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

INTERIM NEWS & COMMENT
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Susanne Whitaker and Helen Wojcinski, reporters

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AVMHS Annual Meeting – July 6, 2023
Program chair and president-elect Dr. John de Jong (drjdejong@comcast.net) is pleased to announce a date and speaker for the Society’s 2023 Program and Business Meeting to be held via Zoom videoconferencing on Thursday, July 6, 2023 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm EDT. (6:00pm-8:00pm CST) Please save this date.

This year’s speaker will be Susan D. Jones, DVM, PhD who will give a presentation on aspects of global veterinary history from her recent book with Peter D. Koolmees titled, A Concise History of Veterinary Medicine, published last year by Cambridge University Press. In addition to being past president of AVMHS (2001-2002) and board member, she is currently Distinguished McKnight University Professor in the Program in the History of Science and Technology, Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior at the University of Minnesota in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The Business Meeting will be held during the following hour that evening.

While there will be no scheduled in-person program or booth in Denver, we encourage any members present to get together informally for coffee, lunch, etc. We will let everyone know who the coordinator will be for local contact closer to the convention date.

In addition, board member Dr. Shannon Greeley (animalassociate@aol.com) will be submitting a poster proposal on the “First Two African American Veterinarians, Drs. Alfreda Johnson Webb and Jane Hinton.” Other members are encouraged to prepare visual and informational posters on history-related topics of interest as well.

2023 SAVMA Symposium
Current Board member Dr. Shannon Greeley (animalassociate@aol.com) is excited about attending the SAVMA Symposium that will be held at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) on March 17-19, 2023. She is involved with the Leadership Task Force for action plan development.

As part of her activities at the Symposium, Dr. Greeley has volunteered to promote history and the Society at this first in-person student meeting in several years. With the help of Dr. Susan Aiello, a double-sided 4”x9” stand card or flier (see page 9) has been designed with information for students about Guideposts on one side and details of the essay contest on the reverse. Note the QR codes.

With the help of board member Dr. Arne Goldman, we are gratified that the AVMA is willing to display this 2-sided stand card on their table with material about how students can become involved in that professional organization.
This may be the first time the Society has reached out to students during a SAVMA Symposium and is thus a “test case” for possible future planning and encouraging student membership and involvement.

**AVMHS Museum Committee Meeting**

The AVMHS Museum Committee held its 4th meeting of 2022-23 via Zoom on Wednesday evening, January 25 from 8-9pm EST. Convened by Dr. Zbig Wojcinski (zwojcinski@gmail.com), those attending continued to make progress in discussing how to handle queries about identifying and donating vintage veterinary instruments and books. The group has also begun gathering details about veterinary museums across the country in preparation for updating the AVMHS Directory.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 8.

### Recognizing Black Veterinarians in Quebec

February is Black History Month. It provides an opportunity to share background information about veterinarians of African descent and their accomplishments. AVMHS member Dr Michel Pepin (pepin.michel@gmail.com) has gathered background on Black veterinarians in Quebec, Canada, and wrote 3 papers featuring them in *Le Rapporteur* in 2022. The summer issue described the life of Haitian-born Dr. Élysée Eustache who received his DMV degree from École Vétérinaire d’Oka affiliated with the Université de Montréal in 1946.

The second paper in the fall issue presented portraits of 24 Black Montreal graduates from 1946 to 2020. His third article highlighted aspects on some early pioneers in Quebec and the US.


Copies of these papers may be obtained by contacting Dr. Pepin or the Secretary-Treasurer.

### More Stories for Black History Month

In further celebration of Black History Month, some colleges have hosted exhibits and used other means of highlighting some of their early graduates. Below are several short stories about Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine’s first veterinarians of African descent.

Black History Month: Looking back and moving forward.  

A history of firsts: Curd, Miller and Woods forge a path.  

Hometown heroes: Dr. Garrett Archie Singleton and the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.  

Education and engagement: The Waller brothers.  

We are interested in sharing more examples of ways that this past heritage has been recognized at other veterinary colleges and venues.

### Zoo & Aquarium Video Archive

Dr. Shannon Greeley (animalassociate@gmail.com) has pointed out an excellent website founded and maintained by Dr. Mark Rosenthal. It includes short 4-5 minute video interviews with animal keepers, curators, directors, TV personalities, veterinarians, and zoologists.

