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

INTERIM NEWS & COMMENT
June 2018
Dr. Phyllis H. Larsen, reporter

CONTENTS of this issue:
AVMHS in Denver July 2018
Fourth Series Postcard for Denver Meeting
2018 Student Essay Contest Winners
Merck Veterinary Manual for 2018 Student Essayists
AVMHS President Attends Debate at Cambridge University
Currier’s Paper at American Osler Society Meeting
Unique Podological Museum at University of Pennsylvania
FOR SALE: Antiquarian Veterinary/Farriery Book Collection
New Members
Meeting and Event Calendar
New Books
Recent Journal Articles

AVMHS in Denver July 2018
The AVMHS annual meeting is just around the corner to be held in Denver, Colorado this year. History-related activities include:

Saturday-Monday, July 14-16, 2018 — Exhibit Hall Booth #2021 Various veterinary history posters and information

Saturday, July 14, 2018, 6pm-8pm — AVMHS CE Program
Hyatt Regency Denver, Centennial Ballroom H
Dr. Russell W. Currier, Program-chair/President-elect
In addition to informal discussion, Dr. Currier will summarize the presentation he gave at the American Osler Society meeting (see more below)

Saturday, July 14, 2018, 6pm-8pm — AVMHS Business Meeting
Hyatt Regency Denver, Centennial Ballroom H
Prof. David J. Williams, AVMHS president

Saturday-Monday, July 14-16, 2018 — Poster Session, Exhibit Hall
Sunday, July 15, 2018, 3pm-4pm (staffed)
#A21 Pioneer Veterinarians of Colorado and the West
Howard H. Erickson, DVM, PhD

#A24 The Early History of Veterinary Medicine in Illinois
Shannon Greeley, DVM

We are very pleased two of our members submitted proposals that were accepted for the AVMA Poster Session that will be visible in a section of the exhibit hall. While the posters will be on display daily, Drs. Erickson and Greeley will be stationed at their posters on Sunday from 3pm–4pm to provide more information and answer questions.

Fourth Series Postcard for Denver Meeting
We are continuing our fourth postcard in the series started by Dr. Boris Brigelz in 2015 for the Boston meeting. This year, Dr. Howard Erickson suggested the cover illustration of a post-Civil War era photo of Dr. George Henry Glover (1864-1950). In 1907, Dr. Glover became the first dean of the new veterinary medical education program at Colorado State University (then, Colorado State Agricultural College) serving for 27 years until 1934. In addition to being an innovator in veterinary education, he served as AVMA president in 1910/11.

Please note the historical significance of the Derby hat he is holding. It seems most early practitioners wore them. Dr. Fred Born indicates that this sturdy hat was not only a status symbol of the developing profession, but helped protect their heads from kicking horses.

The reverse (address) side of the card lists history-related activities going on at the AVMA meeting.

A card is being mailed to every AVMHS member. Copies will also be handed out in our exhibit booth and by Drs. Erickson and Greeley at their poster session.

Coming soon: The June 2018 Veterinary Heritage issue is in production and will be available soon.
2018 Student Essay Contest Winners

Essay Contest Committee Chair Dr. Russell W. Currier is pleased to announce the student winners of the 2018 Smithcors Student Veterinary History Essay Contest.

From a total of 24 entries, the following students were awarded prizes:

1st Prize $1,200
Jessica Zeiger ’18 Purdue University
Perceptions of Conception: The History of Artificial Insemination.

2nd Prize $1,000
Marta Zlotnick ’19 Virginia-Maryland Regional College

3rd Prize $800
Ashley Russo ’21 Kansas State University
Who Let the Dogs Out of Orbit?: A Brief History of the First Dog in Space.

4th Prize $500
Janna Draper ’19 Purdue University
History of Ebola and the Role of Veterinarians.

Honorable Mention
Adam Mattick ’21 Kansas State University
The Final Charge – The History of Horses in World War II.

Dr. Currier extends sincere appreciation to this year’s judges, Drs. Patricia Kennedy Arrington, Maryanne Ash, Cynthia Hoobler, and Linda Schlater for their time and insights in reading and evaluating all of the essays.

