



The Oslerian

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

“FROM NOVA SCOTIA’S EASTERN SHORE”

Dear Oslerians,

Tucson has been a spectacular success. The somewhat erratic wintery weather that we Easterners have survived made this destination even more enticing and the location and quality of the presentations, not to mention the social events surpassed expectations. Easterners were easy to spot, pale and raving about the gorgeous cacti! Our annual meetings take an enormous amount of planning, with local arrangements chairmen and their committees preparing for years in advance. We are all so very grateful to Denny Bastron and his committee, the many generous sponsors and particularly to Renee Ziemer who keeps us all on track without ever losing her grip or her sense of humor.

The sessions provided a forum for the history of medical discoveries, biographies and art and music in medicine. Student papers were particularly strong this year with, among others, presentations on child abuse, and on a “Russian Osler”. Professor Bert Hansen delivered The John P. McGovern Award Lecture-ship in which he explored Louis Pasteur’s little known life as a portrait painter and as a supporter of artists. At the banquet, Sandra Moss delivered an hilarious Presidential Address in which, supported by memorable visuals, she questioned whether we could improve upon the 19th century term “an ornament to his profession”, in order to grade today’s physician, offering as examples “Cool Doc,” or “Hot Doc”?

Now that summer is here, some of us will be able to relax a little and perhaps travel. Carman and I will be driving to Moser’s River, on the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia to the village and house in which he was born. The Eastern Shore is one of the least known coasts of Nova Scotia located on the Atlantic coast, between Cape Breton and Halifax. (Letters A - F on the map on the next page refer to Halifax and towns along the Eastern Shore of this province.) The land is rocky and generally poor. Europeans fished along the coast well before the early 16th century. And of course, they fought over it. The decline of the forestry industry and the inshore fishery is evident. Nova Scotia’s quilt work pattern of settlement is clear. Mi’kmaq people are still a presence on the shore as are Acadians, Foreign Protestants (French and German) recruited from the Palatinate, Loyalists including Black, German and Scots, many of them, refugees from the Carolinas. From the 18th century on, privateers and smugglers found convenient inlets for their activities, down to the prohibition era....and after.

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President Pam Miller,
44th AOS President
installed at the 2013
meeting in Tucson, AZ

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(PLEASE SEE TEXT FOR LOCATIONS ON MAP)



EASTERN SHORE NOVA SCOTIA TOWNS (KEY)

- A = HALIFAX
B = CANSO
C = COLE HARBOR
D = HAZEL HILL
E = OYSTER POND,
JEDDORE
F = SHERBROOKE
VILLAGE
G = LISCOMB

(Map is courtesy of
AAA, Devon, PA)

The town of Canso (B) is situated at the northeastern tip of the shore. At its southern extremity is Cole Harbor (C), home of Pittsburgh Penguins Captain, Sydney Crosby. Near Canso is the unusual town of Hazel Hill (D) which looks as if it had been airlifted from England in the 1880s. This is where the Commercial Cable Company established itself to manage the early cable communications from Europe to this continent. British cable workers that staffed the plant lived in favorable conditions that included running water, electricity, a month of holidays and free university education back home for those that qualified. Apart from Sydney Crosby, other famous natives of the Eastern Shore include Henry Marshall Tory, McGill Professor of Mathematics and a founder of the Universities of British Columbia, Alberta and of Carleton University and of the National Research Council Laboratories. Award winning poet and novelist Charles Bruce, whose work, *The Channel Shore* is a masterful depiction of life in a forestry and fishing community is another Eastern Shore native.

There are also points of medical interest, for example the Fisherman's Life Museum at Oyster Pond, Jeddore (E). The home of a fisherman, built in 1847 by James Myers (one of Carman's ancestors) is restored to depict the life of the second owner, who, with eight acres of doubtful land and a fishing dory, managed to provide a living for his family of 13 daughters. Three daughters became nurses, but one contracted tuberculosis and returned home to convalesce in a special wing built in 1930 by her father with large windows on three sides that allowed her to breathe the fresh, cold, sea air. This isolation room also protected the family and she recovered without spreading the infection.

