In this issue, we introduce the adult children of Andrew Taylor Still, M.D., D.O. (hereafter referred to as “A.T.”). Many readers know that most, but not all, of them were osteopathic physicians. However, the other sides of these multi-faceted individuals are less well known.

Marusha Hale Still Cowgill (1849–1924)

Marusha was the eldest child of A.T. and his first wife, Mary Margaret Vaughn – the only one of their five children to survive to adulthood. She was away visiting relatives at the time of the 1864 epidemic that killed her younger siblings.10 This daughter of A.T.’s was said to be a lot like her father: unconventional, enterprising, and stubborn in the face of adversity.

Marusha was a student at Baker University in Baldwin, Kansas, when she met John Cowgill, whose family had moved to the area following the Civil War. John’s father had been a wealthy doctor in Indiana; the family was now homesteading and raising cattle. John and Marusha were married in 1870 and had 12 children, four of whom died in infancy. Sons Henry and Ralph became osteopathic physicians, graduating from the American School of Osteopathy (ASO) in 1904 and 1906, respectively.

At some point, Marusha and her husband acquired a homestead of their own. According to their youngest son, Alfred, “No one could have been less qualified for pioneer life than my parents. They were both university students who knew nothing about hardships.” Still, they persevered, even through a severe downturn in the cattle market that destroyed the family fortunes and caused the rest of the Cowgill family to abandon the cattle business.4

Marusha apparently had little connection with her father after he and his new family moved back to Missouri in 1875. Mentioning him only occasionally to her own children, she once remarked that although her father owned a horse and buggy, he nearly always had to track them down when the family needed them, since he “loaned to any and all.”
Unfortunately, she never discussed her mother, who died when she was 11 and about whom very little is known.4 Marusha visited Kirksville at least twice: in 1895 and again in about 1916, probably to visit A.T. in his final illness. She died in 1924 at the age of 75; the farm she and John established remained in the family until at least 1980.


Charles was the eldest surviving son of A.T. and his second wife, Mary Elvira Turner. A brother, Dudley, and sister, Marcia Ione, died as infants prior to his birth. As a young man, “Charley” joined the army and dreamed of playing professional baseball. He was reportedly the first pitcher in Missouri to throw a curve ball, but a shoulder injury ended his ball playing aspirations.10 With his father needing help with his expanding osteopathic practice, Charles also gave up his military career. In 1891, he went home to Kirksville and, on June 30, 1892, married his longtime sweetheart, Anna Rider.

According to a September 1913 story in the Macon (Missouri) Daily Chronicle (which also reported at length on his athletic abilities), Charles had met Anna at one of his baseball games, where she was “strong for” the opposing team.11

Charles is listed as a member of the first class of the American School of Osteopathy, but that was in many ways a formality. He had already spent many years accompanying A.T. from town to town before the Stills settled in Kirksville, and was well acquainted with his father’s methods. In 1893, he established an independent osteopathic practice in Red Wing, Minnesota; soon, however, his father once again called him back to Kirksville.

Charles was involved in a number of political and business affairs throughout his life. He was twice elected mayor of Kirksville (1913–1915), was a member of the local board of education, and served for 14 years as representative to the General Assembly of Missouri (1930–46).7, 11 He owned or co-owned osteopathic sanitariums in southern Missouri and northern Arkansas.11 In 1914, together with his brother Harry and their friend Arthur Hildreth, D.O., he bought the Blees Military Academy in Macon and renovated it as the world’s first psychiatric facility run according to osteopathic principles.

Charles was an avid livestock breeder and co-owner of Kinloch Farm, one of the largest farms in the area, famous for its Jersey cattle. His cattle won a number of prizes at the St. Louis World’s Fair in 1904; several years later, he sold most of the herd and some of the land to obtain funds for the large new house he was building on Osteopathy Street (now owned by the Atlas fraternity). He retained his interest in prize livestock, however, and later began raising Duroc hogs.10, 13

The attention Charles paid to his livestock may have cost him the presidency of the ASO. In January 1918, soon after A.T.’s death, the school’s board of directors informed Charles (who had been heading the school since his father’s first stroke in 1914) that he was no longer considered a member of the board. They felt that Charles focused too much on “farming” and other business and not enough on making money for the stockholders of the ASO (which included all the members of the board). The office was offered to George Laughlin, D.O., who refused to accept out of loyalty to Charles, or perhaps in the interest of family harmony (he was married to Charles’s sister Blanche). Instead, George Still, M.D., D.O. — one of A.T. Stills grandnephews — became acting president; he assumed the actual presidency in February 1919.8 14

