gone electronic these days. We have known that AVMHS’s Web site has needed to be upgraded for some time since Dr. Robert McClure first established it on a server at the University of Missouri back in the mid-1990s.

Dr. Kevan Flaming (kpflaming@iastate.edu), who is Director of Information Technology at Iowa State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine, became Web Coordinator when the site moved from Missouri. As time passed, he realized the original architecture of the site was becoming problematic and difficult to maintain and would require some extensive re-working to re-configure it to a more modern presentation.

Improvements, accessibility, and low maintenance costs of contemporary, user-friendly web hosting services have given us the needed breakthrough and alternative to hiring a commercial web design company. Using this platform now also means that we can make immediate updates and/or easily add specific content ourselves.

With his experience and extensive knowledge of Web technology, Dr. Flaming created a draft test site on Wix.com along with a menu and page structure. With the help of Secretary-Treasurer Susanne Whitaker, contents from the old site were moved over to the new format and additional content added. Kevan also obtained a vector of our Chiron logo, added the opening slide show, and instituted dynamic page formatting for consistency. For a second opinion, he also consulted with a professional Web designer who offered a few page design and navigation suggestions.
Please visit our new Web site at https://www.avmhs.org/ and give us your comments, suggestions, and other feedback. This is a start. Because a Web site is never finished, we would like to hear, both pro and con, from our members.

Among the new content items are “What’s New at AVMHS?” History of AVMHS with brief time line and a biographical sketch and list of Dr. J. Fred Smithcors’ history publications compiled with the help of Mrs. Ann Smithcors, five-years’ worth of Dr. Phyllis Larsen’s News & Comment newsletters, an updated list of Registry of Heritage Veterinary Practices, plus a number of resources composed of reading lists, books, memoirs, and so on.

Additional features may be added as time and effort permit. In particular, Dr. Flaming would like to convert the list of Registry practices to a searchable database with online registration in the future. We may even add connections to Facebook and more.

Your candid feedback, comments and suggestions for this Web site are requested to either Dr. Flaming or Susanne Whitaker.

James Herriot and Beyond
James Herriot’s beloved stories about his veterinary experiences in the Yorkshire Dales first published in the 1970s caused a sensation and started a trend. But, many other veterinarians (a surprising number, actually) before and after have shared their own recollections, adventures, reminiscences, and heartwarming stories as well.

Bibliography lists (by decade) of hundreds of these memoirs written by veterinarians from about 1900 to early 2018 are now posted on the AVMHS Web site at https://www.avmhs.org/memoirs. Most are arranged by geographical location, if known.

Are these memoirs of historical value? Of course, even if they might not be rigorously researched, content dense, and be perhaps humorous or informal in style, they represent individuals’ own experiences that show how veterinary medicine was practiced and the profession interacted with people and animals in the past.

AVMHS strongly encourages veterinarians to write their memoirs, or even topical excerpts, which can be shared as printed commercial books, self-published online texts, or simply hand-written notes just for reading enjoyment and keepsake by family and friends.

Comments and suggestions for additional titles can be forwarded to the AVMHS Secretary-Treasurer.

Name That Veterinary Instrument Quiz
Those who know Dr. Fred Born (fjborn@att.net) from Fond du Lac, Wisconsin are aware that he is an expert on early veterinary instruments having collected and displayed them for many years. He is graciously sharing his knowledge through a series of quizzes on a new AVMHS Web site page, called “Name That Veterinary Instrument” at https://www.avmhs.org/name-that-instrument

Currently, our Web site features four instrument quizzes, but more are to come. As a sample, what is the instrument pictured below used for? Hint: It is five inches long and 300 years old. It was invented by and a patent issued to an English farrier. See page 7 for the answer and how close you came!

Please send suggestions for additional instruments to Dr. Born.

Was Horsepox in Jenner’s Vaccine?
Medical mysteries exist – including the 200-year-old query about the source of Edward Jenner’s vaccine for smallpox that he described in his Inquiry book published in 1798. Scientists have recently nearly solved this
mystery as noted in the following abstract from a 2017 article by J. Esparza and others published in Vaccine:

“For almost 150 years after Edward Jenner had published the Inquiry in 1798, it was generally assumed that the cowpox virus was the vaccine against smallpox. It was not until 1939 when it was shown that vaccinia, the smallpox vaccine virus, was serologically related but different from the cowpox virus. In the absence of a known natural host, vaccinia has been considered to be a laboratory virus that may have originated from mutational or recombinational events involving cowpox virus, variola viruses or some unknown ancestral Orthopoxvirus. A favorite candidate for a vaccinia ancestor has been the horsepox virus. Edward Jenner himself suspected that cowpox derived from horsepox and he also believed that "matter" obtained from either disease could be used as preventative of smallpox. During the 19th century, inoculation with cowpox (vaccination) was used in Europe alongside with inoculation with horsepox (equination) to prevent smallpox. Vaccine-manufacturing practices during the 19th century may have resulted in the use of virus mixtures, leading to different genetic modifications that resulted in present-day vaccinia strains. Horsepox, a disease previously reported only in Europe, has been disappearing on that continent since the beginning of the 20th century and now seems to have become extinct, although the virus perhaps remains circulating in an unknown reservoir. Genomic sequencing of a horsepox virus isolated in Mongolia in 1976 indicated that, while closely related to vaccinia, this horsepox virus contained additional, potentially ancestral sequences absent in vaccinia. Recent genetic analyses of extant vaccinia viruses have revealed that some strains contain ancestral horsepox virus genes or are phylogenetically related to horsepox virus. We have recently reported that a commercially produced smallpox vaccine, manufactured in the United States in 1902, is genetically highly similar to horsepox, providing a missing link in this 200-year-old mystery.”

Esparza J, Schrick L, Damaso CR, Nitsche A. Equination (inoculation of horsepox): An early alternative to vaccination (inoculation of cowpox) and the potential role of horsepox virus in the origin of the smallpox vaccine. Vaccine. 2017

The full-text of this Open Access paper is available online via Elsevier Science Direct at https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0264410X17315451?via%3Dihub

Further background on the historical significance of horsepox will be incorporated into a future Time-Bite.

100 Years for Cedar Falls Practice in Iowa

Significant milestones continue to be achieved by veterinary practices across the country. In particular, we congratulate Dr. Chad Smith, Dr. Wendi Goetsch, and their team at the Taylor Veterinary Clinic in Cedar Falls, Iowa, for having celebrated a 100th Anniversary in October 2017. AVMHS’s ongoing Registry of Heritage Veterinary Practices seeks to recognize these worthy practices. For a list of those known to date, go to the new AVMHS Web page at https://www.avmhs.org/registry-of-heritage-practices.

Registry Coordinator Lesley Ann Gentry from Beloit, Kansas (lesleyann.gentry@gmail.com) or 785-738-8584) is interested in hearing about any practices in your vicinity, region, or state that have been in continuous operation for 50 years or more.

New Chair for Essay Contest Needed

Incoming AVMHS president Dr. Russ Currier (ruscurrier@yahoo.com) assumed the chairmanship of the Smithcors Student Veterinary History Essay Contest in 2007 from Dr. Diana Davis. He would now like to pass it on to someone else.

Dr. Currier indicates that activities generally are concentrated in a period of a few weeks each spring after the submission deadline closes on April 15. This involves accepting essays by email, compiling a blinded list, forwarding the PDF documents to the judges, consolidating judge’s rankings, and notifying the winners and other students.

If you have some time and/or would enjoy mentoring veterinary students, please contact Russ. He has even suggested co-chairing the committee with someone next year to ease the transition.

History Posters at 2018 AVMA Denver

Again for 2018, the AVMA is hosting a Poster Session during hours the Exhibit Hall is open. This year, AVMHS knows of two history-related poster proposals from members that were successfully accepted for display. Dr. Howard Erickson’s poster is titled, Pioneer Veterinarians of Colorado and The West while Dr.
Shannon Greeley’s is *Early History of Veterinary Medicine in Illinois*. Based in the Chicago area, she will present the founders of veterinary medicine in Illinois and the role those founders played in the development of veterinary medicine in the United States.

As long as the AVMA Program Committee continues the opportunity to display posters at the annual convention, we feel this is an excellent means for AVMHS and its members to communicate and educate others concerning the history of veterinary medicine in lieu of being a speaker on the main CE program. Poster contributors also receive some meeting compensation.

Please visit those posters in Denver and consider submitting a proposal for Washington, DC in August 2019.

**Successful AVMHS Meeting in Indianapolis**

By all accounts, AVMHS activities in Indianapolis were both enjoyable and successful. Thanks to special efforts by then Program-chair/President-elect David Williams, an attractive booth was assembled and staffed with the help of some Purdue University veterinary students. A summary of the meeting appears in the October 15, 2017 convention issue of the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* (vol. 251, No. 8, Oct. 15, 2017, p. 882)

**Dr. Lewis’ Talk Well-Received at Antietam**

It was a beautiful early October day in Maryland when Dr. George E. Lewis, Jr. gave his talks on horses and veterinary medicine during the American Civil War. As seen in the photo below that George kindly shared with us, he gave his presentation twice to appreciative audiences assembled for the Porch Talk Series held on the grounds of the Newcomber House near the Antietam National Battlefield Park and then answered questions.