Sherbrooke Village (F) provides another point of medical interest, situated midway along the coast, which between 1885 and 1903 is reputed to have produced more gold than the famous Yukon gold rush. (AOS member Ian Cameron and his wife Bev, have a gorgeous home across the river from the restored village.) Begun by the community to retain and restore houses typical of its more prosperous days, the historic village contains a beautifully restored and fully equipped doctor's office, with excellent collections of medical instruments and Osler's *A System of Medicine* prominently placed on the bookshelves. A few houses away, the pharmacy exhibits turn of the century pills and potions and a bottle of live leeches that fascinate the children. For me, however, the most interesting "point" of medical interest is provided by a renowned scholar, pictured at left, **Joyce Hemlow (1906-2001)**.



Joyce Hemlow was born in Liscomb (G), a short drive from where we spend the summer. She began teaching in a one-room school house at the age of 15, received her B.A. through summer courses at Dalhousie University in Halifax, obtained her M.A. at Queens' University and finally a doctorate from Radcliffe College. In 1948, she began to teach English at McGill University (President's message continued on Page 3 →)

(President's message continued)

where she became Greenshields Professor of English Literature.

Her doctoral thesis director suggested that she might work up something on Frances Burney (1752-1840), a famous novelist in her day, who published four novels wrote eight plays, and was a friend of Samuel Johnson. For five years Burney served as second keeper of the robes to Queen Charlotte, consort of George II, developing a lasting friendship for the royal family. Francis' niece Charlotte Barrett had published selections from Burney's diaries in a seven-volume edition entitled, *The Diary and Letters of Madame d' Arblay* (1842-6). In 1889 a two-volume *Early Diary of Frances Burney* was published by Annie Raine Ellis. Joyce's director advised her that her research would not be too laborious as there was a scarcity of new material. That was the beginning of Joyce's tireless hunt for additional archival material and the subsequent re-edition of her letters and diaries.

For ten years Joyce tracked down manuscript diaries, letters and family papers from several continents, often drastically edited by Burney family descendants. In 1958, she published *The History of Fanny Burney* with the Clarendon Press for which she won the Governor General's Prize for non-fiction and the James Tait Black Memorial Prize. In 1960 she founded the McGill Burney Papers Project dedicated to the complete scholarly edition of Burney's letters and diaries. The Burney Centre is still a hub of activity and the web page lists the many offshoots of Joyce's original project: 17 published volumes of diaries and letters, with more to come; on-line access to Burney publications; and an archival centre and a research fellowship.



**PICTURED
AT LEFT**

**FANNY
BURNEY
(1752-1840)**

(Please
continue
on to next
column →)

From the point of view of medical history, Joyce Hemlow, in *The Journals and Letters of Fanny Burney*, Vol.VI, 1975, was the first to publish probably the most famous description by a patient of preanesthetic surgery in western literature, the mastectomy of Frances Burney, [Madame d'Arblay] in September, 1811, reluctantly performed by the Baron Dominique-Jean Larrey, surgeon-in-chief of Napoleon's Grand Armee. In 1978, A.R. Moore published an article in *Surgery*, 1978, Feb., 83 (2) 200-5, entitled, "Preanesthetic mastectomy: A patient's experience," reproducing many of the details, relating it to the subsequent developments of the operation and to the value of literature in medicine in helping to understand the patient experience. In addition, the famous letter is now published in the *Norton Anthology of English Literature*.

