

Now & Then

STILL NATIONAL OSTEOPATHIC MUSEUM

NATIONAL CENTER FOR OSTEOPATHIC HISTORY

REMEMBERING A. T. STILL

A. T. Still was a pioneer, both literally and figuratively. His childhood was spent on the frontier of Missouri, he was involved with the legislation that propelled Kansas from a territory to a free state in the Union, and he pioneered a new form of medicine, establishing the osteopathic profession. Often when we remember those individuals who contributed significant developments to society, we regard the individual not as a mere man or woman, but as a hero separate from the characteristics that make us human: our gait, our physical appearance, and our habits.

A. T. Still was one such individual who is often forgotten as a man and remembered solely as a hero. However, by remembering the less glamorous details of his physical characteristics as well as his personality one can be inspired by an ordinary person who accomplished extraordinary deeds.

Ernest E. Tucker, an American School of Osteopathy alumnus Class of 1903 and professor of Osteopathic Technic wrote the following anecdote.*

The red brick wall of the house, the snow half across the porch, the slant of the morning sun, and the figure standing before me on that early morning in February fifty-six years ago are as clear to me now as though I were still looking at them. Well, I was prepared to be impressed: but not in just the way it turned out. Was there a bit of hero-worship in it? At the time I would have repudiated the idea.

But that does hold a place for that picture in any book of reminiscences.

Two things about Still's appearance I never did get used to, often as I saw them. One was the bulge of that forehead, like the bud end of a watermelon. The

other was the unbelievable aquiline of the nose. They harmonized with each other of course and were not ordinarily noticeable, until some trick of posture or background threw them into relief. His moustache helped to—shall I say normalize—his nose, and moustache and beard kept nose and forehead in harmony. And why should anyone bother about that? I do not know why: have not given it much thought; but observe that my fellow human beings do seem to “set considerable store” by it—it being physical appearance generally.



Museum Collection [PM 161 postcard] ca.1909

Another unusual thing about him, often remarked, was his gait; a springy gait, rising on his toes: which I was told was the Indian gait. As though part of this gait, he usually carried a six or seven foot staff, cut

from the woodpile and whittled or planed [sp] down. For these reasons he seemed to walk leaning forward; on his way to the “backy”shop. Like all Civil War veterans,he chewed tobacco. Every now and then he swore off [the tobacco], and then it was that he made trips to the candy shop. It was chocolate that he bought.

Intrigued by that long staff, a Mrs.Conger, wealthy Ohio woman,had a seven-foot staff of ebony specially made for him,complete with gold head and tassel. He walked to school with it a couple of times, grinning like a school boy. It found its inevitable way into his “parlor”where he kept the treasures-trove sent to him from all parts of the world,and for which he had a conducted tour, complete with spiel.

Another thing that almost always surprised me was the huskiness of his voice;like a voice from somewhere else, far away; or somebody else. O, he could speak powerfully—he could make the students in the rear seats hear as clearly as those in front;but—huskiness—it had a sort of intimate quality about it—just you and me sort of effect.

His eyes were grey, flecked as I remember it with brown:under untrimmed eyebrows. His hands were large and flat and no doubt very powerful. The lobes of his ears hung down quite generously. I suggest that you take note of the ear-lobes of strong leaders of men. His skin was dusky—a matter of age,as well as atmosphere no doubt. The wrinkles at the corners of his eyes were numerous and humorous. He was often compared to Lincoln;and I have no doubt those two backwoodsmen would have understood each other.

On his feet were boots—“Missouri mud boots.” Jean trousers were tucked into them,with the inevitable bulge at the outer top. Overcoat, coat and vest he carried open; the two halves of the vest held together by a heavy watch chain (those were the days of pocket clocks). The coat was a blue army coat. Through his grisly beard shone the gleam of a gold collar button,innocent of collar (unless it happened to be attached). A few straggly grey hairs appeared beneath the brim of his wide—brimmed army hat, which was thrust far back on that bulging dome of a forehead.

He wore “specs”of course;and—well—but one never sees the dirt on one’s own glasses,unless one takes them off to look at; and then one does not see well enough to see the dirt. And I am sure the same thing is true of our ideas as well.