He said, “Just a short note to let you know that the Horse Talk (Horses, Mules, and Politics) presentations (10:30 AM - 4:30 PM) went very well, good and inquisitive audiences, excellent weather, very good and numerous props, and a very much appreciated (by those in attendance, those responding via various social media devices, and most of all by me) reading list.”

Compiled with the assistance of Susanne Whitaker and Dr. Mary-Elizabeth Allard, the reading list of books and articles Dr. Lewis distributed on this topic is posted on the “History Reading List” page of the AVMHS Web site at [https://www.avmhs.org/reading-lists](https://www.avmhs.org/reading-lists)

Kindly let your reporter know if you have given any talks on veterinary history recently or are planning to this year.

**Dr. Currier Comments on The Butchering Art**

Historian Lindsey Fitzharris’ recently published book, *The Butchering Art: Joseph Lister’s Quest to Transform the Grisly World of Victorian Medicine*, is “worth reading,” according to Dr. Russ Currier.

He indicates that, “Although she does not mention veterinary medicine per se, the concept of antisepsis was appropriate and certainly transferable to our still young profession of veterinary medicine. As such, Lister – inspired by Louis Pasteur – was employing superb methodology and observations that were way ahead of his time and it took several decades for his insights to be appreciated and adopted. Fitzharris colors the background and social norms of this mid-19th century episode and it is a terrific read. Lister was also assisted by the use of the microscope that was equipped with achromatic lenses that his own father had developed leading to improvements in resolution. This instrument was also shunned by the mid-19th century medical community!”

Dr. Currier also reports that, “Immediately after reading Fitzharris’ book, I – on the recommendation of a retired Des Moines’ physician – read Candice Millard’s *Destiny of the Republic – A Tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of a President* [New York: Doubleday, 2011, 319 pgs.] and was taken aback by mention of Joseph Lister in the first chapter and a full eight citations of Lister. In fact, the final three paragraphs of the epilogue
deal with Lister. First sentence of this section is quoted, ‘Like [Alexander Graham] Bell, Joseph Lister would live a long life, long enough to see his ideas not only vindicated, but venerated.’ This entire story focuses on the assassination attempt of President James Garfield who survived for over two months in 1881 after suffering a pistol shot to his chest. Very likely he would have survived without any medical treatment and for sure with application of Listerian methods and principles; sadly, heroic attempts to locate the bullet induced extensive sepsis. This also is a great read in U.S. history including the Civil War and presidential politics in the post-Lincoln era.”

New AVMHS Time Bites on VIN
Under Dr. Susan Aiello’s expert editorship, a number of new Time-Bites have been published on VIN. In addition to being posted in a separate Time-Bites section, new historical stories or snapshots are announced in VIN’s weekly online newsletters from time to time. Moreover, before the Holidays, she reported that VIN content editors have asked for more of our Time-Bites.

Also, the first Time-Bites co-authored by veterinary students who won prizes in AVMHS’s essay contest have been produced. These include “The Nobel Prize Goes To……Cavia porcellus” by Kelsey Madden, ’19 KSU and “America’s First Laboratory Animal Veterinarian [Simon D. Brimhall]” by Kara Simon ’19 KSU.

Here are a few of the most recent Time-Bites topics submitted to VIN for posting:

America’s First Laboratory Animal Veterinarian [Simon D. Brimhall]
Rochester, Minnesota, U.S.A., 1915

Before the ECG—The Mechanical Pulse
Hanover, Germany, 1908

Eleanor Roosevelt on Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication

How Rubber and Veterinary Medicine Met the Road: Dr. Dunlop’s Pneumatic Tyre
Belfast, Ireland, 1887

Millions of Better Daughters: the First American AI Cooperative Organization
New Brunswick, New Jersey, U.S.A., 1938

Parasites Beware—Ivermectin Is Here!
Tokyo, Japan, 1974, and Rahway, New Jersey, United States, 1981

Thomas Jefferson’s Efforts to Cure Sheep Scab
Monticello, Virginia, U.S.A., 1809

Unusual Makers of Artificial Eyes for Horses
Lockport, NY, U.S.A., 1848

An invitation continues to be extended to any Society member or veterinary student who would like to prepare at Time-Bite or two for publishing on VIN. Or, simply send topic ideas for future Time-Bites that you think might be of interest to practitioners to our editor and VIN contact person Dr. Susan Aiello at susan@wordsworld.net

Note: Because it is necessary to be a VIN community member to view Time-Bites, if you are not a VIN member and would like to read one or more of them, please contact Dr. Aiello or Susanne Whitaker.