Fanny, her Royalist husband, the Count Alexandre d'Arblay and their son were interned in Paris following the outbreak of war between France and England in 1802. Since it was difficult to maintain correspondence outside the country, Fanny avoided telling her family about her operation for cancer of the breast, a condition which had begun to manifest itself in 1810, when she was 58. Learning that news of the illness and operation might have accidentally leaked out, Fanny began her famous letter. She leaves nothing to the imagination. Her powers of observation and description capture every step of the procedure. Dr. Larrey, a much decorated surgeon who had previously performed the operation successfully on an unidentified Polish lady and had served the French army heroically in countless battles, was loath to take on the case. He considered requesting a reassignment to the south of France. A sense of patriotism, however, crept into the consultations preceding the operation. So distinguished a literary figure merited the best of French surgery and Dr. Larrey at last consented to operate. As preparations were made, Fanny noted with increasing apprehension the arrival of quantities of surgical dressings and bandages to deal with the loss of blood, and she arranged for her son and husband to be absent. She described in excruciating detail the progress of the twenty minute ordeal. During the operation, her surgeons urged her to cry out to release her anguish. Despite her overwhelming pain and spells of fainting, Fanny remained concerned for Dr. Larrey and the six surgeons who accompanied him. Occasionally she lifted the cloth covering her face, for she described the blood stained faces and desolate expressions of her doctors. Once the operation was over, in order to ease her

(Please continue next page→)

(President's message continued from Page 3)

convalescence, the police gave permission for straw to be laid on the street outside her home to dull the sound of passing carriages. The operation was a success; Fanny Burney lived until the age of 87.

Unfortunately, the disease is still with us, but this hair-raising description of a mastectomy demonstrates the progress that has been made over the last 200 years in alleviating the suffering to patient, family and surgeon alike. Joyce Hemlow loved the sea and islands and took us on many adventures, often in boats that had seen better days. She delighted in remote, sandy beaches. Captain Kidd's rock was one of her favorites. With secret symbols carved into its surface, it faces Hemlow Island where one of Kidd's purported treasures is said to be buried.

(Please continue in next column →)

Her humor was infectious, her intellect sharp, and her eye for local characters and stories was typical of her time and place. A school teacher at heart, she loved children and made what our younger son maintains was the best fish chowder ever. The lasting testimony to her is, without question, her work which established Frances Burney as part of the canon of English literature, recently recognized by the dedication of a memorial window in Fanny Burney's honor in the Poets' Corner of Westminster Abbey.

Happy Summer!

Pam

pamela.miller@mcmcgill.ca

PLEASE WELCOME THREE NEW OSLERIANS!**Jeremy A. Green, MD PhD →**

BA;MA Anthropology; PhD History of Science: (All Harvard)

Publications: Multiple

Sponsors: Scott Podolsky and Jonathon Erlen

Present Position: Chair, History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins

e-mail: jgree115@jhmi.edu

**Dennis M. Kratz, PhD →**

BA Dartmouth; MA Harvard, Classics

PhD Medieval Latin

Publications: Multiple; Editor, *Translation Review*

Sponsors: Marvin Stone and John Carson

Present Position: Dean, Arts and Humanities, U.Tx Dallas

e-mail: dkratz@utdallas.edu

**Michael Trotter, MD FACS →**

BA U. of TN; MD Bowman Gray; GS Residency U. of AL

T/CVS Ochsner Clinic

Publications: Multiple

AOS Presentation: (2013 Tucson) "Halstedian Principles, Oslerian Traditions, Impairment, and Productivity: Was it Worth the Trouble?"

Sponsors: Robert Nesbit and Hector Ventura

Present Position: Practicing Surgeon, Greenville, MS

e-mail: mdatrotter@gmail.com



Highlights of the AOS Meeting Tucson, AZ April, 7-10, 2013



THOSE WHO ATTENDED AND ENJOYED THE AOS2013AZ MEETING IN TUCSON, AZ GIVE PRAISE AND THANKS to:

← **Denny Bastron, Local Arrangements Chair and to:**

Becky Nunn → Conference Manager at Loews Ventana Canyon



The meeting began with the Readings / Recitation session Sunday PM in which two poems, an essay from *The New Yorker* by Adul Gewande ("Big Med"), and an essay by Joe Lella (about Camus' *The Plague*) were discussed. At plenary sessions on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday AM 46 papers were presented, including a splendid, one hour illustrated essay about the artwork of Louis Pasteur by the J.P. McGovern Lecturer historian Bert Hansen. Oslerian Herbert Swick again organized a superb Art Exhibit (see two of the entries shown below by Drs. Sara Walker and Michael Cater).

