



## Medical History Society of New Jersey

c/o UMDNJ – Special Collections  
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May 2011

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 31 Number 1



**Medical History Artwork Donated:** This spring, MHSNJ past president Dr. Richard Wedeen retired from full-time work at the VA New Jersey Health Care System – East Orange Campus. Over many years, Dr. Wedeen has donated his papers to UMDNJ – Special Collections, documenting his interests in lead poisoning, gout, and occupational and environmental diseases. He has recently donated a collection of artworks, ranging from nine 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century gout-related prints, to the two 1996 watercolors above by artist Eileen Hoffman ([www.eileenhoffman.com](http://www.eileenhoffman.com)).

Hoffman lived in a Hoboken building later found to be contaminated by mercury. These works reflect the experiences and fears of the residents of what the EPA designated the “Grand Street Mercury site,” which was demolished in 2002-03. The image on the left was also reproduced in Karen Reeds’s *A State of Health: New Jersey’s Medical Heritage* (Rutgers University Press, 2001).

### **THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL MORRIS SAFFRON LECTURE**

The spring meeting of the Medical History Society of New Jersey will be held on Wednesday, May 18, at The Nassau Club in Princeton. Dr. Norman B. Medow will present the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Morris Saffron Lecture, entitled “The Eyes: What Do We Know, When Did We Know It, and . . . Who Knew It First?” Dr. Medow is the Director of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus at Montefiore Medical Center. He has authored over one hundred articles and book chapters, including many concerning the history of ophthalmology from the ancient Egyptians to Native Americans to modern researchers. MHSNJ past president Frederick C. Skvara, M.D. will display medical philately related to the program. Registration begins at 3:30 p.m., and the program begins at 4 p.m.

#### **MHSNJ Business Meeting**

##### **David L. Cowen Award**

Kenneth G. Swan, M.D., President

#### **David Hosack: The Stormy Petrel of Medical Education**

Michael Nevins, M.D.

Medical Director, Long Term Care, Bergen Regional Medical Center

#### **Edgar Van Nuys Allen: The Test Was Only the Beginning**

Melissa R. Appio, UMDNJ – NJMS, Class of 2013

Kenneth G. Swan, M.D., UMDNJ-NJMS, Department of Surgery (mentor)

#### **What Doesn't Kill You May Cure You**

Nicole C. Salomone, A.S., Criminal Justice Program, Penn Foster College

#### **Pandemic Influenzas: New Sources from Past Centuries**

Eric L. Altschuler, M.D., Ph.D.

Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, UMDNJ – NJMS

Aesha M. Jopanputra, UMDNJ – NJMS, Class of 2011

Cocktails and Dinner (6:00-7:30 p.m.)

#### **Medical Stamp Exhibit – Frederick C. Skvara, M.D.**

Thirty-Second Saffron Lecture:

#### **The Eyes:**

##### **What Do We Know, When Did We Know It, and . . . Who Knew It First?**

Norman B. Medow, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Director of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus

Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, NY

Members, students, and friends are invited to attend the dinner meeting. Cost is \$50/members, \$58/guests; advance registration is required. For information, contact MHSNJ, c/o UMDNJ Special Collections, G.F. Smith Library, 30 Twelfth Avenue, P.O. Box 1709, Newark, NJ 07101-1709 or contact [vietrora@umdnj.edu](mailto:vietrora@umdnj.edu) or [sandra.moss3@verizon.net](mailto:sandra.moss3@verizon.net).

### MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

**Vincent J. Cirillo**, Ph.D., presented a lecture entitled “Detectives, Doctors, and Disease: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as Storyteller and Physician” at the UMDNJ – Smith Library History of Medicine Lecture Series in April 2011.

**Gerald N. Grob**, Ph.D., has recently published “Pathologizing Old Age: The Case of Osteoporosis,” *MDAdvisor*, 4 (2011): 20-27; “From Aging to Pathology: The Case of Osteoporosis,” *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, 66 (2011): 1-39; and “Mental Health Policy in Modern America,” in the *Oxford Textbook of Community Mental Health* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011), 19-25. With David Mechanic, he co-authored “Social Policy and the American Mental Health System of Care,” in *Population Mental Health: Evidence, Policy, and Public Health Practice*, edited by Neal Cohen and Sandro Galea (New York: Routledge, 2011), pp. 119-138.

**Dr. George J. Hill**’s recent presentations include “From the Quill Pen to the Computer: The History of Medicine in Essex County, New Jersey, Continued,” the Second Annual Founders Day Lecture of the Essex County Medical Society in Livingston in November 2010; “Hacks and Quacks: Colonial-Era Medicine,” at the Ferry Slip Maritime Museum in Perth Amboy, in colonial Navy officer's uniform, in March 2011; “Edison's Environment: The Impact of His Factories in Morris, Sussex, and Warren Counties” to the Harding Township Historical Society in Morris County, NJ, in April 2011; and “The Rev. Dr. Cotton Mather, F.R.S., and His Largely Forgotten Role in the History of Medicine in the Seventeenth Century,” to the National Annual Meeting, Order of Descendants of Colonial Physicians and Chirurugiens in Washington DC, in costume as Cotton Mather, in April 2011.

