Travers Vs. Wilde and Other: Chloroform Acquitted

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Introduction
By 1864 Professor Wilde had reached the peak of his career.1-4 At 49 (Figure 1) he was a leader of British ophthalmology and otology, the recognized expert on Ireland and its people and a prolific author. He and his wife Jane belonged to Dublin high society. He had been knighted in January 1864. By the end of that year, however, a scandal had nearly destroyed him.5-6

A Brilliant Career
William Robert Wills Wilde was born in March 1815 in Kecavlin, a hamlet near Castlereagh, on the desolate and savage western shore of Ireland. He was the third son of Dr. Thomas Wilde, a country physician whose grandparents had emigrated from Durham in northeastern England and an Irish mother with a family history of mental illness. William's older brothers, John and Ralph, would become clergymen.

In 1832, William Wilde, then 17, left for Dublin to start a four-year surgical apprenticeship under the famous Abraham Coles and attend the Park Street Medical School. The names of some of his teachers, Graves, Cheyne, Stokes and Corrigan, are still familiar to today's physicians. Graves treated Wilde for severe asthma and bouts of typhoid fever. As a medical student he cared for cholera patients; he later claimed to have eluded the disease by consuming large amounts of port and brandy, a habit he kept throughout his life. In 1836, still a 21-year-old student, he published his first work, a short treatise on spina bifida.

In 1837 after he qualified as Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons (LRCSI), Professor Graves recommended him to Robert Meiklam, a wealthy, tubercular Glasgow merchant, who took him as his personal physician for a cruise on his yacht “Crusader” along the sunny Mediterranean shores. The nine-month voyage allowed Wilde to study the local diseases, especially the prevalent trachoma, which sparked his interest in ophthalmology and became a life-long object of study.7

Back in Dublin in June, 1838 and now a member of the British Medical Association, Wilde took up general practice while preparing a book on his Mediterranean journey. The book was an immense literary and financial success; its earnings supported Wilde while he specialized in eye and ear diseases over the next three years. He spent 1839 at the London Moorfield Ophthalmic Hospital under the guidance of Tyrell and Dalrymple, two masters of English ophthalmology. Wilde also met Dr. James Clark, Queen Victoria's future physician and John Snow's patron. Clark introduced his young colleague to London's society and medical community. The next two years were spent on the continent, mainly in Vienna as a student of the renowned oculists, Professors Jaeger and Rosas.9 A book he published on Austria in 1843 was another literary success and showed his fascination with Vienna's social and academic life. After Vienna, he visited ear clinics in Munich, Prague, Dresden and Berlin, where he worked with the famous surgeon Diefenbach.

Returning to Dublin in 1841, Dr. Wilde opened eye and ear clinics in his home and in a rented building while teaching at the Park Street Medical School. His knowledge, skill and good results soon brought him patients, fame and money. When the Park Street Medical School closed in 1843, he bought the building and converted it into a modern 25-bed hospital with operating room, lecture hall and quarters for house staff. St. Mark (Figure 2), the first ophthalmic hospital in Ireland, became a renowned teaching center.

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WLM Forum
on the History of Anesthesiology
The ASA at 100: A History Continued

Moderator: Douglas R. Bacon, M.D., M.A.
Professor of Anesthesiology and Medical History
Mayo Clinic
Department of Anesthesiology
Rochester, Minnesota

The Annual Meeting: a History
Sandy Kopp, M.D.
Instructor in Anesthesiology
Mayo Clinic
Department of Anesthesiology

The Issues of the 1980s—
the ASA and Professionalism
Bradley E. Smith, M.D.
Professor of Anesthesiology Emeritus
Adjunct Professor of Anesthesiology
Vanderbilt University
Department of Anesthesiology
Nashville, Tennessee

Women and the ASA
Selma Harrison Calmes, M.D.
Professor of Anesthesiology
UCLA
Department of Anesthesiology
Sylmar, California

The Creation of Governance
Timothy Curry, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology
Mayo Clinic
Department of Anesthesiology

WLM History Panel
History of Solid Organ Transplantation

Co-Moderators: Douglas R. Bacon, M.D., M.A.
Professor of Anesthesiology and History of Medicine
Mayo Clinic
Department of Anesthesiology
Rochester, Minnesota

Maurice Albin, M.D., M.Sc.
Professor of Anesthesiology
University of Alabama, Birmingham
Department of Anesthesiology

The Importance of Solid Organ Transplantation to Anesthesiology: An Historical Perspective
A. J. Wright, MLS
Associate Professor of Anesthesiology
University of Alabama, Birmingham
Department of Anesthesiology

Kidney Transplantation
Susan Vassallo, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Anaesthesia, Harvard Medical School
Department of Anesthesia & Critical Care
Liver Transplantation
Boston, Massachusetts

Liver Transplantation
Antonio Aldrete, M.D., M.A.
The Arachnoiditis Foundation
Birmingham, Alabama

CNS Transplantation
Maurice Albin, M.D., M.Sc. (Anes.)

Heart Transplantation
J. Kent Garman, M.D., M.S., FACC
Associate Professor, Cardiovascular Anesthesia
Stanford University School of Medicine
Department of Anesthesia
Stanford, California
Historical Activities at the ASA Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, October 22-26, 2005

Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology

Annual Exhibit
Freud, Erdmann & Einstein: The Heroes of 1905, ASA’s Founding Year
Georgia World Congress Center, ASA Resource Center (Technical Exhibits Hall)
Sunday, October 23rd, 12:30 PM - 6:00 PM
Monday, October 24th, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Tuesday, October 25th, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Friends’ Tea and Book Signing
Georgia World Congress Center, Room C 301
Monday, October 24th, 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM

Forum on the History of Anesthesia
The ASA at 100: A History Continued
Georgia World Congress Center, Room C 302
Monday, October 24th, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Lewis H. Wright Memorial Lecture
Georgia World Congress Center, Room C 101
Tuesday, October 25th, 1:00 PM to 2:10 PM