Iowa State University CVM History Course
Dr. Russell Currier has again returned this 2018 spring semester to Iowa State University to teach a one-credit
disease-specific veterinary history course. It ranges over topics like rinderpest, foot-and-mouth disease, meat/dairy hygiene, and influenza among others. There are 15 students enrolled, 12 from ISU and 3 from University of Nebraska-Lincoln [VM-1, VM-2] who attend remotely. For the final grade, students can prepare a two- to three-page essay outline on any historical topic of their choice or draft a two- to three-page book review of Peter Doherty’s 2013 book, Their Fate is Our Fate – How Birds Foretell Threats to Our health and Our World. Dr. Doherty is the only veterinarian to ever receive a Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine and has a keen appreciation for medical and biological history that supports much of his narrative in the book cited.

We invite instructors of veterinary history courses to share information about their classes in forthcoming issues of this newsletter.

In Memoriam:
Dr. Sidney Alton Ewing, DVM, MS, PhD (1934-2018)

We are very saddened to learn of the passing of friend and colleague Dr. Sidney Ewing on January 3, 2018, in Stillwater, Oklahoma. A great supporter and promoter of history, Dr. Ewing served as an AVMHS board member from 1997 to 1999 and was elected president for 2003-2004. He also ably chaired the Smithcors Student Veterinary History Essay Contest from 1998/99 to 2004/05.

A native Oklahoman, he received his DVM from the University of Georgia, followed by an MS from the University of Wisconsin, and later completed a PhD in veterinary parasitology with Wendell Krull at Oklahoma State University.

His obituary stated that, “Sidney, a veterinary parasitologist, taught and pursued research and administration at Oklahoma State, Kansas State, and Mississippi State Universities, as well as the University of Minnesota. His work at Oklahoma State spanned more than five decades, and he continued to teach veterinary history at OSU even after retirement. He investigated tick-borne diseases, round worms, and countless other parasites, publishing numerous scientific papers.” In 2001, he authored a definitive book on the work of Professor W.H. Krull (1897-1971) titled, Wendell Krull, Trematodes & Naturalists. See his obituary in the Jan. 4 Stillwater News Press at http://obituaries.stwnewspress.com/obituary/sidney-ewing-1934-2018-1019899472

William Valjean Lumb, DVM, MS, PhD, DSc (Hon) (1921-2018)

Mrs. Lilly Lumb has sadly informed us via Dr. Howard Erickson that AVMHS member Dr. William V. “Bill” Lumb died on February 3, 2018 in Loveland, Colorado at age 96. Many know of Dr. Lumb from his now classic text presently in its fifth edition, Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia, the Fifth edition of Lamb and Jones (2015). First issued in 1973, this text has become “the gold-standard reference for anesthesia and pain management in veterinary patients.”

In addition to being Professor and Director of the Surgical Laboratory at Colorado State University (1963-1978) as well holding other academic positions over the years, he harbored a long standing interest in history. Dr. Lumb authored a number of history-related articles including some for Veterinary Heritage. He also wrote memoirs and reflections of his experiences in surgery and medicine as well as those of his father, J. Wallace Lumb, who was on the Kansas State faculty for 30 years.

Dr. Lumb earned his DVM from Kansas State University in 1943, a masters from Texas A & M University in 1953, and Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in 1957. His papers are on deposit in archives at Colorado State at https://lib2.colostate.edu/archives/findingaids/university/uww1.html See Feb. 18 obituary in The Coloradoan at https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/coloradoan/obituary.aspx?n=william-valjean-lumb-bill&pid=188193467
New AVMHS Members
We are pleased to welcome:
Dr. Neal cholvin (Seattle, WA)
Dr. Douglas Cohn (Albany, NY)
Dr. Kenneth Gertsen (Highland, MI)
Dr. Christy Gray (Manhattan, KS)
Dr. L. Everett Macomber (Centralia, WA)
Dr. Roger K. Mahr (Saint Charles, IL)
Dr. Mark R. Olson (Hoxie, KS)
Dr. William R. Pritchard (Davis, CA)
Dr. William O. Reece (Ames, IA)

Meeting and Event Calendar

2018

April 15
Student History Essay Contest deadline
June 7-9
43rd WAHVM International Congress,
Bergen, Norway
July 13-17
AVMHS 41st Annual Business Meeting
and Program, Denver, Colorado

New Books
Chung, King-Thom and Jong-Kang Liu. Pioneers in
Microbiology: The Human Side of Science.
pgs. ISBN: 9789812300364

Clarke, Christopher M. Samuel Burdett: Black Soldier,
Veterinarian, and Civil Rights Activist. [United States]:
[CreateSpace], 2017. 404 pgs. ISBN: 9781548399276

Originally from Kentucky, Samuel Burdett (1846-
1905) joined the U.S. Army 9th Cavalry serving as a buffalo
soldier in Mexico and Kansas before moving to Washington State.

