The Boston Veterinary Institute (1855-1860): Its Establishment, Pioneering Founders, Officers, and Graduates

Howard H. Erickson

In the 18th century, veterinary education was advancing in Europe after the establishment of the first school at Lyon, France in 1761 followed by Alfort near Paris in 1765, London in 1791, among others. In America, some physicians and enlightened agriculturists recognized the need for veterinary education on this continent. Some of the first advocates of veterinary medicine were members of the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture founded in 1765. Judge Richard Peters, President of the Philadelphia Society in 1805-06, offered a Gold Medal in 1806 for an essay promoting veterinary knowledge. Dr. Benjamin Rush, a physician who signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776, responded to this challenge and addressed the medical students in Philadelphia in 1807 on “The Duty and Advantages of Studying the Diseases of Domestic Animals and the Remedies Proper to Remove Them.” In particular, in his 1807 essay published in the Proceedings of the Philadelphia Society for the Promotion of Agriculture, Dr. Benjamin Rush eloquently presented an argument in support of the development of veterinary schools. In 1813, James Mease, another Philadelphia physician, responded to the offer of a “Gold Medal” and delivered the first of “A Course of Lectures Upon Comparative Anatomy and the Diseases of Domestic Animals.”

Despite a failed attempt by the Veterinary College in Philadelphia beginning in 1852 to enroll students who never sufficiently materialized, a group of prominent individuals in Massachusetts was able to establish the Boston Veterinary Institute in 1855. While in operation for only a short period, it is significant in being the second veterinary school in the United States. This paper describes the establishment of the Institute, the faculty, officers, references, students, and graduates. Some of these individuals are notable for having served in the American Civil War and were influential in founding the United States Veterinary Medical Association.

John Collins Warren, MD (1778-1856) was one of the most renowned American surgeons of the 19th century. In 1846, he gave permission to William T.G. Morton to provide ether anesthesia while Warren performed a minor surgical procedure. He was the founder of the New England Journal of Medicine and was the third president of the American Medical Association. He was the first Dean of the Harvard Medical School and a founding member of the Massachusetts General Hospital. Interestingly, when he was elected president of the Boston Society of Natural History, Dr. Warren purchased the “finest and most perfect Mastodon skeleton yet discovered...which afforded the opportunity, and in fact imposed the duty, of a careful anatomical description of that wonderful animal.”

Figure 1. Dr. John Collins Warren (1855), the surgeon during the first public demonstration of surgical anesthesia on October 16, 1846.
http://www2.massgeneral.org/bicentennial/toolkit/300images_people.asp
An announcement in the May 1850 issue of the *Western Journal of Medicine and Surgery* read,

“Edward Brooks, of Boston, who, three years ago, wrote for this Journal a highly interesting paper on veterinary medicine, returned, a few months ago from a protracted stay in Europe, where he devoted his time and fine talents to the study of the diseases of the horse. Dr. Brooks immediately entered upon the duties assigned him by the Legislative Agricultural Society, of Massachusetts, and has already delivered before that body, two lectures on the history and progress of veterinary medicine. We are pleased to find them mentioned in very flattering terms, by the public prints of Boston. In one of them he announced a series of lectures, of an extended and more practical character, for next winter. We but speak from personal observation, when we say that Dr. Brooks has cultivated the subject which he proposes to teach, with the most praiseworthy diligence and industry. We believe we but express the desire of every physician and humane man in the country, when we wish Dr. Brooks’s success may be equal to his merits, and that he may awaken an interest in the diseases of the horse, which shall lead to their being more generally and systematically studied.”

*Setting the Stage*

There was growing interest in learning about the husbandry and diseases of animals a number of years before the Boston Veterinary Institute was founded. John C. Warren, M.D.⁹ (Fig. 1) recorded in the *Transactions of the Agricultural Societies of Massachusetts* on December 24, 1846¹⁰,¹¹ that a figure of a horse was recently completed in Paris. The French model of a horse was full size; the pieces could be taken apart representing the muscles, heart, lungs, etc. The cost of the French model of the horse was 4,000 francs or $800.00. This was the Auzoux Papier-mâché Horse (Fig 2) developed by Louis Thomas Jérôme Auzoux (1797-1880), a French medical student, in 1846. Most of the early Auzoux horse models were commissioned by the French Ministry of War for cavalry schools and remount depots; however, they were also used for anatomical instruction in many veterinary colleges.¹² The Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture’s Committee on the Anatomy and Diseases of Animals invited Dr. Edward Brooks¹³,¹⁴ to give a lecture on the anatomy and diseases of the horse. They also directed the preparation of full size skeletons of a horse and an ox. In 1847, the Massachusetts State Agricultural Society purchased the Auzoux horse and the skeletons of the horse and ox were completed.¹⁵ Dr. Brooks visited Europe to study the diseases of the horse. On his return, he gave lectures on the history and progress of veterinary medicine in addition to a lecture on the anatomy and diseases of the horse.¹⁶

Bierer notes that “in 1853, D. D. Slade, M.D., at the request of the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture, delivered a course of lectures on the anatomy and diseases of the horse. These lectures were printed in the *Plow, Loom and Anvil*, an agricultural journal published in New York, and in the *Boston Traveler*.¹⁷ Dr. Slade would later become one of the founders and president of the Boston Veterinary Institute.
By 1849 or even earlier, Dr. George H. Dadd had become interested in providing instruction in veterinary medicine, and established a School of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery in Boston. He advertised for students for one session of three or four months at $100 and for two sessions for $200. Dadd was a prolific writer, author of several books, and also edited and published the first veterinary journal, the American Veterinary Journal, that was issued intermittently from 1851-1859.

While little is known about this early instruction, there is evidence that at least a few individuals took courses from Dr. Dadd. For example, Dadd noted in the February 1856 issue of his American Veterinary Journal that “Dr. Jewett [of Palmyra, Maine] attended a special course of instruction in our office, some six years ago [about 1850], and is now enjoying a practice worth two thousand dollars per annum.”

In November 1851, Dadd notified readers of the American Veterinary Journal that he was prepared to receive a limited number of pupils with a view of instructing them to practice, on scientific principles, and the veterinary art. In the American Veterinary Journal, August, 1852, Dadd proposed petitioning the Massachusetts legislature for a charter incorporating the Boston Veterinary College of Surgeons. Later, in a letter published in the Michigan Farmer in 1854, he proposed finding “an individual desirous of handing his name down to posterity as a public benefactor...to use his influence and purse for the purpose of endowing veterinary schools.”

**Incorporation**

According to the Prospectus and Regulations of the Boston Veterinary Institute, (Fig. 3) the Boston Veterinary Institute was incorporated by the Legislature of Massachusetts on May 2, 1855 in the Massachusetts State House (Fig. 4). In the Act of Incorporation of the Boston Veterinary Institute, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Section 1, George H. Dadd, John P. Jewett, Charles L. Flint, William S. King, Jonas Chapman, David Roberts, their associates and successors, were made a Corporation by the name of the “Boston Veterinary Institute,” to be established in the City of Boston, in the County of Suffolk. They “shall be invested with power to confer degrees; possessing, also, the same power and privileges, and subject to the same duties, restrictions, and liabilities as other Universities, and as set forth in the forty-fourth chapter of the Revised Statutes.” By vote of the Corporation, the following persons were also elected members of the same: Moses Newell, West Newbury;--Brigham, Roxbury; Joel Nourse, Boston; E.M. Atwater, Springfield. Section 2 states that the Corporation may hold real and personal estate to the amount of twenty-five thousand dollars, to be devoted exclusively to the purpose of veterinary education, and for the support of an infirmary for the treatment of the diseases of horses, cattle, and other domestic animals.