A link has been added to AVMHS’s Video Interviews page at [https://www.avmhs.org/video-interviews](https://www.avmhs.org/video-interviews)

### JAVMA Backfiles Now Accessible Online

For historical research purposes, online access to scanned back volumes of the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* has long
been desired. Previously, electronic access had only been available for pre-1923, then pre-1927, volumes because of copyright restrictions. To locate articles and other content since that time, it was necessary to consult a hard copy printed backset.

As the result of a change in AVMA policy and efforts by academic veterinary librarians, it was announced recently that many scanned post-1927 volumes are now “open” and can be viewed online. This includes vol. 52, 1917/18 to v.164, 1974 held by the HathiTrust Digital Library at https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/010389034

Except for a rolling 12-month embargo, this change also makes about the last 20 years’ volumes from 2000 to date readily available from the AVMA website at https://avmajournals.avma.org/view/journals/javma/javma-overview.xml?tab_body=toc. The embargo means that the very latest year’s issues will not be immediately accessible for one year on a sliding basis.

Progress is currently underway to digitize the remaining additional volumes to fill the gap and thus eventually make the complete run, including the earlier American Veterinary Review, available online in the future.

New History Elective at Oklahoma State
One of the Society’s ongoing goals involves educating interested veterinary students about the heritage of their new profession, such as through independent study offered by the annual Smithcors essay contest. In addition to encouraging students in Stillwater to enter the contest, Dr. Tim Snider (tim.snider@okstate.edu) is following the lead of Emeritus Professor Dr. Sidney Ewing (1934-2018). Dr. Snider reports that he taught the inaugural sessions of a new elective in history at Oklahoma State University this past fall. We wish Dr. Snider much success with this course.

NRHP Salmon-Stohlman House
NRHP Ref # 02000353, listed 4/11/2002
The US National Park Service processes applications and maintains the National Registry of Historic Places (NRHP) to recognize historically significant buildings for preservation. Our Society provides a listing of known NRHP properties related to veterinary medicine at https://www.avmhs.org/veterinary-historic-places

We are pleased to add a new building to our webpage. It is the 2-1/2-story late Victorian high-style Salmon-Stohlman House built in 1893 by Dr. Daniel Elmer Salmon, founding Chief of the USDA Bureau of Animal Industry. Dr. Salmon lived in this house with his wife Mary and a maid until 1902 when it was sold to Georgetown confectionary merchant John William Stohlman, whose family occupied it until 1947. The Victorian era interior of Stohlman’s candy store has been reproduced in the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

Salmon was one of five USDA scientists who founded a residential enclave or colony on 50 acres of tobacco farmland that became Somerset Heights, just north of the DC line and west of future Chevy Chase. Salmon’s was one of the first houses built at 4728 Dorset Avenue and one of 3 original houses that remain on ‘Founders Corner’ in this suburban development. Salmon owned several other lots that he later sold.

Dr. Daniel Salmon received the first DVM degree in the USA from Cornell University in 1872. He became the first Chief of the newly established Bureau of Animal Industry in 1884 which, under his leadership, eradicated contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, controlled Texas fever (Babesia), implemented the federal meat inspection program, and inspection of imported and exported cattle. The genus of microorganisms, Salmonella, encompassing over 2,000 serotypes, was named after him in 1900.

Teaching Humanities at Vet Colleges
Board member Dr. Margaret “Peggy” Brosnahan (mmb263@cornell.edu) has been pursuing an advanced degree in medical humanities. This rapidly evolving multidisciplinary field utilizes literature, poetry, and visual arts in educating medical students to recognize how medicine impacts patients, families, and communities. Many medical schools have already included aspects of teaching humanities in their
curricula. In her paper being published in the February issue of the *Journal of Veterinary Medical Education*, Dr. Brosnahan makes a strong case that “the time is right for the emergence of a more cohesive field of veterinary humanities” and thus for encouraging veterinary colleges to embrace the relevance of introducing the value of arts and humanities for veterinary professionals.