**Dr. Steven Lomazow** has recently published “The Epilepsy of Franklin Delano Roosevelt,” *Neurology*, 2011 Feb 15; 76(7):668-9. His book *FDR's Deadly Secret* is now out in paperback, and is available at Amazon and elsewhere online. He is currently researching pioneers in early cancer treatment.

**Ellen Mandel**, D.M.H., M.P.A., PA-C, presented two lectures on medical errors to Atlantic Health Systems hospitals: “The Perfect Storm: Casting a Safety Net Around Medical Errors,” at Overlook Hospital Medical Grand Rounds in November 2010, and “Medical Errors: Another Viewpoint,” at Morristown Memorial Hospital Medical Grand Rounds in January 2011. She also presented a lecture on medical ethics entitled “The

House of God Revisited,” to the Physician Assistant Academy of Vermont in Manchester, VT, in January 2011.

**Dr. Richard A Marfuggi**, M.D., F.A.C.S., D.M.H., has been appointed to the founding faculty of the Palm Beach Medical College in West Palm Beach, FL. He will serve as Chair of the Department of Medical Humanities and Assistant Dean of Students. Congratulations!

**Dr. Sandra W. Moss** has recently published *The Country Practitioner: Ellis P. Townsend's Brave Little Medical Journal* (Xlibris, 2011), and entries on smallpox and antimicrobial chemotherapy for ABC-Clio's *World History Encyclopedia* (2011). *The Country Practitioner* is available at Amazon and other online bookstores, and available for free at the MHSNJ website! She has taught two adult education courses: “Medicine and the Military” at the Institute for New Dimensions in Bergen County in fall 2010, and “Great Men and Great Moments in Medicine” at the Osher Life-Long Learning Institute of Rutgers University in spring 2011. She recently presented “Alternative Medicine in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century” to the Historical Society of the Somerset Hills in Basking Ridge in April 2011. She is also serving as current Second Vice President and incoming First Vice President of the American Osler Society.

**Dr. Michael Nevins** has recently published *Abraham Flexner: A Flawed American Icon* (iUniverse, 2010), and presented a lecture on Flexner at the UMDNJ – Smith Library History of Medicine Lecture Series in December 2010. He presented “Ridgewood's Marvelous Medical Heritage” at the Ridgewood Public Library in February 2011. He is preparing his next book, a compilation of old and new writings on medical history.

**Dr. Alan Rushton**, M.D., Ph.D., presented “On the Origin of the Royal Porphyria” at the Biology Colloquium, Earlham College, Richmond, IN, in April 2011. His article “Leopold: The ‘Bleeder Prince’ and Public Knowledge about Hemophilia in Victorian Britain” has been accepted for publication this year by the *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*.

**Soon-to-be-Dr. Amit Sharma**, UMDNJ – New Jersey Medical School Class of 2011, will begin a dermatology residency at Massachusetts General Hospital and a preliminary medicine internship at Brigham and Women's Hospital. New Jersey's loss is Harvard's gain. Congratulations!

**Soon-to-be-Dr. Jun Tashiro**, UMDNJ – New Jersey Medical School Class of 2011, presented “Abraham Louis Levin: Demystifying the Duodenum” at the American Osler Society meeting in Philadelphia, PA earlier this month. His paper of the same title was published in the *Journal of Trauma* in December 2010. He will be leaving New Jersey to begin a surgical residency at Jackson Memorial Hospital / University of Miami in Miami, FL. Congratulations!

**Dr. Allen Weisse** has recently published his eighth book, *Notes of a Medical Maverick* (New York: iUniverse, 2010). Among the eighteen chapters, most previously unpublished, is “The UMDNJ Debacle: A Scandal in Academia,” which was presented at the spring 2008 MHSNJ meeting. The book is available on Amazon and elsewhere online.

**Linda Whitfield-Spinner**, Quality Program Director at the New Jersey Primary Care Association, Inc., successfully defended her doctoral dissertation, “A History of Medicine and the Establishment of Medical Institutions in Middlesex County, New Jersey That Transformed Doctor and Patient Relationships During the Early Twentieth Century.” She will graduate from Drew University as a Doctor of Medical Humanities this month. Congratulations! (And she wishes to give special thanks to Sandra Moss, M.D., M.A., her mentor and advisor, for all of her support and encouragement.)