The State House was designed by Charles Bulfinch and completed on January 11, 1798. The golden dome, was once made of wood, and later overlaid with copper by Paul Revere. The land for the State House was originally owned and used as John Hancock’s cow pasture. Today the State House is one of the oldest buildings on Beacon Hill.

The Prospectus and Regulations pamphlet describing the new school was well received when it was distributed to the agricultural community. In particular, The Cultivator in 1855 ran an announcement in its September issue that stated, “…and rejoice exceedingly that there is at last some prospect of an institution in this country where young men can

![Figure 3. Prospectus and Regulation of the Boston Veterinary Institute, 1855.](http://resource.nlm.nih.gov/101315253)
prepare themselves for the practice of veterinary medicine and surgery.” An editorial in The American Farmer also endorsed the school by noting, “We have read a copy of the prospectus and regulations of the Boston Veterinary Institute, incorporated in May, of which Dr. D.D. Slade is President, and Dr. Dadd and Ch. M. and Robt. Wood, compose the faculty… This is a most praiseworthy undertaking and has our best wishes for success.” Notices of the Prospectus also appeared in several other agricultural journals with encouragement, including the Maine Farmer, New England Farmer, and the Ohio Cultivator.

Among those individuals noted as its incorporators of the Institute were:

**George H. Dadd** (1813-1868) was a controversial figure on the American veterinary scene. He said he studied both human and veterinary medicine, but probably through apprenticeship. Dadd arrived in Boston about 1845 and began publishing a series of books in 1848: Chart of Veterinary Reformed Practice, Boston, 1848; The American Cattle Doctor, New York, 1850; Advocate of Veterinary Reform, Boston, 1850; Anatomy and Physiology of the Horse, Boston, 1851, 1857; The Modern Horse Doctor, New York, 1854; Every Man His Own Cattle Doctor, New York, 1856; Diseases and Lameness of Horses, New York, 1858; Nature and Treatment of Diseases of Cattle, Boston, 1859; Lameness, Boston, 1863; Theory and Practice of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, Boston, 1866.

**John P. Jewett** (1814-1884) was a publisher and anti-slavery activist born in Lebanon, Maine, who started a business in Boston publishing textbooks in 1846. He is best known for first publishing Uncle Tom’s Cabin in book form in 1852. In 1854, Jewett published another bestseller, The Lamplighter by Maria Susanna Cummins.

**Charles L. Flint** (1824-1889) was a lawyer, cofounder and first Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture, a lecturer in cattle and dairy farming, the first secretary of the Massachusetts Agricultural College Board of Trustees (now the University of Massachusetts at Amherst). He served as the College’s fourth president (Fig. 5). Flint graduated from Harvard University in 1849 and entered the Law School in 1850.

**Jonas W. Chapman** was a botanic physician and druggist located at 6 Salem Street in Boston according to the 1851 Boston Directory.

**Moses Newell** (1793-1858) was a successful and esteemed farmer, attended Bradford Academy, served as selectman of the town of West Newbury, state representative, state senator, and Essex County Commissioner in Massachusetts (Fig. 6). He served in the state militia and attained the rank of colonel. An obituary in the American Veterinary Journal in 1858 noted that Moses Newell was recently elected President of the Boston Veterinary Institute when D. D. Slade resigned.

**William S. King, Esq.** (about 1818/1819-1895) was originally from Manton (near Providence), Rhode Island and was married to Ellen G. King. He was editor of the Journal of Agriculture, a semi-monthly journal, founded in 1851 with offices at
Horticultural Hall in Boston. Serving as associate editor was Professor James J. Mapes from New Jersey who was also listed as one of the References for the Boston Veterinary Institute. This publication intended to “be a textbook and guide to the Farmer, the Stock-breeder, the Horticulturist, and Market Gardner, as well as the Amateur Cultivator...”  “As Mr. King remarks, ‘Science is nothing more or less than Knowledge Systematized.”’46 Dr. George H. Dadd was among the contributors to this publication. King was “well-known in Rhode Island as proprietor of Woodland Farm” and as an “accomplished writer and practical agriculturist.” In 1853, he was elected to the Board of Agriculture of the United States Agricultural Society for the State of Rhode Island along with being an active member of Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry.47 King soon became Secretary of the U.S. Agricultural Society and editor of its Journal.48

**Officers, Faculty and Board of Examiners**

The *Prospectus* also presented the officers and faculty of the Institute.49 The officers of the Boston Veterinary Institute Corporation were William S. King, Chairman; John P. Jewett, Treasurer; and C. L. Flint, Secretary.50 The first President of the Institute was D. D. Slade, M.D.

The faculty included George H. Dadd, Professor of Anatomy and Physiology; Charles M. Wood, Professor of Theory and Practice; and Robert Wood, Professor of Cattle Pathology. A. S. Copeman was added later as Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy.51 The Board of Examiners (all physicians) included D. D. Slade, M.D., John W. Warren, M.D., George Bartlett, M.D., and Charles Gordon, M.D. Also listed were 40 references from 36 different states, some of whom will be mentioned further below.

**Faculty**

The *Prospectus* stated,52 “The Faculty shall consist of the President, Veterinary Professors, and Lecturers; who shall hold annual examinations for the Degree of V.S. In extraordinary cases, they shall also meet for the same purpose at any other time. One of their number, to be chosen by themselves, shall always act as Dean. With him the students shall matriculate by entering their names in a book kept by him; which shall contain an obligation that they will submit to the laws of the Institute and the Faculty; and by paying the matriculation fee and the price of the Professor’s tickets.”

**Board of Overseers**

Also noted that, “The Board of Overseers for the government of the College and supervision of its affairs, consisted of the corporation, its associates and successors.53 They shall choose from among themselves a Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer, and have power to increase their number and fill vacancies as circumstances require. They shall have the power to manage the affairs of the Institute, appoint the Professors and Lecturers, receive contributions, and disburse the same for the benefit of the Institute. They shall meet at least once a year for the transaction of business, the time of meeting to be mutually decided. Cases, however, may occur which require their counsel and sanction. Therefore, the President of the Institute may appoint a day of meeting, and the Board of Overseers shall be duly notified and meet accordingly.”

The most active individuals in the establishment and operation of the Boston Veterinary Institute were Doctors D.D. Slade, George H. Dadd, Charles M. Wood, Robert Wood, and A.S. Copeland.
Daniel Denison Slade, M.D. (Fig. 7) was born in Boston on May 10, 1823 and entered Harvard College in 1840. There he became very interested in the Harvard Natural History Society and served as its Curator of Ornithology and of Geology, Treasurer, Vice President, and President. Slade graduated from Harvard in 1844. While first interested in agriculture, he turned to medicine after a year and pursued three years of study in the Medical Department at Harvard College receiving the M.D. degree in 1848. He was appointed House Surgeon at the Massachusetts General Hospital. After one year, Slade left to study medicine in Europe in Paris and Dublin in 1849. He also spent two months at the Veterinary College at Maisons-Alfort, near Paris.54

He was designated the first president of the Boston Veterinary Institute in 1855, but, resigned from the position in 1857.