Dean, Joanna, ed. Animal Metropolis: Histories of
Human-Animal Relations in Urban Canada.

Fitzharris, Lindsay. The Butchering Art: Joseph Lister’s
Quest to Transform the Grisly World of Victorian
Medicine. New York: Scientific American/Farrar,
Straus & Giroux, 2017. 286 pgs. ISBN: 9780374117290

Fincham-Gray, Suzanne. My Patients and Other
Animals: A Veterinarian’s Stories of Love, Loss and
ISBN: 9780812998184

Guerin, Dava and Kevin Ferris. Vets and Pets:
Wounded Warriors and the Animals That Help Them
ISBN: 9781510721937

Hevia, James Louis. Animal Labor and Colonial
320 pgs. ISBN: 9780226562148

MacVean, Duncan. My Patients Like Treats: Tales from
a House-call Veterinarian. New York: Skyhorse

Raulff, Ulrich. Farewell to the Horse: The Final
Century of Our Relationship. Translation of Letzte
Jahrhundert der Pferde from German by Ruth
Ahmedzai Kemp. 1st American ed, New York:
Liveright Publishing Corp., a division of W.W. Norton

“The relationship between horses and humans is an ancient,
profound and complex one. For millennia horses provided the
strength and speed that humans lacked. How we travelled, farmed
and fought was dictated by the needs of his extraordinary animal.
And then, suddenly, in the 20th century the links were broken and
the millions of horses that shared our existence almost vanished,
eking out a marginal existence on race-tracks and pony clubs.
Farewell to the Horse is an engaging, brilliantly written and moving
discussion of what horses once meant to us…”

Answer to Name that Veterinary Instrument Quiz. Horse
Drench, ca. 1720. This pewter spoon-like object was used to
blow medications into the mouths of horses and cattle. It was
also used to give castor oil and powders to children. It
measures 5 in. long. The original patent was issued to English
farrier William Gibson (1680?-1750) in 1718. He also authored
a number of early books of diseases of horses and farriery.
It is a good example of a different kind of instrument used in
both animals and humans.

* * *

Send news, comments, and suggestions for the next News
& Comment to: Dr. Phyllis H. Larsen, 1675 Ellis Hollow
Road, Ithaca, NY 14850, phone 607-539-6181, or by
e-mail to phlarsen@clarityconnect.com, or to AVMHS
Secretary-Treasurer Susanne Whitaker, 23 Wedgewood
Drive, Ithaca, NY 14850-1064, phone 607-257-9248 or
e-mail 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.
forms and relations. rooted in the experiences of veterinary practice. In this way, “one medicine” became “two,” and the professions began to assu
field as an autonomous, independent domain. They developed their own societies and journals and a uniquely veterinary epistem
over the period 1815 to 
apart from human medicine but rather was continuous with it. It then shows how this social, cultural, and epistemological con
medical and veterinary historians, it reveals that veteri
Britain during the decades that followed the 1791 foundation of the London Veterinary College. Contrary to the impressions co
Summary: This article offers a novel perspective on the evolving identities and
Project M
1791
Wood A. From one medicine to two: The evolving relationship between human and veterinary medicine in England,

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


Summary: This article offers a novel perspective on the evolving identities and relationships of human medicine and veterinary medicine in England during the decades that followed the 1791 foundation of the London Veterinary College. Contrary to the impressions conveyed by both medical and veterinary historians, it reveals that veterinary medicine, as initially defined, taught and studied at the college, was not a domain apart from human medicine but rather was continuous with it. It then shows how this social, cultural, and epistemological continuity fractured over the period 1815 to 1835. Under the impetus of a movement for medical reform, veterinarians began to advance an alternative vision of their field as an autonomous, independent domain. They developed their own societies and journals and a uniquely veterinary epistemology that was rooted in the experiences of veterinary practice. In this way, “one medicine” became “two,” and the professions began to assume their modern forms and relations.