### IN MEMORIAM

#### **Stephen Van Deventer Chandler, M.D.**

On February 8, 2011, after a seven year battle with leukemia, Dr. Stephen Chandler passed away peacefully at Somerset Medical Center, the hospital he had served for nearly forty years. He was 79. Dr. Chandler joined the Medical History Society of New Jersey in 1997, regularly attended meetings, and later became a Life Member. A native of Hackensack, he was a graduate of Harvard University and Columbia University’s College of Physicians and Surgeons. He settled in Bridgewater, and was a longtime member of the medical staff at Somerset Medical Center, serving as chairman of the hospital ethics committee and remaining involved with the hospital long after his retirement. He was a member emeritus of the American Medical Association, the College of American Pathologists, and the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, as well as an associate clinical professor emeritus of pathology at UMDNJ - Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Fred Skvara remembered him as “a good man full of interesting stories,” and an active participant in the Central Jersey Pathology Group, which regularly met to review interesting cases. He will be missed.

A full obituary of Dr. Chandler may be found here:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/mycentraljersey/obituary.aspx?n=stephen-van-deventer-chandler&pid=148482144>

## CME AND THE MHSNJ

Thanks to the initiative of Dr. Richard Marfuggi and the work of MHSNJ president Dr. Kenneth Swan and past president Dr. Allen Weisse, the MHSNJ now offers 2.5 category 1 CME credits for attendance at MHSNJ meetings. The CME is being sponsored by Children's Heart Center – Nevada. The paperwork is minimal and there is no charge! Any attendee at MHSNJ meetings who wishes to apply for CME simply fills out the forms provided and answers one or two simple questions, and will then receive the CME certificate by mail. Physician Assistants may also be able to use the credits. Dr. Sandra Moss notes that CME credits “will be an added incentive for busy practitioners and those of us who cling to our licenses even in retirement,” and should help to build our membership.

## THE ROYAL WEDDING AND THE MHSNJ

No, none of us got invited.

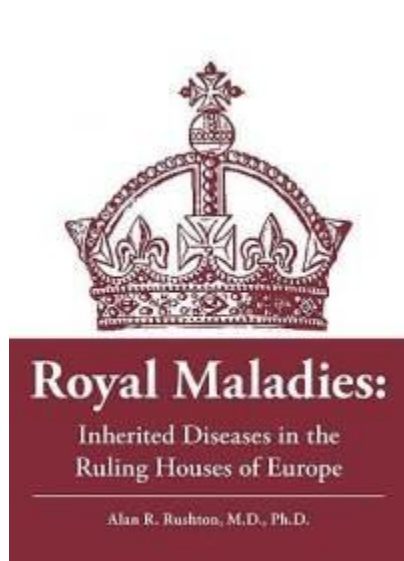
However, Dr. Alan R. Rushton, author of *Royal Maladies: Inherited Diseases in the Ruling Houses of Europe*, was interviewed on April 29, 2011, by Marco Werman of Public Radio International's *The World*. Dr. Rushton discussed the inherited disorders hemophilia and porphyria in England's rulers. When asked if these conditions were still present in the British royal family, Dr. Rushton answered, “The best evidence we have is no.”

A transcript and mp3 audio are available here:

<http://www.theworld.org/2011/04/history-of-royal-diseases/>

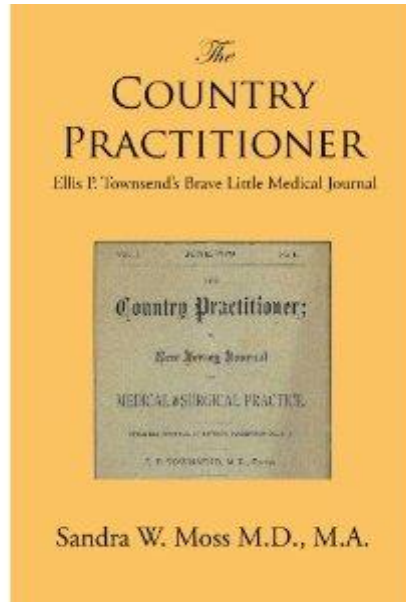
Dr. Rushton's book is available at Amazon (\$7.99 for the Kindle edition!):

<http://www.amazon.com/Royal-Maladies-Inherited-diseases-houses/dp/1425168108>



## ADVENTURES IN SELF-PUBLISHING (PART I)

Scholarly publishing has been transformed in recent years. As university presses struggle, other options have become available for specialized works. At the fall 2010 MHSNJ meeting, Dr. Alan R. Rushton gave a presentation on his experiences in self-publishing his last two books. This issue of the MHSNJ newsletter features two other MHSNJ authors who have recently self-published books, Dr. Sandra Moss and Dr. Michael Nevins.