**Dr. Currier on Louis Pasteur**

This past summer, Past President Dr. Russell Currier (ruscurrier@yahoo.com) received an unsolicited and unexpected invitation. The editor of *The Lancet Microbe* asked Dr. Currier to write a paper for their journal related to the 200th anniversary of the birth of Louis Pasteur (1822-1895). His paper, “Pasteurisation: Pasteur’s greatest contribution to health,” was published online (html and pdf) on December 16, 2022. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2666-5247(22)00324-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2666-5247(22)00324-X).

Congratulations, Dr. Currier.

[https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lanmic/PIIS2666-5247(22)00324-X.pdf](https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lanmic/PIIS2666-5247(22)00324-X.pdf)

Dr. Roop at the Carroll County Farm Museum, Westminster, Maryland

**In Memoriam: Dr. R. Gary Roop (1931-2021)**

Dr. Roop graduated from the University of Maryland in 1951 and earned his DVM at the University of Georgia in 1955. He was in mixed practice in Cumberland for 2 years before serving with the US Army Veterinary Corps in Irwin, California, and then in the Reserves at the rank of Major. From 1959-2000, Dr. Roop co-partnered in small animal practice with Lynn Animal Hospital at Riverdale, Maryland, working for approximately 40 years before retiring to his family’s heritage “farm” where he had been born 90 years earlier.

Dr. Roop was an active member, founder, and officer of various veterinary associations in Maryland. In addition, as a member of the Academy of Veterinary Disaster Medicine for 17 years, his Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (VMAT) #2 was deployed to the World Trade Center site in September 2001, and to the Virginia Avian Influenza Task Force in May 2002.

We remember Dr. Roop for his enthusiastic and loyal support for AVMHS since the organization’s founding in 1978, his active participation at annual meetings, and his help staffing our booths at AVMA conventions over the years. Beyond AVMSH, he was heavily involved with promoting history in Carroll County, Maryland. Dr. Roop chaired Maryland VMA Centennial activities in 1985. One outgrowth from that Centennial was the...
establishment of the one-room 1890 Veterinary Surgeon's Office recreated on the premises of the Carroll County Farm Museum in Westminster, Maryland (https://carrollcountyfarmmuseum.org/) and where he often served as a docent explaining veterinary history to visitors.

An obituary can be found at: https://www.hartzlerfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Dr-R-Gary--Roop?obId=21284116

Also, see a photo and news item in the Baltimore Sun concerning his support for reprinting an early 19th century Maryland newspaper at: https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/carroll/news/ect-arc-a32ca7bb-d91a-59c6-908a-3519d7c9bf7a-20130919-story.html

New History Time-Bites Stories on VIN

After a hiatus partly due to COVID, Dr. Susan Aiello (susan@words-world.net), our Time-Bites Editor, reports that more of the Society's short historical stories are again being published on the Veterinary Information Network (VIN), a membership-based veterinary community. They also appear on its associated Veterinary Support Personnel Network (VSPN) platform.

Among the latest history stories just released, with additional ones coming soon, include:

“Origin of The Veterinarian’s Oath.”
Seattle, Washington, 1954

“Queen Elizabeth I’s Practical Collar.”
London, England, 1899

“Writing a Newspaper Column.”
Okmulgee County, Oklahoma, 1961

More topics and potential “writers” are always needed. Any subject related to veterinary history is appropriate for these brief stories of 500-1000 words, if possible accompanied by source references and several representative illustrations. Contact Dr. Aiello at any time with your ideas and suggestions.

AVMHS members who do not belong to VIN may request copies from Dr. Aiello or the Secretary-Treasurer. The current list of published topics is posted on the Society’s website at https://www.avmhs.org/time-bites Several Time-Bites have also appeared in recent issues of Veterinary Heritage.


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

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

Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

Contents of Recent Veterinary History Journal Issues
Copies of articles may be obtained through interlibrary loan services provided by your local college or public library, or from the AVMHS Secretary-Treasurer if unavailable from other sources.

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


Harrison S. ‘Deliver This Horse from Evil’: the ritual aspects of responses to veterinary disease in the late Middle Ages, Social History of Medicine. 202 May;35(2):522–542, https://doi.org/10.1093/shm/hkab042
https://academic.oup.com/shm/article/35/2/5.22/6382267


**Double-sided Stand Card / Flier for display on AVMA table at 2023 SAVMA Symposium, March 16-19, 2023**