



# Newsletter

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

Issue No.131

December 2023

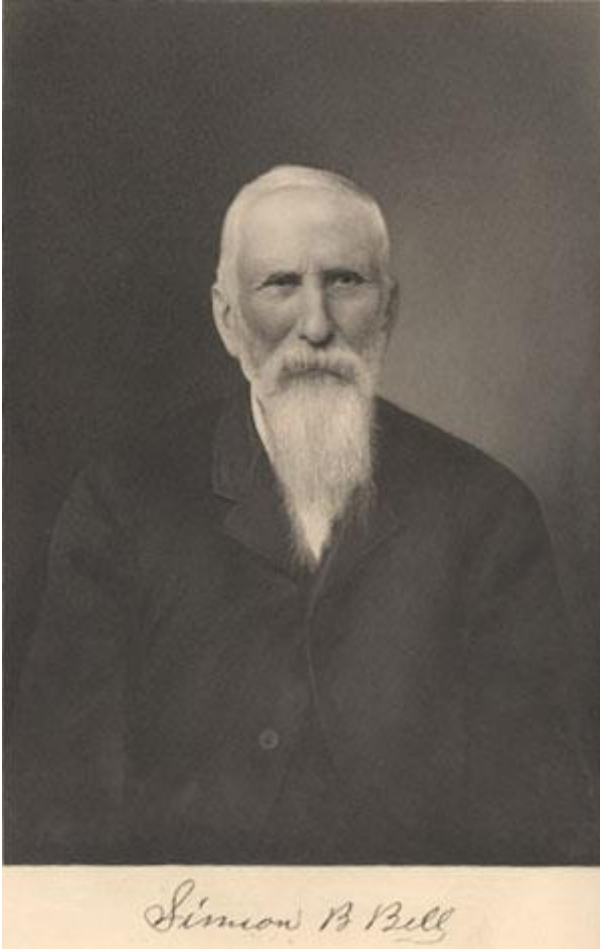
## KANSAS CITY WELCOMES AAHM

I hope that you will visit us here in Kansas City next May for the annual meeting of the AAHM. What is the social topography of Kansas City, you may ask? Let me say a bit about the lay of the land, its history, and its uses.

When you reach your hotel room at the Weston Crown Center, in Kansas City, Missouri, you will be in the middle of an 85-acre commercial complex developed by the world's largest greeting card company – even back when that meant something -- Hallmark Cards. In 1922, Hallmark built its corporate headquarters here in proximity to the bustling Union Station. You will easily spot the station, a massive Beaux-Arts structure just across the street. In 1926, the city added to the neighborhood what is now the National WWI Museum and Memorial, with its prominent tower and observation deck. The area from Crown Center to Union Station and up the hill to the museum is the city's largest public gathering space. If the people of Kansas City ever needed a Maidan moment, it would take place there. The space has typically been reserved instead for celebrations of Super Bowls and World Series.

On Friday night, the Garrison Lecture will take place in the glistening glass cube of the Health Education Building at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, Kansas. To get here you will cross what was likely the most fiercely contested border in US history, between the slave state of Missouri and the free state of Kansas. Years of skirmishes here led up to the Civil War and set the background for what became an important event in the founding of the medical center, involving a gift of land and money to create the University of Kansas School of Medicine. The donor was Dr. Simeon Bell, a New Jersey-born, physician, entrepreneur, and a staunch Republican. He moved with his young wife, Eleanor Taylor Bell, to eastern Kansas in 1856 seeking opportunity and a medical practice. They found themselves instead “as though dropped into a hornet's nest.” Over the next few years during a period known as Bleeding Kansas, Bell, a prominent Unionist, was repeatedly shot at, beaten, and robbed by Confederate irregulars, among them, he believed, Lost Cause poster-boy Jesse James. Bell was kidnapped for a time and his store burned down. Driven from home, Bell moved to Kansas City to start over.

The move was followed tragically by the death of his wife, Eleanor in 1866. But better fortune soon followed for Bell.