History Panel
History of Solid Organ Transplantation
Georgia World Congress Center, Room C 104
Tuesday, October 25th, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Anesthesia History Association

Annual Dinner Meeting
Legacy Ballroom
Embassy Suites Hotel
Monday, October 24th, 6:00 PM

History of Conjoined Twins
Mark Rockoff, M.D.
Fig. 2. St. Mark

for local medical students and visiting European and American physicians. Graefe, the famous German ophthalmologist, paid St. Mark a visit in 1851.11-12

At 38 Wilde was now famous. His insistence on precise clinical observations, correct diagnoses and statistical analyses of his successes and failures had brought ophthalmology and otology from the lore of superstition and quackery into scientific disciplines. His textbook on aural surgery13 reprinted in the US and translated into German gained him worldwide acclaim and the title of "Father of Otology." Several of his surgical techniques and instruments are still used by today's otologists.14

Wilde introduced the use of atropine in eye surgery and was one of the first Dublin surgeons to adopt anesthesia. By February 1848 he had already defined the indications and dangers of chloroform in eye surgery.15 His interest in trachoma and infantile ophthalmia,7 common in Ireland at the time, led to vigorous and successful campaigns against those national scourges. His study of infantile leucorrhoea16 helped him defend several men wrongly accused of child rape.17

Many of Wilde's articles were published in the influential Dublin Journal of Medical Sciences. After receiving his diploma of FRCSI (Fellow, Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland) in 1845 he became the journal's editor after Arthur Jacobs, a fellow oculist was forced to resign. A bitter and jealous Jacobs remained his life-long enemy and the only colleague to censure him during the 1864 scandal. In 1848, overburdened by his clinical and academic work, Wilde gave up his position at the journal.

In 1841 Wilde had become the medical commissioner for the Irish Census, a post he kept to the end of his life. Criss-crossing the island every ten years to record its health problems required an immense amount of time and energy but was a superb occasion to acquaint himself with the country's scenery and history and with its people and their problems, including the Great Potato Famine of 1849-50. Patients too poor to pay his fees supplied him instead with stories and artifacts for his ethnologic studies. Wilde published over 50 works on Ireland and its inhabitants. Four of them, acclaimed as masterpieces, have recently been republished.18-21 Studying the skull and medical records of Jonathan Swift,22 Wilde proposed a new (but probably wrong)14 diagnosis on the famous Dean's death.

A Busy Social Life

Wilde remained a bachelor until the age of 36, looked after by his sister Emily. He was well known as, and boasted of being, an inveterate philanderer, trying, in the words of G.B. Shaw, "to create a family in every Irish village." He had recognized three natural children:

a) Henry Wilson ("Wilde's son")

born in 1838. His father supported his medical education and in 1863 took him in his practice. Wilson, a brilliant oculist, later published the first British textbook of ophthalmology.

b) Two daughters, Emily (born in 1847) and Mary (born in 1849) were adopted by Dr. Wilde's brother, the Reverend Ralph Wilde. Both were to die tragically in 1871.

c) Two daughters, Isola (born in 1854) and her adored Willy, born in 1852, were adopted by the Reverend Ralph Wilde.

In 1857, after a brief courtship, Wilde married Jane Frances Elgee, the daughter of a Dublin lawyer. She was in her mid-twenties (she always remained vague about her date of birth). She claimed to descend from a noble Italian family and had adopted the middle name of Francesca but in fact, the Elgees also originated from Durham in northeastern England. They had amassed a large fortune in the Irish building trade and produced several generations of lawyers, doctors, and clergymen. Her parents had provided her with a superb education and by the time of her marriage, the tall, dark-eyed beauty with long raven hair was already well known, under the pen name of "Speranza," for her poetry and her fiery nationalist writings in the seditious newspaper The Nation. Despite her eccentric behavior, dress and make-up, she was a warm, loyal and tolerant wife and a loving and indulgent mother to her three children: "Willie" born in 1852, Oscar, the future esthete and playwright, born in 1854, and her adored Isola, born in 1856.2-4,6

In 1855, shortly after Oscar's birth, the Wildes moved to Merrion Square, a large Georgian mansion in the fashionable heart of Dublin (Figure 3). The house, with a large staff of servants and a well-stocked cellar, became the center of endless receptions, dinners, soirees and balls. There were frequent vacations in the five lodges that Dr. Wilde had built in the country. By the time of the professor's death, that extravagant living had brought his family near financial ruin. Although Dr. Wilde was revered by his patients and Speranza was cheered by the Irish crowds whenever she left her house, the Wildes' social success and prodigal lifestyle raised the usual jealousies and gossip. The Dubliners mocked the small, vain, homely philandering husband and his eccentric, pretentious, "high faluting" wife (Figure 4).

1864, The Triumphant Year

In 1864, Professor Wilde reached the peak of his career (Figure 5). He had re-
Trial and Scandal

One evening in February, 1864, while Professor Wilde was giving one of his popular lectures on Ireland to the Dublin YMCA, newspaper boys appeared at the door of the Metropolitan Hall to peddle a tract titled “Florence Boyle Price: A warning” and signed “Speranza.” Speranza told the story of her friend Florence whom Dr. Quilp had tried to violate under chloroform while cauterizing a neck scar in his office. She had passed out and later awakened in a room reeking of chloroform to find Dr. Quilp on his knees, declaring his passion. Stunned and ashamed, Miss Price fled home with Speranza. Speranza described Dr. Quilp as a vulgar, coarse, and ugly brute. Quilp had later written to Miss Price to apologize and beg forgiveness and the generous young woman had returned to his office. There were more visits to the contrite doctor who offered various gifts, including “corrupting” books. Miss Price had sent several letters to Mrs. Quilp, but her husband had intercepted them. He also prevented her from seeing his wife and spread rumors that Florence Price was mad. The pamphlet included extracts of letters from Dr. Quilp to his victim. Speranza had written the tract with the hope (la speranza, in Italian) that other young women would be spared her friend’s fate. “Speranza,” of course, was the well-known pen name of Mrs. Wilde. Over the following days the Dublin papers received anonymous letters drawing attention to the pamphlet and taunting “the new knight” and his “poetess wife.” Copies of the leaflet were also sent to the Wildes, their friends, and even to some of the professor’s patients.