**The Country Practitioner:  
Ellis P. Townsend's  
Brave Little Medical Journal**

**Sandra W. Moss**

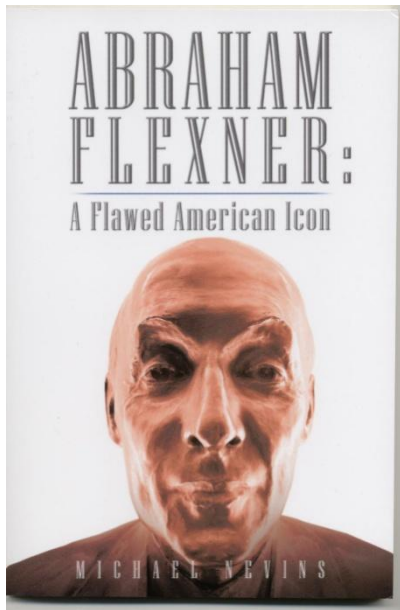
(Xlibris, 2011).  
ISBN: 1456850008  
\$19.95

Dr. Sandra Moss:

I published my short book *The Country Practitioner* with Xlibris ([www.xlibris.com](http://www.xlibris.com)). I selected the least expensive option, which included a very nice typeface. I had two main contact people. One was sort of a manager who prompted me weekly about my progress (at my request), which was very helpful. When I finally submitted the manuscript (and 250 footnotes) a sort of editor took over. While she did no real editing, she oversaw corrections of typos and funneled all my last minute changes to the actual layout person (who did a nice job with the appearance of the page). Manuscripts were promptly returned for checking and requests for a different type size and pagination changes, for example, were quickly honored. I made corrections with a very simple editing program embedded in the return-manuscript attachment. Communication by phone and e-mail was very attentive. The staff is located in the Philippines and apparently they work on Eastern Standard Time, so I was called in the evening and during the day. I incurred about \$5 in fees for last minute changes. A photograph was added at the last minute with no charge. The cover was changed to a different color at my request with good results and a cover photo of the original *Country Practitioner* journal was nicely reproduced. Marketing people from Xlibris started calling, but I soon convinced them that there was a very

limited market for my book and I did not select any marketing options. The basic package which I chose got my book on Amazon and one other online book dealer. An error in my name was quickly corrected for the Amazon page. Total charges came to about \$500, including 50¢ per footnote.

I would definitely use Xlibris again. One thing is very important: I had my own readers and a copy reader friend look over the manuscript before submission. Fortunately, the MHSNJ can provide all the readers I could ask for. No manuscript should be submitted until knowledgeable and trusted readers provide comments. Xlibris has options (additional price) for indexing and editing, but I did not use those services.



**Abraham Flexner: A Flawed American Icon**

**Michael Nevins**

(iUniverse, 2010).  
ISBN: 1450260861  
\$12.95

Dr. Michael Nevins:

In recent years I've 'self-published' three medical history books with iUniverse ([iUniverse.com](http://iUniverse.com)) and although I was not entirely pleased with the process, to my mind the final product was quite satisfactory. For others who may be considering using them, I would give iUniverse a qualified recommendation. The publishing industry is undergoing revolutionary change and companies like iUniverse print only on-demand which obviates the need for large inventories and, in turn, keeps costs down.

Obviously, every prospective author has different goals and before contracting with any publishing company, it's vital that they have a clear idea of what they hope to accomplish. When it comes to publishing medical history, no matter how splendid your manuscript, fame and fortune are extremely unlikely. It's likely that the potential audience will be very limited, My own purpose was to come to closure on a self-imposed research project and to have something tangible to show for it. I was not interested in bookstore appearances, radio interviews or tours. I purchased a small number of paper-

covered books at a discounted author's rate, about \$5 each, and distributed them to a small number of friends or people who might be interested in the material.

When I first began working with iUniverse, I fantasized about having a warm and fuzzy relationship with an editor who was enthusiastically engaged. If that's your expectation, forget it. Despite iUniverse's marketing claims, the process with them is impersonal and can best be described as production-line publishing as the manuscript moves from one so-called specialist to the next. The advisors are polite but for the most part seem disinterested, sometimes seemingly not even familiar with the book's content. Although communication with them can be frustrating, in fairness, the process moves along with reasonable speed and the total time from initial electronic submission to completion can be achieved within only a few months.

My most important advice concerning iUniverse is to ignore all of their costly extra proofreading, editing, and marketing options. If you resist them, the final cost can be quite reasonable. Their various packages are listed on the iUniverse webpage, and the current base price for the bare bones "Select" package is \$599 (previous authors receive a reduced price). In my opinion, they do a nice job of packaging and cover design and such details as ISBN assignment, copywriting, and, most important, visibility on the Internet are all included in the base package. The entire on-line submission process is easily navigated even by an e-challenged individual like me.

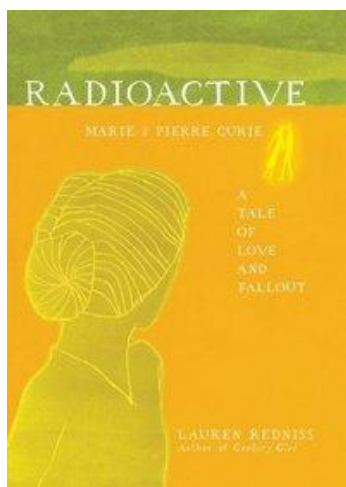
So if you keep your expectations low, self-publishing with iUniverse or presumably others like them can be very satisfactory – a professional product with negligible hassle, reasonable cost, and fairly rapid production time.