*History of Wyandotte County Kansas and its people* ed. and comp. by Perl W. Morgan. Chicago, The Lewis publishing company, 1911

He was able to purchase and develop extensive lands along the state line, purchasing it in part from members of the Shawnee Tribe who had received, and briefly held, multiple parcels in this area exchanged for more than a million acres of land in Kansas and Nebraska, through the federal Treaty with the Shawnee of 1854. Bell lived to the age of 94, amassing property and a large fortune. Later in life he devoted himself fervently to two related dreams, to create a medical school for the state of Kansas and thus to commemorate his beloved Eleanor. Bell

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The *AAHM NewsLetter* is edited by Jodi Koste and published three times a year by the American Association for the History of Medicine, Inc. It is distributed free of charge to the membership.

#### AAHM Officers

Barron Lerner, M.D., Ph.D., President  
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The Association's website is [www.histmed.org](http://www.histmed.org)

News items of 250 words or less are invited and may be submitted by e-mail, fax, or regular mail. Deadlines: 15 February, 1 July and 1 October.

eventually made gifts of land and money totaling in value more than \$100,000 enabling the State of Kansas to build the Eleanor Taylor Bell Memorial Hospital, joined with a small university medical school and school of nursing. The land chosen for the buildings corresponded closely to a plot sold to Bell by the daughters of Joseph Park, a local leader of the Shawnee Tribe, who was a signatory to the 1854

treaty. (Recognition of the harms associated with many such actions appears in the land acknowledgement for this meeting.) The hospital and its affiliated nursing and medical schools soon grew and in 1924 moved a mile south to their present location on Rainbow Boulevard; later, a third iteration of the Eleanor Taylor Bell Hospital was created, which is now embedded within the ever-growing complex of the University of Kansas Medical Center and University of Kansas Hospital. You can still trace the outlines of this third Bell Hospital in the naming system for rooms like BH4011.



Eleanor Taylor Bell Hospital

Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library,  
Kansas City, Missouri.

Saturday night you might be tempted to explore elsewhere in the city. A single, free streetcar line originates near the hotel and runs north through the center of Kansas City, ending in the City Market, along the banks of the Missouri River. A short distance downriver you find the world's first and only outdoor stadium dedicated to women's professional sports, the home of the Kansas City Current of the National Women's Soccer League. The Current will be in season and playing during the meeting. Closer to the hotel, a pedestrian bridge behind Union Station leads to the Crossroads Arts District, comprising several blocks dotted with independent restaurants, bars, and more than thirty small art galleries and studios. The north-south axis of the streetcar line mirrors to its east another historical

boundary of equal danger and power. Here at midcentury, the city's white leaders laid out the redline banking districts that imperiled and marginalized the city's dynamic Black neighborhoods. There is no east-bound line for the streetcar. But the stop at MetroCenter on 12<sup>th</sup> Street can connect you with the #8 bus line, also free, to drop you off ten minutes later in the historic 18<sup>th</sup> and Vine Jazz District.



Negro League Baseball Museum and American Jazz Museum  
Richard from Kansas City, United States, CC BY 2.0

The jazz district is the source of Kansas City's main claim to cultural significance (besides barbeque), with the creation in the 1920s and 1930s of a prominent music scene that grew up around artists like Count Basie, Mary Lou Williams, Charlie Parker, and Ben Webster. The KC Jazz Museum, the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, and the Blue Room venue are all here. At the southeast edge of the district is the Black Archives of Mid-American, an affiliate for the meeting, well worth a stop. And, yes, Arthur Bryant's and Gates Bar-B-Q are both near 18<sup>th</sup> and Vine, with similar spots scattered across the city. I remain agnostic on their comparative value. I hope you will enjoy your time in Kansas City and take the opportunity to explore the terrain.

*Chris Crenner*  
Chair, 2024 Local Arrangements Committee



## AAHM NEWS

### Celebrating AAHM's 100<sup>th</sup>

When we gather in Boston in 2025, we will be celebrating the AAHM's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. We don't want to give too much away regarding the celebration we are planning for the meeting but the name of our ad hoc committee--the Fun Committee--should be a hint.

In advance of the meeting, we are asking younger members to record interviews on video or audio with some of our long-time members. How old do you have to be to qualify for an interview? How young and new to the organization do you have to be to step up and start recording people? We'll let you be the judge. As soon as we have some suggested interview questions, some guidelines for recording the interviews, and a place to archive then we'll be sending out that information. Please get ready to conduct an interview or to be interviewed.

