

From Our Readers

“Thanks for the inspiration.”
-Dr. Jerry Zebrack

“Thank you and the editors for
the nice article (Dr. Hugh Collett
Family Donates ...) in *Greasewood
Tablettes*.”
-Dr. Hugh Collett



*Wooden stethoscope from Austin, Nevada,
1863*

NEVADA'S MEDICAL HERITAGE
THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE LIBRARY &
MUSEUM

May 7, Museum Day on UNR Campus is when all of its campus museums are open to the public. This issue of *Greasewood Tablettes* is dedicated to delineating our efforts to preserve the history of medicine in Nevada and give the reader information about our museum. The main History of Medicine Library and Museum (HOML) is located in the north end of the Savitt Medical Library on the University of Nevada School of Medicine (SOM) campus. It is open to the public during all library hours and is hosted by faculty on MUSEUM DAY. Chairman of Pathology Dr. Marcus Erling, Assistant Professor Dr. Phillip Usera, and Pathology Manager Lynda McLellan oversee the HOML.

The HOML is named after the six Doctors Hood who practiced in our state. Dr. William Henry Hood came to Battle Mountain in 1886 and in 1899 received Nevada medical license #1 for the grand sum of \$2. The three HOML rooms are the Donald Mousel Lounge, the Sandra and Robert Daugherty Study Room, and Owen Bolstadt Conference Room. The late Dr. Mousel was an ophthalmologist and dedicated humanitarian who treated patients in poor countries and communities where eye care was difficult or impossible to obtain. The Daugherty Study Room recognizes former Dean Bob Daugherty and co-editor of this publication, who made the HOML area available to the Great Basin History of Medicine

Program (GBHM). The late Dr. Owen Bolstad and Dr. Anton Sohn created the GBHM.

Satellite HOML exhibits are located at the entrance to the Savitt Library, the entrance to the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory on the SOM campus, the entrance to the Savitt Medical Education building, and the entrance to SOM Clinical Offices on West Charleston Blvd. in Las Vegas. All contain medical artifacts and information related to Nevada.

The HOML Collection displays historical medical artifacts, books, and photographs. The collection contains 121 oral histories; written documents; and over 7,000 photographs related to the school of medicine, the Nevada State Medical Association, frontier military medicine in the Great Basin, Nevada hospitals, and doctors in Nevada, dating as early as 1855 when Dr. Charles Daggett Arrived in Genoa. The collection includes all of the published issues of *Greasewood Tablettes*, our quarterly history of medicine bulletin since its inception in 1989, and oral histories related to public health, hospitals, and the practice of human medicine, veterinarian medicine and dentistry dating from 1939. Also included in the HOML archives are 15 file cabinets with documents of historical importance.

The medical instrument collection includes over 900 medical artifacts; Dr. Donald

Mousel's collection of over 100 eyeglasses dating from the eighteenth century when Benjamin Franklin created the bifocal lens; the late Dr. Fred Anderson's collection of early Nevada Indian medical artifacts and medical instruments; nineteenth century surgical instruments, and early twentieth century medical furniture and



Dr. S. L. Lee's microscope (Nevada's first known)

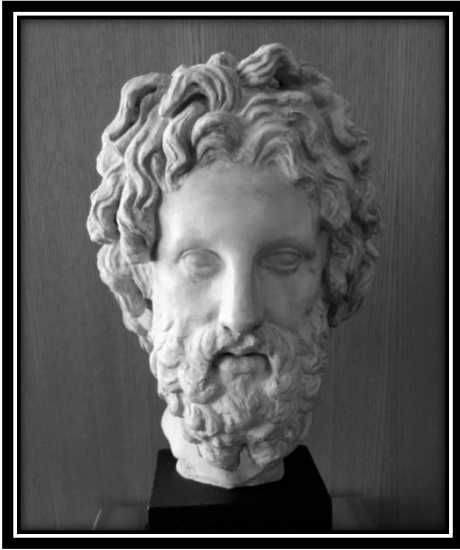
instruments. The Savitt entrance showcase at one time contained a collection of early obstetrical instruments and artifacts donated by Dr. George Furman, who was the founding member of the obstetrical department at the SOM.

Two objects of importance to Nevada: Dr. Simeon L. Lee's microscope and a wooden stethoscope used by an unknown doctor in Austin, Nevada in 1863. Dr. Rene Laennec in Paris invented the stethoscope in 1816. Previous to that time a doctor put his ear on the patient's chest to hear heart and lung sounds. Laennec observed young students on a

street in Paris listening to tapping sound hear over a long wooden pole. He quickly deduced that heart sounds would transmit over a similar device and rolled a notebook and placed one end on the patient's chest and the other at his ear. Thus, he invented and named the stethoscope (*Stethos* [breast] *skopein* [look at]). Some years later a 10-inch wooden stethoscope was made (see photo of wooden stethoscope). Later came the stethoscope, as we know it today.

Dr. Simeon Lemuel Lee came to Pioche in 1872 and became one of Nevada's most prominent nineteenth-century doctors, but it is unknown when he brought his brass microscope to Nevada. The microscope was invented in the 1600s, but illumination crucial to seeing details of microscopic objects was developed in 1893. Therefore it is reasonable to assume that Dr. Lee obtained his microscope sometime around 1900. It is the first known microscope in Nevada. Dr. Lee died in Carson City in 1927 (see photo of Dr. Lee's microscope).

