



FALL 2025 | Issue 1



MAOPS Gallery Hall

Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (MAOPS) leadership gathered with A.T. Still University (ATSU) students, faculty, staff, alumni, and guests during the University's recent Founder's Day activities to celebrate the dedication of the Museum of Osteopathic Medicine's MAOPS Gallery Hall. In fall 2024, MAOPS made a \$100,000 gift to the museum demonstrating its unwavering support of students and graduates of osteopathic

schools in Missouri and its commitment to preserving the osteopathic profession's vibrant history and heritage.

MAOPS Gallery Hall is a visual testament of the organization's advocacy for the osteopathic profession at the local, state, and federal level for more than 125 years, as well as its professional resource offerings to students and alumni,



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Exhibit highlights

The exhibits highlighted in this section include *Elsie's Medicinal Garden* and "The Doctor Will See You Now." The exhibits manager shares changes in the garden and a preview of the new exhibit on osteopathic hospitals.



Renovated storage

From start to finish, learn how museum staff planned for and transformed its collection space with a modern mobile storage system.

Dr. Carrie Nation

Enjoy a brief teaser for Dr. John Dougherty's article about Dr. Carrie Nation on Pages 3 and 4. To read the full article, please visit the Museum of Osteopathic Medicine's social media pages.

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Elsie's Medicinal Garden

Recently, the museum's medicinal garden received thoughtful updates. New signage reflects its official name, *Elsie's Medicinal Garden*, and several plants have been carefully relocated or removed to enhance the space.

In 2022, the Historic Medicinal Garden was renamed in recognition of an endowment from Elsie Gaber, PhD, and Ron Gaber, DHL (hon.). The Master Gardeners of Kirksville has also played an important role, lovingly maintaining the garden and preparing it for each new season.

Today, *Elsie's Medicinal Garden* remains a peaceful retreat for visitors, and all are invited to stop by and enjoy this thoughtfully maintained space.

Museum collection space completion

Donations and research resumes as of July 1, 2025

The Museum of Osteopathic Medicine's collection began modestly in 1934 with two donated glass display cases. Today, the museum occupies 13,000 square feet and holds approximately 120,000 donated artifacts. Two historic structures, the Still family's cabin from the 1800s and a two-room school in which A.T. Still, DO, matriculated the inaugural class of osteopathic physicians (1892-94), welcome museum and A.T. Still University visitors. Since 2011, the museum has made substantial progress inventorying, cataloging, and rehousing the artifact collection. In 2022, the museum was accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. In 2023, the museum began the collection mobile storage project.

After careful research and a museum site visit, Bradford Systems, a company whose mission is to alleviate storage challenges for organizations through better design and optimization of physical and digital organization, was identified as the vendor to make a mobile storage system viable for the museum.

In fall 2023, Heather Rudy, MA, museum assistant director, worked collaboratively with ATSU Research, Grants & Scholarly Innovations to write and submit an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant application to fund the mobile storage system project, and in August 2024, the museum received a one-year



\$134,000 one-to-one match grant award to begin the project.