The address that D. D. Slade, M.D. delivered in 1855 as President of the Boston Veterinary Institute at the opening of the second veterinary college in North America, was published in the American Veterinary Journal in Boston in January, 1856.56,57 He stated, “We have met together on this occasion for a new purpose, for a purpose indeed worthy of celebration! This day witnesses with us the commencement of a new era in the cause of science and humanity—the foundation of a Veterinary College.” He goes on to give an excellent and very complete review of historical events in all countries concerning the treatment of animals before and after veterinary colleges were established. Slade pointed out the neglect of veterinary education in America. Being a prolific writer, he was a frequent contributor to the American Veterinary Journal edited by George H. Dadd.

Between 1857 and 1862, Slade won four prizes for essays on medical subjects: the Boylston Prize from Harvard University in 1857, the Massachusetts Medical Society Prize in 1859, and the Fiske Fund Prize in 1860 and 1862. In 1865, he gave a series of lectures on the “Importance of the Knowledge of the Physiology of Animals to the Farmer.”58 In 1871, Slade was appointed Professor of Applied Zoology at Harvard University, and in 1885, he was named a Lecturer in Comparative Zoology at Harvard and Assistant in Osteology in the Museum of Comparative Zoology. His lectures on the horse were very attractive to others besides the regular students at Harvard. He died at his residence at Chestnut Hill on February 11, 1896.59

George H. Dadd (Fig. 8) was born in England in 1813 and came to the United States in 1839. There is little known about him until he began to practice veterinary medicine in Boston about 1845. Dadd was a controversial, but pivotal figure in American veterinary history, far in advance of his time.60 In The Cultivator for 1849,61 he advertised his Horse and Cattle Medicines, wherein he wrote, “The undersigned has spent several years in the study

Figure 7. Photograph of Daniel Denison Slade, M.D. taken in 1882 by Dr. Calvin Gates Page (H.C. 1890) on July 26, 1882 on the terrace of his residence at Chestnut Hill, Boston at age 60 in a familiar attitude.


Upon his return to Boston, Slade delivered lectures on veterinary medicine to the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture at the State House in 1853 which were published in the Boston Traveler.55
of veterinary practice in London and Edinburgh [sic], and has also availed himself of the researches of Liebig, and other celebrated men, who have contributed so much towards a judicious treatment of animals.”62 Dadd used the degrees M.D. and V.S., but according to Liautard, Dadd was “neither a graduate of human nor veterinary medicine,” but continuing, “at least I can find no record of these degrees.”63,64

When the Boston Veterinary Institute began to fail, Dadd moved to Cincinnati in 1861 where he tried to open the Academy of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery. In March, 1862, the Prairie Farmer reported that Dadd had moved to St. Louis, and later in September, 1862, the Prairie Farmer further noted Dadd was in Chicago with plans to establish a practice and open a school of veterinary instruction there.71 Dadd established the Veterinary Institute of Chicago in 1863 or 1864 which existed until 1869. Dadd is also listed as a non-resident Professor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery at Iowa Agricultural College in 1868. The American Farmer carried an ad in the April 1868 issue stating, “George H. Dadd, Senior, Veterinary Surgeon, Office at Mason & Turner’s Stable, No. 65 North Calvert Street, Baltimore.”

The ad notes Dr. Dadd can be consulted in relation to the diseases of all domestic animals. Students will be received in view of qualifying them as Veterinary Surgeons. Dadd died in Baltimore on September 4, 1868.

**Charles M. Wood** came to Boston from England in 1835 and began work as a blacksmith, but soon took up veterinary practice, which he carried on with outstanding success. Charles Wood was a profound scholar, self-taught as far as veterinary science was concerned. He strongly supported “the diffusion of veterinary knowledge.”73 It appears he may have been the intellectual force behind the Boston Veterinary Institute and insisted on educational qualifications for matriculation to the school. In some way, the impression has come about that Dadd established and conducted the Boston Veterinary Institute. Yet Smithcors notes that Dr. Dadd himself said he had nothing to do with its management.74 Wood was apparently, the real power behind it. He appears to have wearied of refusing the importunities of Dadd and others to admit uneducated students and to give advanced standing to practitioners because of long practice. At any rate, Wood subsequently withdrew and thereupon the school failed.

He wrote a number of articles, most about

---

**Figure 8. Engraving of George Dadd, founder of the Boston Veterinary Institute (from Frontispiece to A Practical Treatise on the Most Obvious Diseases Peculiar to Horses... by George H. Dadd, Chicago: Lord & Smith; New York, Blakeman & Mason, 1863).**

http://hdl.handle.net/2027/chic.087137846

Dadd was also the veterinary editor of several agricultural journals, including the Prairie Farmer. He was criticized for writing to the lay reader rather than the veterinary profession,65 however, at this time he noted there were only some 15 professionally educated veterinarians in the United States.66,67 Dadd opposed bloodletting, advocated the humane treatment of animals, and was the first American veterinary surgeon to use general anesthesia in practice. Dadd also advocated a mixture of ether and chloroform, and documented its use in a number of cases.68,69 In the 1851 edition of The Cattle Doctor, Dadd described an operation he had performed that year using chloroform.70 Dadd brought to the veterinary scene an entirely fresh approach with the use of anesthesia, opposing bloodletting, and poisonous drugs.
postmortem examinations and gross pathology. A number of these articles were published in the *American Veterinary Journal* and an even larger number in *The Veterinarian* (London). Merillat and Campbell report that “In 1858, C. M. Wood, of Boston, wrote: ‘I know the *Veterinarian* is read by many in this city.’ Some of them acquired a fair knowledge of anatomy. As a rule, they were keen observers. Their knowledge of materia medica was equal to that of the medical practitioners of that day, that is to say, meager.”

C. M. Wood, of Boston, was employed by the Secretary of War as an inspector of animals during the Civil War for the Army of the Potomac in 1861. His employment was strictly in the capacity of a civilian. Early in the War in 1861, to allay apprehension about glanders, the Government appointed two widely known veterinarians, C. M. Wood of Boston, and A. S. Copeman, of Utica, N.Y. to make an inspection of the public animals along the Potomac. As might have been expected, their report was more favorable than the newspaper headlines. Glanders was more insidious than spectacular.

Overall, Wood was a man of high scholastic attainments. Although he never attended any college, his writings were couched in elegant English and contained frequent references to ancient literature, both medical and historical. Next to Robert Jennings of Philadelphia, Wood did more than anyone else to bring about the organization of the United States Veterinary Medical Association in New York in 1863, and he served as its third president from 1865-1866.

An article in the *American Veterinary Review* titled, “The Living and the Dead: Reminiscences of the Veterinary Practitioners of Forty Years Ago” written by “One of Them,” describes Charles M. Wood “as a tall gentleman, Scotsman-like, full of activity, kind and with a strong desire to make friends. He had been connected with Dadd in an attempt to establish the Boston Veterinary School. One of his students said his education was thorough, a constant treadmill of application, and untiring efforts. However, in treating acute forms of diseases of internal organs, he was a failure. He was dogmatic and authoritative in regard to the choice and method of administering medicine as one could be.”

Robert Wood, brother of Charles Wood, was a fair student, but reasoned better than his brother, and was deeper and more analytical. He was a Professor of Cattle Pathology at the Boston Veterinary Institute and a contributor to the *American Veterinary Journal*. Miller notes that Robert Wood was possibly a graduate of the Boston Veterinary Institute. As a charter member of the United States Veterinary Medical Association on June 9, 1863, he is listed in the *U.S.V.M.A. Minutes Book*. Robert Wood was also elected one of the first four corresponding secretaries with McCoun, Walton, and Michener in 1865. Robert Wood served as the fifth president of the U.S.V.M.A. from 1867 to 1869. Robert Wood and Charles Wood were the only two brothers to serve as presidents of the U.S.V.M.A. Robert Wood was also elected a censor from 1869 to 1870. As a progressive practitioner, he used ether anesthesia for the castration of pigs with scrotal hernia and other conditions. At his practice in Lowell, Massachusetts, Dr. Wood took private students about the same time he was associated with the Boston Veterinary Institute. He died in 1892.

