

# ANESTHESIA HISTORY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Number 3

June 1983

## ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

Activities are focused now on preparing for our first official meeting on Sunday evening, October 9, in Atlanta during the annual ASA meeting. The meeting will have three parts. In the business session, we will vote on the proposed By-Laws (which will be sent September 1 to those on the mailing list), elect officers and set dues. Dinner will follow. The final event will be the 1971 WLM lecturer, Professor James Harvey Young of Emory University's Department of History. He will review the career of Crawford W. Long, the reticient discoverer of modern anesthesia. His presentation will complement the tours of the Crawford W. Long Museum in Jefferson, GA, which the ASA's local arrangements committee will offer during the annual meeting.

Membership is still growing. Foreign colleagues continue to express interest in the organization. The newsletter is now sent to England, Denmark, Holland, West Germany, and Australia. The next newsletter, with copies of the proposed By-Laws, will be mailed September 1, five weeks before our meeting.

## FIRST HONORARY MEMBER

Thomas E. Keys has been nominated by the organizers of the AHA to be the group's first honorary member. Key's publication on the history of anesthesia, Foundations of Anesthesiology (1965, with Dr. Albert Faulconer Jr.), The Development of Anesthesia (1943) and The History of Surgical Anesthesia (1945, revised 1963) have been most important resources for those interested in the history of anesthesia. He will receive his honorary membership at the inaugural meeting of the AHA in Atlanta on Oct. 9.

Born in Mississippi in 1908, he graduated from Beloit College in 1931. He received a MA from the University of Chicago, and was on the staff of the Mayo Clinic Library. In 1942, he entered the Army and supervised the separation of the historical collection from the rest of the Army Medical Library (now National Library of Medicine) and its move to safer quarters in Cleveland. He returned to the Mayo Clinic as Librarian after the war and also held faculty appointments in Medical History. He has won innumerable honors and awards and is a most appropriate choice for our first honorary member.

## NEWS AND NOTES

**"Classical File" Returns:** The "Classical File" will reappear in Survey of Anesthesiology in December, 1983. Dr. Tom Boulton, retiring editor of Anaesthesia, has asked Rod Calverley to join him as co-editor. A British or North American perspective will be presented in each issue.

Beginning in 1957, "Classical File" introduced thousands of anesthesia professionals to the fascinating history of their specialty. For twenty-five years David Little enriched our understanding with perceptive essays which preceded each original article. These studies form a remarkable monument to a facet of his distinguished career. Dr. C.R. Stephen and his associates are preparing a memorial volume with the support of the Wood Library Museum so that the rich heritage of Dr. Little's work may be preserved and enjoyed.

**Hinckley's Ether Day Painting:** Dr. Leroy D. Vandam informs us that a limited number of color reproductions of Robert Hinckley's Ether Day Painting are available at the office of the Boston Medical Library. A nicely matted 10½x12½" reproduction may be obtained for \$15 (includes postage) by writing to: Ms. Ann Leason, Secretary, The Boston Medical Library, 10 Shattuck Street, Boston, MA 02115. (For more on the Hinckley painting, see Vandam, L: Robert Hinckley's 'The first operation with ether,' Anesthesiology 52:62-70, 1980).

**In the Works:** A publisher, Springer, has been found for the papers presented at The First International Symposium on the History of Modern Anesthesia in Rotterdam in May 1982. Joseph Ruprecht, MD, who organized the Symposium, and Mr. Lieburg from the Dutch Institute of the History of Medicine are editors. The working title is "Essays on the History of Anesthesia."

## AAHM Meeting:

For the second year in a row, an anesthesiologist was on the program of the American Association for the History of Medicine's prestigious annual meeting. Rod Calverley presented a paper, "Ralph Waters and Arthur Guedel, Giants of Modern Anesthesia" on May 6, in Minneapolis. Dr. Calverley will give the 1983 Wood Library Museum Lecture on these two important leaders of our specialty at the annual ASA meeting.

**ANSWERS TO THE LAST ISSUE'S BRAIN TEASER:**

The Brain Teaser served its function. It generated a number of letters, some controversy and some new references. The following communal answers include references.

