



# THE OSLER LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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*Osler Library of the History of Medicine, McGill University, Montréal (Québec) Canada*

## *Osler on the move: the return to McIntyre*

Mary K. K. Hague-Yearl, PhD

## *Osler en déménagement : le retour à McIntyre*



By the time this newsletter circulates, the physical move from the McLennan Library back to our home in the McIntyre Medical Building will be complete, apart from some planned exceptions. As of writing, one full day of unpacking and re-shelving remains. In forty-three business days, we went from empty shelves (Image 1) to a full library (Image 2).

It can be difficult to imagine moving approximately 100,000 books, nearly a thousand medical artifacts, and archival boxes that fill nearly half a kilometer of shelf space. We provided the movers with training and guidance up front: how books are shelved, how to handle them at every stage, how to wrap each rare book in tissue paper, how to pack a box so as not to damage any of the books, and how to navigate our archives location system. The movers labeled each box and linked it to corresponding inventory notes (e.g, call number of the first book, number of books in the box), which we could then check upon delivery and unpacking. We assigned each distinct cataloguing section a colour based on the six colours of label used by the moving company, which made it easy to show where a section would be placed on the shelves in McIntyre (Images 3 and 4).

Our colleagues in Rare Books and Special Collections kindly gave up their main event and activity space, the Colgate Room, to serve as the Osler Library staging area in the McLennan Library Building. The arrangement was akin to an assembly line (Image 5), with each team member taking responsibility for a particular aspect of the operation.



Au moment de la circulation de ce bulletin, le déménagement physique de la bibliothèque McLennan vers nos locaux du pavillon médical McIntyre sera terminé, à quelques exceptions près. Au moment où j'écris ces lignes, il reste une journée entière de déballage et de remise sur les étagères. En quarante-trois jours ouvrables, nous sommes passés d'étagères vides (image 1) à une bibliothèque pleine (image 2).

Il peut être difficile d'imaginer le déménagement d'environ 100 000 livres, de près d'un millier d'artefacts médicaux et de boîtes d'archives qui remplissent près d'un demi-kilomètre d'étagères. Nous avons fourni aux déménageurs une formation et des conseils dès le départ : comment les livres sont mis en rayon, comment les manipuler à chaque étape, comment emballer chaque livre rare dans du papier de soie, comment remplir une boîte de manière à n'endommager aucun des livres et comment naviguer dans notre système de localisation des archives. Les déménageurs ont étiqueté chaque boîte et l'ont reliée aux notes d'inventaire correspondantes (par exemple, la cote du premier livre, le nombre de livres dans la boîte), que nous pouvions ensuite vérifier à la livraison et au déballage. Nous avons attribué à chaque section de catalogage distincte une couleur basée sur les six couleurs d'autocollants utilisés par l'entreprise de déménagement, ce qui a permis de montrer facilement où une section serait placée sur les étagères de McIntyre (images 3 et 4).

Nos collègues de la section Livres rares et collections spéciales ont aimablement mis à disposition leur principal espace



McGill

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Image 1. The Wellcome Camera on 30 March 2022, as we were preparing for the move. | The Wellcome Camera le 30 mars 2022, alors que nous préparons le déménagement.



Image 2. The Wellcome Camera on 8 April 2022, with the reference collection below and the circulating books filling the shelves on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. | The Wellcome Camera le 8 avril 2022, avec la collection de référence ci-dessous et les livres en circulation remplissant les étagères du 4<sup>e</sup> étage.

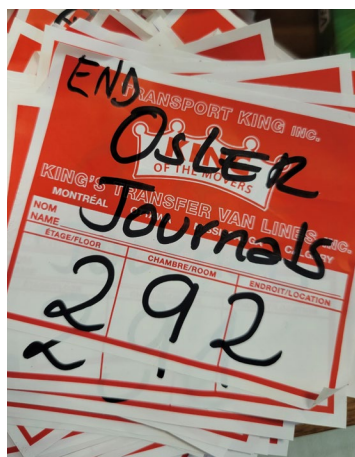


Image 3. Each box was numbered and colour-coded and included a brief description of the section to which it belonged. | Chaque boîte était étiquetée et codée par couleur et comprenait une brève description de la section à laquelle elle appartenait.

It's in the details that one finds success: numbered book trucks that made it easy for those wrapping the books to do so in the proper order; knowing when to pause the book wrapping to record the call number of the first work to go into the next box; alerting those taking books off the shelves to markers indicating either an interruption to a section or the end of a section. Confidence in the training provided meant confidence in the moving teams, which was essential while overseeing a complex operation taking place in two locations. Cell phones certainly made things easier: a quick picture to ask a question or confirm directions, a note to alter the procedure when something not-quite-right appeared on the other end, a request to move to McIntyre or McLennan to confer with a team on-site. In other words, communication among all parties was key to ensuring that things went smoothly.