↓ **Particular thanks to Mike Jones at the laptop keyboard, below**

and to Administrator Renee Ziemer at the Desk ↓

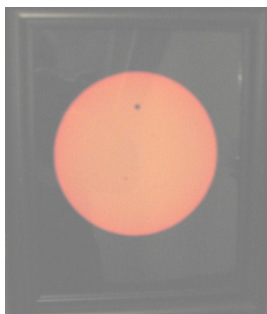
Center photo: Lifetime Achievement Award Winners Jeremiah Barondess and John Carson converse at lunch



TWO EXAMPLES FROM THE AOS ART EXHIBIT

← "The Transit of Venus" (A photograph taken as Venus crosses in front of the sun). It's among the rarest of the predictable celestial phenomena, captured by Oslerian Michael Cater on 6 June 2012.

"The Goddess of Greed Spits Out Human Kidneys Taken from the Poor and Sells Them to Be Transplanted into the Rich" → is the title of this work done by Oslerian Sara Walker, on paper with India ink and wash technique.





SOME SNAPSHOTS

from

**The AOS 2013 in TUCSON
(Clockwise from LLQ)**

**Milt and Alma Roxannas *
Bert Hansen, PhD, the 2013
McGovern Award Lecturer**

Laurel Drevlow

Bruce Fye

**Darryl and Helga Bindschadler
+**

Ken and Betsy Swan

Star Gazing on the Patio

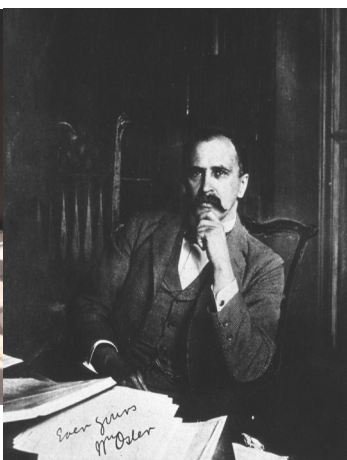
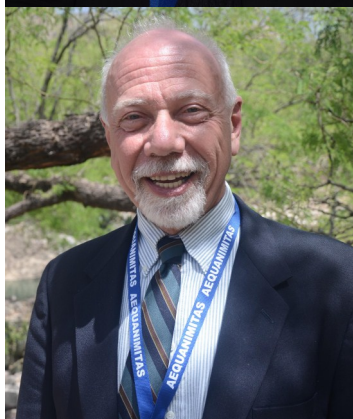
The Stone Team: Rob + Marvin

Garth and Nancy Huston

Two Happy Madam Presidents

Steve Peitzman + Nancy Pontone

Man Behind the Scene in Tucson

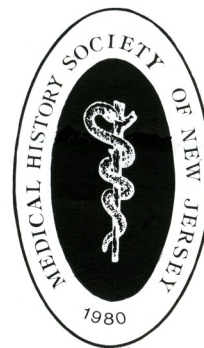


**** Milt and Alma made the long-
est journey to this AOS Meeting**



SEEN AND HEARD ABOUT TOWN

One nice thing about living in Philadelphia is the number of fine medical schools and libraries in the area, including the College of Physicians of Philadelphia (CPP), of which several Oslerians are members. It houses not only one of the finest medical and historical libraries in the country, but also the excellent Mütter (pathologic) Museum, similar to the Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons in London.



This past month your editor attended an excellent meeting of the Medical History Society of New Jersey (MHSNJ) which met at the Nassau Club in Princeton for an afternoon of papers and a delicious banquet. Four good papers were on the afternoon program, and the evening speaker was **Lawrence K. Altman, M.D.**, who gave a superb talk entitled "Adventures of a Medical Journalist." His presentation was entertaining and invigorating, supplemented by a handout of copies of columns he wrote during his 44 years with the *New York Times*. These included Legionnaire's Disease in Philadelphia (1976), the halting of Swine flu immunizations in the 1970s because of Guillain-Barre Syndrome (1976), and one of the earliest (1981) reports on Kaposi's sarcoma in AIDS patients. [One of his 2007 articles will resonate with **Oslerian David Cooper**, about the feud between titans of heart surgery, Michael DeBakey and Denton Cooley, a topic about which Cooper has written articles and books and also given papers before the AOS.]