No,he was not sartorially conscious. On one occasion the wife of one of our state senators was attracted to Kirksville to see him. News of her arrival preceded her:and there was a bit of excitement, and a crowd at the station to greet the great lady. Still ambled down there,and stood on the outskirts. When the train and the lady arrived,and she had alighted, someone who had caught a glimpse of him said, “There’s the Old Doctor”—and automatically the crowd parted and a lane formed from the lady direct to him. Taking her clue,she naturally walked down this lane,all cordiality and suavity. Still shook the offered hand.

“Want to see my good clothes?”he queried—“Ma will show them to you. She’s got them in a trunk at home.”

Fortunately, the lady was genuine too;and they became instantly friends.

Forward written by Katie Hsu-Hoberman,
Education Coordinator



Museum Collection [PIC-Stat-27] ca. July 1908

* Excerpted from *Reminiscences of A.T.Still* by E.E.Tucker, 1950. Charles E.Still,Jr. Collection,Still National Osteopathic Museum. Original punctuation and spelling have been retained.

FAREWELL FROM THE CURATOR

As April 1st will be my last day at the Museum, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on the past nine years and express my thanks to the Museum's most faithful supporters: its members and volunteers.

When I was hired in May 1994, the Museum was an independent non-profit institution that had been run mostly by volunteers since its founding in 1978. The staff consisted of Director Janet Pultz (now head of the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in Iowa); the Office Manager (me); and the Registrar (Jean Kenney—a staff member in all but paycheck—who still volunteers “only” eight hours a week). We had one computer and a budget so tight that I literally had to beg Janet for my own stapler! In addition to the many tasks involved in running an active museum, we three kept busy preparing to move the Museum from the Oklahoma Building to its present location. Then as now, community volunteers and Truman students made their special contributions and enabled us to do far more than could have been accomplished by the staff alone.

In January 1995, I became Collections Manager and held that title for the next seven-plus years. As Collections Manager and now Curator, I have introduced and maintained professional museum and archival practices, especially regarding research use of the collections. These policies (which some folks find inconvenient, such as not being able to check out materials or have free access to closed storage areas) are intended to protect fragile and irreplaceable historic items, and are based on models at other well-established institutions. We have continued to update our practices to keep up with technological changes—such as e-mail and digital scanning—that have affected expectations and possibilities.

My first “office” in the new Museum was a desk in a corner of the storage area, itself a partitioned-off part of the exhibit gallery. The architects of the Tinning Building had included a mere 200 square feet for

museum storage, and no office space away from the reception desk! We have since added storage and offices—in three different locations on campus—but still struggle with space issues. (For example, prospects for hiring a grant-funded projects assistant are hindered by not having room for the person to work.) We are currently planning to move more artifacts to our offsite location to free up more workspace.

Other institutional changes were summarized in the last issue of *Now & Then*. Unfortunately, one

aspect of the Museum's life has not changed much in the past nine years: the sad fact that most of the osteopathic profession does not support the Museum financially. Out of almost 47,000 DOs in the US, fewer than 300 are members of the Museum! KCOM has always been our financial mainstay; even before we were part of the institution, they provided a building and utilities free of charge. Some of the state organizations and auxiliaries have institutional member-

ships, but most do not. If the Museum is to maintain its national mission, then the members of the profession nationwide need to step up and do their part. I encourage each of you to become a member or renew your membership at a higher level, and to encourage your colleagues, your professional organizations, and your schools to do likewise. For greater impact, consider a special donation, a trust, or a grant to help fund the Museum's exhibits, education programs, and/or collections care. The Museum staff is very skilled at stretching resources, but the resources need to be there to begin with.

As for this staff member, I will be returning to a former career, that of freelance editor and writer. I will still be in Kirksville and look forward to watching the Museum's progress in the years to come.

Cheryl A. Gracey, Curator



Cheryl Gracey, Curator, and Debra Summers, Curatorial Assistant, working hard at the National Center for Osteopathic History.

AN INCREASING GLOBAL DEMAND FOR THE RESEARCH OF OSTEOPATHY

Over the past year the Still National Osteopathic Museum's Research Center has been expanding its research base by working with the international osteopathic community. Our intentions are to share the founding principles and history of osteopathy.

Some of our projects have included translating Dr. A. T. Still's books into four languages, exchanging information about Dr. Still and the Drs. Littlejohn with the various international osteopathic schools, and assisting in the production of osteopathy-related posters and postcards for the European market.