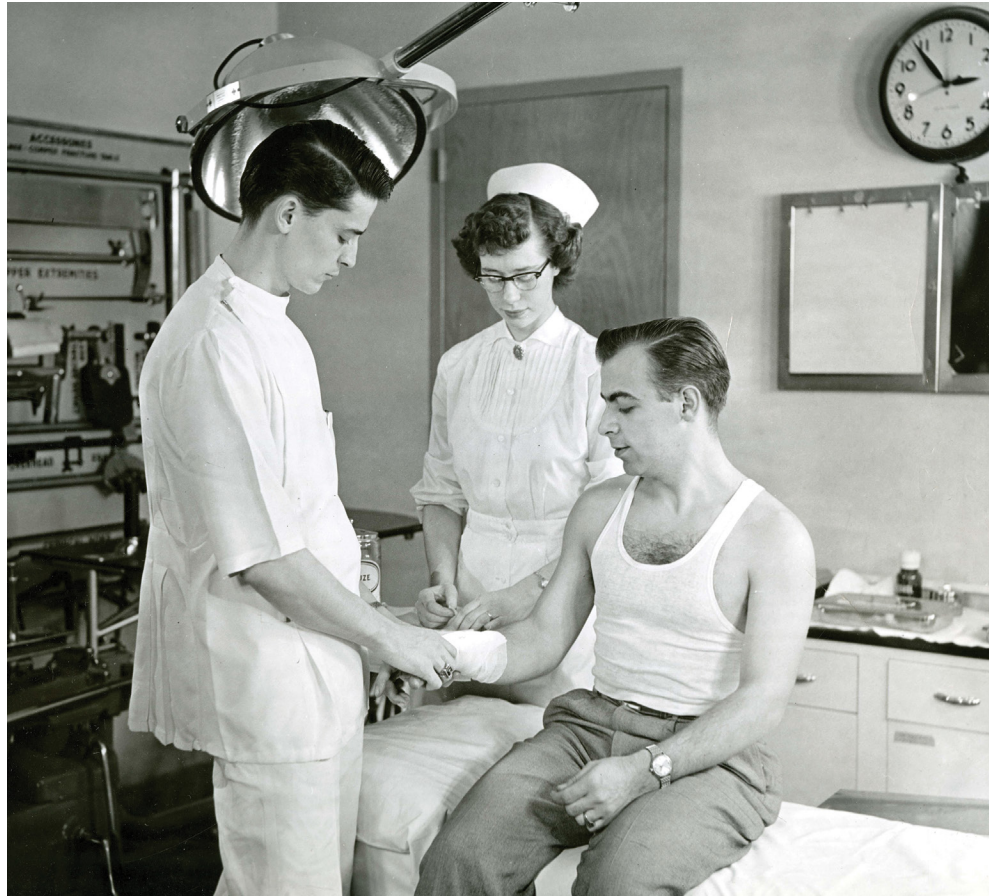
Then came weeks of physical work, which included museum staff developing collection tracking lists, preparing and boxing collection artifacts, and moving all artifacts to temporary storage. Old flooring was removed and leveled, followed by installation of the new floor and mobile storage system.

The last and most rewarding step, still in progress, is moving the museum's vast collection of artifacts back to the museum and ensuring all records are updated to the artifacts' current location.

New museum exhibit

Dedicated to the history of osteopathic hospitals, the museum's exhibit "The Doctor Will See You Now: The History of Osteopathic Hospitals in the U.S." is now on display in the Tinning Education Center's Heritage Hall. For much of the profession's early history, doctors of osteopathic medicine (DOs) were unable to practice in allopathic (MD) hospitals, limiting their patient care, practical hours, and medical options for many communities.

In response, early osteopathic physicians opened their own hospitals to care for their communities. In the modern era, most, if not all, of these hospitals have closed or merged with larger medical networks since DOs are now allotted the same opportunities as their MD counterparts. This exhibit provides insight into this important part of osteopathic history.



A pioneer in osteopathy and temperance: Unveiling the correspondence of Dr. Carrie Nation

By John Dougherty, DO



In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, practicing medicine in rural America posed unique challenges. For osteopathic physicians, the difficulties of securing reliable assistance and balancing professional and personal responsibilities were often exacerbated by geographic isolation. A newly discovered letter provides rare insight into these struggles, shedding light on the professional endeavors of one of history's most enigmatic figures, Carrie Nation, DO.

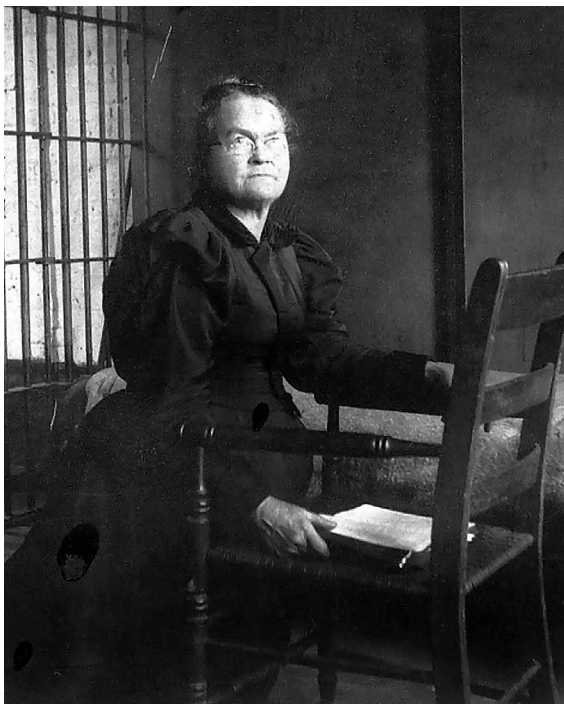
Dated Dec. 10, 1900, the letter reveals an intriguing connection between Dr. Nation and her friend, Henrietta "Etta" Schneider Haas, DO, who lived nearly 300 miles away in Argentine, Kansas. In her correspondence, Dr. Nation enthusiastically invited Dr. Haas to join her Medicine Lodge, Kansas, practice. She outlined plans for Dr. Haas to assist with patient care and manage household responsibilities while Dr. Nation pursued further studies in Kirksville, Missouri – a hub for osteopathic education. The letter reflects Dr. Nation's strategic vision for expanding her practice, her optimism for their potential partnership, and the resilience required to navigate the complexities of rural healthcare.