In May 1864 while Lady Jane was vacating with her children in Bray, newspaper boys tried to sell copies of the pamphlet to her servants. Mrs. Wilde, of course, knew the name of the tract’s author. Mary Josephine Travers was a pretty, cultured 29-year-old spinster with literary ambitions. She lived with her father, Dr. Robert Travers, an insignificant and “woolly-minded” professor of medical jurisprudence at Trinity College. He was separated from his mentally deranged wife. On May 6, 1864, an irate Lady Jane wrote an angry letter to Professor Travers, denying her husband’s misconduct and accusing his daughter of harassment and blackmail. Dr. Travers ignored the letter but his daughter found it in his papers a few weeks later and promptly sued Lady Jane for libel for impugning her character and chastity and asking £2,000 in damages. Dr. Wilde was joined as co-defendant.

The scandal drew enormous attention in Dublin and in Great Britain and was widely discussed in the lay and medical press. The trial was held at the Dublin Court of Common Pleas and ran from December 12 through 17, 1864. Because of its importance it was presided by Chief Justice Monahan and held before a special jury. Each party retained Dublin’s best legal talent: Sullivan and Sidney for Lady Jane, Armstrong and Butt for Miss Travers. Isaac Butt, a failed politician, was rumored to have been Jane Elgee’s lover before her marriage. The court was packed each day with a large crowd anxious for titillating revelations.

Justice Monahan reminded the jurors that the case was a civil action for libel, not a criminal case of rape. The defense, claiming that a private, privileged letter was not a libel, unsuccessfully tried to have the case dismissed. Armstrong, Miss Travers’ main witness, appeared in a chilly, fatuous introduction confessed his charigin at being drawn into a sordid story about a young maid’s purity and because of the case’s scabrous details advised the ladies to leave the courtroom.

None, of course, did. Quoting the Bible and Shakespeare he told his version of the victim’s sad tale. In 1854 Miss Travers, a pretty 19-year-old, had been referred to Dr. Wilde by Professor Coles for deafness. Dr. Wilde cured her, refused his fees and a platonic friendship developed, with exchanges of letters and gifts, invitations to his house and various events in and out of Dublin and loans of money that Miss Travers had always repaid. She continued to visit his office to have a neck scar, the result of a childhood burn, cauterized. In 1861 Dr. Wilde also treated her for a plantar wart.

Armstrong then put Miss Travers on the stand. Under his guidance she insisted that she had always repaid Dr. Wilde’s loans, including £40 to buy her passage to Australia to join her two brothers. She missed the steamer and returned to Dublin. Dr. Wilde had once tried to embrace her while examining her but she had repulsed him. She continued to see him after he had apologized. Armstrong then led her to the infamous evening of October 14, 1862. While his patient was kneeling before him to let him examine her scar, Dr. Wilde had tried to fondle her and when she fought him off he pressed a handkerchief soaked with chloroform to her face. She passed out for 10 to 15 minutes and when she woke up, a frantic, incoherent and apologetic Wildetook her to an upstairs bedroom and forced her to drink some wine. Dazed and confused she had fled home. She kept equivocating about what had happened while she was unconscious until an exasperated Justice Monahan bluntly asked her whether she had been violated. After much hesitation she mumbled “yes.”

However, she continued to see Dr. Wilde. He occasionally had tried to fondle her but she had always resisted him. Once, ashamed of herself, she had swallowed some laudanum in his office, forcing a terrified Wilde to take her to a neighborhood pharmacy to drink an emetic. Even under her counsel’s gentle and friendly questioning, she gave confused answers and frequently contradicted herself.

Sullivan, Lady Jane’s counsel, then took over the cross-examination. He was brutal and relentless. Ignoring her witness’s theatricals and neurotic sobbing he forced her to admit that she was unsure of the date of the incident and that she had invented the chloroform incident to dramatize her plea. She now claimed to have passed out when Dr. Wilde choked her with the strings of her bonnet and her scarf. After initial denials, she conceded that she had mentioned chloroform in her pamphlet. She could not
Wilde... Continued from Page 5

explain why she had not reported the assault to her father or why she continued to visit Dr. Wilde and ask him for money over the next two years, despite his occasional improprieties. Sullivan also introduced several of her letters to Wilde, one of them even suggesting that she may have borne him a son. The savage cross-examination exposed her as a nasty and vindictive liar and perjurer and destroyed her story and her character. Her neurotic behavior on the stand suggested a serious mental derangement. By the end of her deposition she had lost the sympathy of the jury and of the audience.

Lady Jane then took the stand, widely applauded by the Irish spectators. She was rudely examined by the ungracious Butt but stood her grounds and denied her husband's affair with Miss Travers. She had initially ignored the woman's accusations as "being above those sordid details" but had finally decided to end her importune visits, her incessant requests for money and her threats of blackmail. Dr. Wilde did not testify. This, Butt smugly declared, along with his wife's indifference to the accusations, clearly proved his guilt.

The day after Lady Jane's deposition, Justice Monahan announced that he had received a long, rambling anonymous letter affirming Dr. Wilde's guilt. The defense team had received 20 similar missives during the trial. No one in the court doubted who had written those insane letters.

On Monday, December 17, 1864, Justice Monahan gave a two-hour speech summarizing the case and instructing the jury. He felt that the story of an unreported rape under chloroform in a busy physician's office was implausible and would have been rejected, had this been a criminal case. The jurors, however, had only to decide whether Lady Jane's letter was libelous and, if it was, the amount of damage.

In less than one hour, with a brief interruption to request more coal for their icy room, the jurors returned a verdict of "guilty" against Lady Jane and awarded Miss Travers the derisory sum of one farthing (a mythical ¼ penny) thus expressing their contempt for the accuser. Dr. Wilde, as co-defendant, was charged the costs of the trial, £2,000, an enormous sum he could ill afford at that time.