An article in the *American Veterinary Review* titled, “The Living and the Dead: Reminiscences of the Veterinary Practitioners of Forty Years Ago” written by “One of Them,” describes “Robert Wood, V.S., of smaller stature, noisy, and restless, compared to his older brother.”

A. S. Copeman was a self-educated veterinarian of fair ability, but like Dadd, of deplorable ethical standards according to Merillat and Campbell. In an article in the *American Veterinary Review*, titled “The Living and the Dead: Reminiscences of the Veterinary Practitioners of Forty Years Ago” written by “One of Them, Copeman was Chair of Chemistry and Pharmacy at the Boston Veterinary Institute. In 1864, he joined the faculty of the New York College of Veterinary Surgeons. Among the few veterinarians who were called upon by the Government for advice during the Civil War were C.M. Wood of Boston, A.S. Copeman of Utica, New
York, and Joseph Bushman of Washington, D.C. Copeman is often referred to in the literature as being an M.R.C.V.S. and from this we may assume he was from England. Copeman was the veterinary editor of George Wilkes’ *The Spirit of the Times*, the leading sporting, racing, rifle, hunting, dramatic and musical newspaper in the world, for seven years. His ethics were reported to be deplorable. In this capacity, he acquired a reputation and his acquaintance among horsemen made him a fortune in practice after he moved to New York City in 1864 to serve on the faculty of the New York College of Veterinary Surgeons. His practices, in later years, were regarded as unethical even for those days.

He joined with Charles M. Wood and Robert Jennings in calling the meeting which resulted in the organization of the United States Veterinary Medical Association in New York City in 1863. Dr. Copeman served on the Committee that was appointed to draft the By Laws for the U.S.V.M.A., was its first Treasurer, and its second President of the U.S.V.M.A. from 1864-1865. Neither C.M. Wood nor Copeman can be regarded as regular graduates. Their degrees from the Boston Veterinary Institute were honorary, given for their services on the faculty. Copeman committed suicide by shooting in November, 1876.

References
Likely intended to provide support and justification for the Boston Veterinary Institute, the Incorporation Act included the names of 40 references from 36 states. It is not known why these particular people were chosen as a number were from outside of New England, but they were obviously prominent individuals in their community, state, and nation and understood the need for qualified veterinary practitioners.

Among some of these notable individuals were:

The Hon. Marshall Pinckney Wilder (1798-1886) of Massachusetts was president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. He helped establish the Massachusetts Agricultural College and the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture. Wilder also promoted the United States Agricultural Society in 1852, and was chosen as its President (Fig. 9). When the Massachusetts Agricultural College at Amherst was incorporated in 1863, he was named as its first trustee. The school would later be renamed the University of Massachusetts.

The Honorable Simon Brown (1796-1872) was an American politician who served as the 21st Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from 1855 to 1856 (Fig 10). He was then an at-large delegate to the 1856 Republican Convention in Philadelphia where he supported the nomination of John C. Fremont for President of the United States. Professionally, working in Boston, Brown was a printer and publisher of such periodicals as the *New England Farmer*.

John Lang (1789-1879) was born in Gardiner, Maine in 1789 and educated himself after three months of school. In 1840, with Samuel Taylor, he visited the Indian tribes west of the Mississippi River and made a report of their travels and the conditions of the Indians. Later, when Ulysses S. Grant was elected President, he appointed John Lang as Commissioner.
to the Indians. Previously, in 1846, Lang had come to Vassalboro, Maine and gained possession of the Vassalboro Woolen Mills.97

From New Hampshire, Henry F. French was an agriculturalist, inventor, lawyer, judge, postmaster, assistant district attorney, and assistant Secretary of the United States Treasury (Fig. 11). He first studied law at the law office of his father Daniel French, and attended Harvard Law School. From 1852 to 1859, he was president of the Rockingham Agricultural Society. Then, from 1865 to 1866, he was president of the Massachusetts Agricultural College. He received an honorary Master of Arts degree in 1852 from Dartmouth College.98

Frederick Holbrook (1813-1909) was an agriculturalist, politician, and the 27th Governor of Vermont (Fig. 12). He was born in East Windsor, Connecticut, attended Berkshire Gymnasium in Pittsfield, Massachusetts for two years, and visited Europe in 1833 to learn their agricultural methods. When he returned, he settled in Brattleboro, Vermont, and was engaged in professional agriculture. He was elected register of probate for the district of Marlboro in 1847, and represented Windham County in the Vermont Senate in 1840 and 1850. As chairman of a special committee on agriculture, Holbrook proposed to Congress the establishment of a national bureau of agriculture. He was also founder of the Vermont State Agricultural Association in 1850 and served as its president for eight years. He ran as a Republican candidate and was popularly elected Governor in 1861, and was reelected in 1862 by a large majority during the darkest days of the American Civil War.99,100,101,102

Joseph Lane (1801-1881) was born in North Carolina in 1801 and moved to Kentucky nine years later. He subsequently relocated to Indiana and served in both houses of the Legislature from 1822 to 1846. With the onset of the Mexican War in 1846, he received the commission of colonel in the 2nd Indiana Volunteers. Lane attained the rank of major-general in 1847 before his discharge in 1848. President James K. Polk appointed him to be Governor of the new Oregon Territory in 1848 (Fig. 13). Lane served as governor until 1850 after which he served as delegate to Congress until Oregon became a state in 1859. He served as the first Oregon senator from 1859 to 1861 and ran as the Democratic candidate for vice president in 1860.103

Fees and Schedule for Lectures
According to the Prospectus and Regulations, the first session of the Boston Veterinary Institute began on the first Monday of November, 1855, and continued

Figure 11. (left) Portrait of Henry Flagg French, the first president of the Massachusetts Agricultural College (now the University of Massachusetts Amherst). Date: circa 1880.

Figure 12. (right) Photo of Frederick Holbrook, 27th Governor of Vermont, by Arthur Wyatt of Brattleboro, February 12, 1901.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_Holbrook

for four months. The object was to provide instruction to those persons who desired to qualify themselves for the practice of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery. A ticket for a full course of lectures was seventy-five dollars, the matriculation ticket was three dollars, and the graduation fee was twenty dollars.

The Prospectus outlined the following course of lectures to be delivered by the faculty of the Boston Veterinary Institute:

Anatomy and Physiology of the Horse by Prof. Geo. H. Dadd
Theory and Practice of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery by Prof. Chas. M. Wood
Cattle Pathology by Prof. Robt. Wood

“The students were also furnished with tickets, without extra charge, to attend the following courses of lectures [to be held in a] department of instruction in Harvard University; commencing at the Medical College, North Grove Street, on the first Wednesday of November at 12 o’clock, noon:”

Pathological Anatomy by Prof. J.B.S. Jackson
Chemistry by Prof. Cook

Course of Instruction.
Also noted was that on the first Monday of November, 1855, at 12 o’clock, the President of the Institute, Dr. D. D. Slade, delivered an introductory lecture. This was “followed by addresses and other exercises calculated to interest the patrons and students of the Boston Veterinary Institute.” Each session occupied a period of four months. The professors each delivered the usual course of lectures; the time was arranged to give the students sufficient opportunity to attend the lectures of Professors Jackson and Cook.