While Lily Szczygiel and Bozena Latincic swapped days overseeing operations in McLennan during the packing, we concentrated our staff (including three students, Adrienne, Ben, and Josie) in McIntyre. We had an assembly line of our own, sometimes helping to unwrap the books but mostly putting them in call number order and guiding the re-shelving by making sure that the team putting items on the shelves left space as indicated.

To say that the move itself has drawn to a close is not to say that we are fully re-established. This summer will be full of actions aimed at setting us up for the future. The duties that remain are numerous, as are the details to work out. The greatest task will be to shelf-read all sections of the library to confirm that the books are in order. In addition, we'll be undertaking an inventory control exercise. On top of this, in order to simplify operations moving forward, we are integrating four formerly separate sections of nineteenth-century material.

The outstanding work required to prepare the library means that we will remain closed for much of the summer. All of the tasks that remain require hands-on work by staff, often meaning hours in the stacks away from our computers. We appreciate the patience afforded us while we make the proper re-installation of the library our top priority. It has been a long four years; taking just a bit more time now will help reinsure smooth operations when we reopen. (Image 6)

d'activité et d'événement, la salle Colgate, pour servir de zone de transit à la bibliothèque Osler dans le bâtiment de la bibliothèque McLennan. L'organisation s'apparentait à une chaîne de montage (image 5), chaque membre de l'équipe étant responsable d'un aspect particulier de l'opération.

C'est dans les détails que l'on trouve le succès : des chariots de livres numérotés qui permettaient à ceux qui emballaient les livres de le faire dans le bon ordre ; savoir quand faire une pause dans l'emballage des livres pour enregistrer la cote du premier ouvrage à placer dans la boîte suivante ; signaler aux personnes qui retiraient les livres des étagères les marqueurs indiquant une interruption ou la fin d'une section. La confiance dans la formation fournie signifiait la confiance dans les équipes de déménagement, ce qui était essentiel pour superviser une opération complexe se déroulant sur deux sites. Les cellulaires ont certainement facilité les choses : une photo rapide pour poser une question ou confirmer des instructions, une note pour modifier la procédure lorsque quelque chose ne va pas à l'autre bout du processus, une demande de déplacement vers McIntyre ou McLennan pour conférer avec une équipe sur place. En d'autres termes, la communication entre toutes les parties était essentielle pour que tout se passe bien.

Alors que Lily Szczygiel et Bozena Latincic se relayaient pour superviser les opérations à McLennan pendant l'emballage, nous avons concentré notre personnel (dont trois étudiants, Adrienne, Ben et Josie) à McIntyre. Nous avions notre propre chaîne de montage, aidant parfois à déballer les livres, mais surtout à les ranger dans l'ordre des cotes et à guider la remise en rayon en veillant à ce que l'équipe qui rangeait les articles sur les étagères laisse de l'espace comme indiqué.

Dire que le déménagement en lui-même est terminé ne signifie pas que nous sommes pleinement réinstallés. Cet été sera rempli d'actions visant à nous préparer pour l'avenir. Les tâches qui restent à accomplir sont nombreuses, tout comme les détails à régler. La tâche la plus importante sera de revoir toutes les sections de la bibliothèque pour confirmer que les livres sont en ordre. En outre, nous entreprendrons un exercice de contrôle de l'inventaire. En outre, afin de simplifier les opérations à venir, nous intégrons quatre sections de livres du XIXe siècle qui étaient auparavant séparées.

L'immense travail nécessaire pour préparer la bibliothèque signifie que nous resterons fermés pendant une grande partie de l'été. Toutes les tâches qui restent à accomplir exigent un travail pratique de la part du personnel, ce qui nécessite souvent des heures passées dans les rayons, loin de nos ordinateurs. Nous apprécions la patience dont vous faites preuve pendant que nous faisons de la réinstallation correcte de la bibliothèque notre priorité absolue. Ces quatre années ont été longues ; en prenant un peu plus de temps maintenant, nous pourrions garantir le bon fonctionnement de la bibliothèque lors de sa réouverture. (Image 6)





Image 4. We had signs to match the movers' stickers, and for the first sections to be shelved included brief reminders as to the pattern to follow in shelving the books. | Nous avions des panneaux assortis aux autocollants des déménageurs, et pour les premières sections à ranger, nous avons inclus de brefs rappels sur le modèle à suivre pour ranger les livres.



Image 5. The Colgate Room turned into a busy assembly line for eight weeks. | La salle Colgate s'est transformée en une chaîne de montage animée pendant huit semaines.



Image 6. It is a joy to see the books back in the Osler Room. | C'est une joie de revoir les livres dans la salle Osler.