Charles moved his family to New Mexico in 1918 to escape the ASO turmoil and to treat his daughter Gladys’ tuberculosis; then to California following her death in 1919; and finally back to Missouri in 1923. In the ensuing years, Charles continued to pursue his
political and livestock interests, and also served on the faculty and board of the (reorganized) Kirksville osteopathic school. In 1946, following Anna’s death, he donated their house to be used as a convalescent home in his wife’s memory. He continued living in the house until his death at the age of 90.7

**Harry Mix Still, D.O. (1867–1942)**

Like all the Still sons, Harry (twin of Herman) was trained by their father to assist with the growing patient load on A.T.’s circuit throughout northeast Missouri in the 1880s.12 Like the others, he is considered a member of the first ASO class and was also a stockholder and a member of the original board of trustees (which also included Blanche).14

Harry played a key role in the establishment and growth of the American School of Osteopathy. Though medical practice did not agree with him,5, 12 he opened osteopathic offices in Missouri and other states (Minnesota, Illinois, and New York). Periodically, though, he responded to calls for help from his father and Charles and returned home to serve as a faculty member and officer of the ASO, helping to place that institution — the family business — on sound financial footing.5

In 1911, Harry returned to Missouri for good and dedicated himself to various business enterprises. He became very talented in land speculation, at least partly in response to the growing number of rural students who were paying their ASO tuition with land deeds.24 For 35 years, he was president of the Citizens Bank of Kirksville;12 as noted above, he was part owner, and also secretary/treasurer, of the Still-Hildreth Osteopathic Sanatorium. He helped finance the construction of the Travelers Hotel, built to accommodate the American Osteopathic Association convention held in Kirksville in 1924. Finally, he continued to serve as business advisor to the ASO and its successor institution, the Kirksville College of Osteopathy and Surgery. Harry had been among those who provided the financial backing for brother-in-law George Laughlin to first open a rival school and then merge that school with the ASO, which more or less ended the power struggle that had erupted when A.T. died.14

Besides his financial genius, contemporaries remarked on Harry’s “sterling” and “lovable” character, “retiring manner,” and “innate mental ability.” He also seems to have had a sense of humor. Carl McConnell, D.O., recalled that Harry once tried to con him — an ASO student at the time — into splitting wood at Harry’s home as a way of sensitizing his fingers for diagnosing lesions.5

**Herman Taylor Still, D.O. (1867–1941)**

While Harry was often described as a homebody,10 Herman loved to travel. He joined the army at the same time as Charles (1887), attracted by the excitement of a military lifestyle, but returned home at his father’s request upon completing his initial enlistment.10 He did not remain long in Kirksville, however. After graduating with the first osteopathic class in 1894, Herman moved about the country, paving the way for osteopathy by establishing offices in Kansas, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Texas, and New York, which he then sold to other D.O.s once the practice was established — or perhaps when he once again felt the urge to move.14 He eventually settled in Texas but returned to Kirksville about 1926 and lived with Charles for the last 15 years of his life.11

Still biographer Carol Trowbridge has noted that Herman “managed to live quite well without ever working steadily”;13 ASO business correspondence in the Museum collections suggests that Herman periodically requested (and at least occasionally received) money from his twin.12, 2b,c He also seems to have been fairly freewheeling in his personal relationships. He was married three times (Bessie Updyke, 1893; Mabel Jones, date unknown, but prior to 1908; Lottie Garrison, 1918), with two divorces at a time when even one was unusual.
In spite of — or perhaps because of — his nonconformity, “Herm” seems to have managed to keep a place in his brothers’ affections, as evidenced by a teasing letter he received in February 1900 from Charles. It appears that Herman had sent a sample of his new office stationery, featuring an image of himself. In his reply, Charley advised, “For the land sake take your ‘mug’ off your writing paper. That is enough to keep anyone from coming to see you.”

A quotation published in Booth’s History of Osteopathy, in which Herman repeatedly refers to “dear old daddy,” hints at the high spirits and irreverence of this middle Still son.

Fred Still, D.O. (1874–1894)

For more than a century, the Stills’ youngest son has been remembered mostly for his early, tragic death in 1894. His short life may not have affected the profession, but it understandably affected his father in more ways than one.