While many of these international research requests are completed via mail, several overseas researchers have traveled to Kirksville to see the collection firsthand. The opportunity to work closely with each researcher on his or her project is an excit-

ing process. However, as much as we enjoy learning and sharing information, our staff resources prevent us from undertaking extensive research projects on behalf of researchers.

In addition to pursuing the aforementioned research requests, the Museum also offers a variety of image reproduction services, including photocopies, photographic reproductions, and scanned images. Cheryl Gracey has recently completed the finding aid for the A. T. Still Papers. This research tool is now available for purchase, \$15.00 for a hard copy and \$20.00 for a CD-ROM. The finding aid also includes handwriting samples of Dr. A. T. Still as well as samples from unidentified individuals who assisted him in his work. Contact Debra Loguda-Summer, Curator (museum@kcom.edu) for information and fees.

EXHIBIT UPDATES: THE ROOTS OF THE ISSUE

Once the dust from last year's massive exhibit blitz settled, the museum was able to focus its attention on enhancing two pre-existing exhibits. These included upgrading the medicinal plant garden and completing the anticipated exhibit on the history of osteopathy, titled *Tracing the Roots of Osteopathy in 19th-Century American Medicine*.

In preparation for our recent gallery expansion, we removed the original glass-cased version of the latter exhibit in May 2002. The expanded and upgraded edition is now housed within a permanent gallery wall and presents many of the various medical movements popular in the mid-to-late nineteenth century. The purpose of this exhibit is to provide the viewer with information regarding the era of medicine in which A. T. Still developed his ideas of Osteopathy. Therefore, the exhibit is divided into two main parts: orthodox practices of the early nineteenth century and the alternatives, both proposed and widely practiced, developed in response to the early "standardized" medicine.

To further depict the practices of early medicine, this exhibit features a wide variety of artifacts associated with bloodletting, blistering and early pharmacology. As the viewer moves through the exhibit, he is presented with some of the most popular alternatives available throughout the second half of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; these treatments include hydrotherapy, the use of botanicals, homeopathy, as well as several others. In conjunction with this exhibit, the museum published a new catalogue highlighting the featured artifacts.



EXPANDING OUR MUSEUM EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Katherine Hsu-Hoberman and Jason Haxton have been busy pursuing a grant to expand the amount of children the museum's education programs impact. This past fall both the education coordinator and the museum director spent numerous hours compiling data and writing portions for the Learning Opportunities Grant, offered through the Institute of Museum and Library Services. If funded, the Still National Osteopathic Museum intends to support science education, from grades kindergarten through eighth, in 43 school districts in



northeast Missouri; based upon the success of this endeavor, the museum may circulate these developed materials nationally. In addition to utilizing this grant to hire a curriculum developer, complementary educational materials will be purchased and made accessible to educators in the targeted school districts. The grant was submitted in January on behalf of the A.T. Still University of Health Sciences, Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine. The museum anticipates hearing about the program's funding this summer.

Along with researching data for the grant, the education coordinator focused on enhancing the Museum's community relationships. More specifically, the latter part of 2002 was spent networking with different community organizations and responding to the needs of their participants. The Museum forged new relationships with Kirksville-based groups such as the Cub Scouts of America, Preferred Family Center, and the Bruce Normile Juvenile Justice Center. In alignment with the museum's mission statement, Ms. Hsu-Hoberman developed new programs concerning topics such as the impact of different drugs on the body and mind and a comparative lesson on medical practices in the 1800s and those used now.

In addition to these aforementioned activities, the museum grappled with a new logistical problem concerning tighter fiscal budgets in the area's school districts. In response, museum-based School Discovery Programs have been brought to the classroom to relieve the cost of transporting students to the museum. In celebration of National Children's Dental Health Month, Ms. Hsu-Hoberman visited two first grade classrooms at the Kirksville Primary School and taught a lesson on dental hygiene. The lesson demonstrated to the children that good habits are learned and practiced at an early age.

The Still National Osteopathic Museum is committed to using its resources, as well as seeking additional funding, to meet the mission of educating the general public about osteopathic history and its principles. The vision of impacting health science education in the local and broader community's elementary and middle schools is an exciting and new challenge. The Museum looks forward to keeping its members posted on the expanding education and outreach programs!