# Book announcement:

## *Allister Neher, Art and anatomy in nineteenth-century Britain*

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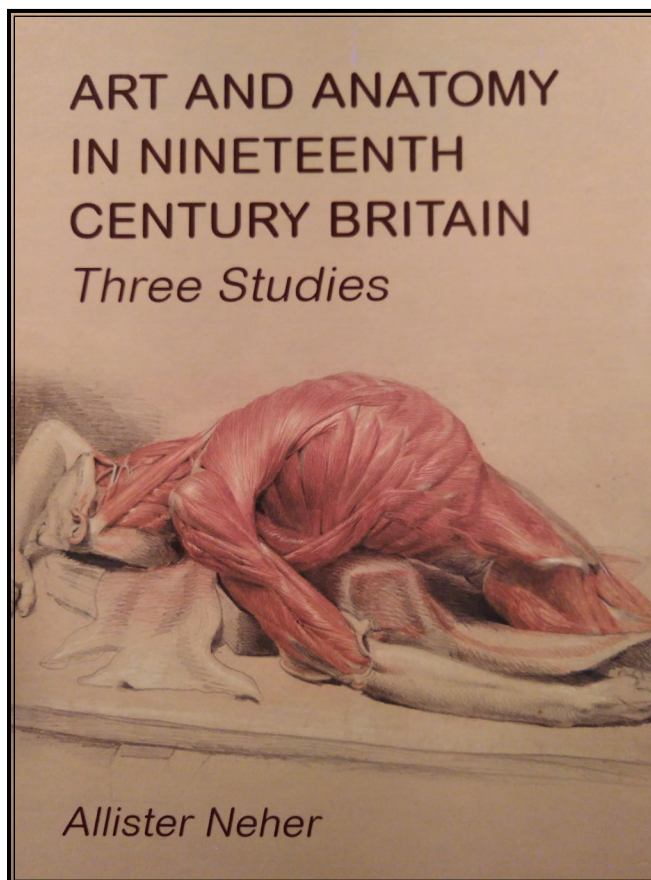


The three studies that comprise *Art and Anatomy in Nineteenth Century Britain* (Newcastle-upon-Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2022) investigate ways in which the fine arts and the science of anatomy were interrelated in early nineteenth century Britain. It was an era in which the two disciplines were closely connected and mutually dependent. Anatomy students attended drawing classes at the Royal Academy and other institutions to develop the artistic skills they needed to accurately depict their specimens. Artists attended private anatomy schools to study the construction of the human body, so that their representations of action and expression could be more convincing. Their personal and professional lives overlapped in ways that shaped their disciplines. This book is principally concerned with three: how the fine arts and their practices were imported into anatomical illustration, how anatomy took on a prominent pedagogical position in some schools of art, and how anatomical accuracy became an important criterion in aesthetic evaluation. These interactions are pursued through the works of three men: John Bell, Charles Landseer and Robert Carswell. They were all influential figures in their time, this book serves to return them to contemporary discussions.

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*Allister Neher, a former Humanities professor at Dawson College, is a research associate of the Osler Library of the History of Medicine at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. His research interests include the history of art theory and the intersection of art and science, especially in anatomical illustration. His most recent publications include: "John Bell (1763-1820) Anatomist and Art Theorist," The British Art Journal; "William Clift's Sketches of Executed Murderers," The Social History of Medicine; "The Truth about our Bones: William Cheselden's Osteographia," Medical History; "Christopher Wren, Thomas Willis and the Depiction of the Brain and Nerves," Journal of Medical Humanities, among many others.*

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Cover of Allister Neher's new book, which makes generous use of works from the Osler Library.

# Memories of Zlata Blažina Tomić (5 January 1926 - 29 November 2021)

Faith Wallis, PhD, Professor (Retired) of History and  
Classical Studies and former Osler Librarian



Zlata Blažina Tomić holding a copy  
of her first book (2007), *Kacamorti  
i kuga: utemeljenje i razvoj  
zdravstvene službe u Dubrovniku*  
(Cazamorti and the Plague:  
Founding and Development of the  
Health Office in Dubrovnik).



For over two decades from 1970 to her retirement in 1991, Zlata Blažina was the engine that built the collections of the Osler Library. When she died at the venerable age of 95 last fall, we lost a stalwart friend of the Library, and a woman who poured her passion, high standards of scholarship, and deep loyalties

into her work as bibliographer and chief of acquisitions. I worked beside Zlata from 1985 until her retirement, crafting our collections policies, working on special development grant applications, seeking out medical history scholarship from around the globe, and every once in a while, campaigning to nab a particularly spectacular rare acquisition. Zlata's facility with languages, her carefully cultivated relationships with bookdealers, and her nose for a bargain were invaluable assets in her work. But it was her instincts as a historian and her deep commitment to scholarship that really drove her, in both her daily tasks and in her larger ambitions to contribute herself to the history of medicine.