### **A BOOK SALE OF INTEREST**

The Friends of the Englewood Library received a donation from a retired surgeon of about two hundred medical works from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and are now selling these books. The books are generally in very good condition, and prices range from \$5 to \$100. They cover a variety of subjects, and there are a number of general medical histories. Languages include English, French, and German. Dr. Michael Nevins has already purchased a copy of Daniel Defoe's *A Journal of the Plague Year!*

For more information, or to schedule a time to view the sale books, contact Stuart Tray: 201-768-1272, or [tray888@hotmail.com](mailto:tray888@hotmail.com).

## BOOK REVIEWS



**RADIOACTIVE:  
Marie and Pierre Curie  
A Tale of Love and Fallout**

**by Lauren Redniss**

(New York: It Books/Harper Collins, 2010).  
ISBN: 9780061351327  
\$29.99

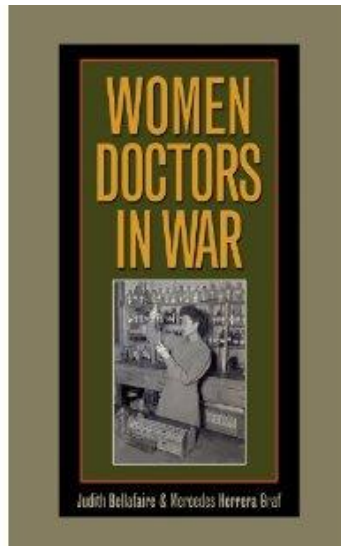
By Dr. Allen B. Weisse

A gushy blurb on the back cover of Redniss's book about the Curies describes it as "...part history, part love story, part artwork and all parts sheer imaginative genius." I would add "part weirdo" and, despite all the parts, nothing really whole.

One cannot help but recognize the innovation involved in this undertaking. The author devised her own font for the book and employed a technique she mastered for the illustrations (which appear on almost every page), "cyanotype printing." This results in magically evocative colors. Within the illustrations we find, mostly, faux naïf and often nude depictions of the main characters of the story: Marie Curie, Pierre Curie and, after Pierre's death, Marie's new lover, Paul Langevin.

It is in the information department that the book falls seriously short in the opinion of this reviewer. The book is rather short, only 200 pages. Within it are a number of vignettes, mostly relating to Marie's love life with just a little science here and there. Filling the lacunae between these snippets of actual information that form a sketchy narrative of sorts are a number of vignettes from the field of radiation science, related only in that they refer to some aspect of radioactivity or nuclear weaponry.

Although the book is handsome and unique, it appears more likely to find itself on some coffee table, rather than on one's library shelf bolstered by much more rewarding tomes devoted to science and even the Curies. It may serve a useful purpose of stimulating the reader to look elsewhere for more substantial treatment of the subject at hand. In the meantime, you can enjoy the esthetic pleasure of flipping through the pages, which, I read somewhere, actually glow in the dark. However, when I carried my copy into a hall closet, they didn't.



### **Women Doctors in War**

**By Judith Bellafaire  
and Mercedes Herrera Graf**

Texas A&M University Press, 2009  
ISBN: 9781603441469  
\$35.00

By Vincent J. Cirillo, Ph.D.

“The wheels of progress grind exceedingly slow” is the best description of the long struggle of women physicians to gain parity with their male colleagues in the U.S. military. Although *Women Doctors in War* deals with America’s principal wars from the Civil War (1861-65) to the Persian Gulf War (1990-91), the main focus is on the Civil War, Spanish-American War (1898), and World Wars I (1917-18) and II (1941-45).

In the Civil and the Spanish-American Wars, nearly all female doctors (referred to derisively as “hen medics”) had to serve as nurses. In 1898, only Drs. Anita Newcomb McGee (administration) and Mary Green (nutrition) served as contract surgeons. Green became the first of a long line of women specialists who served in America’s wars. It should be noted that the U.S. Army used the term “surgeon” interchangeably with “physician” or “doctor.” Contract surgeons (designated acting assistant surgeons) were civilian physicians who were never mustered into the army, had no tenure (their contract could be annulled at any time), and no possibility of advancement.

During WWI the U.S. Army contracted civilian women anesthetists and psychiatrists due to a shortage of qualified men in these specialties. Anesthetists were the only female doctors sent overseas during the conflict. Psychiatrists were in great demand, because the hospitals were choked with more than 60,000 mental casualties, 5,000 of whom were shell shock victims. The need for trained specialists continued through WWII, and overrode any hesitancy the military had in accepting women doctors.

There were no female surgeons in WWII. The path to success in this highly competitive specialty was fraught with pitfalls that had nothing to do with skill or competency. On the other hand, gynecologists and obstetricians were much sought after since the military had to deal with women’s health problems on an unprecedented scale. Women doctors

attended to the needs of 160,000 WACs and 30,000 nurses. Navy doctor Hulda Thelander lectured at numerous bases on “Birds, Bees, and Wolves,” because so many WAVES were getting pregnant. The women who served in WWII were among the best-qualified medical doctors in the country, many having graduated from Woman’s Medical College of Pennsylvania and Johns Hopkins.

