OPEN WIDE AND SAY AHHH!
Father of osteopathy – Dr. A.T. Still, abolitionist, inventor, suffragist, and a dentist too?

Having a little tooth pain? Seeking a whiter smile? I doubt if any of our readers would seek out their family physician for these types of problems. The US population is accustomed to seeing specialists—one doctor to maintain our teeth, another for our bodies, a third for our mental health, and so on. However, this is a fairly new phenomenon. Historically the role of physician and oral health specialist were blended into one profession.

Andrew Taylor Still, MD, DO, was a thorough and conscientious doctor of his time. He relied on those qualities to learn as much as possible about medicine and provide the best-known treatments to his patients. When the results indicated that much of the early medical training he received provided no benefit or was even harmful to his patients, he challenged the medical doctrines. Dr. Still then instituted an American form of medicine based on the body’s natural healing abilities. Osteopathic medicine is still growing and improving healthcare for people throughout the world.

Knowing Dr. Still’s commitment to help others, it may not be too surprising to learn that he was one of the few dentists available in his area of Kansas. He also amassed a collection of dental tools for his dental practice that was unsurpassed. His son, Dr. Charles E. Still, wrote in his memoirs:

“Now as far back as I can remember, and that will carry me back to when we lived in Kansas, when I was 10 years old, Father was doing surgical work in the way of breaks and dislocations. He also did dental surgery for which he had as fine a set of dental instruments as anybody in the country. A number of years ago when things were divided up, the instruments were given to different members of the family.

P.S. When Father lived in Kansas he was about the only dentist anywhere near, and he pulled teeth and made false teeth. That was sort of a sideline however. In other words he was what you called a real country doctor.” [1]

Fortunately, the family members of A.T. Still donated a collection of his dental tools to the Still National Osteopathic Museum. The administrators of ATSU’s newly opened Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health (ASDOH) campus in Mesa propose an exhibition of these tools.

A quote from Dr. A.T. Still’s autobiography shows his awareness of the harm done by doctors who treated patients with a variety of unproven remedies including the substance mercury. Dr. Still wrote,
“This same mercury in certain forms is a great friend to the dentist, for when taken into the system it hunts for chalky substances, and seizes upon the teeth and oftentimes causes the girl of seventeen to substitute china store teeth for the pearly white incisors, bicuspids, and molars, that nature meant to last a lifetime.” [2]

Dr. Still highlights the importance of the dentists in a five-page article called Dentistry From an Osteopathic Standpoint, which was written in 1904 to the medical students.

“The work of the Dental Surgeon has not received the attention of osteopaths that its importance to the health of the body merits. As a matter of fact, dental surgery ranks ahead of operative surgery, as the operative surgery only removes defects, while the dental surgeon’s work is to care for the mouth and keep it in the best possible condition for speech and mastication. Proper mastication of food is essential to the health of the body, as digestion, assimilation and nutrition are dependent upon it.” [3]

A.T. Still set into motion the need for strong professional ties between osteopathic doctors and those in oral health at the American School Of Osteopathy (ASO). One of the school’s early students, S.L. Gants, DO, DDS, from the June class of 1912, decided to be both a doctor and an oral health specialist.

The idea of doctors and dentists working together as a team became institutionalized in 1922 under the second president of the ASO, Dr. George Still. It was George Still who sought out and hired the first oral health faculty member, G.N. Dailey, DDS.

In December of 1921 an article in The Journal of Osteopathy announced the creation of a Dental Department at the ASO Hospital and a course in dental diagnosis at the ASO medical school under the guidance of G.N. Dailey DDS. The article states,

“The progress that the dental profession has made in the last ten years entitles it to the greatest consideration among men of the different professions. This progress has been made in the face of several handicaps, perhaps the most serious being the lack of cooperation between physician and dental surgeon.” [4]

The article goes on to explain the importance of the physician and oral surgeon to work together for the common good of both and better service to the patient.

“No expense has been spared in making this new department of the ASO hospital up-to-date.”

“No only has the ASO hospitals put in the work, but also in line with the trend of colleges today, the American School of Osteopathy has added a dental surgeon to its faculty, whose duty it is to explain the relation of oral sepsis to systemic diseases, and modern methods of dentists to prevent the physician from ordering teeth extracted without first consulting a dental surgeon.”

“As this is a new department at the ASO, it is difficult to estimate its future growth in this profession, but the necessity to correct dental diagnosis has been clearly recognized by leaders of the profession...”