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MAOPS Gallery Hall, continued

including continuing medical education, networking, and scholarship opportunities. ATSU Chancellor Craig Phelps, DO, '84, unveiled a plaque symbolizing the University's gratitude for MAOPS' unwavering support and generosity, with a ribbon-cutting held at the at the newly named MAOPS Gallery Hall entryway.

To learn more about the MAOPS Gallery Hall dedication ceremony, including quotes from MAOPS and ATSU leadership, visit: atsu.edu/maops-dedication



Pioneer Dr. Carrie Nation, continued

Discovered by Dr. Robert Sherman in the attic of the Haas family home, this letter is a landmark artifact. It confirms Dr. Carrie Nation's affiliation with osteopathy – an identity previously debated among historians. Despite limited documentation, the letter substantiates claims that Dr. Nation trained in osteopathy in the mid-1890s, potentially under the instruction of Elmer Barber, DO, 1895. Her focus on drugless healing and contributions to obstetrics and women's health align with the tenets of early osteopathic practice.

While her medical career was significant, Dr. Nation's legacy expanded beyond osteopathy. She gained national recognition as a fiery temperance advocate, wielding her iconic hatchet to destroy saloons and enforce Kansas prohibition laws. Her activism led to numerous arrests and cemented her status as a polarizing but impactful figure in the temperance movement.

This narrative unites the seemingly disparate threads of Dr. Nation's life – her medical practice and activism – into a compelling portrait of a woman driven by conviction and purpose. Dr. Nation's story underscores her dual legacy as a pioneering osteopathic physician and a trailblazing advocate for social reform. Her contributions to holistic, patient-centered care and her unyielding dedication to temperance exemplify the profound influence of one individual on both medicine and society.



Spotlight on Dr. Nation's education

Many historians believe Dr. Nation attended the school of Dr. Barber, learning from his book of osteopathy. Dr. Barber enrolled in the second class at the American School of Osteopathy and graduated in March 1895. As a student, he took notes on the teachings of A.T. Still, DO, and after he left, he started the National School of Osteopathy and wrote a book. This enraged Dr. Still as Dr. Barber only focused on manipulative medicine, and Dr. Still taught osteopathy as body, mind, and spirit, not just body. Dr. Barber's school closed in 1900 due to many factors, including Dr. Still's position and the refusal of it being accepted on the list of recognized training schools. After struggling for many years, on March 31, 1915, Dr. Barber took his life by taking carbolic acid, citing this act to financial setbacks in a letter to his wife and children.

Above: Dr. Carrie Nation

Left: Dr. Elmer Barber, Museum of Osteopathic Medicine, Kirksville, Mo. [2006.14.01a]

John Dougherty, DO, is ATSU's chief strategy officer. Dr. Dougherty earned his doctor of osteopathic medicine degree from Kansas City University's College of Osteopathic Medicine. He has published articles in the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association* and *Osteopathic Family Physician Journal* focusing on osteopathic medical education, musculoskeletal assessment, palpatory diagnosis, and integration of osteopathic principles in clinical and educational settings.

Newsletter sources

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Tuscano, Silvia. "Elmer Devergne Barber, Founder of the Ephemeral and Controversial National School of Osteopathy." *Osteopedia – Il Portale Mondiale Dell'Osteopatia*, 2022.

Museum of Osteopathic Medicine, Kirksville, Mo. Man at Doctor's Office [1998.57.146]

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Museum hours

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Saturday, by appointment only

660.626.2359

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A.T. Still University