With prize funding from the Donaldson Charitable Trust in honor of Dr. Elizabeth Atwood Lawrence, the Smithcors Essay Contest will be held again in 2019. The deadline for submission of manuscripts is Tuesday, April 15, 2019.

Merck Veterinary Manual for 2018 Student Essayists

In addition to the four monetary prizes awarded in honor of Dr. Elizabeth Atwood Lawrence in the Society’s annual Smithcors Veterinary Student History Essay Contest, AVMHS intends to provide a book or item of appreciation for each of the students submitting an essay. This year, with the valuable help of Dr. Susan Aiello and the generosity of The Merck Publishing Group, Merck & Co., Inc., contest chair Dr. Russell Currier was able to forward copies of the 11th edition of The Merck Veterinary Manual to each student who submitted an essay.

To further recognize each students’ participation, a special book plate was designed to be permanently affixed to each copy. See the sample below. We hope to make adding such a book plate a continuing “tradition.”

AVMHS President Attends Debate at Cambridge University

AVMHS President David J. Williams, Professor of Veterinary History at Purdue University, is spending extended time at University of Cambridge in England again this summer. He and his wife, Andrea, are comfortably housed in a flat in the Salje Building in Clare Hall College’s West Court and are involved in many interesting activities. He reports having attended a “fantastic debate” recently hosted by the Cambridge Union, “the oldest debating society in the world” since 1815, worthy of sharing with our members.

David writes, “I did attend a fantastic debate focused on the topic, “This House believes we cannot understand non-human minds,” at the Cambridge Union. The event was sponsored by my department, History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine, and its Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence. It was fascinating. Two sides, one arguing we will be able to understand animals’ minds, the other arguing we never will. The side arguing we will understand included Charles Darwin’s great-great granddaughter. At the end, the audience was invited to participate and I pointed out that neither side had spoken of domestication and how that occurred and the role of understanding animals. In the final tally, the side that argued that humans will never be able to understand animals’ minds easily won the debate. See more about the Cambridge Union and its activities at: https://www.cus.org/”
Currier’s Paper at American Osler Society Meeting

In mid-May, Dr. Russell Currier traveled to Pittsburgh to deliver his paper before the American Osler Society, a history of medicine organization dedicated to perpetuating the life, teachings, and ethical example of Sir William Osler (http://www.americanosler.org/).

He spoke to the assembled physicians and other members about One Health and reviewed Osler’s contributions to veterinary medicine. Osler’s work included instruction in pathology and parasitology at Montreal Veterinary College [later McGill CVM] featuring significant work on trichinosis and dog lung worm.

He also provided insights into the next immediate generation of medical scientists following in Osler’s footsteps between 1920 and 1945. Serving in the same capacity were Karl F. Meyer, veterinary scientist at the Hooper Foundation at the University of California, San Francisco, and Richard E. Shope, a noted physician at the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. All three were keen observers and tirelessly made significant discoveries or instituted reforms in a One Health manner also known as ‘comparative medicine’ in the pre-World War II era.

Dr. Currier will summarize his AOS presentation at the AVMHS Program and Business Meeting in Denver next month by providing further insights and details about Osler, Meyer and Shope’s monumental contributions to medicine.

Animals and the Shaping of Modern Medicine: One Health and Its Histories

If you are looking for a good “summer read” related to veterinary history, may we suggest the new book by Abigail Woods and others entitled, Animals and the Shaping of Modern Medicine: One Health and Its Histories. Published this year by Palgrave Macmillan, it is available as a print volume and can also be read electronically. Under Open Access privileges, a free pdf copy can be downloaded from the publisher’s Web site at: https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007%2F978-3-319-64337-3

The publisher notes, “This volume breaks new ground by situating animals and their diseases at the very heart of modern medicine. In demonstrating their historical significance as subjects and shapers of medicine, it offers important insights into past animal lives, and reveals that what we think of as ‘human’ medicine was in fact deeply zoological. Each chapter analyses an important episode in which animals changed and were changed by medicine. Ranging across the animal inhabitants of Britain’s zoos, sick sheep on Scottish farms, unproductive livestock in developing countries, and the tapeworms of California and Beirut, they illuminate the multi-species dimensions of modern medicine and its rich historical connections with biology, zoology, agriculture and veterinary medicine.”