I was pleased to mix and chat with several other Oslerians at the cocktail hour, including Sandra Moss, Ken Swan, Steve Peitzman and Allen Weisse.

WHAT THEY ARE WORKING ON NOW § - SOME CURRENT PROJECTS OF FELLOW OSLERIANs

Jack Alperin ** (Galveston, TX) 409-740-7129 jalperin@utmb.edu Jack's sleuthing out the family history of Bodo Otto, the man who first described hemophilia, and also the father of four physicians who served in the Revolutionary War.

Charles Ambrose (Lexington, KY) 859-277-3779 cambrose@uky.edu Charlie is working hard on making memorable the upcoming 500th Anniversary of Andreas Vesalius' birth. Several publications are in the works.

Jerry Barondess 212-822-7201 (New York City) jbarondess@nyam.org Jerry is formulating a comprehensive approach to chronic disease and the major causes of death for Americans at the New York Academy of Medicine (in conjunction with the Joseph L. Mailman School of Public Health @ Columbia).

Jo Ballard 717-566-5812 (Hershey, PA) jobhemedoc1@msn.com Jo provides leadership in the Department of Humanities at Hershey Medical School, working with first and second year medical students, with a special interest in end-of-life care. It's inter-professional team-based education of nursing and medical students, and uses medical drama to teach ethics and professionalism.

Charley Bryan (Columbia, SC) 803-782-3840 cboslerian@gmail.com Charley has nearly completed a book-length manuscript focusing on pellagra in the American South during the pre-Goldberger era (1907 to 1914). His other projects include virtue in medicine, medical biography, clinical infectious diseases, and hospital infection control.

** [**Jack Alperin** was recently honored for fifty years on the UTMB Faculty. For a nice video tribute, Please go to: <http://vimeo.com/utmbmediaservices/review/65936036/9cddf6a361>]

§ With this issue of the Oslerian we initiate a new column featuring the current endeavors of members of the Society. The editor will be making phone contacts alphabetically, sharing these notes with our members as space permits.

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Aequanimitas

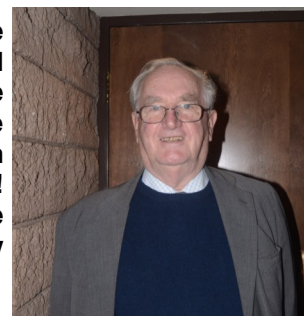
The AMERICAN OSLER SOCIETY exists to bring together members of the medical and allied professions, who by common inspiration are dedicated to memorialize and perpetuate the just and charitable life, the intellectual resourcefulness, and the ethical example of Sir William Osler, who lived from 1849 to 1919. Its OSLERIAN is published quarterly.

We're on the Web!
√ us out at:
www.americanosler.org

PLEASE BE THINKING OF AOS2014UK !



John Ward (shown on the left with his wife Ruth) and Terrance Ryan (right) are working diligently to make the meeting next year in Oxford 2014 the best ever! Consider some of the highlights on the list below as you plan your U.K. visit.



The Medieval Almshouses at Ewelme

This little village, a short ride from Oxford, is called "as perfect a village as the English genius for such things has ever created." It is quaint and remains unspoiled. Cushing (II:57) calls it "a wee, thatched village of some 400 people, through which runs a brook lined by a water-cress farm." Sir William was a Master of the Almshouse (domicile for pensioners) here.



**THE
MACDONALD
RANDOLPH
← HOTEL →
ELEGANTLY
DECORATED
IN THE
HEART OF
OXFORD**

**ALL ROOMS HAVE
FREE WI - FI**



(Above: An Oxford Botanical Garden) (The Tower ↑ at Bodley)

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Oslerians, please continue to send in items for the "Oslerians in the News" so that we can share in the joys and accomplishments of our members. Thanks!*