**ACROSS:**

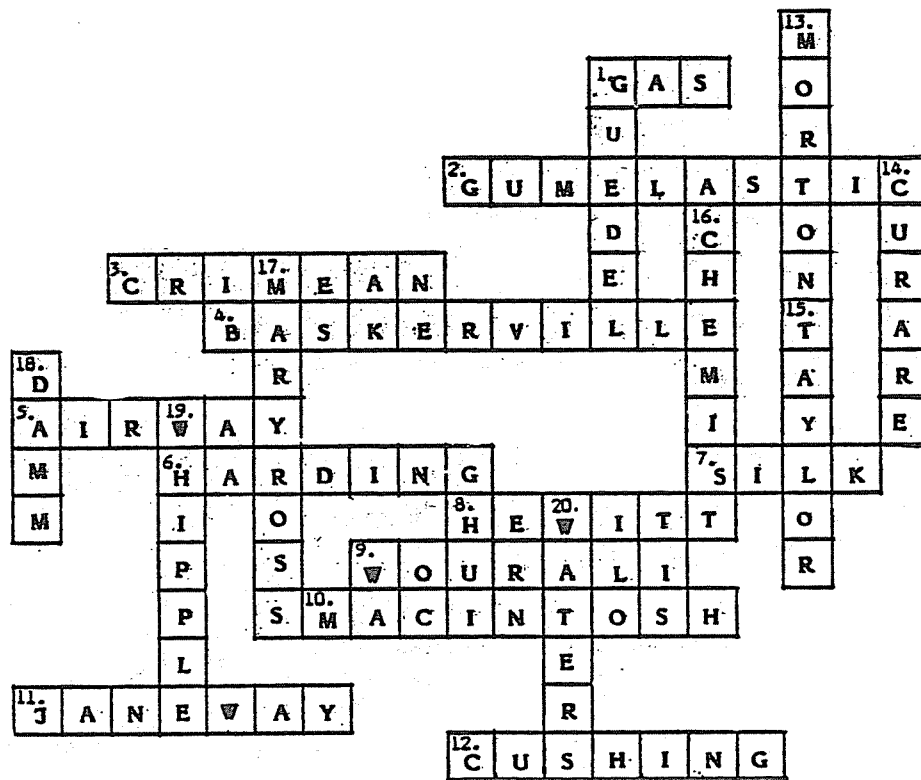
1. Historical term for N<sub>2</sub>O. "GAS." (This is such general knowledge that no reference is necessary.)
2. Material were used for early endotracheal tubes. "GUM ELASTIC" Gum elastic catheters used for insufflation techniques and then for some early endotracheal tubes. Some are on display at the Guedel Center. Sykes, W.S. Essays on the First Hundred Years of Anaesthesia, Vol II, pg 108
3. First war in which anesthetics were used (7 letters). CRIMEAN. (Ref: Duncum, pg 228. This reference came from Rod Calverley. Lucien Morris wrote that Tony Aldrete has evidence for anesthesia use in the Mexican War. I don't know of any publication yet on this.)
4. Gwathmey's co-author for the text Anesthesia (1914). BASKERVILLE. (Ref. Gwathmey and Baskerville, Anesthesia, (Appleton and Co., New York, 1914, title page.)
5. Name of the "dunked dog." AIRWAY. The "dunked dog" was the "victim" for Waters' and Guedel's demonstration of the leakproof endotracheal system required for the carbon dioxide absorption technique. Airway would be anesthetized, intubated with a cuffed endotracheal tube, and submerged in an aquarium. The gas-tight system demonstrated, Airway was fished out, woken up and extubated. He was a great hit with audiences and also was the Waters' children's pet. (Refs: Waters, "Arthur Guedel," BJA 24:294-299, 1952. Illustration in Raper, Man Against Pain (Prentice-Hall, 1945) pg 24.)
6. First head at Iowa. HARDING. (Harding was the first full-time teacher of anesthesia at Iowa (1916-1928). "Departmental" status was not reached until Cullen left for California in 1958. (Ref: Davis. D.A. ed: Historical Vignettes of Modern Anesthesia (Oxford, Blackwell Scientific Publication, 1968) pp 68-76.)
7. Another material used for early endotracheal tubes. SILK. The classic histories of tracheal intubation do not mention materials specifically, but woven silk endotracheal tubes were used. Some are at the Guedel Center. (Ref: Adriani, J. Technique and Procedures of Anesthesia, 1st ed, pp 111-112.)

8. First anesthetist to be knighted. HEWITT. (Ref: Lee, J.A., et al. A Synopsis of Anaesthesia (Wright-PSG, London, 1982) pg 13)
9. Early curare preparation. WOURALI. (Ref: Ellis, F.R. Waterton's Wourali. Can Anaesth Soc J 30:110, 1983.)
10. Originator of most commonly used laryngoscope blade. MACINTOSH. (No ref necessary.)
11. Originated first curved laryngoscope with light. JANEWAY. (Ref: Laryngoscope 23:1082, 1913.)
12. First to use anesthesia records. CUSHING. (Easiest ref to get to is Shepard, Canad Anaesth Soc J 12:431, 1965.)