On June 24, 1952, President Truman signed into law a bill authorizing the U.S. Armed Forces to commission women doctors in the regular services. Now, for the first time in history, women doctors could have military careers on an equal basis with their male counterparts. This act was as pivotal as Truman’s Executive Order 9981 of July 26, 1948, that desegregated the military. Today, female doctors occupy all ranks, and can be deployed anywhere at any time, regardless of the danger.

Adhering to Emerson’s conviction that “There is properly no history; only biography,” Bellafaire and Graf make effective use of numerous short biographies to spotlight the challenges women doctors faced in the male-dominated medical and military establishments. Females had a tough time balancing family life with a medical career in the armed forces. Children compounded the problem. Women did not like disrupting their children’s schooling and friendships by uprooting every few years to new assignments. Deployment during wartime imposed further hardship on the whole family; now children had to be left in the care of working fathers or nannies. Pregnancy made female doctors non-deployable, which led to much resentment among their male colleagues. When flight surgeon Barbara Cooper had a high-risk pregnancy, some men were cruel enough to comment that “they wished they had a uterus so they didn’t have to worry about being deployed” (p. 177).

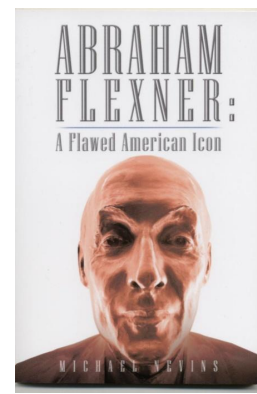
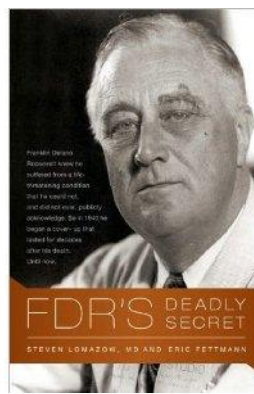
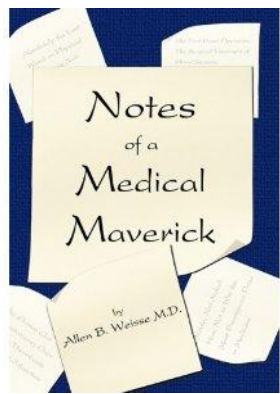
Black women confronted both sexism and racism. In a newspaper interview, Col. Clotilde Bowen, the chief psychiatrist in Vietnam in the early 1970s, stated that she faced more outright discrimination because of her sex than because of her race: “The Army is learning, painfully, how to accept blacks as people. But it is still uptight about women” (p. 148).

Perhaps the biography that members of the Medical History Society of New Jersey (MHSNJ) will find most interesting is that of army surgeon Christine Haycock (1924-2008), the Society’s videographer from 1992-2007. Her recordings of MHSNJ events are now housed in the archives at the George F. Smith Library in Newark, NJ. Christine was the first woman to transfer directly from the U.S. Army Nurse Corps to the U.S. Army Medical Corps and, in 1952, became the first woman to intern at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

While many other women were able to adjust to the vicissitudes of military life, Christine’s career was an unhappy one. Her strong personality, fierce independence, and unwillingness to compromise made it increasingly difficult for her to fit into what she viewed as the military’s good-old-boy bureaucracy. She retired from the army reserves in 1984 with the rank of colonel. Christine died on January 23, 2008, at a hospice in Wayne, NJ, and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Although not mentioned in the book, readers may be interested to know that Christine was married to Sam Moskowitz (1920-97), the noted science fiction historian and anthologist. Moskowitz taught the country's first college-level course on science fiction writing in 1953 at the City College of New York Extension School.

The history of female nurses in the U.S. military has been well documented in numerous publications, but *Women Doctors in War* is the first full-length book to examine the history of female physicians in our nation's military establishment. As such, this impeccably researched and well written monograph is most welcome.



### MEMBERS' PUBLICATIONS IN THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE, 2010

Cirillo, Vincent J. Book review of Mariola Espinosa, *Yellow Fever and the Limits of Cuban Independence, 1878-1930* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009). In: *Medical History*, 54 (4): 547-548.

Grob, Gerald N. "Commentary: A Psychiatric Epidemiological Pioneer – Arthur Mitchell's Follow-up of Study of Hospitalized Patients," *International Journal of Epidemiology*, 39 (2010): 1425-1429.

----- "Die Zweite Weltkrieg und die US-amerikanische Psychiatrie," in *Krieg und Psychiatrie 1914-1950 (Beiträge zur Geschichte des Nationalsozialismus, 26 [2010])*, 153-164.

----- Book review of S. N. Ghaemi, *The Rise and Fall of the Biopsychosocial Model: Reconciling Art and Science in Psychiatry* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009). In: *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 84 (2010): 535-536.