THE IMPORTANCE OF MUSEUM MEMBERSHIPS

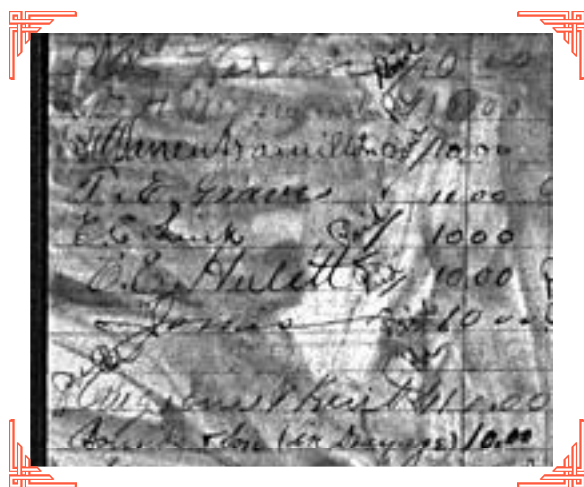
This is an exciting era in the history of osteopathy. In America and many other countries, osteopathy is the fastest growing sector of medicine. The osteopathic ideal continues to spread and gain recognition, as evidenced through international researchers writing books regarding the profession and the traveling national exhibit "The Healer Within." This explosive growth carries with it the tremendous risk of losing sight of osteopathy's unique history and principles.

The mission of the Museum is to collect, preserve, and make available for research artifacts that tell the history of the osteopathic profession, and to educate the general public about osteopathic history and principles through exhibits and programs. Amidst the

renewed interest and rapid growth of osteopathy, the mission is more important today than it has ever been. The Museum's ability to fulfill this mission statement depends upon the funds raised through its memberships.

Please consider your relationship to the Museum and to the osteopathic profession. If you are a current member, may you enjoy knowing that your contribution enables the Museum to preserve the rich history of osteopathy. If you are not a member (or have been in the past) the Museum invites you to assist in fulfilling the Museum's mission statement by becoming a member.

BEFORE AND AFTER CONSERVATION OF THE A. T. STILL PAPERS



Before



After

The effects of conservation treatment on a document from the Andrew Taylor Still Papers. Surface soil and glue residues were removed and several small tears repaired, making this list of citizen pledges of financial support for A. T. Still's planned infirmary (1894) considerably more legible and less fragile. Conservation of this and other Still documents was performed by the Northeast Document Conservation Center and funded by the Missouri Historical Records Grant Program and the Museum Collections Fund.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW CURATOR

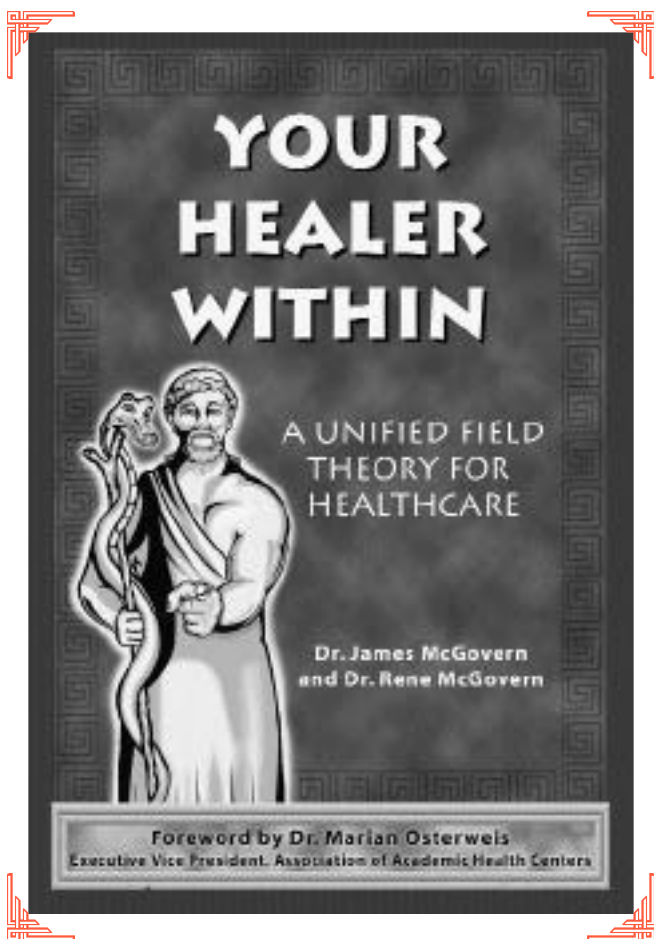
As of April 28, Debra Loguda-Summers, former Curatorial Assistant, has been promoted to the position of Curator. Over the past two years, Ms. Loguda-Summers exemplified excellent research skills, knowledge of the Museum collection and commitment to the Museum. We congratulate Ms. Loguda-Summers on her recent promotion!