**DOWN:**

1. The motorcycle anesthetist of World War I. GUEDEL. (Refs: Waters, Arthur Guedel, Br J Anaesth 24:294-299, 1952 and Guedel Inhalation Anesthesia, MacMillan, 1937, pg ix.)
13. Anesthetist during the Civil War battle, Battle of Wilderness. MORTON. (Ref: MacQuitty, Battle for Oblivian, pp 181-182.)
14. Richard Gill was after CURARE. (Ref: any of the many curare histories.)
15. First physician-anesthesiologist at the University of Pennsylvania. TAYLOR. (Ref: Eckenhoff, J.E. Anesthesia From Colonial Times, Lippincott, Philadelphia, 1966, pp 52-54.)
16. Occupation of Gwathmey's co-author. CHEMIST. (Ref: See 4 Across.)
17. First person to receive a certificate for completing anesthesia residency training. MARY ROSS. (Ref: See 6 Across, pp 74-75.)
18. Water's first resident. DAMM. Amy Littig Damm was Waters' first anesthesia resident according to Clark, P.F. The University of Wisconsin medical School: A Chronicle, 1848-1948 (University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, 1967) pg 191.) The Waters-Guedel correspondence at the Guedel Center, San Francisco contains references to her also. Apparently she only stayed a year. Albert J. Wineland was the first resident to finish a prolonged training period (July 1928-October 1930). Remember there were no standards for residency training at that time and trainees often came for short periods of time.
19. The Columbia surgeon who got Apgar interested in anesthesia. WHIPPLE. (Ref: Calmes, S.H. Apgar and Anesthesiology: A woman physician's career in a developing specialty. Presented at 1982 AAHM meeting, Bethesda. Submitted to Bull Hist Med.)
20. The "Aqualumni" went to visit this man. WATERS. The "Aqualumni" were the people who had trained at Wisconsin. A spring reunion was held each year.

NOTE: These answers were written before my copy of The Genesis of Contemporary American Anesthesiology arrived. It is an additional reference for the questions on the development of modern anesthesia in America.



**Of Related Interest:** Joseph Priestly (1733-1804), the minister who discovered oxygen, was honored in a 20¢ stamp released April 12. It commemorates his 250th birthday. The issue was from Northumberland, the Pennsylvania town where he sought asylum after fleeing persecution in England because of his support of the French Revolution. The stamp is based on a portrait of Priestley done by Rembrandt Peale about 1800.

Priestley's production and isolation of oxygen was in 1774, after several years of research. Because he adhered to the "phlogiston" theory, he named the gas "dephlogisticated air." Antoine Lavoisier later destroyed the phlogiston theory and actually named oxygen.

**Interesting Readings:** Two recent Letters to the Editor of the New England Journal dealt with anesthesia history. The rapid publication of the first public use of ether for surgery is discussed in Chapman, CB. An aspect of medical publication: 1846 and 1982. NEJM 1982;307,1531. A response noted there had been a pre-publication release to newspapers. See Nuland, SB. Ingelfinger rule violated in 1846. NEJM 1983;308:907.

The American Physiological Society has re-issued its 1964 publication, Circulation of the Blood: Men and Ideas, as the first event in a 5-year celebration of its centennial in 1987. (Editors: AP Fishman and DW Richards, American Physiological Society, Bethesda, 1982.) See review in NEJM 1983;308,1174.

**FROM THE EDITOR:**

Because of all the material that was sent in on Crawford Long, the article on how to begin a research project on a topic in the history of anesthesia was held for another issue. Future newsletters will include articles on anesthesia in the movies (Remember, this is coming to you from Los Angeles-Hollywood!) and how to get your collection appraised. Other articles, crossword puzzles, etc., are still needed, so keep sending them.

This issue is our first to be prepared with a truly "jaundiced eye." The editor has hepatitis and is quite yellow.

-- Selma Harrison Calmes, MD --

## HISTORICAL RESOURCES:

### III. CRAWFORD LONG MEMORIALS IN GEORGIA

In preparation for the 1983 ASA meeting in Atlanta in October, members of the Anesthesia History Association have cataloged resources relating to Crawford Long. The following article describing these resources was prepared by Jacob Mainzer with comments from Elizabeth Frost, Rod Calverley, and Selma Calmes.

Because the annual meeting of the American Society of Anesthesiologists will be in Atlanta this year, it is appropriate to review some of the Crawford Long memorials in the Atlanta area. The principle Georgia cities where Long resided, Danielsville, Jefferson and Athens, are in a circle of about 25 miles diameter, approximately 80 miles northeast of Atlanta.