Fred’s reportedly serious nature can perhaps be attributed to a life spent amid the family’s struggles to support A.T.’s pursuit. He was born in Baldwin, Kansas, in 1874, a few months before his father “flung to the breeze the banner of Osteopathy.” When A.T. was more or less forced out of town and went to Missouri to seek a more welcoming place for his ideas, he temporarily left behind Mary Elvira and their four sons — including the infant Fred. (Marusha was married and on her own by then.) The family was reunited in Kirksville, Missouri, the following year.

Fred’s ambition was to carry A.T.’s medical philosophy to “higher planes and more complete development.” Those hopes ended in the summer of 1893 when he was severely injured, crushed against a wall by a horse. He lived for several months after the accident, spending some of this time recuperating in California with his sister and an uncle (probably A.T.’s brother Thomas). His injuries, however, proved mortal. Fred died in June 1894, not long after returning to Kirksville; his death coincided with the first ASO commencement and with the groundbreaking for the ASO Infirmary. The school’s promising start and the spread of the new osteopathic profession were bittersweet achievements without Fred, who had witnessed the Still family’s emergence from their struggles, but would not enjoy the fruits of their labor.

In tribute to Fred, A.T. named the new building’s main lecture room “Memorial Hall.” The anguished father also published a poem in the August 1894 issue of the Journal of Osteopathy, lamenting, “We have lost our best. ... He is dead, dead!” Fred was the first family member to be buried in the Forrest-Llewelyn Cemetery in Kirksville; his grave lies next to those of his parents.

Martha Helen Blanche Still Laughlin, D.O. (1876–1959)

Blanche was the youngest of A.T. and Mary Elvira’s children, born less than a year after the family moved to Kirksville. In spite of the family’s financial difficulties in her early years, as a teenager she was apparently a fun-loving practical joker. That inclination did not prevent her enrolling in the ASO at the age of 16, along with her brothers. She graduated in 1895, her studies having been interrupted by the need to care for Fred. Although she never went into practice, she lived a life enveloped by the osteopathic profession. In the mid-1890s, she worked as an administrative assistant at the ASO Infirmary, served as the editor of the Journal of Osteopathy, and authored a column directed toward the large number of female osteopaths. She also assisted her mother in managing A.T.’s personal affairs.
After her marriage to George M. Laughlin (ASO 1900) in April 1900, Blanche largely devoted herself to domestic roles. The young couple moved in with her aging parents, at least in part so that she could help take care of them. She and George continued to live in the Still mansion even after the deaths of Mary Elvira in 1910 and A.T. in 1917, but finally built a home of their own across town in 1937. Blanche was kept busy by her two children, membership in numerous community organizations, and the extensive social obligations of a prominent family. As George's responsibilities increased — he served as ASO dean several times, became president of the college in 1924 (after founding and then merging a rival school) and operated a private surgical hospital — Blanche also fulfilled the role of hostess to innumerable guests to the hometown of osteopathy, earning her the informal title of “First Lady of Osteopathy.” After George's death in 1948, however, Blanche largely retreated from social life.12

Starting in the mid-1930s, Blanche initiated an effort to preserve the artifacts of her father and the early osteopathic profession. Working in conjunction with the Psi Sigma Alpha fraternity, Blanche donated some of A.T.’s personal items for a display in the main lobby of the administration building. The Still National Osteopathic Museum traces its roots to the contents of these two wooden display cases.14

*** Blanche’s marriage to Laughlin, described by the Kirksville Journal as “one of the finest and most promising young men in our city” signals the Still family's improved fortunes. In contrast, when Charles courted Anna about ten years previously, her father objected because of the Stills' poverty and lower social standing.8,10

** Sources**

2 ASO correspondence ledger, 1900 Feb–Aug, pp. 175, 768, 784, 817. SNOM [2006.76.01]
8 Kirksville Journal, 1900 Apr 12.
11 Still National Osteopathic Museum (SNOM) Research Collections. See especially: Biographical Files; Still Family Tree; Early Records of the ASO.

Blanche with father and Asa Willard, D.O., 1908?
EXHIBIT NEWS

Staying Busy during the Winter …

Following the successful opening of the Museum’s large new anatomy exhibit (*Now & Then*, Fall 2006), Exhibits Preparator Rob Clement started right in on new projects. In recent months, he has overseen the completion of several smaller exhibits, including the addition of artifacts to the Grayson-Smith Period Room and the latest installment of the alphabetical window exhibit (“Brought to You by the Letters G & H: Selections from the Collection”).

The most notable exhibit work has been a full re-interpretation of both the First School (ASO) and the Still Family Cabin. These buildings have been under the care of the Museum since its creation, and were moved to their present location in Heritage Hall in 1993. In 1999, they underwent extensive renovation, with artifacts, interpretive panels, and audio excerpts added to the original props.* It seemed time to step back and reevaluate the presentation of these important historic structures.