“Several [medical] colleges have signified their intention of adding a special course in dental diagnosis and oral surgery, as the ASO has done.” [5]

Seth Thomas, DDS

Seth Thomas, DDS, was another young dentist who worked with the founding school of osteopathy. Dr. Thomas was on staff from 1923 until 1960, enjoying a thirty-seven year career with the school. During his tenure, x-ray use in oral health diagnosis went from being a novelty to a necessity. Physicians fueled the debate in every city that all oral health professionals should be physicians first. As the skill level and technology expertise in oral health grew, the argument that those in oral health needed to be trained as physicians died away. Today the cooperative relationship between the oral health professional and physician is almost taken for granted. Dentists very often will see a patient more frequently than the family physician and, while focused on oral health, will alert the physician to disease found during routine check-ups.
Timeline of Important Developments in Oral Health

1938 — The **nylon toothbrush**, first made with synthetic bristles, appears on the market.

1930's — **Frederick S. McKay**, a Colorado dentist, is convinced that brown stains (mottling) on his patients' teeth are related to their water supply. McKay's research verifies that drinking water with high levels of naturally occurring **fluoride** is associated with low dental caries and a high degree of mottled enamel. By the early 1940s, **H. Trendley Dean** determines the ideal level of fluoride in drinking water to substantially reduce decay without mottling. [6]

1945 — Two cities—Newburgh, N.Y., and Grand Rapids, Mich., introduced sodium fluoride into their **public water systems** to help fight tooth decay among residents. At the same time, a group of Wisconsin-based dentists succeeded in getting the state's water system fluoridated. After substantial testing showed that fluoride reduced incidents of cavities by as much as two-thirds, the US Public Health Service in 1951 urged the entire country to fluoridate public drinking water. Since then, every major US city has followed its lead. Nearly 150 million Americans now receive fluoride through their public tap water. Fluoride is a cheap and efficient mineral that saves Americans billions of dollars every year on the cost of dental visits. [7]

1957 — **John Borden** introduces a high-speed, air-driven, contra-angle hand piece (dental drill.) The Airotor obtains speeds up to 300,000 rotations per minute and is an immediate commercial success, launching a new era of **high-speed dentistry**.

1960s — Sit down; **fourhanded dentistry** becomes popular in the US. This technique improves productivity and shortens treatment time.

1990s — New tooth-colored restorative materials plus increased usage of bleaching, veneers, and implants inaugurate an era of **esthetic dentistry**. [8]

This brings us to dentistry in the twenty-first century, a time when dental care is preventative and treatment is virtually painless. Oral health procedures are becoming so painless that many seek procedures that are esthetic in nature to enhance their smile.

ATSU has come full circle to Dr. A.T. Still's “dental roots” by opening ASDOH, the first school of its kind in Arizona. In addition to the issues of oral health and the skills of dentistry, students at this dental school will learn from, as well as become, caring, community-minded health care providers. The Museum is now working on several projects with ASDOH Dean Jack Dillenberg, DDS, MPH. The Museum recently assisted Dean Dillenberg with a Mesa City mini-grant to purchase a quality case that will be used to display the dentistry tools of Dr. Still, which will be on loan from the Museum.

Jason Haxton, Director

Bibliography

As mentioned in previous newsletters, exhibit development is always a fluid, ongoing process that is never entered into lightly. As the only national museum of osteopathy, we’re charged with the responsibility of relating our history and development, as well as preserving its heritage for the professional and layperson alike. There are no other entities that have this mission. With this in mind, we always plan and execute exhibits with professionalism, the utmost attention to detail, and devotion to a broader vision.

‘Let’s Get Visible’

2004 will be no different. However, this year we have two main goals in mind. First, we’re going to add two new major exhibits; second, we’re going to be initiating what we call a new ‘visibility campaign.’

If I may, I’d like to address the visibility campaign first. Starting this year, we’ll be increasing Kirksville visitor awareness of the Museum through a couple of means. First, we’re re-creating our full-color general Museum brochure—the first since 1999. Scheduled to be completed by February, we will be distributing them to various locations throughout the area, including the ATSU campus, hospital lobbies, Truman State University, the Kirksville Chamber of Commerce, local businesses, and the like. There are many reasons to come to Kirksville, and we’re making sure that people are aware of us and can add us to their itineraries—whether they’re parents visiting Truman, people visiting friends in the hospital, or simply passing through.

In addition to creating new promotional literature, we’ve been busy fabricating a new historic photomontage in the Northeast Regional Medical Center cafeteria lobby. The thirty-foot-long montage will include images of the earliest years of the school and hospital facilities, personnel, and activities up to the present. NRMC and ATSU have a long, shared history; our new ‘exhibit’—scheduled to open in April—will remind people of our common heritage, as well of the physical evolution of the Kirksville landscape.