Zlata Tomić was born in Srijemska Mitrovica and until the age of 15 she lived in Požega, Croatia where her father had a wood business and the first electric sawmill in Slavonia. In 1940, due to the Second World War, she moved to Zagreb with her mother Ana Kovač (1901-1992), her father Slavko Tomić (1897-1989) and her brother Tomislav (1921-1987). Thanks to the persuasive powers of her grandmother Katarina Matić Tomić, Slavko relented and allowed Zlata go to the University of Zagreb, from which she graduated in 1967 with a B.A. in History and Latin. At the age of 21, during an excursion to Sljeme, the mountain resort north of Zagreb, she met Josip Blažina (1919-1968), a future lawyer, whom she married in January 1947. In November 1947, they welcomed their daughter Vesna.

In August 1967, the family moved to Montreal. Unfortunately, Josip Blažina died on Christmas Day 1968. In 1970, Zlata started working at the Osler Library for the History of Medicine at McGill University developing current and rare book collections.

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This was a truly exciting time for the Library's growth. The Wellcome Endowment had injected new vigour into our acquisition of journals, monographs and theses in medical history – a field that was undergoing profound transformation during this decade, as social history approaches began to be applied. At the same time, the creation of new permanent funds like the Friends of the Osler Library or the Class of Medicine 1936 Endowment widened the horizons of rare books acquisitions. Zlata not only rose to these challenges, but actively participated in applying for and administering grants for collections development from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Through all these changing conditions, she demonstrated an unfailing scholarly acumen, expertise in languages, professional thoroughness, and an uncanny instinct for the value of the dollar (she tracked exchange rates on a daily basis!). Above all, she was passionately devoted to the Osler Library and to the quality of its collections, and this passion has been instrumental in transforming the Library into a first-class scholarly resource in the history of medicine.

But deep inside Zlata there simmered an ambition to contribute to this field of medical history herself, and the new “social history turn” strongly appealed to her. Inspired by the work of Prof. Mirko Dražen Grmek at the Sorbonne, who had established that Dubrovnik, also known as Ragusa in the past, was the first city-state in the world to develop the quarantine legislation as early as 1377, Zlata began her research in the Dubrovnik State Archives. In 1981, she earned a Master's Degree from McGill University. The title of her thesis was “Historical Development of the Laws and Regulations Concerning Public Health in Dubrovnik (Ragusa) from the 13th to the 15th Century.” Zlata's next goal was a doctorate. Her research determined that Dubrovnik continued to refine its plague control measures and founded the first recorded permanent Health Office in 1390. This research led to a Ph.D. from the University of Zagreb in 2001.

Zlata's thesis became a book, entitled *Kacamorti i kuga: utemeljenje i razvoj zdravstvene službe u Dubrovniku* (Cazamorti and the Plague: Founding and Development of the Health Office in Dubrovnik) and published by the Historical Institute of the Croatian Academy of Arts and Sciences in Dubrovnik in December 2007. Soon she was presenting her research at academic conferences in Charleston, S.C., Dubrovnik, Istanbul, Moscow and Vancouver, B.C., among other places. She was the recipient of research grants from the Hannah Institute for the History of Medicine (now Associated Medical Services) in Toronto and the History of Medicine Project of the Croatian Academy of Arts and Sciences in Zagreb. In 2015, her second book *Expelling the Plague: The Health Office and the Implementation of Quarantine in Dubrovnik, 1377-1533*, co-authored with her daughter Vesna Blažina, was published by McGill-Queen's University Press. Some of Zlata's research was based on the Latin manuscript *Libro deli Signori Chazamorbi, 1500-1530* or the *Book of the Gentlemen Health Officials*. The transcribed text of this archival book, held at the Dubrovnik

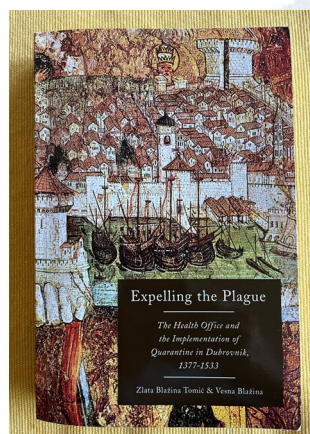
State Archives, edited by Zlata Blažina Tomić, Vesna Blažina, Zdravko Šundrica and Nella Lonza, was published by the Historical Institute of the Croatian Academy of Arts and Sciences in Zagreb and Dubrovnik in December 2021. Zlata was looking forward to the publication of this book but she didn't get a chance to hold it in her hands.