The Book Collection includes over 750 medical books, 16 books published by the Greasewood Press; books on Nevada history with reference to medicine; approximately 73 nineteenth-century medical books; and 17 eighteenth-century books including a 1702 rare edition of Mead's *Mechanic Account of Poisons* donated by the late Dr. Ken



Aesculapius (cast from original in British Museum, which had a gold halo signifying a god)

Maclean, who was a longtime secretary of the Nevada Board of Medical Examiners. The most recent addition is a gift by DR. TOM HALL, a retired St. Mary's Hospital pathologist, of a 1787 book (see photo of book presentation). The HOML book collection includes 110 current monographs on the history of medicine; 50 books on military medicine; early issues of the *Bulletin of the Nevada State Medical Association*; the complete New York Academy of Medicine Library Catalog and the *Index-Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office*, U.S. Army, 1880-1955. We also list of more than 700 doctors who practiced in Nevada between 1857 and 1900. The complete collection of the *Classics of Medicine* is housed in the medical library.

The beginning of western medicine is chronicled in the HOML. For sure the oldest and maybe the most important relic in

the HOML relates to the beginning of western medicine in ancient Greece. Previous to the great Hippocrates, who was born around 460 B.C. on the Island of Cos, off the coast of what is now Turkey, disease was thought to come from supernatural sources. Prayer to Aesculapius (see photo of Aesculapius) and interpretation by the temple priest was essential to healing. The Aesculapians believed in the healing power of snakes and their symbol was a serpent wound around a staff. From this we get the modern symbol of medicine, the *caduceus*. The U.S. military added a second snake and wings to the staff as part of a military doctor's uniform. The serpent symbol is displayed in the HOML on an ancient marble pillar from the city of Byblos (now Jubayl), a 5,000 year old Phoenician city (see photo of serpent on marble column). In Biblical times the city was known for its papyrus that was used for written records and "Bible" derives its name from Byblos. U.S. Ambassador Robert Borden Reams, who was appointed by President Eisenhower, gave the marble column with the serpent to Dr. Fred Anderson.

Hippocrates & Associates refuted the Aesculapian supernatural cause of disease and taught that sickness arises in the patient or from the environment. Thus, began western medicine. Writings of Hippocrates known as the *Hippocratic corpus* were

recorded over approximately 200 years. The books contain 70 different texts, which are characterized by clarity of thought, scientific method, and moral teaching. The most famous declaration is: "*Life is short. The art is long. Opportunity is fleeting. Experience is delusive. Judgment is difficult.*"

Hippocrates' teachings have guided medicine for thousands of years. Its disciples emphasized maintain equilibrium between the four humors (Blood, Yellow Bile, Black Bile, and Phlegm) was necessary for good health. This theory resulted in bloodletting and purging to maintain equilibrium, a practice that existed into the nineteenth century. The most lasting contribution of the *Hippocratic corpus* is a code of ethics that sets medicine apart from other professions. Today some



Medical serpent on 2,000+ year-old Byblos temple column

modification of this code is recited and pledged by all graduating physicians from U.S. medical schools.

Dr. Tom Hall Donates Rare 1787 Book to the School of Medicine

On 24 March 2016, Dr. Thomas E. Hall donated a rare medical book, *First Lines of the Practice of Physic* (*physic* is Middle English and means medicine), published in 1787 by William Cullen, MD (see photo of Pathology Manager Lynda McLellan, Chief Librarian Mary Shultz, and Dr. Hall with the book). After restoration the book will be preserved in the Hood History of Medicine Library. Dr. Hall



*Path. Mgr. Lynda McLellan, Chief
Librarian Mary Shultz & Dr. Tom Hall with
1787 book*

practiced in Reno from 1963 until his retirement in 1997. Based at Saint Mary's Hospital, Dr. Hall was a member of Physicians' Consulting Laboratories and Western Clinical Laboratories, a group of 22 pathologists, which provided laboratory and pathology services to northern Nevada and neighboring California communities. Dr. Hall was involved in the beginning of the School of Medicine and states, "I had the pleasure of teaching pathology to the first class of students at the School." In the beginning the School of Medicine provided two years of basic science and a transfer to a four-year MD granting school.

GREASEWOOD TABLETTES © is a quarterly publication of the Department of Pathology, Great Basin History of Medicine Division, University of Nevada School of Medicine. Doctors Anton P. Sohn, Robert Daugherty and Phil Usera are co-editors, Lynda D. McLellan is our production manager, Dr. Marcus Erling is publisher, Kristin Sohn Fermoile is copy editor, and Katelyn Burgoyne is formatting editor. The newsletter is printed by the Department of Pathology. The cost of publication is paid for by a grant from the Pathology Department, School of Medicine. The editor solicits any items of interest for publication. Suggestions, corrections and comments are welcome. Please feel free to email us at antonps@gbis.com or write us at Department of Pathology/0350, University of Nevada School of Medicine, Reno, NV, 89557. The name GREASEWOOD TABLETTES © is derived from the greasewood plant or creosote bush, a plant that was used by Native Nevadans for medicinal purposes. It is still the subject of pharmacological research today.