Other requests will be coming your way. Don't toss all that fun history of medicine stuff that has been sitting in your attic or office. There just might be a fund-raising auction at the meeting. Of course, you shouldn't wait until 2025 to donate to our organization's centennial campaign. You can go to <https://aahm.press.jhu.edu/membership/contribute> or use the [QR codes](#) on the last page of this newsletter.

### AAHM Development Committee

In preparation for the celebration of our 100th birthday in 2025, your development committee has been actively engaged for the past year and a half in fundraising for the AAHM's Centennial Campaign. The goal of the campaign is to raise \$1 Million for the two essential priorities that will enable the AAHM to function effectively and sustain the work of our members over the course of the next century: The Executive Director Endowment Fund (allowing the organization to create a durable structure with a

professional executive director); and the creation of a General Endowment Fund. (This unrestricted endowment will make it possible for the AAHM to support the priorities of the organization and the work of its members.)

Many of you have stepped up to give. By the end of November, 2023, the campaign had raised a total of \$63,137 from 140 donors, all but two of them AAHM members. Our thanks to all of you.

As I noted in my last campaign update, strong support from our members is essential for the campaign to succeed. We know that it will not be possible to raise \$1 million from AAHM members alone, and we are eager to approach foundations and the larger philanthropic community for their support. To do so effectively, however, we will need to be able to demonstrate as broad a commitment from our own membership as possible.

Every gift matters. Members can make a one-time contribution to one of the two funds, or a percentage to each, at <https://aahm.press.jhu.edu/membership/contribute>, or write a check to the AAHM and send it to Dr. Scott Podolsky, AAHM Treasurer, 185 Horsepond Road, Sudbury, MA 01776.

You can also make a contribution through a donor-advised fund; give a gift of stocks, bonds, or an IRA distribution; make a legacy gift from a will or trust; or make a pledge involving a two, three, four, or five-year commitment. For information making a gift in one of these ways, please contact Scott Podolsky. His email address is [Scott.Podolsky@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:Scott.Podolsky@hms.harvard.edu).

The Development Committee (Margaret Marsh, Amanda Mahoney, Nicholas Bonneau, Wanda Ronner, Charlotte Borst, Dale Smith, Julie Fairman and Scott Podolsky, Treasurer, ex officio) expresses its deep gratitude to members who have given to the campaign.

*Margaret Marsh,  
Chair, AAHM Development Committee  
(Questions? Write me at [ahmcampaign@camden.rutgers.edu](mailto:ahmcampaign@camden.rutgers.edu))*

## AAHM Membership Renewal

As you know, our membership dues, journal subscriptions, donations, and conference registration are handled by Johns Hopkins University Press. The JHUP recently let us know that, to maintain compliance with tax law, the press will be assessing taxes on transactions based on your home jurisdiction's tax law. Most members will see a tax on membership and journal subscriptions, but the percentage and details will depend on your home jurisdiction's tax law. This new policy will go into effect on January 2, 2024.

If you have any questions regarding this new policy, please reach out to our JHUP customer service at [AAHMSupport@jh.edu](mailto:AAHMSupport@jh.edu).

## ARCHIVES/LIBRARIES/MUSEUMS

Innovations in Navy Medicine: A Short History of Navy Physician Assistants, Video by Javon Spence and Thomas Webster, Visual Information Directorate-NMLPDC

<https://www.dvidshub.net/video/903489/innovations-navy-medicine-short-history-navy-physician-assistants>

Navy Physician Assistants (PAs) serve globally in Military Treatment Facilities, on the front lines with our warfighters and bring the best in Navy Medicine on humanitarian relief missions.

This brief video explores PAs origins as far back as 1904, when the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery sent two Navy physicians to observe the medical practices of Russian “feldshers” in the Russo-Japanese War.

This Innovations in Navy Medicine video is part of an award-winning series dedicated to showcasing the important innovations and hallmarks in Navy Medicine history. Stay tuned to DVIDS and Navy Medicine’s social media platforms for future releases.