The years during which I worked with Zlata overlapped with the war (1991-1995) during which her homeland of Croatia fought for its survival. Zlata was profoundly disturbed by this conflict, particularly as her mother still lived in Zagreb; she was also anxious about the safety of the historic library and archival collections she knew so well, and of the professors and students in Croatian universities. When AMCA (Almae Matris Croaticae Alumni) Quebec, the Association of alumni and former students of Croatian universities was founded in Montreal, Zlata was elected vice-president (1990-1995), in which office she worked tirelessly to help Croatian academic institutions and individuals.

Until her last moment, Zlata kept in touch with her relatives and friends, in Canada, Croatia and around the world. She was interested in world events, especially in science and culture. Until the pandemic, she particularly enjoyed attending concerts of classical music – including concerts by “I Medici di McGill” – both in Montreal and in Zagreb, in the company of friends and her daughter Vesna. She was also looking forward to a trip to Zagreb. According to her wishes, her ashes will be transferred to Zagreb and placed in her parents' grave.

*Počivala u miru Božjem!*

May she rest in peace and rise in glory!



Cover of Zlata Blažina Tomić's second book, *Expelling the Plague: The Health Office and the Implementation of Quarantine in Dubrovnik, 1377-1533*, co-authored with her daughter Vesna Blažina, (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2015).



Zlata Blažina Tomić's final work, *Knjiga gospode zdravstvenih službenika 1500-1530. = Libro deli signori chazamorbi 1500-1530 = The book of the gentlemen health officials 1500-1530* (Zagreb and Dubrovnik: Croatian Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2021), was edited in collaboration with Vesna Blažina, Zdravko Šundrica and Nella Lonza.

# Golden memories at 50: *the McGill Genetics Group*

Prof. Andrea Tone (with Dr. David Rosenblatt)



MRC/CIHR Group in Medical Genetics Symposium. In celebration of an illustrious history: 1972-2009. Thursday, November 5th, 2009. McGill University Front row left to right: H.S. Tenenhouse, R. Gold, A. Karaplis, M. Trifiro, F.C. Fraser, R. McInnes (Invited Speaker), R. Rozen, and D. Rosenblatt. Back row left to right: E. Skamene, E. Shoubridge, R. MacKenzie, S. John (Invited Speaker), C.R. Scriver, L. Pinsky, R. Gravel, and P. Hechtman. This tribute commemorates the outstanding research contributions of the Medical Research Council/Canadian Institutes of Health Research Group in Medical Genetics at McGill, the longest-running Group in the history of this national funding agency. Founded by Drs. F. Clarke Fraser and Charles R. Scriver in 1972, this group of 14 scientists maintained a distinguished record of medical discoveries that have led to improvements in our understanding, diagnosis, and treatment of genetic disease. Directors: F. Clarke Fraser, Charles R. Scriver, Leonard Pinsky, Roy Gravel, Rima Rozen. Principal Investigators: Reynold Gold, Peter Hechtman, Andrew Karaplis, Robert MacKenzie, David Rosenblatt, Eric Shoubridge, Emil Skamene, Harriet S. Tenenhouse, Mark Trifiro.



In the summer of 1967, David Rosenblatt was a premedical student at McGill. His uncle, a local paediatrician, suggested that he approach Dr. Charles Scriver for a summer studentship. Charles Scriver was already a young prodigy at the Montreal Children's Hospital, having returned from studies in England and the United States with an advanced understanding of amino acid analysis (critical for the understanding of inherited metabolic disease). Dr. Scriver would go on to make groundbreaking discoveries in biochemical genetics, in newborn screening for metabolic disease, and in carrier detection of diseases such as Tay-Sachs and Thalassaemia. He was not the only "star" at the Children's, however. Dr. F. Clarke Fraser, Canada's foremost authority in medical genetics, was there as well. Dr. Fraser's expertise involved multifactorial disease, congenital abnormalities, and the effect of drugs on human development. Each a towering figure in his field, Scriver and Fraser together made Montreal into an international centre for human and medical genetics.

The teachings of Scriver and Fraser left an indelible imprint on Rosenblatt. Under their tutelage, his summer internship became the first chapter of a distinguished career as a clinician and geneticist. When Scriver and Fraser formed a medical genetics

research group of leading clinicians and scientists in Montreal in 1972, Rosenblatt was honoured to become a member. Experts from complementary disciplines – endocrinology, biochemistry, cytogenetics, and teratology – also joined.

Bound by a shared interest in the emerging field of medical genetics, the 14-person group became an intellectual powerhouse; by the time it disbanded in 2009, its members had published more than 1400 articles, many co-authored with each other. The group's prodigious output was matched by its unrivalled success in grantsmanship. Funded by the Medical Research Council of Canada (MRC) and the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR), the McGill Group in Medical Genetics would become the longest funded biomedical research group in the history of the MRC/CIHR and in Canada.