Exhibits

When it comes to exhibits, 2004 will be an important year. We have a few smaller changes in store, as well as the plans to add two new, large exhibits. First, every spring brings us back into the Historic Medicinal Plant Garden. We’ll be adding several new varieties this year, as well as some more practical items, such as trash cans and informational brochures; it’s a great place to have lunch on a sunny day.

Inside the museum, we’ll be enhancing the entryway and adding a small, yet informative ‘Introduction to Osteopathy’ area. This small area beyond the front desk will both visually and physically separate the gallery from the office areas, while providing the visitor with a little background on osteopathy. In many respects, it will simply be the completion of the revamped front desk area started last summer.

What about the two new exhibits for the upcoming year? Well… one hint: the human body. Second hint: this first exhibit, scheduled to open for Founder’s Day, will be our best and most talked about exhibit in years. Third hint: we’ll be tracing the origins and early development of osteopathy’s theoretical approach to anatomy. For more information, you’ll have to either stop in and check out its development or simply wait for our next newsletter.

The big push this winter and early spring does not actually involve exhibit development. Instead, we’ll be focusing our energies on creating a new artifact storage area at the Annex Building, re-organizing artifact storage at the National Center for Osteopathic History (NCOH), and creating a new exhibit production workshop. Sound like a lot of work? Well, yes it will be. With the ever-increasing number of donations coming into the museum, storage space is at a premium. Currently we

continued on page 5
Penny Rott and Jason Haxton have been busy pursuing a grant proposal to expand the museum’s education programs impact. This past fall and winter both the education coordinator and the museum director spent numerous hours evaluating an unsuccessful grant proposal that was submitted last year. After reviewing evaluations, Rott and Haxton decided to pursue the Museums for America grant offered by the Institute for Museums and Library Science. If funded, the Still National Osteopathic Museum intends to support science education, from grades kindergarten through eighth in school districts throughout 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/technology specialist and a science consultant, 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 by early fall.

In addition to writing this grant, the education coordinator focused on building relationships with educators in the area. Earlier this past fall, the Still National Osteopathic Museum sponsored a coloring contest in conjunction with the Missouri Historical Society’s Archives week. Entries highlighting U.S. and Missouri history were received from area third through fifth graders. Three judged winners in each grade were recognized at a special reception. By sponsoring this coloring contest, the education coordinator hopes to build relationships with area students and elementary teachers and also encourage students to think about the importance of history in their lives.

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!
ALWAYS ON THE MOVE

As has been mentioned many times before, for several years now the Museum has been fortunate to grow at a steady rate—both in artifact quality and quantity. And although we take careful consideration in acquiring artifacts that meet our collection guidelines, collection storage space is always finite. Finding a place for all of our artifacts can sometimes present unique challenges—for anything from small photographs to room-sized radiology equipment.

The Museum has two main collections storage areas, one in the National Center for Osteopathic History (NCOH) and the other at an off-site location. The off-site location was originally developed in 1998 for over-sized and other artifacts that were not commonly utilized. Since that time, the storage space in the NCOH has reached capacity. In order to alleviate the need for more collection storage and processing space in the NCOH, we have decided to move and increase the size of the off-site collection storage area. Certain selected artifacts currently housed in the NCOH will be transferred to the new location.

WISH LIST

Workshop equipment:

Since 1999, the Museum has operated a small exhibit-production workshop stocked with several basic pieces of woodworking equipment. However, we lost all but two pieces in October, 2003 due to the fact that they were on indefinite loan from an area citizen who has since left the area. We hope to replace these pieces of equipment over the next twelve months to get the shop in operating order once again.

Table-mounted sander & table $150
Table saw roller-support stand 35
Drill Press 180
Scroll Saw 150
Reciprocating saw 100
Band saw 140
Table-mounted Planer & knife kit 325
Jointer unit and knife kit 425

Gallery Lighting ($6000) Good lighting is important both for the comfort of our visitors and the well-being of our artifacts (which can deteriorate when expose to harmful types and levels of light.)

Vacuum for Museum Main Gallery ($250) For the safety of the artifacts, all cleaning in our exhibit areas is done by Museum staff and volunteers. The vacuum currently being used for this task is a hand-me-down at least 16 years old.

If you would like to make a contribution or donate any item(s) from our wish list, please contact the museum.

Unfinished storage space prior to remodeling (no lighting, heat, A/C, etc.)

Brian Grubbs, office manager, hanging ceiling grid in the new collections storage area. In order to save substantial costs, the Museum utilized its own internal labor to complete practically all construction on the project.