Lectures of the Faculty.
The Prospectus noted that the Professor of Anatomy and Physiology, George H. Dadd, lectured on the various tissues, organs, and structures of the body of the Horse; demonstrating at the same time their mechanical and vital properties, their adaptation, design and function; their position, dimensions, connection and organization; which was illustrated by the French model, skeleton, diagrams, and by wet and dry preparations; an extensive collection of which had already been secured.

The Professor of Theory and Practice, Charles M. Wood, also lectured on the general principles of Therapeutics and Pathology, and on the History and Treatment of Diseases of the Horse. He described the various remedies used; pointed out their physical and medicinal properties; and mode of administration.

The Professor of Cattle Pathology, Robert Wood, lectured on the various diseases of Neat Stock; the treatment of the same; and the remedies best adapted to their peculiar organization. Clinical lectures were occasionally given by the Faculty, on cases that occurred in their practice. In fact every arrangement was be made to secure a thorough and scientific course of instruction.

Instructional Materials
The Prospectus also included an appeal “to the public” for support and to “solicit donations, for the purpose of procuring Chemical Apparatus and Preparations to Facilitate Illustrative Teaching, and for erecting a suitable College Edifice and Infirmary…” While a donor to find a building did not materialize, there is evidence of some success in developing a museum of specimens for teaching purposes. In particular, the American Veterinary Journal reported three such donations in 1858. “Some specimens of morbid anatomy” were donated by Dr. R. Jennings, from Cleveland, Ohio and a “morbid specimen of diaphragmatic [sic] hernia...from a mule” was received from John Byrne, V.S., of Antigua, W.I. Along with other items, these were “deposited in our College Museum.” The Boston Veterinary Institute also received the skeleton of Old Black Hawk, a famous Morgan horse, which was “displayed in the State House for a short time, for inspection by the public.”

Third and Fourth Sessions
At the opening exercises of the Third Commencement of the Boston Veterinary Institute in 1857, Dr. George Dadd began his introductory lecture by
extending a hearty welcome to those present on that “commemorative” occasion. He further explained that he was not there to “gather laurels for myself,” but in performing a duty assigned by his associates. Dadd’s address was published in the December 1857 issue of the American Veterinary Journal. To direct attention to an important need, he chose to speak on “the value and importance of Veterinary Science to the husbandman of this country; and shall endeavor to show the necessity that now exists for the services of educated [veterinary] surgeons...” In presenting his case for educating veterinarians of a “superior character,” he remarked that “there never was a period in the history of the United States, when the services of educated Veterinary Surgeons, were so much needed as at the present time...” for the treatment of diseases of livestock.

The next year in 1858, two advertisements alerting prospective students to the fourth session of the Boston Veterinary Institute appeared in the American Veterinary Journal. The 16-week session was first to begin on September 1, then was announced as starting on November 1. It noted that the faculty were in possession of two articulated skeletons of the horse, one of the cow; and had the use of two French models; the latter imported from France at a cost of over one thousand dollars.

Annual Meetings of the Corporation of the Boston Veterinary Institute
According to the Prospectus, the Overseers, or trustees, were to meet “at least once a year for the transaction of business.” The American Veterinary Journal, edited by Dr. George Dadd, included descriptions of two annual meetings of the Corporation that indicated several personnel changes and activities.

The 1857 annual meeting was held at the office of the Secretary, at the State House, at 12 o’clock, February 28, 1857. The Secretary read the proceedings of the last meeting, also, a letter from Dr. D. D. Slade, resigning his office as president, which was accepted. The Corporation then proceeded to choose a successor; the Hon. Moses Newell of West Newbury was unanimously elected. Dr. Dadd then announced the death of Dr. Jonas Chapman, a member of the Corporation. The vacancy by the death of Dr. Chapman was filled by the election of Josiah Crosby, Esq., of North Andover. The vacancy in the Board of Examiners, by the resignation of Dr. Slade was filled by the appointment of Dr. J.V.C. Smith, of Boston. Dr. Dadd announced having received the bones of the celebrated horse, Black Hawk, which were donated to the Institute by David Hill, Esq., of Bridgeport, Vermont. Dr. Dadd also announced that he had accepted the sum of ninety dollars from a few individuals for the purpose of purchasing anatomical specimens for the use of the Professors of the Institute. The report was signed and dated by Charles L. Flint, Secretary, in Boston on February 28, 1857.

The following year in 1858, the American Veterinary Journal noted, “APPOINTMENT.—At the late annual meeting of the members of the Corporation of the Boston Veterinary Institute, held at the State House, Charles L. Flint, Esquire, presiding, the Honorable John Brooks was unanimously elected President of the Institute.”

Conditions on which Students were admitted to examination for the Degree of V.S.
The Prospectus specified the matriculation requirements for the V.S. degree from the Boston Veterinary Institute. In order to be admitted to take the degree examination, the student had to meet several conditions, that included:

1. The course of instruction shall occupy a period of three years.
2. Each candidate shall furnish evidence that he is twenty-one years of age.
3. He shall have attended two full courses of Lectures; one of which, however, may take place in any other incorporated university.
4. He shall satisfy the Faculty that he has had the advantage of a common school education.
5. He shall furnish satisfactory proof that he has been engaged in the study of medicine during a period not less than twelve months, under the direction of a medical practitioner, whose certificate will be considered satisfactory proof of the fact.
6. The candidate for examination shall, previous
to the time appointed, notify the Dean of his intention, and furnish the documentary evidence of his term of study, tickets to Lectures, etc.”

It further stated that, “The candidate having complied with the preceding regulations, shall, on the day appointed, be examined by the Faculty and board of examination, on the various branches of Veterinary Science. At the close of such examination, the decision of the Faculty and examiners shall be declared; if favorable, it shall be recorded by the Dean, and the several candidates are then entitled to the Degree of V.S., and shall be furnished with a Diploma bearing the seal of the Institute and the signatures of the President, Faculty, and Examiners. Should the decision be unfavorable, the candidate must qualify himself in whatever branch he appears to be deficient, and present himself for re-examination at such time as the Faculty shall direct.”

**Graduates and Students.**
The *AVMA Directory* notes the number of graduates was not determined. Merillat and Campbell also indicate there is no record of the total number of graduates, but it is doubtful if 50 graduated altogether. Four of these, however, counting Wood and Copeman attained the eminence of president of the United States Veterinary Medical Association. According to Dadd, by December 1857, the school had only six graduates. The identity of some students and graduates (possibly some of them Dadd’s private pupils) can be found in the *American Veterinary Journal* as follows:

Dr. Jarvis Gay, South Dedham, Mass.— “a student of ours” [Dadd’s?]
Elias F. Ripley, B.V.I. student. [later] “Veterinary Practitioner”
Lewis Putnam, B.V.I. student, [later] “resident physician at B.V.I. infirmary
Wm. Gibb, student, [later] “Passed Student”
R. C. Fuller, student, “formerly many years in practice,” [later] V.S.
J. E. Smith, George Parry, Jacob Dilts, Mr. Flagg: students

Brief biographical sketches of some of these students and graduates appear in the Appendix.

**Closure of the Boston Veterinary Institute**
The Boston Veterinary Institute was in operation only five or six years from 1855 to 1860. It had been approved by the Massachusetts Legislature and during that time, the school offered a very strong body of reference supporters, had a very knowledgeable faculty (some affiliated with Harvard University), had matriculation qualifications, a course of lectures, and several documented students and graduates, some of whom were founders of the United States Veterinary Medical Association in 1863.