The judgment vindicated Professor Wilde. The British press23 stood with Dr. Wilde and his "gallant wife" and saw them as victims of a crazed perjurer. There was one exception: Arthur Jacobs, Wilde's old nemesis, attacked him in an editorial of his journal, the Dublin Medical Press,24 to the indignation of Dublin's medical community. The popular Dublin newspaper, Saunders News also vigorously defended the Wildes, implying Miss Travers was a blackmailer and a perjurer. She sued the editor in 1865 but lost her case.27

**Trial's Aftermath**

The trial sapped Professor Wilde's academic and scientific enthusiasm. He continued to see large numbers of patients, perhaps out of financial necessity. He had become irascible and rude with them, unlike his son and associate Henry Wilson, a kind and gentle physician and a brilliant oculist.

The trial also diminished Wilde's political zeal for Irish independence but not his passion for Ireland. Taking long vacations to his lodges, he continued to write extensively on his beloved country. In 1867 he published Lough Corrib25 which is regarded as his masterpiece and earned him the famous Cunningham Gold Medal of the Royal Irish Academy a few years later.

The academic successes of their sons Willie and Oscar at Trinity College delighted the Wildes but there were also great tragedies. In 1867 their adored ten-year-old Isola died from an occult fever; and in November 1871 Dr. Wilde's two natural daughters, Emily and Mary, then in their early twenties, died from horrible burns a few days after their crinolines caught fire at a Halloween party.

Crippled by asthma, emphysema and gout, Dr. Wilde became an invalid in late 1875. He spent the first three weeks of April 1876 bed-ridden at Merrion Square nursed by the devoted Speranza and occasionally visited by a silent, veiled woman, probably the mother of one of his natural children.

He died on April 19, 1876, of what the editor of the British Medical Journal29 called "general breakdown of the system" but probably was heart failure caused by lung disease. He was 61. On April 22, 1876, after a stately funeral service led by his elder brother, the Reverend John Wilde, and attended by a large crowd of friends, colleagues, artists, members of the Royal Irish Academy and the mysterious veiled woman, Dr. Wilde was buried at the Mount Jerome Cemetery of Dublin. (Figure 6)30-31 He died of pneumonia in the early twenties, her incessant requests for money and her threats of blackmail. Dr. Wilde was buried at the Mount Jerome Cemetery of Dublin. (Figure 6)30-31 He died of pneumonia in February 1896. She had survived her husband by 22 years. Her son Oscar, then jailed in Reading, was refused permission to visit her. Little is known of Mary Josephine Travers after the trial. She died March 19, 1919, in Kingston College, a poorhouse in Mitchelstown, Cook County. She was 83.37

**Some Afterthought**

Like many trials, "Travers vs. Wilde" failed to uncover the truth. Justice Monahan was probably right when he told the jury that the rape story was hardly credible but that there may have been "a long history of guilty intimacy," a fact supported by Dr. Wilde's refusal to testify. A ten-year relationship between a known philanderer and a pretty young woman who accepted his gifts, money and invitations to travel out of Dublin must have been more than platonic. Wilde probably got tired of an aging, greedy and neurotic mistress and tried to discard her, even buying her a passage to Australia. His tolerant and broad-minded wife may have initially accepted the romance but may have later grown tired of Travers' unwelcome visits, requests for money and threats of blackmail. Several ugly rows between both...
women had taken place between the two women. The jilted mistress may have then decided to publicly humiliate the Wildes.

Though the medical journals,23-26 except one26 denied Wilde’s affair and unprofessional conduct, his liaison was believed and well accepted by Dublin society, inured to the extra-marital affairs of the previous Regency era.3 The tolerant Jane Wilde had long accepted her husband’s philandering. She herself was rumored to have had an affair with, and even a child from, Isaac Butt, lawyer and erratic leader of the Irish Home Rule party. Since Miss Travers was forced to recant her chloroform story, the court did not have to decide whether rape could be committed under chloroform, a matter still much debated in the medical and legal literature of the time.24-26

One may wonder how a physician with an immense practice and multiple academic pursuits still found the time and energy for so many amorous adventures. His colleagues described Wilde as a “restless, tireless man in constant motion.” Except for his fascinating conversation and wit, he lacked the seducer’s attributes. Jealous Dubliners described him as vain, domineering, short and ugly, with “a simian appearance and walk,” bulging eyes, receding chin and pouting lips. He was unkempt and unshorn, and G.B. Shaw described him as “as if he had just rolled in the dust.”5 (Figure 4) Some of his photographs, however, show a neatly dressed, elegant, and dignified professional. (Figure 1) All his academic pursuits still found the time and energy for so many amorous adventures. For further information, contact: Librarian, Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology, (847) 825-5586. Visit our Website at www.ASAhq.org/wlm/fellowship.html.

Complete proposals must be received before January 31, 2006, for consideration.

**The Board of Trustees of the Wood Library-Museum invites applications from anesthesiologists, residents in anesthesiology, physicians in other disciplines, historians and other individuals with a developed interest in library and museum research in anesthesiology.**

The WLM Fellowship will provide recipients with financial support for one to three weeks of scholarly historical research at the Wood Library-Museum.

The Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology serves the membership of ASA and the anesthesiology community.

Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology
520 N. Northwest Highway
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www.ASAhq.org/wlm

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4. Lambert E. Mad with much Heart. Life of the Parents of Oscar Wilde. London, Muller, 1867.
Report on the Sixth International Symposium on the History of Anaesthesia

by Selma Harrison Calmes, M.D.