Johnson, R. Scott, D.A. Sippo, and Kenneth G. Swan. "The flexible chain saw during the American Civil War," *Journal of Trauma – Injury, Infection, and Critical Care*, 2010 Aug; 69(2):455-8.

Kaicher, David C., and Kenneth G. Swan. "A cut above: circumcision as an ancient status symbol," *Urology*, 2010 Jul; 76(1):18-20.

Lomazow, Steven, and Eric Fettman. *FDR's Deadly Secret* (PublicAffairs Books, 2010).

Lomazow, Steven. "Was Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882-1945) treated with streptomycin?" *Journal of Medical Biography*, 2010 Feb; 18(1):61.

Nevins, Michael. *Abraham Flexner: A Flawed American Icon* (iUniverse, 2010).

Sharma, Amit, and Kenneth G. Swan. "Branham's bradycardic reaction," *Annals of Vascular Surgery*, 2010 Feb; 24(2):295-8.

Tashiro, Jun, Robert A. Vietrogoski, and Kenneth G. Swan. "Abraham Louis Levin: demystifying the duodenum," *Journal of Trauma – Injury, Infection, and Critical Care*, 2010 Dec; 69(6):1583-7.

Weisse, Allen B. *Notes of a Medical Maverick* (iUniverse, 2010).

### **THE USUAL EDITORIAL FINISH :)**

The Newsletter of the Medical History Society of New Jersey is published in May and October by the Society, and is a benefit of membership. Short articles on medical history topics are especially welcome. Please send comments, suggestions, and submissions to:

Medical History Society of New Jersey  
c/o UMDNJ Special Collections  
George F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences  
P.O. Box 1709  
Newark NJ 07101-1709  
Tel: 973-972-7830  
Email: vietror@umdnj.edu

Thanks to Contributors: Vincent Cirillo, Gerald Grob, George Hill, Steven Lomazow, Ellen Mandel, Richard Marfuggi, Sandra Moss, Michael Nevins, Frederic Pachman, Alan Rushton, Amit Sharma, Frederick Skvara, Kenneth Swan, Jun Tashiro, Allen Weisse, and Linda Whitfield-Spinner.