While the impression has been erroneously given that Dr. Dadd established and conducted the Boston Veterinary Institute, Smithcors notes that Dadd himself said he had nothing to do with its management. Dr. Charles M. Wood appears to have been a leader at the school. Because Wood was apparently the real power behind it, the school began to decline when he withdrew. Slade, the first president, was probably also a pillar in the Institute. His resignation in 1857 two years after the Institute was founded may have led to instability in the organization as well.

Another reason for the Boston Veterinary Institute’s demise included the fact that the Institute was founded ahead of its time. The Institute also failed to enroll many students and very few graduated. In addition, the faculty privately taught students which likely competed with enrollment for the Boston Veterinary Institute. Furthermore, details of the operation of Dr. Dadd’s own Boston School of Veterinary Medicine remain unclear and thus how it might have directly or indirectly influenced the Boston Veterinary Institute without further historical research.

Ironically, as the Boston Veterinary Institute began to fail, the following notice appeared for Dr. Dadd’s own private school in the December 1858 issue of the *American Veterinary Journal*. (Fig. 14) The same issue of the *American Veterinary Journal* provided information about the Infirmary. (Fig. 15)
Figure 14. Notice for Dr. Dadd’s private school, 1858.

SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND SURGERY
Established in Boston in 1849,
BY GEORGE H. DADD, M.D., VS.
THE STUDY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND SURGERY
“The undersigned is prepared to receive, as pupils, any number of persons desirous of acquiring knowledge in the Principles and Practice of Veterinary Science. Unusual facilities for dissection, demonstrations and infirmary practice are furnished, and the pupils can join a class at any season of the year.

REGULATIONS
1st. The regular sessional term occupies a period of four months, each student is entitled, at the end of the first session, to a document certifying to his faithful attendance, qualifications, etc.
2nd. Each student must, ere he presents himself for examination, have attended two full sessions, and then, provided he pass a satisfactory examination, before a committee of medical men, he receives a certificate bearing their signatures, and that of the principal, and seal of the School.
3rd. Any person who may have practiced Veterinary Medicine for a period, of not less than ten years, and can produce documentary evidence of the fact, accompanied by testimonials of good moral character, he can after studying one session, present himself for examination; failing to satisfy the Board of Examiners of his proficiency, he must then qualify himself in whatever branch he appears deficient and then he is entitled to a re-examination.
4th. During the period of the first or second session, (at the option of the student) he will be furnished with two tickets, which will admit him to attend lectures on Chemistry and Pathological Anatomy, in the Medical Department of Harvard University.

TERMS
Tickets for a full course..........................................................$100.00
Examination fee, (paid once only).............................................. 4.00
The student has the privilege of attending all cases which occur in the practice of the Principal and to attend the Infirmary at North Cambridge, free of extra charge.
The school of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, is located at No. 55 Salem Street, Boston, Mass. Good board can be obtained in the city for the sum of $3.50 per week.

George H. Dadd, Principal.

Figure 15. Information about Dr. Dadd’s infirmary, 1858.

INFIRMARY OF THE BOSTON VETERINARY SCHOOL.----The Infirmary of our school is now located in North Cambridge; we have a temporary building, for present use, but will shortly erect one that shall be a credit to our profession, containing all the modern improvements and appliances necessary for successful infirmary practice, dissection, demonstration, and chemical studies. Connected with the infirmary we have a forge, where pupils can be instructed in the art of shoeing, on scientific principles. We have also every facility for dissection and have made arrangements with a party at North Cambridge, to dispose of all “offal” so that we shall not be liable to indictment under the nuisance law; a law, which, in this city, and its suburban surroundings, has compelled the knacker and dissector to seek a location enjoying immunity from town and country ordinance and legislation.
Another underlying factor may have been the lack of government support and/or donated private funding to construct suitable buildings for long-term sustainability of the Boston Veterinary Institute. In the third commencement address given by Dr. Dadd in 1857, he laments that, “Yet it is hoped that State aid, which has been so liberally dispensed to the institutions just named [Harvard, Williams, and Amherst Colleges], will ere to us a helping hand so that we may be able to erect a college building for the accommodation of the Faculty and their pupils, and to connect therewith a suitable infirmary or hospital for the treatment of all kinds of animals.”

Conclusion
During its brief existence, the Boston Veterinary Institute will be recognized historically as the second veterinary school established in North America after an unsuccessful attempt in Philadelphia. It would soon be followed by private schools in major cities, such as New York and Chicago, and later by many land-grant, university-based curricula. The Boston Veterinary Institute thus further set the stage for continuing efforts to provide trained and qualified individuals capable of handling animal diseases and thereby raising the standards of the veterinary profession in this country.

REFERENCES AND NOTES
9. Dunglison (Ref. 7).
13. Warren (Ref. 10).
16. Ibid.
20. Smithcors 1963 (Ref. 5).
23. Ibid.
26. Ibid.
34. Bierer (Ref. 19).
37. Smithcors 1975 (Ref. 32), pp. 60-61.
43. Loring, George B. Address before the Essex Agricultural Society. Newburyport, MA: Herald Job Press, 1858: pp. 3-5. http://hdl.handle.net/2027/loc.arc.id:13960/t7w6vz2f
50. Ibid.
52. Prospectus (Ref. 25), p. 4.
53. Ibid
55. Ibid, p. 22.
58. Wheelwright (Ref. 55).
59. Wheelwright (Ref. 54).
60. Smithcors 1975 (Ref. 37).
61. Important to the public: Horse and cattle medicines…G.H. Dadd,
M.D. The Cultivator. n.s. 6(5): 167, 1949 May; 6(6): 198, 1849 Jun;
62. Ibid.
63. Bierer (Ref. 19).
64. Smithcors 1975 (Ref. 37).
66. Smithcors 1957 (Ref. 35), p. 381.
68. Smithcors 1963 (Ref. 5), 229-230, 238-239.
71. http://hdl.handle.net/2027/miun.agt4726.0001.001
72. https://archive.org/details/americanreforme00daddgoog
73. Smithcors 1963 (Ref. 5), p. 246.
78. Smithcors 1963 (Ref. 51).
80. Merillat, Campbell (Ref. 75), pp. 165-166.
83. http://hdl.handle.net/2027/osu.32435052936739
84. Smithcors 1963 (Ref. 5), pp. 236-237.
85. Miller, Everett. 19th Century Origins of the American Veterinary Medical Association (formerly the United States Veterinary Medical Association), with Special Reference to Education. Veterinary Heritage. 11(2):4-50, 1988.
86. Ibid.
88. “One of Them” (Ref. 78).
89. Merillat, Campbell (Ref. 75), p. 139.
90. “One of Them” (Ref. 78).
91. Ibid.
92. Merillat, Campbell (Ref. 75), p. 140.
94. “One of Them” (Ref. 78).
95. Merillat, Campbell (Ref. 75), p. 184.
91. Merillat, Campbell (Ref. 87).
92. Merillat, Campbell (Ref. 75), p. 169, 281.
94. Prospects (Ref. 49).
105. Ibid.
106. Ibid.
107. Prospects (Ref. 25), p. 3.
108. Prospects (Ref. 25), p. [5].
110. Ibid.
113. Smithcors 1963 (Ref. 5), pp. 244-245.
117. Prospects (Ref. 107).
119. Merillat, Campbell (Ref. 75), p. 170.
120. Dadd (Ref. 111).
121. Smithcors 1963 (Ref. 5), p. 244.
122. Ibid.
123. Smithcors 1963 (Ref. 71).
124. Dadd, George A. School of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, established in Boston, 1849... American Veterinary Journal. n.s. 3(12): 388, 1858 Dec. http://hdl.handle.net/2027/hvd.32044081506255
126. Dadd (Ref. 111).