English weather was at its very best for the Sixth International Symposium on the History of Anaesthesia (ISHA) held in lovely Cambridge, UK, September 14 to 18, 2005. About 200 attendees from many countries and their families enjoyed beautiful warm, sunny days, and only one day of rain. Sponsors of the meeting were the History of Anaesthesia Society (HAS), led by President Dr. Peter Morris, and the Department of Anaesthesia, West Suffolk Hospital, represented by Dr. Neil Adams. English and American attendees dominated, but there were delegates from Canada, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Spain, Slovenia, Sweden, Czech Republic, Syria, Egypt and Australia. Senior anesthetists such as Drs. Lucien Morris (US), Carlos Parsloe (Brazil), Tom Boulton (UK) and Sir Keith Sykes (UK) added their prestige—and their memories of anaesthesia history. Organizers of previous ISHAs also were present, including Joseph Rupreht (Netherlands, he started the ISHAs!), Tom Boulton (UK, organized the 2nd ISHA), Michael Goerig (Germany, 4th ISHA) and Carlos Diz (Spain, 5th ISHA).

Most stayed at the meeting site, Queens' College on the River Cam. This location gave good meeting facilities in an ancient setting. Queens' College (founded by two English queens) dates to 1448 and is one of the 31 colleges that make up Cambridge University. Although the area we met in and stayed in is comparatively new (1972-1981), we also enjoyed the older parts of Queens' College, such as the stunningly beautiful Old Hall (dates to before 1548, restored in 1961), where the Welcome Reception was held. We often passed through the Old Court, which is singled out as the most picturesque college court in Cambridge. Completed in 1449, this area is a perfect illustration of the College plan, with all essential features (chapel, library, hall, kitchens and living accommodation) around a single court. An ancient sundial, which also serves as a "moondial" (dates from 1733), rules over this court. (A real clock is nearby to assist those who can't figure out the formidable sundial/moondial.)

Many scientific events took place in and around Cambridge. The most notable was the World War II British and American Aviators' Pub, "The Eagle," which was the site of the announcement of the discovery of DNA in 1953. The pub was the site for the announcement because this was where Watson and Crick made the announcement of the discovery of DNA in 1953. The pub was the site for the announcement because this is where the two scientists spent most of their time, instead of their nearby lab. "The Eagle" was also the pub for American and British aviators stationed nearby during World War II. They left graffiti on the ceiling of their room; this is still preserved.

Invited speakers and their topics included, in order of appearance:

1. David Wilkinson (St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London), who gave the "Blessed Chloroform Lecture." Title was "To see ourselves as others see us!" This reviewed how others see the specialty of anaesthesiology and had a powerful message.

Dr. Neil Adams surveys the start of the meeting.
2. Rodney Westhorpe (Melbourne, Australia): “Dr. Geoffrey Kaye, a man of many parts.”

3. Roger Malby (Calgary, Canada): “Some notable names in Anaesthesia.”

4. Marten van Wijhe (Delden, The Netherlands): “Pain and Culture through time.”

5. Andrew Cunningham (Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Cambridge University): “Death in Venice: Morgagni and reflections on the discovery of halothane.”


Three rooms of free papers were needed for the many individual submissions. This was an enthusiastic group of presenters, some people giving three, or even five, papers. A very wide range of topics was covered. Residents participated by competing for the Bullough Prize, donated by the wife of Dr. John Bullough after his death. The purpose of the £1,000 prize is to stimulate interest in the history of anaesthesia at the resident level. The three finalists read their papers during an afternoon session, and judges determined the winner. Results were announced at the final banquet. First prize went to Jason McKeown at the University of Alabama at Birmingham for his paper, “Koller and Halstead at the University of Vienna in the 1870s.” Second prize went to Hugh M. Smith, M.D., Ph.D., from the Mayo Clinic for his paper, “Post-Operative Nausea and Vomiting and the Rise of Anaesthesia as a Surgical Specialty 1846-1946.” Third prize was to Matthew J. Mazurek, M.D., from the University of California at San Francisco for his paper, “Dr. Chauncey Leake and the Development of Divinyl Oxide from Bench to Bedside.”

Exhibits of historic equipment were available during the meeting from the museum of the Association of Anesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland, the Wood Library-Museum and the Museum on the History of Anaesthesia at the University of Bonn, Germany.

Social events included a celebration of the ASA’s 100th anniversary. For this we visited some of the nearby sites in which America was involved during World War II. First, we traveled by bus to nearby Madingley to the Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial, which is the only WWII American cemetery in the British Isles. This 30.5-acre cemetery was built in 1944 on land donated by Cambridge University. It now contains the graves of 3,812 American aviators who were killed in WWII (many more were moved back to the U.S., at their families’ requests, when this option became available in 1947). A very long, granite Wall of the Missing contains 5,126 names. The Memorial contains a devotional chapel and an impressive map, “The Mastery of the Atlantic—The Great Air Assault,” documenting the WWII situation in the Atlantic. (You can read more about this cemetery at www.abmc.gov/ca.)

We then went on to the American Air Museum in Britain, part of The Imperial War Museum’s aviation branch in Duxford. Duxford was originally a British airfield but was donated to the U.S. in April 1943. It was the base for the U.S.Žs 8th Air Force during WWII; the essential bombing raids to destroy German manufacturing flew out of Duxford. Built with American donations as a memorial to the 30,000 American airmen killed during WWII, it opened about 1996. The building is considered an outstanding example of contemporary British architecture and has won architectural prizes. Its goal is to collect WWII aircraft and display them. (Learn more about Duxford and the American Air Museum at duxford.iwm.org.uk.) Surrounded by warplanes hanging from the ceiling as if in flight, including a C-47
wearing black and white invasion stripes (to help avoid collisions) like her father would have been in, AHA co-founder Selma Calmes gave a brief presentation about her father's time in England preparing for D-Day with the 82nd Airborne, one of three airborne units that parachuted into Normandy in the early hours of D-Day. She also showed the letters he wrote about his adventures on D-Day, as well as items showing English life during the difficult years of WW II. The American celebration ended with an American-style dinner back at Queens' College.