In addition to chapters on various topics, an Appendix appearing on pages 247-268 features an “Annotated Bibliography of Animals in the History of Medicine.” “This bibliography aims to orient readers in the literature addressing animals within modern medical history, from c.1800 to the present day. It is confined to works published in the English language, virtually all of which focus on Western and colonial contexts, and in which agricultural and experimental animals—particularly cattle and laboratory rodents—are heavily represented....This bibliography is intended to make their roles explicit, thereby providing a jumping-off point for future studies that adopt a less anthropocentric approach to medical history.”
Unique Podological Museum at UPenn
The Podological Museum at the University of Pennsylvania’s New Bolton Center campus continues a rich heritage of caring for horse’s feet dating back to the noted German instructor Anton Lungwitz and UPenn’s professor of horseshoeing, Dr. John W. Adams. Visitors can view the exhibit of antique horseshoes in person during Library open hours. Otherwise, you can look at 35-minute online video of current chief farrier Pat Reilly’s talk given in July 2012 about the history of farriery at the University of Pennsylvania. He points out shoes and specimens in this unique collection.

To view the video on YouTube, go to: Farrier Service History, Farrier Focus at: http://www.vet.upenn.edu/veterinary-hospitals/NBC-hospital/services/farrier-service/farrier-service-history

FOR SALE: Antiquarian Veterinary/Farriery Book Collection
Dr. Roger Pitts, BVSc, MRCVS, from Wiltshire, United Kingdom, recently contacted AVMHS for help in locating individuals or institutions which may be interested in acquiring his book collection. He writes: “Over the last 50 years I have built up a collection of over 180 antiquarian veterinary/farriery books (1644 to early 20th Century). I am looking to sell the collection as a whole and wonder whether I could advertise them through your Society. The books are catalogued (pdf doc.) alphabetically with a detailed description of each volume.” Inquiries should be directed to Dr. Pitts at: rogerpitts@hotmail.co.uk

New AVMHS Members
We are pleased to welcome:
Dr. Danelle Bickett-Weddle (Ames, IA)
Malinda Larkin (Schaumburg, IL)
Dr. Laura Strong (Fisherville, KY)

New Registry of Veterinary Heritage Practices
We are pleased to welcome new Registry members:
Hickory Veterinary Hospital (Plymouth Meeting, PA) Estab. 1942 by William J. Brown, VMD
Mid Island Animal Hospital (Hicksville, NY) Estab. 1961 by Dr. Robert Halperin

Send information about any practices older than 50 years to Lesley Ann Gentry at lesleyann.gentry@gmail.com

Meeting and Event Calendar
2018
July 13-17 AVMHS 41st Annual Business Meeting and Program, Denver, Colorado
2019
April 15 Student History Essay Contest deadline

New Books


“This book is devoted to the knowledge of up to 250 years of collecting, organizing and preserving animals by generations of scientists.”


Includes chapter on “Thomas Jefferson: breeding and buying horses, connecting family, friends and neighbors” by Carrie B. Douglass


“The essays in this interdisciplinary volume explore language, broadly construed, as part of the continued interrogation of the boundaries of human and nonhuman animals in the Middle Ages.” Includes Chapter 11: “No hoof, no horse: Hoof care, veterinary medicine and cross-species communication in Late Medieval England.”


Includes chapter on “Between human and veterinary medicine: the history of animals and surgery” by Abigail Woods.


“Covers the long history of veterinary science, showing how it has developed over the past five centuries as our understanding of animals’ fundamental biology, pathology, and pharmacology has grown. Considering the key roles of diagnosis, treatment, and prevention in animal health, he discusses recent challenges such as the outbreak of BSE, and antibiotic resistance. Finally, Yeates considers the future of the field, and the difficulties vets face in balancing the interests of owners and animals when they don’t coincide.”

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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 email to phlarsen@clarityconnect.com, or to AVMHS Secretary-Treasurer Susanne Whitaker, 23 Wedgewood Drive, Ithaca, NY 14850-1064, phone 607-257-9248 or email skw2@cornell.edu or avmhs.info@gmail.com.

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

*Winston Churchill (1874-1965)*

**Contents of Recent Veterinary History Journal Issues**

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

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