APPENDIX
Biographical information known about some students and graduates of the Boston Veterinary Institute and/or Dadd’s Boston School of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery includes:

Jacob Dilts (18??-1891 or 1897) The American Veterinary Journal published an article in March 1859 by “Jacob Dilts, Student, on ‘Operation on a Horse for Abscess and Foreign Bodies.’” Dilts then enrolled in the Philadelphia Veterinary College in the fall of 1859; however, the faculty soon tendered their resignations. Miller noted that Jacob Dilts, Lamberts, New Jersey, was a graduate of the Boston Veterinary Institute and Charter Member of the United States Veterinary Medical Association, as listed in the U.S.V.M.A. Minutes Book. Dilts was also on the Committee that was appointed to draft the By Laws for the USVMA that were adopted on June 10, 1863. He was also one of the six elected censors. In the Appendix of New Jersey Butterfly Boys in the Civil War: The Hussars of the Union Army by Peter T. Lubrecht, Jacob Dilts is listed as a Farmer from Brunswick, New Jersey. He died April 15, 1891 or 1897 at the age of 76 and was buried in Rural Hill Cemetery, White House, Hunterdon, New Jersey.
REFERENCES:

1. Dilts J. Operation on a Horse for Abscess and Foreign Bodies. 
http://hdl.handle.net/2027/hvd.32044081506255

2. Jennings R. The early history of veterinary medicine and surgery in 
42-49, 1883 Jan. 
https://archive.org/details/journalcomparat0unkngoog

3. Miller EB. 19th Century origins of the American Veterinary 
Medical Association (formerly the United States Veterinary Medical 
Association), with special reference to education. Veterinary Heritage. 
11(2):4-50, 1988 Dec; p. 7 (table).

4. Smithcors JF. The American Veterinary Profession: Its Background and 
Development. Ames, IA: Iowa State University Press, 1963; p. 685

5. Lubrecht, Peter T. The New Jersey Butterfly Boys in the Civil War: 

Oren H. Flagg, M.D., V.S. (1823-1897) of Massachusetts, “began the study of medicine 
when 30 years of age, graduating with an M.D., 
from the Cincinnati Medical School; but, having 
a natural taste for animals, he turned his attention 
to veterinary medicine, studied with the late Dr. 
George H. Dadd, and in 1859 received a degree 
from the Boston School of Veterinary Medicine and 
Surgery after four years of study.” Miller noted him 
to have been a Charter member of the United States 
Veterinary Medical Association, as listed in the 
U.S. V.M.A. Minutes Book. According to the Proceedings of the Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the United States 
Veterinary Medical Association, O. H. Flagg remained 
active in that new professional organization by being 
elected Corresponding Secretary at the First Annual 
Meeting, September 6, 1864; Vice President at the 
Third Annual Meeting, September 4, 1866; Censor at 
the Fourth and Fifth Annual Meetings (September 
3, 1867 and September 1, 1868); Corresponding 
Secretary at the Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth 
Annual Meetings (September 21, 1869, September 
20, 1870, September 19, 1871, and September 17, 
1872); and Vice President at the Seventeenth Annual 
Meeting, September 1, 1880. O.H. Flagg is also 
listed as an officer in 1866-67 and 1880-81 in the 
AVMA Directory. Dr. Flagg died on January 3, 1897 
at his home in New Bedford, Massachusetts.

REFERENCES:

1. Obituary: Oren H. Flagg. American Veterinary Review. XX: 814-815, 
1897 Feb. 
http://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc2.0003507761

2. Miller EB. 19th Century origins of the American Veterinary 
Medical Association (formerly the United States Veterinary Medical 
Association), with special reference to education. Veterinary Heritage. 
11(2):4-50, 1988 Dec; p. 7 (table).

http://hdl.handle.net/2027/uiau30112005945701

4. Former Veterinary Medical Institutions in the United States. AVMA 
Membership Directory and Resource Manual. 57th ed. Schaumburg, IL: 
American Veterinary Medical Association, 2009; p. 84.

5. “One of Them.” The living and the dead: reminiscences of the 
veterinary practitioners of forty years ago. American Veterinary Review. 
XXVI: 206-213 (June), 294-299, 397-404, 488-494, 1902. 
http://hdl.handle.net/2027/osu.32435052936739

R. C. Fuller, V.S. The American Veterinary Journal noted Case 23, December 11, 1858, 
etitled “Congestion of the bowels and intestinal hemorrhage” under “Report of Cases, Treated and 
Prescribed for, at the “Boston School of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery.” This case was described in 
more detail by R. C. Fuller, V.S. as a separate article and is entitled, “Case of Congestion of the Bowels and Intestinal Hemorrhage.” It involved a horse 
used for light driving that had “spasmodic colic.” The usual treatment was to etherize the animal 
which gave relief, but the owner had waited too long to seek veterinary aid. Two additional cases are 
also described by Dr. Fuller in the American Veterinary Journal on Laminitis and a Case of Influenza.

REFERENCES:

1. Fuller RC. Case of congestion of the bowels and intestinal 
of Case 23 is made on page 22]
http://hdl.handle.net/2027/hvd.32044081506255

2. Fuller RC. Acute laminitis. American Veterinary Journal. 4(1):7-9, 
1859 Jan.
http://hdl.handle.net/2027/hvd.32044081506255

1859 Jan.
http://hdl.handle.net/2027/hvd.32044081506255
Jarvis Gay (1804-1882) In 1858, the American Veterinary Journal described the surgical division of the flexor tendons in a bay gelding in Dedham, Massachusetts that was in an accident that had a “sprung knee” or contraction of the flexor tendons. The paper reported that the horse was cast, both flexor tendons divided, and the “patient has been under the care of Dr. Jarvis Gay, of South Dedham, (a student of our’s,) who reports that the animal is doing ‘remarkably well, free of deformity, and is now at grass.’”

REFERENCES:

William Gibb. The March 1859 issue of the American Veterinary Journal has an article by William Gibb, Passed Student, on a “Case of Colic.” Gibb describes a horse with colic on January 31, 1859 in severe pain that he treated with a colic drench containing physiological agents followed by an enema of lobelia. Gibb noted the horse soon recovered and he noted that often too much medicine is given. Later in 1876, Gibb’s name is found listed in The Veterinary Journal and Annals of Comparative Pathology, as one of eleven students that passed a successful examination and was awarded the Diploma of the Council of the Agriculture and Arts Association from the Ontario Veterinary College. Gibb is also listed in the Veterinary Blue Book, 1898, edited by Rush Shippen Huidenker as being located in St. Mary’s, Ontario, Canada. The listing also notes Gibb as earning a diploma from Boston in 1859 and from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1876. He was a member of the Ontario Veterinary Association, President of the Western Ontario Veterinary Medical Association, and an Inspector of the Province. He was also President of the Perth County Veterinary Medical Association. The Journal of Comparative Medicine and Veterinary Archives has a report of the semiannual meeting of the Western Ontario Veterinary Medical Association in Stratford, December 29, 1896, that was presided over by President William Gibb. Dr. George Gibb from Seaforth, possibly his son, presented a paper on “Removal of a Portion of the Spinal Column of a Cow.” Dr. William Gibb presented a paper on “Value of Action and Position as Indications of Lameness in the Horse, and the Diagnosis of its Position.” Dr. Gibb was re-elected a member of the Board of Directors.