From the British side, the HAS released a new publication on Henry Hill Hickman, who advocated using inhaled gases to relieve the pain of surgery starting about 1823. This book is based on material collected by W.D.A. (Denis) Smith (d. 2000). A team of editors (Adrian Padfield, Edward Armitage, Frank Bennetts and Peter Drury) effectively cut the voluminous amount of material into a most attractive, neat story of Hickman's life. They also arranged to distribute at the meeting the most recent volume in the Wood Library's Careers series, on three notable British anesthesiologists (Ivan Magill, Robert Macintosh and Geoffrey Organe).

Tours included a trip to Ely (named for the eels who lived in the nearby, historic swamp lands), its 12th century cathedral, and the Fenlands. The Fenlands were previously a massive swamp that was finally able to be drained by Dutch engineers between 1600-1700 and is now pleasant farmland. A walking tour, "From leeches to DNA," visited some of the notable medical spots in Cambridge. King Henry VIII founded the first Royal Chair of Medicine here in 1540. William Harvey discovered circulation of the blood in 1628, Stephen Hales first measured blood pressure in 1733 and Crick and Watson working in the Cavendish Lab announced the structure of DNA in 1953.

The Sixth ISHA led to particularly close mixing, in my opinion. Eating together in the College dining hall led to many more opportunities to meet new friends. And, the late opening of the bar each night again led to a lot of friendships! The HAS, under Neil Adams' leadership, did a wonderful job of organizing and dealing with the inevitable small problems. Neil's family, by the way, deserves special thanks for all their hard work. His wife, daughter and son were on-site for the entire meeting and were great help, as well as being wonderful people. Neil's Department of Anaesthesia colleagues at West Suffolk Hospital did a yeoman's job of getting people to their rooms and with many other duties. The English spirit of fun was also very evident, especially the two antique cars that drove out to the American Air Museum. Many thanks go to the meeting sponsors for their hard work putting together this successful meeting. The Venue Committee met during this ISHA and decided the next meeting will be held in Crete, Greece, in 2009. ISHAs LIVE on!
The International Symposium on the History of Anaesthesia is held every four years, and the sixth ISHA was held in Cambridge, England, September 14-18. A prominent part of this meeting was a competition for the John Bullough Prize. Anyone in training as an anesthesia resident or fellow on December 31, 2004, could submit an essay for this competition. Authors of the five best papers were invited to Cambridge to present their work before an international panel of judges, who selected the winners at that time.

The first place winner in this contest, who received a check for £1,000, was Jason McKeown, M.D., for his paper, “Koller and Halsted at the University of Vienna in the 1870s.” This essay will be published in the conference proceedings. Second and third place finishers, Hugh Smith, M.D., Ph.D., and Matthew Mazurek, M.D., were from the Mayo Clinic and UCSF respectively. Dr. McKeown has also presented this research at the 2004 American Society of Anesthesiologists annual meeting in Las Vegas and at the annual spring meeting of the Anesthesia History Association held here in Birmingham this past April. An abstract of the paper can be found at www.anes.uab.edu/aneshist/AHA2005McKeown.doc.

During their three-year training, all anesthesia residents in the U.S. must complete an academic research project in laboratory, clinical or historical research. Dr. McKeown chose a history topic and his work on the project included research in Vienna, Austria. The project was financially supported in part by The American Austrian Foundation which awarded him an Andlinger Fellowship for his research. During his stay in Vienna Dr. McKeown also worked in anesthesia at the Lorenz Bohler Trauma Hospital under Professor Walter Mauritz.

Dr. McKeown completed his anesthesia residency and pain fellowship in the UAB Department of Anesthesiology and joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor in July, 2005. He will also be participating as a faculty member in the department’s Section on the History of Anesthesia, created in 2001 and the first such academic unit in the world. More information about the Section can be found at www.anes.uab.edu/hoasection.htm.

Each year the Anesthesia History Association awards the David M. Little Prize for the best work of anesthesia history published the previous year in English. The prize is named after Dr. David M. Little, longtime Chair of Anesthesia at Hartford Hospital in Connecticut. Dr. Little, who died in 1981, also wrote for many years the “Classical File” series of history columns for Survey of Anesthesiology. The 2005 Little Prize Committee consisted of Mark G. Mandabach, M.D., Chair, and Ray J. Defalque, M.D., and A.J. Wright, M.L.S.

Little Prize Winner 2005

Little Prize Honorable Mentions 2005
Calthorpe N. The history of spinal needles: getting to the point. Anaesthesia 2004 Dec;59(12):1231-41
Burkle CM, Zepeda FA, Bacon DR, Rose SH. A historical perspective on use of the laryngoscope as a tool in anesthesiology. Anesth Analg 2004 Apr;100(4):1003-6

A listing of all winners since 1998 can be found at www.anes.uab.edu/aneshist/littleprize.htm.
From the Literature

by A. J. Wright, M. L. S.
A. Associate Professor and Clinical Librarian
Department of Anesthesiology
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Note: I have examined most of the items listed in this column. Books can be listed in this column more than once as new reviews appear. Older articles are included as work through a large backlog of materials. Some listings are not directly related to anesthesia, pain or critical care; I interpret those categories very broadly. Some will concern individuals important in the history of the specialty [i.e., Harvey Cushing or William Halsted] who also achieved in other areas or widely-used equipment such as the stethoscope. I also include career profiles of living individuals. Non-English materials are so indicated. Columns for the past several years are available as “Recent Articles on Anesthesia History” in the “Anesthesia History Files” at www.anes.uab.edu/aneshist/aneshist.htm. I urge readers to send me any citations, especially those not in English, that I may otherwise miss!

Books


Hayes B. Five Quarts: A Personal and Historical Firsts: The total isolation, transplantation and hypothermic preservation of the heart. Anaesthesia 1999;54:139-43


Articles and Book Chapters


Ball C, Westhorpe R. Muscle relaxants—Intocinstra. Anaesth Intens Care 2005 Jun;33:289 [Cover Note series; illus.; 4 refs.]

Ball C, Westhorpe R. Muscle relaxants—d-tubocurarine. Anaesth Intens Care 2005 Aug;33:431 [Cover Note series; illus.; 5 refs.]