It took Brian and Rob (the museum’s exhibit preparator) approximately five weeks to go from initial design to artifact installation.
**HISTORY NOTE**

**An Old Offender**

“Something unusually drastic and effective will have to be done to the osteopaths if they continue to cure people after the regular physicians have given them up. For the first offense they could be a moderate fine; if the offense is repeated, the fine could be doubled and a term of imprisonment added. The licenses could also be taken away and the wicked and reprehensible osteopath would thus not be permitted to practise [sic] any more; for it is quite obvious that if osteopaths continue to cure people, the regular medical profession, which now controls the laws and the liberties of the majority, might eventually have to go out of business. This at present, however, is not seriously contemplated by the regular medical profession.

Here, for example, is the case of young A.P. of Havana, Ill about which something certainly ought to be done. Some time ago A.P. was injured during play so that his head was twisted in such a manner that his neck became dislocated. In a few days the boy became unable to walk or care for himself. His father, “having visited all the regular physicians in his part of the country, had also taken him to Peoria. A surgeon in one of the hospitals at the place, he states, told him that the case was practically hopeless.” Many other surgeons pronounced the boy a cripple for life. Many X-ray pictures were taken. No regular doctor, however, gave any hope.

Unfortunately for the regular medical profession, Dr. George M. Laughlin, a wicked osteopathy [sic], got his hands on young A.P. and cured him almost immediately. After manipulating the muscles of his neck for several days the head was replaced in proper position. The boy is now able to walk as well as ever. He has been cured when he was pronounced incurable by the “Regulars.”

Ought not this to be stopped? Shall osteopaths be allowed to cure after being denounced by the Old School?”

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**RECENT ACQUISITIONS TO THE MUSEUMS COLLECTION**

The Museum and History Center received hundreds of donations every year from alumni and families of alumni. Below are just a few of the many donations received over the last year:

- Definition of “Osteopathy is….” - Written by Dr. A.T. Still
- 19th Century X-ray Equipment
- Papers, slides and videos of Dr. Irvin Korr
- Books and images from the British School of Osteopathy
- Personal items of Dr. Frank Gasperich
- Photos and documents regarding the history of Grim Smith Hospital
- Personal items and image of Dr. George Still and family
- Quilt made for Dr. Max Gutensohn from the SAA

Again, if you would like to make a donation, please contact our curator at 660.626.2359 or museum@atsu.edu

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**AT THE HISTORY CENTER**

**Computerization and Digital Images**

The Museum and History Center have just recently applied for a $4800.00 Missouri Historical Records Grant from the State of Missouri to help with the computerization and digitalization of our collection.

With more people using the Internet and other high-speed equipment, the History Center is always working to keep up with the requests of our researchers. If we are awarded this grant we will be working to complete a full inventory of the over 25,000 artifacts, documents and images in the collection and placing that information into a museum software program called Past Perfect.

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**GRANT APPLICATIONS APPLIED FOR:**

- Institute for Museums and Library Services - Museums for America Grant,$204,357
- Northeast Missouri Osteopathic Charitable Trust,$9813
  “Preservation of Still-Hildreth Records and Other Historic Material at Still National Osteopathic Museum ”
- KOAA/KCOM Education Program Fund,$2700 “Technical Support for National Center for Osteopathic History (NCOH) Researchers”
- Missouri State Historical Grant,$4800 “Inventory and Computerization of Still National Osteopathic Museum Artifacts”

**Still National Osteopathic Museum 7 Spring 2004**
MUSEUM CURATOR’S TRIP TO SMITHSONIAN WORKSHOP:

In October 2003, I was one of 25 museum professionals chosen to attend a workshop in Washington, D.C., given by the Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies. Over the weeklong workshop everything from fiduciary responsibilities, museum polices and profiling museums were discussed. It was a week filled with a lot of information, meeting new people and making friends. We were taken to visit the new National Museum of the American Indian opening in Sept. 2004 and behind the scenes of many of the other museums on the Washington Mall.

The staff at the Smithsonian was wonderful . . . they were filled with all sorts of helpful information regarding such things as preservation, storage and legal issues in the museum field, behind the scene stories of the different collections and a wonderful source of tourist information. Several of us spent evenings touring the city and trying out new restaurants.

All in all the information learned from this workshop will help our Museum with several projects that have been discussed over the years. I hope to take what I have learned and the connections I have made to help us expand our outreach into the Osteopathic and non-Osteopathic world. Already several ideas are being put into place; such as a full inventory of the collection and placing that information into a museum based computer program to better serve our researchers; student internships for students majoring in Museum studies, better storage and updating the Museums policies and procedures.