Starting with the ASO building, Rob conducted additional research, then rewrote and greatly expanded the interpretation. He also sought out more props and artifacts, such as framed reproductions of anatomical illustrations from late 19th-century books, to enhance the interior.

The Still Cabin update, presently in its last phases of completion, also involves expanded interpretation and the installation of several new props. Here, however, the new material focuses not on A.T. Still, but rather on his parents — in particular on his father and how the family coped with Abram Still’s regular absences as a Methodist circuit-riding preacher. In addition, asking the question “Why save the cabin?” provides an educational opportunity: to explain how and why artifacts are vital teaching tools, invaluable supplements to written sources, and touchstones to our shared past.

... and the Spring

It is once again the time of year to get back to work in the Historic Medicinal Plant Garden. This year, we plan to make two major landscape improvements — one to the fishpond, the second to the walkways. The pond will receive a smaller, upper-level basin and a series of upgraded filters to combat our recurring algae problem. A new brick pathway through the southwest section of the garden will provide up-close access to the variety of plant life.

In addition to the Museum’s normal exhibit production, we recently designed and fabricated three stations for ATSU’s two-thousand-square-foot traveling exhibit, *Your Healer Within*. These stations, which relate information about the human vascular, skeletal, and muscular systems, are part of an 18-month process to upgrade the exhibit in preparation for a new five-year travel rotation. *Your Healer Within* is scheduled to reopen in Mesa, Arizona, in June.

Speaking of Fabrication

Creating all these exhibits requires a complete workshop with elbow room and a variety of tools. The Museum has been working toward this goal since KCOM allocated our first workshop space in 1998. We have gradually enlarged the space and accumulated most of the hand tools we need, as well as some of the larger equipment. However, we still lack four major pieces: router table, planer, jointer, and air compressor. If you would like to help meet this need, contact the director or the exhibits preparator.

*Artifacts* are objects of historical significance related to or taken from the Museum’s collections; *props* are antiques or reproductions that support the interpretation but are not in themselves part of the Museum holdings. For reasons of security, the only artifacts in the Cabin and First School are large items such as the bookcase.
PROMOTIONAL OFFER ON HISTORIC OMM BOOK

The Illustrated Practice of Osteopathy – 1908

Features 69 never-before-published photographs of osteopathic manipulative treatments apparently given under the supervision of Dr. A.T. Still, who appears in one of the pictures. (Dr. Still filed a copyright in 1899 for Illustrated Practise [sic], a work he never published; the Museum believes these photographs may have been taken for that book.)

Complete with prefaces in four languages, this unique volume is being offered for a limited time at a promotional price of $24.

Go to the Museum website at www.atsu.edu/museum to take advantage of this special offer.
**FUNDING NEWS**

**Grants Applied For:**

**National Endowment for the Humanities:** American Osteopathic Medical Heritage and Preservation Grant, for Educational Training and Phase 1 of the Mid-Century Research Materials Processing Project, $5,000

**Northeast Missouri Osteopathic Charitable Trust:**
- Security System and Digital Equipment for Museum and Research Center, $1,953
- Advocates for the AOA Special Projects Fund: Digital scanning of the Journal of Osteopathy, $4,000*
- Academie d’ostéopathie de France: Digital scanning of the Journal of Osteopathy (1894–1900), $3,000*
- Advocates for the AOA Special Projects Fund: Security System and Digital Equipment for Museum and Research Center, $1,953
- Northeast Missouri Osteopathic Charitable Trust: Digital scanning and optical character recognition (OCR) conversion of the Journal of Osteopathy, $7,500
- Robert Brownlee Fund: Digital scanning of the pictorial collection, $1,000

**Grants Awarded:**

- Academie d’ostéopathie de France: Digital scanning of the Journal of Osteopathy (1894–1900), $3,000*
- Advocates for the AOA Special Projects Fund: Preservation of records from the William L. Johnston Collection, $300

* See related article about this project.

**WEB UPDATES**

Learn more about the rich legacy of osteopathic medicine and Dr. Andrew Taylor Still by visiting the Museum website at: http://www.atsu.edu/museum. The information is always being updated, so check back often! Recent changes include the addition of a Research Center Image Collection section, where researchers and others can view and purchase over 190 images from our collection. Order and permission forms are also located on this site.

A number of research collection finding aids are now available in PDF format in the Collections section of the site. Just choose “Research Tools/Collections Listing,” click on the finding aid you want to view, and open the file. You can still purchase hard copies of any of the finding aids by contacting the Museum.