Bleich J D. Palliation of pain. Tradition 2002;36:89-114


Das S, Nation E F, Hugh Hampton Young, the anesthesiologist. Urology 2004;64:628-630 [2 illus., 10 refs.]


Doms M S. August Bier’s article “What attitude should we have towards homeopathy?” and the following discussion on homeopathy in the German medical profession. Med Ges Geschi 2004;23:243-282 [German]

Elliott J. The medical world of medieval monks. Anaesthetics and disinfectants are thought to be a modern medical invention but evidence is coming to light that medieval doctors knew of them too. BBC News August 6, 2005, news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/3745498.stm [from research at ancient Soutra Hospital site in Scotland; illus.]

Haddad F S. A middle age Arab/Islamic anesthetic herb. Middle East J Anesthesiol
Andreas Vesalius, the concept of an artificial airway. Resuscitation 2003 Jan;56(1):3-7

Wadhwa RK. Thanks for the memories, Dr. Bonica. ASA Newsletter 2005 Aug;69(8):17


Melzack R. The McGill Pain Questionnaire: from description to measurement. Anesthesiology 2005;103:199-202 [Classic Papers Revisited series; 1 illus., 24 refs.]


CAREERS IX features three pioneer British knights who helped to shape 20th century anesthesiology in the U.K. The story of self-trained Sir Ivan Magill illustrates clinical expertise acquired out of surgical necessity. His professionalism is expressed in a deft but unhurried manner, displaying a quiet confidence. Sir Robert Macintosh’s story provides inspirational reading and touches upon his study of anesthetic mortality, which encountered enormous obstacles at the time but that can now be seen as a precursor to patient safety initiatives seen in the mid-1980s. Sir Geoffrey Organe was a key founding member of the WFSA, which he used to implement his lofty goals of establishing standards of anesthesia care and education in the developing world. Interspersed in these stories are fascinating accounts of self-experimentation — often to the detriment of the researchers — as they passionately endeavored to establish anesthesiology during and after World War II. This volume certainly adds to the rich tapestry of stories in the CAREERS series.


THE WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM OF ANESTHESIOLOGY

Careers in Anesthesiology IX
Three Pioneer British Anaesthetists

Donald Caton, M.D.
Kathryn E. McGoldrick, M.D., E ditors
John S. M. Zorab, Guest E ditor

Sir Ivan Whiteside Magill
Anthony Ebridge

Sir Robert Reynolds Macintosh
Keith Sykes

Sir Geoffrey Organe
Stanley Feldman

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Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology
520 N. Northwest Highway
Park Ridge, IL 60068-2573
(847) 825-5586
www.ASAhq.org/wlm
1632 October 20: Christopher Wren is born in London. Around 1660 the English architect and astronomer began to experiment with the transfusion of blood between animals and intravenous injections into animals. An account of his work was published in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London in 1665. Wren, the greatest English architect of his time who designed many of London's cathedrals, died in that city in February, 1723. A much earlier attempt at blood transfusion was described by Stefano Infessura [ca. 1435-1500], an anti-papist lawyer in Rome. According to Infessura's Diary of the City of Rome, when Pope Innocent VIII was on his deathbed, a Jewish physician suggested infusing blood from three ten-year-old boys into the pontiff's veins. All three donors died and Innocent himself died on July 25, 1492. The Catholic Encyclopedia warns that Infessura's work is full of gossip and not to be trusted.

1708 October 16: Swiss scientist and writer Albrecht von Haller, father of experimental physiology, is born. He graduated from medical school in Leiden at age 19 and returned to Bern where he lectured on anatomy and wrote poetry. His research on the irritability or contractility of muscle tissue was published in 1732 as A Dissertation on the Sensible and Irritable Parts of Animals. In 1736 he was appointed professor of anatomy at the University of Gottingen's medical school, where he spent 17 years. In 1753 he returned again to Bern, where he died in 1777. Haller published numerous other works, including bibliographies on anatomy, surgery, botany and medicine and a very popular collection of poems. A brief review of his life is available here.


1815 October 31: Humphry Davy patents the miner’s safety lamp for use in coal mining. In addition to his classic work with nitrous oxide in 1799 and 1800, Davy isolated the metals potassium, sodium, barium, calcium, and magnesium. He also conducted early electric lighting experiments.

1835 October 2: Japanese physician Hanaoka Seishu dies. See entries above for 13 October 1805 and 23 October 1760.

1846 October 16: On this Friday morning, Boston dentist William Thomas Green Morton appeared in the operating theater of the Massachusetts General Hospital. Morton was running late, but surgeon John Collins Warren had not yet started the removal of a tumor from Gilbert Abbot's jaw. For about three minutes Abbot breathed ether vapor from Morton's simple apparatus— which had been the source of his delay— and “sank into a state of insensibility,” Warren noted later. The first public demonstration of ether anesthesia had begun and proved successful.

Abbot “did not experience pain at the time, although aware that the operation was proceeding,” Warren wrote in his 1848 account of the event. The great surgeon is supposed to have declared, “Gentlemen, this is no humbug.” The next day another MGH surgeon, George Hayward, removed a large tumor from a woman's arm while she was under the influence of the “Lethon,” as Morton called it; for several weeks he did not reveal the nature of his anesthetic agent since he hoped to patent it. [Source: Keys TE. History of Surgical Anesthesia. Huntington, New York: Krieger, 1978, pp. 27-29]

1846 October 17: At the Massachusetts General Hospital surgeon George Hayward removes a large tumor from the arm of a female patient anesthetized with ether. This operation is the second successful public demonstration of Morton's “Lethon.”

1848 October 19: Samuel Guthrie, American chemist who discovered chloroform about the same time as Europeans Soubeiran and Justus Liebig, dies.