MUSEUM NEWS

A New Book on Osteopathic Healthcare

This past year, the Museum staff had a unique opportunity to work side-by-side with the University President, James J. McGovern, assisting in his research for a new book titled *Your Healer Within*. This latest osteopathic work presents a unified field theory for health care that includes encouraging the patient's involvement and belief as a fourth dimension treatment, and the tenets of osteopathic medicine as the first three dimensions.

Each year, hundreds of researchers are assisted by the National Center for Osteopathic History. However, the research for this particular book has not only been enlightening, but it also fills the void of explaining a topic not recently studied by our researchers; specifically, how and why doctors employing osteopathic principles and methods are able to achieve very positive results according to their patients.



Currently, the book is undergoing its first printing and should be available to the public in late May. Contact the Museum if you would like to purchase a copy for yourself or a friend.

German Connection

A German publishing company by the name of JOLANDOS, run by Christian Hardmann, physician and physiotherapist, is making international connections with the Museum. Dr. Hardmann's passion for osteopathic history has drawn him into the field of publishing books related to the profession. He has translated all of Dr. A.T. Still's books into the German language and is currently translating the books by Dr. William Sutherland regarding osteopathy in the cranial field.

Dr. Hardmann explained that the members of the professional organization of D.O.s in Germany have not been exposed to the early writings pertaining to the profession. As a result, the Museum seized the opportunity to assist in the research for a historic column in two leading German journals. It's "Vie Getz" to this new audience.

Artifacts On Loan from the Smithsonian Institution

In 1936 the Smithsonian Institution received a rare and amazing gift from the American School of Osteopathy, A.T. Still's founding school of osteopathic medicine. The gift from the students was a completely dissected nervous system. However, like many museums, the Smithsonian Institute is limited by its space, capable of displaying only a small percentage of its collection at any given time. Therefore, for the past few years, this dissected nervous system has been in storage.

By funding the conservation of this dissected nervous system, ATSU will be able to help exhibit this rare item once more at our nation's Capitol. The Museum Director traveled to Washington, DC and was able to finalize paperwork for the Smithsonian's inter-museum artifact loan and to assist with the details pertaining to the conservation process prior to displaying the piece. As a result of these efforts, the Smithsonian Institution's nervous system will be exhibited in conjunction with a life size copy of the Still National Osteopathic Museum's nervous system. Both items will be shown in the Arts and Industry Building from May 28th to September 5th. If you are in the Washington, DC area, please consider viewing this rare artifact on display with "The Healer Within®," exhibit.

MEMBER REGISTRATION

I would like to make a donation to the following Fund(s)

\$ _____ Collections

\$ _____ Education

\$ _____ Exhibition

- \$5 Student
- \$15 Resident/Intern
- \$25 Associate
- \$50 Friend
- \$100 Patron
- \$500 Sponsor
- \$1000 Benefactor
- \$5000 Donor Laureate

If you are a D.O., please give us your school and graduation year.

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Would you want to receive the Museum newsletter by email? Yes No

Payment by Check # _____ or MC V AE Discover

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Signature _____

MUSEUM HOURS

Monday – Wednesday
10 a.m.– 4 p.m.

Thursday
10 a.m.– 7 p.m.

Saturday
noon – 4 p.m.

Closed on major holidays,
during exhibit installations,
and for special campus events.

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MUSEUM STAFF

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Exhibits Preparator.....Rob Clement

Education Coordinator

.....Katherine Hsu-Hoberman

The mission of the Still National Osteopathic Museum is to collect, preserve, and make available for research, artifacts that tell the national history of the osteopathic profession, from its beginning in 1874 as a rural, midwestern, alternative medical practice to its full acceptance one hundred years later as a medical profession practiced worldwide; and to educate the general public about osteopathic history and principles through exhibits and programs.

National Center for Osteopathic History



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