**The Arthur H. Aufses, Jr., MD Archives at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai** received a 2023 Digitization Project Grant from the Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO). The grant covers a selection of the Mount Sinai Beth Israel collection, focusing on materials from the opening of the hospital in 1890 through the completion of the 16th Street campus in Manhattan circa 1969. With the recent announcement of the closure of this campus, this digitization project was even timelier than anticipated. Beginning as a form of Jewish mutual aid to care for marginalized workers and their families living in tenements in New York’s Lower East Side, Beth Israel Hospital grew to treat and research many of the most pressing issues of the time. Over its 133-year history, this has included caring for the sick during the Influenza Epidemic of 1918 and the development of the Methadone Maintenance Treatment Program in the 1960s, one of the first-ever methadone clinics – both topics are represented in the digitized materials.

Over 600 new objects have been digitized and made available in our newly redesigned catalog as part of this project. This includes selected photographs, early Board of Trustees minutes, annual reports, World War I letters, and various other textual records. We also published a blog post that explains some of the research that can be undertaken utilizing these materials and how to access them, as well as an additional post on highlights from the photograph selection. All Materials digitized as part of this project are available here: <https://archives.mssm.edu/>

**University of California, San Francisco Archives and Special Collections** is thrilled to announce that the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has generously awarded the UCSF Digital Health Humanities program with a grant to host the Advancing Digital Health Humanities Institute (ADHHI). The ADHHI proposal was one of 280 humanities projects selected to support vital humanities education, research, preservation, and public programs. The Institute is designed as a two-year initiative that builds upon the innovative UCSF Digital Health Humanities pilot program launched

at the UCSF Library in 2022 to encourage research at the intersections of health sciences, data science, and digital humanities.

The ADHHI intends to facilitate new insights into historical health data. Through the Institute's programming, a select group of researchers will learn and apply methods that provide a humanistic context to understanding institutional, personal, and community responses to health matters. This approach includes examining the social, cultural, political, and economic impacts on individual and public health. Using digital humanistic inquiry and methods as a catalyst, the ADHHI will draw from connections across allied disciplines at UCSF and other institutions with health humanities, medical history, and health sciences programs. These collaborations will inform a series of trainings, workshops, and network-building events. Furthermore, a cross-disciplinary and cross-institutional team of expert instructors and speakers will collaborate on facilitating the institute curriculum. The curriculum will include thematic explorations of:

- Understanding, exploring, and analyzing archives as data for digital health humanities research
- Examining boundary objects and boundary work across healthcare, history, and communities
- Interrogating the historic record to surface and address bias and influence in health issues

With the development of this project, we look forward to recruiting an interdisciplinary participant cohort. Eligible applicants include humanities and humanistic social science researchers, health care providers based in academic research programs, and community organizations investigating cultural and social contexts of illness and health care. We strongly encourage applications from researchers interested in confronting historic legacies of health inequities rooted in institutional racism and marginalization, as well as related impacts of bias, omission, and harm. More information about the program and the application process is forthcoming.

**Indiana University School of Medicine's Ruth Lilly Medical Library** is pleased to announce a new addition to the History of Medicine Collection. The William H. Schneider History of French Eugenics Research Collection consists of publication manuscripts, conference presentations, correspondence, and other materials created and acquired by the donor, William H. Schneider (Professor Emeritus of History and Professor of Medical Humanities and Health Studies, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis), while researching the history of eugenics in France. Notable items from the collection include an unpublished autobiography (*Mémoires sur moi et les autres*) written by French physiologist, eugenicist, and Nobel Prize winner, Charles Richet (1850-1935); French obstetrician Raymond Couvelaire's unpublished recollections (*Épigrammes familiale et violons imaginaires*) of his father-in-law, Adolphe Pinard (1844-1934), a pioneer of modern perinatal care and founder and first president of the French Eugenics Society (*Société française d'eugénique*); and letters exchanged between Schneider and Charles Richet's grandsons, Gabriel and Denis Richet, who provided him with original archival materials about their grandfather. A detailed descriptive finding aid for the collection can be viewed in IU Archives Online: <https://archives.iu.edu/catalog/VAE4267>

### **New from the National Library of Medicine**

A collection of reproduced documents from the 1932 study by the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) on the effects of untreated syphilis in Black men at Tuskegee Institute is now available as a digitized collection through the National Library of Medicine (NLM). The USPHS Untreated Syphilis Study at Tuskegee was conducted without informed consent and led to major reforms to protect participants in biomedical research. The digitized collection, which can be viewed as part of NLM's Digital Collections, was made possible through permission from Fisk University, Nashville, a historically Black university, which holds a portion of original documents at the

John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library, Special Collections, Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives. NLM is part of the National Institutes of Health. NIH has worked with Fisk University to make these important documents, previously only available in their physical form, more broadly available to ensure this chapter in history is never repeated and build greater trust in current biomedical research through transparency.