Working with this country’s authorities in museum studies and visiting our nation’s capitol was an experience I will never forget.

SALUTE TO VOLUNTEERS AND WORK STUDY STUDENTS

Each year the museum looks for ways to honor their volunteers and work-study for their faithful service. Although December 10 was a snowy day, the museum was able to treat our four volunteers and six work-study students to some home cooking. There have been many projects over the years carried out by volunteers. One of the more recent projects was comparing subsequent editions of A.T. Still’s autobiographies. We appreciate our volunteers and work-study students from both KCOM and Truman State University, as many of the projects could not be completed without them. When you visit in the museum, say thank-you to one of the volunteers and work-study who do many behind the scenes projects to help museum operations run smoothly. Thanks to Jean Kenney, Helen McCabe, Kathryn Thomas, Doris Cundiff from RSVP, Julie Adams, Duncan Chandler, Shawn Gonda, and Ross Newman, KCOM; and Justin Perkins and Amanda Wolf from Truman.

Thank you!
The Museum is always planning for the future. In order to expand our exhibits and collection space, we depend on support from our members to allow us to fulfill our mission statement.

We at the museum would like to thank our current members for their continued support throughout the many years. We invite supporters both new and old to continue your membership to the museum. If you would like to become a member, or renew your membership, please fill out the membership card on the back of this newsletter and return it to us. Other benefits of being a museum member include a biannual newsletter, a 10% discount at our gift shop (see our catalog at www.atsu.edu/museum), and updates on new exhibits and public programs.

The museum has three different funds in which you can make a contribution. Each fund is extremely important to the success of the museum. The **Exhibit Fund** allows the museum to update and create new exhibits and to expand our gallery to display our collection. The **Education Fund** allows us to inform the public about osteopathy and its principles in new and exciting ways. It provides the money for the many different programs that we offer to our patrons and local community throughout the year. The **Collection Fund** provides the museum with the ability to preserve artifacts. With the collection fund, preserved documents, images and artifacts are housed in a safe environment for years to come. If you would like to make a contribution to one of these funds please indicate it on the membership form on the back of the newsletter.

Another way to provide continued support for the Museum is through a planned gift. For more information on planned gifts please contact the development office at (800) 626-5266, extension 2180, or levans@atsu.edu.

The museum thanks you for your support. Without our members we would be unable to preserve and educate others in the principles and history of Osteopathy.

**STAFF ADDITIONS:**

**Brian Grubbs** joined the museum staff as Office Manager in the fall of 2003. Brian is from Jefferson City and is a full time student at Truman State University pursuing a degree in history with plans to work in the museum field. After spending time during the 2002-03 school year as a volunteer at the museum and history center, he was asked to join the museum staff part-time as our office manager. As office manager he is responsible for processing membership information, handling gift shop orders and installing our rotating exhibit windows. These rotating exhibits are changed twice a year and include some of the small items not normally displayed for visitors. In creating the exhibit windows he is given the chance to work with the museum's collection and receive hands on training from the museum staff.

Last August **Penny Rott** joined the museum staff as the Education Coordinator. Penny moved from Worthington, MN to Kirksville, MO, as her husband, Chris is a first-year student at KCOM. She earned a B.A. in History and an endorsement in secondary education from Northwestern College of Orange City, Iowa. During college she was involved in many activities including a summer mission trip to Malawi, Africa where she taught physical geography at an all-girls secondary school. This experience has prepared her for this job as the museum reaches a diverse population. In the past few months she has enjoyed sharing the history of osteopathic medicine to the many visitors who come to the museum. She looks forward to developing the museum's teaching curriculum and hopes to educate more students in the Kirksville area through the school discovery and museum programs.
MEMBER REGISTRATION
I would like to make a donation to the following Fund(s)
$_________________________ Collections
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$_________________________ Exhibition
If you are a D.O., please give us your school and graduation year.
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__________________________________________________________________
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Would you want to receive the Museum newsletter by email? □ Yes □ No
Payment by □ Check # _______ or □ MC □ V □ AE □ Discover
Acct. # ___________________________ Exp. Date ___________________________
Signature ____________________________________________________________________________

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.

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Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine
800 West Jefferson Street
Kirksville, MO 63501-1497

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.

(660) 626-2359
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MUSEUM STAFF
Director .........................Jason Haxton
Curator ..............Debra Loguda-Summers
Exhibits Preparator ...........Rob Clement
Education Coordinator ......Penny Rott
Office Manager .................Brian Grubbs