REFERENCES:

William S. Kooker, V.S. (1840-1908) An obituary in the American Veterinary Review notes that Dr. William S. Kooker of Philadelphia, “died suddenly April 4, 1908, in his 68th year. He was born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and attended Dadd’s Veterinary School in Boston. He practiced ten years in Easton and thirty-one years in Philadelphia. He was a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, Pennsylvania State Veterinary Medical Association and the Keystone Veterinary Medical Association. Dr. Kooker was a loyal and devoted veterinarian, an earnest student at all times, and a faithful member to association duties. In the early history of veterinary legislation in Pennsylvania, he took a very active part and did much to help the movement. He leaves a wife and one daughter. Beautiful floral offerings from each of his veterinary associations and from individual members of the profession were sent to his funeral, which was largely attended by his colleagues.” Kooker is listed in the 1858 Philadelphia Directory as “Kooker, William S., stables, 102 1/2 Buttonwood, h 662 N 11th.” A report of the Keystone Veterinary Medical Association shows that he was on their Board of Trustees.
George F. Parry (1838-1886) was a Quaker born August 22, 1838 in Buckingham Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. He graduated from the Boston Veterinary Institute in 1859, a year before it closed (Fig. 16). During the Civil War, there was an increasing need for horses and a continued decline in animal health. In 1861, a veterinary sergeant was authorized for each of three battalions in a cavalry regiment; he received $17 per month, but there were no qualifications and veterinary care was very inadequate. In March 1863, Congress authorized each regiment of cavalry a veterinary surgeon with the increased rank of sergeant major and vastly increased pay of $75 per month. George F. Parry joined the 7th Pennsylvania Cavalry as a Veterinary Surgeon on June 22, 1863. Parry spent most of the war in the southern states and traveled throughout parts of Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, and to a much lesser extent, eastern Illinois, northeastern Mississippi, and northern Florida. He participated in battles at Chickamauga, Georgia (September 1863); Dallas, Georgia (May-June 1864); Selma, Alabama (April 1865); and witnessed much of the Atlanta campaign (May-September 1864) undertaken by Union General William T. Sherman and others. Parry was offered an appointment as a first lieutenant in the United States colored troop with orders to report at once on June 2, 1865. He did not report, noting his position as veterinary surgeon was much better. Toward the end of the War, Parry became ill and was moved between hospitals in Alabama and Kentucky before returning to Pennsylvania in the fall of 1865. Parry kept very detailed diaries1,2,3,4 of his days as a student at the Boston Veterinary Institute and during the Civil War.

After the Civil War, he returned to private practice and farmed in Newtown, Pennsylvania. Parry attended local Quaker meetings, was a member of Newtown Lodge, No. 427, Ancient York Masons. In 1880, he was elected a councilman and worked as a clerk for the Newtown Borough. In 1869 George Parry married Sarah Elizabeth Hough. A year later, on April 10, 1870, the couple welcomed their first child, a girl named Helen Amanda. On December 13, 1876, George and Sarah had another baby, a boy they named William Hough. Helen A. Parry (1870-1948) went on to marry Mahlon Barnes Fretz (1866-1926), a Philadelphia druggist, in 1894. Fretz later opened up a drug store in Newtown. William graduated from the nation's first pharmacy college, the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy (now part of the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia) in 1897. He died on December 23, 1898, at the age of 23. George Parry’s sister, Susan Parry, graduated from Women’s Medical College in Pennsylvania. George Parry died on Dec 10, 1886 at the age of 48.5

REFERENCES:
REFERENCES:


Lewis Putnam (1811-1888) Dr. Putnam was a prominent veterinary surgeon in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Many city directories from about 1868 to 1889 list his office and home as being at 170 North Avenue.1 He was born in Claremont, New Hampshire in 1811, and in early life moved to Springfield, Vermont. Dr. Putnam was a member of Charity Lodge F.A.M. and was chaplain of Mt. Sinai Lodge of I.O.O.F. of North Cambridge. In the 1846 Directory of Salem, Massachusetts,2 Lewis Putnam had been listed as “Restoranteur”, 17 Market Square.” The 1853 City Directory for Salem, Massachusetts lists him as having a livery stable with John Baker on Church Street at the corner of Washington.3 He died on Sunday, December 1888 from a fall while attending to his professional duties during a snow storm, on Forest Street. His funeral took place on a Wednesday at the North Avenue Universalist Church4 after which he was buried in Mount Auburn Cemetery.

REFERENCES:


Elias F. Ripley (1823-1882) The March 1858 issue1 of the American Veterinary Journal records a “Case of Colic” “by Elias F. Ripley, Student with Dr. Robert Wood, Lowell [Massachusetts].” It seems that on March 28, 1857, at 10 a.m., in the absence of Dr. Wood, Elias Ripley was called to attend to a bay horse that had been idle for a week, ate breakfast, drove well, but then faltered in his hind extremities. The diagnosis was general congestion with colic of the bowels. The treatment was Croton Tiglii, Nitrous Ether, Tincture Opii, and Tincture Carraway in a pint of warm water. Warm fomentations were applied to the loins and an enema of salt dissolved in water was given. Miller notes2 that Elias F. Ripley of Maine was a graduate of the Boston Veterinary Institute and a Charter Member of the United States Veterinary Medical Association as listed in the U.S.V.M.A. Minutes Book. Ripley was also on the Committee that was appointed to draft the By Laws for the USVMA, that were adopted on June 10, 1863.3,4 Elias F. Ripley of Maine was also a Vice President of the United States Veterinary Medical Association in 1863 when the organization was founded. The AVMA Directory5 lists Ripley as an officer until 1866.

REFERENCES:


William A. Wisdom (1803-1873) Miller notes that Wisdom (Fig. 17), was one of the charter members of the United States Veterinary Medical Association and was a student at the Boston Veterinary Institute.1 He was also on the Committee that was appointed to draft the By Laws for the USVMA, adopted June 10,
1863. Family roots information from U.S. Census data indicates that Wisdom was born in 1803 in Ireland and “was a blacksmith until [the] Civil War when he became [a] Veterinary Surgeon between 1810 and 1873” in New York City, Southold on Long Island, and Wilmington, Delaware. Furthermore, “there are certificates showing he served in the National Guards in New York during his ten year residence. He was a Captain in the National Guards, the Light Infantry, and the Artillery.”

![Image of William A. Wisdom](image1)

Figure 17. William A. Wisdom was a student at the Boston Veterinary Institute and Charter Member of the United States Veterinary Medical Association
Source: www.Ancestry.com

While living in Delaware in 1861, he was Captain of Company “B” Home Guards of Wilmington. Wisdom “had been practicing Veterinary Medicine and Surgery for nearly thirty years” when he enrolled, along with Jacob Dilts from New Jersey, at the Philadelphia Veterinary College in the fall of 1859; however, the faculty soon tendered their resignations thereby terminating instruction. Cemetery records note his death to be in 1873.

REFERENCES:

https://archive.org/details/journalcomparat09unkncu

This paper was adapted from a presentation delivered on July 13, 2015 at the American Veterinary Medical Association Convention held at Boston, Massachusetts, sponsored by the American Veterinary Medical History Society.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Howard H. Erickson earned his DVM degree from Kansas State University in 1959 and PhD degree from Iowa State University in veterinary physiology in 1966. He was engaged in private practice in Wahoo, Nebraska from 1959-60, called to active duty in the United States Air Force in 1960, serving from 1960-81, and retiring at the rank of Colonel. He joined the faculty of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University in 1981 a Professor of Physiology and retired in 2011 as Emeritus Professor of Physiology and History of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Erickson continues to teach a course on the history of veterinary medicine at the College.