1849 October 7: American writer Edgar Allen Poe dies in Baltimore. Lesser-known among his works are three tales dealing with mesmerism, or what we now know as hypnotism. Mesmerism was developed in the late eighteenth-century by Viennese physician Franz Anton Mesmer [1734-1816] and for decades was associated with quackery. However, several physicians in the 1830s and 1840s in England and India used and promoted it as surgical pain relief until the introduction of ether by Morton. Poe's stories featuring mesmerism are “A Tale of the Ragged Mountains,” “The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar” and “Mesmerism Revelation.” One recent history of mesmerism is Alison Winter's Mesmerized: Powers of Mind in Victorian Britain [1998]. Poe was born January 19, 1809.

English author Pelham Grenville Wodehouse is born in Surrey. As P. G. Wodehouse he published 96 humorous novels and collections of stories before his death on February 14, 1975. Many of the novels feature the wealthy Bertie Wooster and his valet Jeeves. One of his other novels, Laughing Gas (1936) tells the story of the Earl of Havershot, who exchanges identities with a child movie star after inhaling nitrous oxide in a dentist's office. Since 1936 the novel has been reprinted numerous times, translated into Italian, Japanese and Spanish, and remains in print today.

1883 October 9: Ralph M. Waters is born. Dr. Waters' achievements during a long career at the University of Wisconsin make him the father of academic anesthesia in the United States. Dr. Waters died in 1979. For more information see Lucien E. Morris, Mark E. Schroeder, Mark E. Warner, eds. A Celebration of 75 Years Honoring Ralph Milton Waters, M.D., M entor to a Profession. Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology, 2004 [Proceedings of the Ralph M. Waters Symposium on Professionalism in Anesthesiology, Madison, WI, June 2002]

1888 October 17: American genius Thomas Alva Edison applies for his first patent for a device he calls a

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*For the full calendar, go to www.anes.uab.edu
"Kinatoscope"—what we now know as a motion picture camera. Edison claimed that it would "do for the eye what the phonograph does for the ear." Work on the device by Edison's collaborator William K. L. Dickson had begun soon after the move the previous year into a new laboratory at West Orange, New Jersey. A prototype with the earliest film strips was demonstrated in May, 1891, and Edison's "final patent filed in August of that year. Work on the Kinatoscope was completed in 1892. The following year Edison opened a motion picture studio and by 1894 was opening Kinatoscope viewing parlors in New York and other major cities. Competition from other companies led Edison into numerous legal battles, and by 1918 he had abandoned the motion picture business. However, one of his studio's early films, Dr. Colton, or Dentist Scene, has an important place in anesthesia history. This 1894 film was one of many "actualities" or short, non-fiction films made in the earliest period of motion pictures. A still from the film shows an elderly gentleman, apparently Gardner Quincy Colton, and others in either an actual or recreated dental procedure. If this is indeed Colton, who was born in 1814, he would have been 80 and the film made just four years before his death. In 1844 Colton had begun public nitrous oxide inhalation demonstrations in New England and toured the U.S. in subsequent years—he even came to Mobile, Alabama, in 1848! In 1863 he established the Colton Dental Association and began touring the U.S. and Europe to promote nitrous oxide anesthesia in dentistry. By 1894 Colton was perhaps the best known anesthetist in the world. And the brief film from Edison's studio is probably the first ever made of an anesthetic procedure.

1902 October 25: American author Frank Norris dies. In addition to his many other achievements, Holmes suggested to William M. Orton just weeks after Mortons' October 1846 public demonstration in Boston that the mental state produced by ether inhalation be called "anaesthesia." The word is derived from an ancient Greek term meaning lack or loss of sensation and had been in circulation in English for over a century when Holmes suggested it be applied to Mortons' technique.

1939 October 7: American neurosurgeon and medical historian Harvey Cushing dies. In 1894 Cushing and fellow Massachusetts General Hospital "house pup" Ernst Amory Codman (1869-1940) developed the first anesthetic record.

1947 October 13: In Britain, two patients, Albert Woolley and Cecil Roe, receive spinal anesthesia from the same anaesthetist, Dr. James M. Graham, for relatively minor surgical procedures, and both developed permanent, painful, spastic paraparesis. The men sued Dr. Graham and the Ministry of Health; the case finally went to trial in October, 1953, and lasted eleven days. The plaintiffs lost primarily due to testimony of Sir Robert Macintosh of Oxford University. Despite the outcome, the use of spinal anesthesia in the United Kingdom was retarded for the next 25 years. Details of the case can be found in Morgan M. The Woolley and Roe case. Anesthesia 1995; 50:162-173.

1980 October: American Society of Post Anesthesia Nurses (ASPN) is incorporated.

1990 October 21: Seven subspecialties admitted to the ASA House of Delegates.

1994 October 24: Twenty-cent U.S. stamp honoring Virginia Apgar is released at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics in Dallas, Texas.

2001 October 16: British medical historian Dr. Barbara M. Duncum dies. In 1947 Dr. Duncum published The Development of Inhalation Anaesthesia, which along with Thomas Keys' The History of Surgical Anesthesia is one of the major histories of the specialty. Her book was reprinted in 1994. Dr. Duncum was born February 22, 1910.
Anesthesia History Association
Eleventh Annual Resident Essay Contest

The Anesthesia History Association (AHA) sponsors an annual Resident Essay Contest with the prize presented at the ASA Annual Meeting.

Three typed copies of a 1,000-3,000 word essay written in English and related to the history of anesthesia, pain medicine or critical care should be submitted to:

William D. Hammonds, M.D., M.P.H.
Professor of Anesthesia and Director of Pain Outcomes Research
Department of Anesthesia
University of Iowa
200 Hawkins Drive, 6JCP
Iowa City, IA 52242-1079
U.S.A.
william-hammonds@uiowa.edu

The entrant must have written the essay either during his/her residency or within one year of completion of residency. Residents in any nation are eligible, but the essay MUST be submitted in English.

This award, which has a $500.00 honorarium, will be presented at the AHA’s annual dinner meeting to be held on October 16, 2006, in Chicago. This dinner is always held during the annual meeting of the American Society of Anesthesiologists. The second-place winner receives $200.00 and the third-place winner receives $100.00. The papers will be considered for publication in the Bulletin of Anesthesia History.

All entries must be received on or before September 1, 2006.