Dr. Rosenblatt was chair of McGill's Department of Human Genetics at McGill in 2009 when a symposium celebrating the group's influence and legacy was held. He recognized the value of documenting its history for others and approached Professor Alberto Cambrosio, chair of the Department of Social Studies of Medicine to discuss the idea. After conferring with colleagues, Cambrosio proposed an oral history project.

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The collaborative initiative would involve original, in-person interviews with each of the 14 group members. They would capture and preserve for posterity their ideas and insights, and be conducted so that the written transcripts of the interviews would be accessible to specialists and non-specialists alike.

Recruited to oversee the project was Christopher Canning from Queen's University. Over a two-year period, he met with and interviewed members of the genetics research group. Some interviews necessitated travel, and others took two days to complete. But by the end, he had generated a complete set of 14 original oral histories. Uncommonly detailed and exhaustive in scope, the collection comprises more than 140,000 words – longer than a typical academic book.

The transcripts of these interviews have since been digitized, and translated into French, as befitting a collection that profiles a group whose 37-year history unfolded in Montreal. In keeping with the wishes of interviewees, the transcripts have been donated to the Osler Library in the History of Medicine where, 50 years after Scriver and Fraser established the group, they are now available to researchers. This unique repository contains ideas and information that deepen and complicate our understanding of the histories of medicine, human and

medical genetics, biomedical research, and the evolution of the discipline in Montreal, Quebec, and Canada. They also provide a behind-the-scenes look at the lives and experiences of 14 women and men who changed history.



Charles R. Scriver (left) with Award of Network Centres of Excellence to Canadian Genetic Diseases Network. Courtesy of McGill University Archives. Photo number: PR052288

## *The McGill Genetics Group fonds: introducing a born-digital archive*

Anna Dysert, Archivist and Special  
Collections cataloguer



he Osler Library is pleased to announce that a finding aid for the McGill Group in Medical Genetics Oral Histories Collection (1) is now available in the library's Archival Collections Catalogue (2). The Archival Collections Catalogue brings together electronic finding aids for archival holdings from across McGill, including those held at the Osler Library. The finding aids in this catalogue represent both the traditional ways and new initiatives that libraries and archives are engaging in to preserve the historical record for posterity and to connect researchers to information.

The collection of oral histories includes transcripts of the oral history interviews conducted by Christopher Canning

## *Le fonds du Groupe de génétique de McGill : présentation d'une archive numérique*

Anna Dysert, archiviste et catalogueuse des  
collections spéciales



a bibliothèque Osler a le plaisir d'annoncer qu'un instrument de recherche pour la Collection d'histoires orales du Groupe McGill en génétique médicale (1) est maintenant disponible dans le catalogue des fonds d'archives de la bibliothèque (2). Le catalogue des fonds d'archives rassemble les instruments de recherche électroniques des fonds d'archives de l'ensemble de l'Université McGill, y compris ceux conservés à la bibliothèque Osler. Les instruments de recherche de ce catalogue représentent à la fois les méthodes traditionnelles et les nouvelles initiatives que les bibliothèques et les archives mettent en œuvre pour préserver les documents historiques pour la future et pour connecter les chercheurs à l'information.

and Andrew Hoffman with the fourteen members of the McGill Group in Medical Genetics. The interviews document members' individual biographies and careers, as well as the history and development of the McGill Group in Medical Genetics during this transformative period in the field. PDF copies of the transcripts and their French translations may be accessed from the finding aid online.

In addition to supplying access copies of archival material and the important descriptive and contextual information needed in an archival finding aid, the library's Archival Collections Catalogue allows for links to be made more broadly across multiple information sources. The description of the McGill Group in Medical Genetics Oral Histories Collection will be held not only in the archival database, but will also live in and be discoverable from the library's main catalogue and other sources of linked and structured information, for example, the open-source knowledge database Wikidata. In this way, the public finding aid represents one layer of endeavor to connect researchers to historical data, while archivists also work behind the scenes to best ensure the long-term accessibility and preservation of digital information.

1. <https://archivalcollections.library.mcgill.ca/index.php/mcgill-group-in-medical-genetics-oral-histories-collection>
2. <https://archivalcollections.library.mcgill.ca/index.php/>
3. <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q112652058>

La Collection d'histoires orales comprend les transcriptions des entretiens d'histoire orale menés par Christopher Canning et Andrew Hoffman avec les quatorze membres du Groupe McGill de génétique médicale. Les entrevues documentent les biographies et les carrières individuelles des membres, ainsi que l'histoire et le développement de ce groupe de médecins et de généticiens au cours de cette période de transformation du domaine. Des copies PDF des transcriptions et de leurs traductions françaises sont accessibles à partir de l'instrument de recherche en ligne.