Many monuments and memorials have been established to honor this southern surgeon, who on March 30th, 1842, became the first physician to successfully and painlessly remove a tumor of the neck under ether anesthesia. In Atlanta the C.W. Long Hospital was deeded to Emory University. It has a museum just off the main lobby which features Long household furnishings and his library. (Hospital Location: 35 Linden Avenue, between Peachtree and West Peachtree Streets, 1 block from the MARTA Rapid Transit Station. Curator: Mrs. Mona Temples, 404/892-4411 x445.) The State Capitol Building has a lifesize oil painting of Long by F.G. Carpenter, made a year after his death from photographs.

In the Danielsville area where he was born in 1815, there is a public statue, unveiled in 1936, near the courthouse. This monument is a duplicate of the one in the Statuary Hall of the United States Capitol Building (unveiled, March 30th, 1926). In the yard of the Danielsville courthouse there is a granite boulder, dedicated on April 15th, 1926 with a commemorative bronze inset with Dr. Long's name, his date of birth and a record of his first use of ether. His birthplace and first home in Danielsville (on Crawford Long Street) is no longer standing. Pictures of it are in the biographies written by Boland and Jacobs.

Long returned to Jefferson in 1841 to set up practice after he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and studied as a surgeon in New York. A brick building, constructed about 1860, replaces the white board house in which Long gave the first ether anesthetic in 1842. This building has been restored and now houses the C.W. Long Medical Museum. It contains a diorama of the events

of March 30th, 1842. Long is depicted excising the cystic tumor from the neck of his friend, James Venable. On display also is his 1839 medical diploma from Philadelphia, his cradle, family silver and other memorabilia. (Museum Location: College Street just off the Village Square. Hours 10 am - 5 pm Tues-Sat; 2 - 5 pm Sunday. Curator: Mrs. Tina Ray, 404/367-5307.)

Jefferson also contains a non-figurative monument (a granite column) in the public square, which was dedicated to the memory of Lon in April, 1910. Long's Jefferson residence is still standing, although it is not open to the public.

Long married Mary Caroline Swain at Lebanon Methodist Church on August 11th, 1842. This small, 148 year old church is on the road to Athens, a few miles out of Jefferson.

In 1850, Long moved to Athens. The building where he had his drugstore and office is on Broad Street, opposite an entrance to the University of Georgia. This is probably where Long received Charles Jackson, one of the other contestants in the ether controversy, in March 1854.

An historical marker on the campus of the University of Georgia describes the University and counts Crawford Long as one of its distinguished alumni. Also on the campus is a replica of the University of Pennsylvania bronze medallion (unveiled there on March 12th, 1912) which was placed at the 1921 graduation exercises. It is set into a granite pedestal, facing the old university chapel and was the gift of the pharmacist, Joseph Jacobs, who had been an employee of Long's in the mid 1970's. A portrait of Long by Lewis Gregg was first hung in Alumni Hall on the campus in 1926.

The home which Long built in Athens is pictured both by Jacobs and Boland but no longer exists. His grave is near the river in the Oconee Cemetery.



Further information about the life and work of Crawford Long may be found in these references:

1. Taylor, F.L. Crawford Long and the discovery of ether anesthesia. New York, P.B. Hoeber, 1928
2. Boland, F.K. Crawford Williamson Long and the discovery of anesthesia. Georgia Hist. Quart., 1923, 7, 135-154
3. Jacobs J. Some personal recollections and private correspondence of Dr. Crawford Williamson Long ... together with documentary proofs of his priority in this wonderful discovery. Atlanta, GA, 1919
4. Boland, F.K. Biography of Crawford Long. Athens, Univ. of Georgia Press, 1950.
5. Raper, H.R. Man against pain. New York, Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1945
6. Keys, T.E. The history of surgical anesthesia. New York, Schuman's 1945
7. See listings in J.F. Fulton and M.E. Stanton. The centennial of surgical anesthesia, H. Schuman, New York, 1946, pp 26-28

SOUTHERN  
MEDICAL AND SURGICAL  
JOURNAL.

Vol. 5.]

NEW SERIES.—DECEMBER, 1849.

[No. 12.]

PART FIRST.

Original Communications.

ARTICLE XXXVIII.

*An account of the first use of Sulphuric Ether by Inhalation as an Anæsthetic in Surgical Operations.* By C. W. LONG, M. D., of Jefferson, Jackson Co., Georgia.

*James Renwick*  
*To Dr. C. W. Long*

1842.		
January 28 <sup>th</sup>	Sulphuric Ether	21 <sup>¢</sup>
March 30	Ether & Excising Tumor	2.00
May 13	Sulphuric Ether	25 <sup>¢</sup>
June 6	Excising Tumor	2.00