**NEW EDUCATION COORDINATOR**

In March, Jeri Hintz became the Museum's new Education Coordinator. Jeri holds a bachelor's degree in speech/communications and a master's degree in English, both from Fort Hays State University in Kansas. She has spent the past decade teaching English at the secondary level in western Kansas. Jeri moved to Kirksville in 2004 when her husband, Ernst, accepted a position teaching German at Truman State University. She and Ernst have four children: Jessica (23), Matthew (21), Kira (11), and Katya (8).

Jeri's excitement about joining the Museum team goes back to her initial impressions when she and her family toured the exhibits nearly a year ago. "I couldn't believe what a gem this is," she said of the Museum. "Turn-of-the-century history has been one of my interests since grad school, and I find the entire story of A.T. Still and the idea of osteopathic healthcare absolutely fascinating." Commenting on the "big shoes" she has to fill, she added, "My predecessor, Lisa Perkins, and the rest of the Museum staff have developed an amazing educational program, 'The Healer Within You.' They've done all the hard work; now it's my job to continue to provide area educators with the quality program the Museum has already established."

**BECOME A MEMBER!!!!**

Four exclamation points — that's how excited we are about the Museum's mission to “collect, preserve, and make available artifacts and related materials to communicate the history and philosophy of the osteopathic principles of body, mind, and spirit to a global audience.” We hope you share our enthusiasm and will show it by joining the Museum today. As a member, you will be rewarded with the realization that you have contributed to the Museum's unique role in the preservation and promotion of the osteopathic legacy. You will also receive this semiannual newsletter, gift shop catalog (with 10 percent discount), and other Museum mailings.

Membership, through a donation of $25 or more, is open to anyone interested in supporting the Museum's mission. You can join by completing the online membership form at the Museum's website or by calling the Museum toll-free at 866.626.2878, ext. 2359. Membership dues are tax-deductible.
TAKING THE MESSAGE TO FLORIDA

In keeping with the Museum’s mission to promote osteopathic history nationally, Curator Debra Loguda-Summers gave a presentation at the Anna Marie Island Historical Society in Florida during her recent vacation there. Director Sissy Quinn, wife of Thomas Quinn, D.O. (PCOM 1966), arranged for Debbie to speak to the AMIHS’s volunteer staff about the Still National Osteopathic Museum and to advise them on the care of AMIHS collections. Debbie also installed a small historical exhibit (created with help from Truman State University students Robyn Esmanah and Amanda Klaus) at LECOM-Bradenton, where it will continue to promote interest in osteopathic history and the Museum.

FRENCH ACADEMY SUPPORTS SCANNING OF EARLY JOURNALS

The National Center for Osteopathic History (NCOH) recently received a request for copies of all the early *Journals of Osteopathy* from Dr. Mark Baker on behalf of the Académie d’ostéopathie de France. This, of course, was a daunting request and would have been impossible to even consider without help from the Académie, which provided a seed grant of $3,000.

The first step of this project is for a scanning technician (Aaron Loguda) to scan the *Journal of Osteopathy* in its natural form for viewing. The Museum’s long-term goal is to also create optical character recognition (OCR), with web access for our researchers.

The *Journal of Osteopathy* was launched at the American School of Osteopathy in May 1894, with Nettie Bolles, D.O., as the editor. It was osteopathic medicine’s first professional journal, and did double duty as the founding school’s alumni magazine until publication ceased in 1971. The stated object of the journal was “the correct interpretation and constant advancement of the Science of Osteopathy” (*J. Ost.* 1894 May, p. 3). It is a treasure trove of information about osteopathic principles and practice over the years, as well as the experiences and viewpoints of individual physicians, including well-known early figures such as the Stills, the Littlejohns, Bolles, and C.P. McConnell.

The Académie’s grant, combined with $2,000 taken from the Museum’s Preservation Fund, will cover the scanning of the *Journal of Osteopathy* issues from 1894 to 1900, but additional funding will be needed to scan additional years. If you would like to donate to this project, please contact the director or curator.

ATTENTION, POTENTIAL DONORS!

In order to make the best use of our space and resources, avoid duplication, and prevent unnecessary expense to donors, it is essential for you to contact the Curator before you send artifacts or books to the Museum. We simply cannot accept every item for the collection, though we are very grateful for every offer.

For information about what the Museum collects, as well as the donation process, visit our website or contact the Museum for a brochure.
MEMBER REGISTRATION

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