En plus de fournir des copies d'accès aux documents d'archives et les importantes informations descriptives et contextuelles nécessaires à un instrument de recherche d'archives, le catalogue des fonds d'archives de la bibliothèque permet d'établir des liens plus larges entre de multiples sources d'information. La description de la Collection d'histoires orales du Groupe de génétique médicale de McGill ne sera pas seulement disponible dans la base de données d'archives, mais aussi dans le catalogue principal de la bibliothèque et dans d'autres sources de données ouvertes et structurées, par exemple, pour projet Wikidata, une base de connaissances libre éditée de manière collaborative et à code source ouvert. De cette manière, l'instrument de recherche public représente un l'effort pour connecter les chercheurs aux données historiques au mieux, tandis que les archivistes travaillent également en arrière-plan pour assurer l'accessibilité et la préservation à long terme de l'information numérique.

1. <https://archivalcollections.library.mcgill.ca/index.php/mcgill-group-in-medical-genetics-oral-histories-collection>
2. <https://archivalcollections.library.mcgill.ca/index.php/>
3. <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q11265205>

## Snapshot from the stacks: *a 16<sup>th</sup>-century “how to” manual.*

William Mount, *“A shorte declaration of the meaning and use of a perpetuall calendare or almanack,”* 1583, B.O. 7601.



Have you ever wondered how to use a bloodletting table? Would you like to impress your friends with early modern tips for knowing how many days are in each month? Do you know how to use a sundial? Can you use the moon to tell time during the night?

Sitting inconspicuously on a shelf in the Osler Room is a manuscript that provides this information; less conspicuously, it occupies a place in our digital library, [https://archive.org/details/McGillLibrary-osl\\_shorter\\_declaration\\_almanack\\_BibOsl7601-20232](https://archive.org/details/McGillLibrary-osl_shorter_declaration_almanack_BibOsl7601-20232). Sleuthing work by William Osler and his contacts reveals the manuscript's author “W.M.” as

William Mount, chaplain to the Lord Chancellor of England, Sir Thomas Bromley.

Mount's manuscript is a practical guide, written in a beautiful secretary hand. He includes a number of tables and diagrams, including detailed instructions on how to use them.

In this snapshot, we feature transcribed selections from Mount's detailed and elaborate instructions for determining the best time to bleed (among other things), based upon the position of the moon within each of the signs of the Zodiac.



## [p.38] THE TABLE of the Moones place in the 12 Signes.

In this Table first finde the name of your moneth under the first Title, and beginne right [p.40] over against it at the number of daies under the second Title to tell 1.2.3.4. &c downward if need be to the ende, & so from the beginning againe till you come to the present daie of your moneth, & keep in mynde *that* number where this count endeth, then finde out the Prime under his Title, & beginne likewise over against it, under the foresaid Title of daies to tell 1.2.3. &c, as before till you come to the number kept in mynde then shall you see directlie from *that* place forward the right hand, the Signe where the Moone is *that* daie, what part of the body is governed thereby, whether it be the fittest tyme to let blood, to purge, to bathe, to sowe, sett, plant &c or to comfort any of the naturall vertewes, as for example, I would know the 13 of August, 1583 what parte of the Zodiacke the Moone moveth in &c, and therefore first I finde under the first title the name of August, & right against it under the Title of daies at the number 18 I beginne to tell 1.2.3. &c till I come to 13 which is the daie of my Moneth, this reckonyng therefore ending at 3. I keep 3 in mynde. Then I finde 7 which is the Prime *that* yeare under his Title & right against it at 14 I beginne to tell 1.2 &c downward till [p.41] I come to 3 kept in mynde, which counte I finde ending at 16; now then towarde the right hande betwixt the same lines. I see Scorpio the signe I looked for, the secreats & bladder, the partes governed at *that* time, & *that* is the best time to purge by potions, to take clysters, to bathe for hote diseases, & to comfort & strengthen the vertew expulsive. By Rule we may gather thus what Signe & degree the Moone is in. Multiplie the age of the Moone by 4, divide by 10, the quotient sheweth how many Signes the Moone is distant from the Sunne, & the Remaine multiplied by 3, teacheth how many degrees must be added that then we multiplie 6 (for so old is the Moone the 13 of August 1583) the whole wilbe 24, which divided by 10, the quotient wilbe 2, & the remaine 4; whereof I conclude *that* the Moone is separated from the Sunne 2 Signes & 12 degrees, seing therefore the Sunne *that* daie is within lesse then a degree of Virgo, the Moone must be likewise some 11 degrees in Scorpio. You may if ye will multiplie the age of the Moone by 2 & divide by 5, & the quotient with the remaine multiplied by 6 will then in like sorte [p.42] the distance of the Moone from the Sunne, for 6 multiplied by 2 is 12 which divided by 5 the quotient wilbe 2 as before, & the remaine to be multiplied by 6 wilbe likewise 2. ...I might also have added other thinges not mentioned in this Table, as for example, *that* it is good cutting of haire, shaving & clipping when the Moone increaseth in Taur: Vir: Libr: gelding or libbing of cattell when she decreaseth in Aries, Sagitt: Capr: & Pisc: pruning of vines when she increaseth in Taur: Scorp: & Libr: to be shorte I might have noted fitt times for hunting, hawking, fishing, building & weining [p.43] of children...