**EXHIBIT ANNOUNCEMENT – FINAL WEEKS!**

**Call the Doctor!  
Call the Nurse!**

**History of Medicine  
in New Jersey  
1775 - 1975**

**Cornelius Iow House  
Middlesex County Museum**

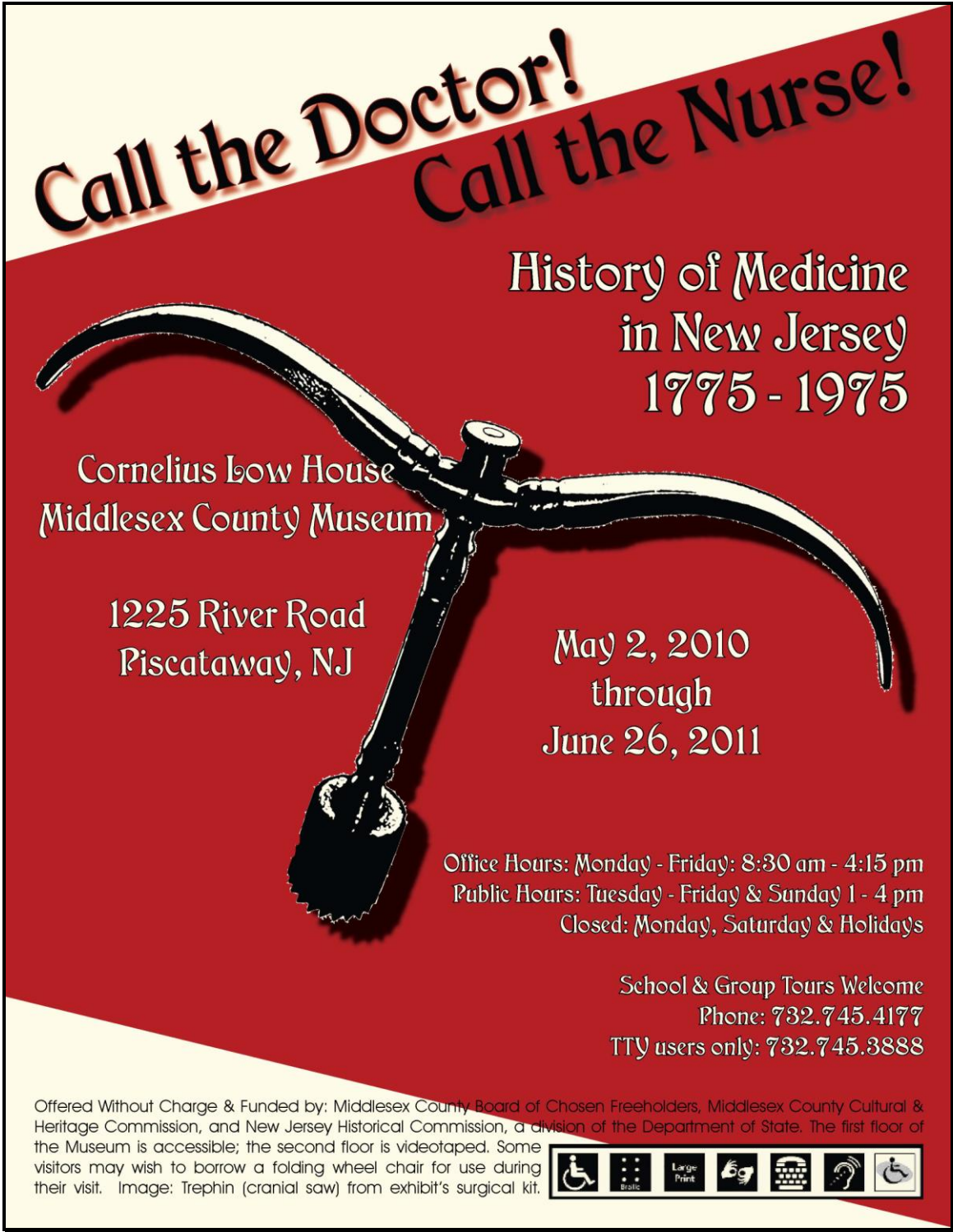
**1225 River Road  
Piscataway, NJ**

**May 2, 2010  
through  
June 26, 2011**

**Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 8:30 am - 4:15 pm  
Public Hours: Tuesday - Friday & Sunday 1 - 4 pm  
Closed: Monday, Saturday & Holidays**

**School & Group Tours Welcome  
Phone: 732.745.4177  
TTY users only: 732.745.3888**

Offered Without Charge & Funded by: Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Commission, and New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State. The first floor of the Museum is accessible; the second floor is videotaped. Some visitors may wish to borrow a folding wheel chair for use during their visit. Image: Trephin (cranial saw) from exhibit's surgical kit.



# Philatelic Sketches in Medicine

Frederick C. Skvara, M.D.

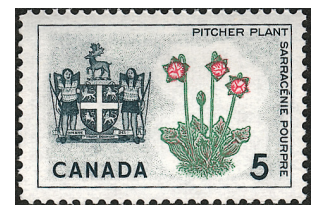
## Doctors as Students of the Natural Sciences

In preparing the philatelic exhibit for our May 18th meeting I noted that David Hosack was a keen student of botany and founder of the first botanical garden in the United States. The study of botany and the natural sciences has occupied many physicians throughout medical history and many of them have distinguished themselves in these sciences as well as in medicine. This short article will illustrate a few examples.

### Michel Sarrasin (1659–1736)

Michel Sarrasin was born in Nuits-sous-Beaune in Burgundy, France and locally acquired the skill of a surgeon. He then practiced surgery in his home town, but soon joined the Seminary of the Foreign Mission and went to Quebec, Canada in 1685 where he was made surgeon-major of the colonial troops caring for soldiers, fur traders, settlers and native peoples, helping them recover from smallpox, yellow fever and influenza.

After being introduced to botany by Joseph Pitton de Tournefort (1656–1708), a French botanist, he spent almost thirty years collecting and studying plants and minerals and wrote on botany, the life cycle of the mink and the mountain mouse as well as the mineral springs of the Alps. His herbarium of dried plants contained over eight hundred species. The genus *Sarracenia* includes eight species of evergreen or deciduous carnivorous perennials including the pitcher-plant, *Sarracenia purpurea*, that he discovered. Also named after him is the Le Prix Michel-Sarrasin an annual award in the Canadian province of Quebec given to a scientist who has contributed to the advancement of biomedical research.



*Sarracenia purpurea* & arms of Newfoundland, Canada. [Canada 1966]

### Karl Ludwig Willdenow (1765–1812)



*Bougainvillea spectabilis* Willd.  
[Tunisia 1999]



*Pulsatilla halleri* Willd. (Pasque flower). [Bulgaria 1991]

At the end of the latin name of the plants on the two illustrated stamps is the abbreviation “Willd.” This is the standard botanical author abbreviation for the plants described by Karl Ludwig Willdenow, a German physician and botanist. He was born in Berlin in 1765 and graduated from the University of Halle in medicine in 1789. He practiced in Berlin, but from the beginning he devoted a great deal of his time to botany. He was apparently able to pursue both disciplines with distinction, becoming professor of natural history in 1798 and professor of medicine in 1806.

His botanical achievements, however, were the more notable. He corresponded with the major botanists of his time including Alexander von Humboldt (1769–1859), who furnished him with much of the material for the great herbarium of the Berlin Botanical Garden. As Director, Willdenow built a collection of about 20,000 species. He is recognized as the most important systematist of his day, founder of German dendrology, the scientific study of trees, and also the founder of phytogeography, the study of the geographic distribution of plants. A monumental six-volume compilation of his studies, *Linnaei Species Plantarum*, was completed in 1826, fourteen years after his death in Berlin on July 10, 1812.