The collection, which consists of more than 3,000 reproduced copies of correspondence, memoranda, meeting minutes, reports, and scientific articles, constitutes a distinct historical record that has informed research led by historians, medical ethicists, and many others across a variety of disciplines. NLM's stewardship of this collection supports its mission to enable biomedical research and support health care and public health through free online access to scholarly biomedical literature.

About the study: In 1932, a study began on the effects of untreated syphilis on Black men in Alabama. Researchers conducting the study did not obtain informed consent from participants and did not offer treatment, even after it was widely available. In 1972, an ad hoc federal panel was created to investigate the study. The final report found the study to be ethically unjustified and that participants were not informed about the nature of the disease and given treatment once a highly effective treatment was found. In 1972, the study officially ended after advisement from the panel. The investigation and its subsequent findings led to compensation for victims of the research and major changes in research practices.

In 1973, Dr. R.C. Backus, Executive Secretary of the Ad Hoc Advisory Panel, donated to NLM photocopies of the original documents on the origin, development, and investigation of the USPHS Untreated Syphilis Study at Tuskegee. In making this collection more widely available, NIH is recognizing the participants in the USPHS study and the injustices they and their families suffered. NIH also recognizes the work of the Ad Hoc Advisory Panel

to address the unethical actions of the study which ushered in new protections for the rights of research participants.

The NLM collects, preserves, and makes publicly available collections such as that of the USPHS Untreated Syphilis Study at Tuskegee to advance open access, improve transparency in research, and ensure that lessons of the past inform the present and future of biomedical research, health care, public health, and healthy behavior. The documents may be seen here: <https://collections.nlm.nih.gov/catalog/nlm:nlmuid-2934097R-root>

The National Library of Medicine (NLM)'s newest online exhibition "Promising Future, Complex Past: artificial Intelligence and the Legacy of Physiognomy" <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/artificial-intelligence-and-physiognomy/index.html>, explores the history of physiognomy and its influence on contemporary artificial intelligence and computer science technologies that gather and interpret body data.

*Promising Future, Complex Past* presents the history of physiognomy, which was the practice of assessing mental character based on physical attributes. Now debunked as pseudoscience, physiognomy enjoyed periods of legitimacy and popularity over a history spanning millennia before being discredited in the 20th century. Society has rejected the unscientific aspects of physiognomy, but efforts to gain information from physical characteristics continue through current technologies which have the potential to make the world safer and improve health, while impacting how data is collected, shared, and preserved.

The online exhibition, produced in cooperation with Sameer Antani, Ph.D., Principal Investigator in the Computational Health Research Branch of the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) Intramural Research Program, includes a digital gallery of selected works from the historical collections of the NLM <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/>

[artificial-intelligence-and-physiognomy/digitalgallery.html](#), which are also available in their entirety in NLM Digital Collections, as well as a selection of links to trusted NLM health information resources. A traveling banner adaptation of the exhibition will tour libraries and cultural institutions around the country, beginning in 2024.

### Other News

The Federation of State Medical Boards has partnered with JSTOR to archive nearly all of that organization's back issues of its *Journal of Medical Regulation*. Published continuously since 1913 under several titles (*Federation Bulletin*, *Journal of Medical Licensure and Discipline*) the FSMB's publication covers major developments and trends in medical regulation, medical education and the profession. All issues from 1930 to present are now available through JSTOR at <https://www.jstor.org/journal/fedebull>. Work is underway to fill in the remaining backlog of issues spanning 1913 to 1929. For more information contact David Johnson, Chief Assessment Officer, FSMB at [djohnson@fsmb.org](mailto:djohnson@fsmb.org)

### Please donate to the Centennial Campaign

Just scan and enter your credit card information to donate now!

#### AAHM Executive Director Endowment



#### AAHM General Endowment Fund