Accompanying this picture of a hand are Mount's directions for remembering how many days there are in each month. B.O. 7601, p. 14

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The Months	The Days	The Prime	The Signes	Parts of the body	Observations for bloodletting, purging or helping the Natural Vertues	
Febr: Noue.	1	3	Aries	head.	let blood: fleam: sang: take vomites.	Attract:
March.	2		Aries	face.	take vomites: bathe for cold diseases.	
	3	14	Taur.	neck.	take vomites: stopp fluxes, reumes or lowe or seth cresc.	Retent:
December.	4	6	Taur.	throte.	take vomites: stopp fluxes, reumes or lowe or seth cresc.	
	5		Gem.	armes.	take preparatives.	Digest:
Aprile.	6	17	Gem.	handes.	take preparatives.	
	7	9	Cam.	breit.	let blood: choler: sang: purge by electuaries.	Expull:
Maie.	8	1	Cam.	stomack.	take vomites: bathe for hote diseases.	
	9		Cam.	ribbes.	bathe for hote diseases.	
	10	12	Leo.	haute.	bathe for colde diseases.	Attract:
	11	4	Leo.	bask.	bathe for colde diseases.	
June.	12		Virgo	bowells.	stopp fluxes, reumes or lowe or seth cresc.	Retent:
	13	15	Virgo	belly.	stopp fluxes, reumes or lowe or seth cresc.	
Julie.	14	7	Libr.	vaines.	take preparatives.	Digest:
	15		Libr.	nausea.	take clysters.	
	16	18	Scor.	bulkes.	bathe for hote diseases.	Expull:
	17	10	Scor.	secrets.	bathe for hote diseases.	
August.	18	2	Scor.	bladder.	bathe for hote diseases.	
	19		Sag.	thighes.	let blood: fleam: sang: bathe for colde diseases.	Attract:
	20	13	Sag.	thighes.	let blood: fleam: sang: bathe for colde diseases.	
	21	5	Capr.	knees.	take vomites: stopp fluxes, reumes or lowe or seth cresc.	Retent:
September.	22		Capr.	knees.	take vomites: stopp fluxes, reumes or lowe or seth cresc.	
	23	16	Aqu.	shinnes.	let blood: choler: sang: take preparatives.	Digest:
Ianu: Octo.	24	8	Aqu.	legges.	take vomites: bathe for hote diseases.	
	25		Pisc.	feet.	let blood: choler: sang: purge by pilles.	Expull:
	26	19	Pisc.	feet.	bathe for hote diseases.	
	27	11	Pisc.	feet.	bathe for hote diseases.	

I came not to pray of the heathen, and have not the signes of heaben, though the heathen be full of such, for the customes of people are blame. Jerem: 10. 2.

Table 10 of Mount's manuscript, describing how to use astrology to determine healthy and unhealthy times to let blood. B.O. 7601, p. 39.

Acknowledgement: I first examined this manuscript as part of research on early modern bloodletting carried out during the summer of 2020 thanks to support provided by a Folger Institute Fellowship. I presented a portion of my findings, including a link to the transcription of the bloodletting calendar, in the following blog post: Yearl, M. "[Balancing information and expertise: vernacular guidance on bloodletting in early modern calendars and almanacs.](#)" *The Collation: Research and Exploration at the Folger*, Folger Shakespeare Library, 9 February 2021.

# Maude Abbott and the Medical Museum: *a celebration of two McGill anniversaries*

Richard Fraser, Pathologist and Director, Maude Abbott Medical Museum



special event celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of McGill University and the tenth anniversary of its Maude Abbott Medical Museum (MAMM) was held virtually and in person at the McGill Faculty Club on March 17th and 18th.

The event was organized by the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, the Department of Social Studies of Medicine (SSoM), and the Maude Abbott Medical Museum. It began on Thursday evening with a virtual tour of the Museum by its Director, Dr. Richard Fraser. This included explanations of parts of the Museum's permanent displays as well as an exclusive introduction to two new exhibits titled *Dangerous dust: the lungs and inhaled particulates* and *The Maude Abbott Medical Museum: mission and material 2012 – 2022*.

The tour was followed by the Andrew F. Holmes Dean of Medicine Distinguished lecture given by Sam Alberti, PhD, Director of Collections, National Museums Scotland and Honorary Professor, University of Stirling. His talk, titled *Museums and Medical Knowledge: past, present, and future*, was concerned with the history and current relevance of museums in the university setting.

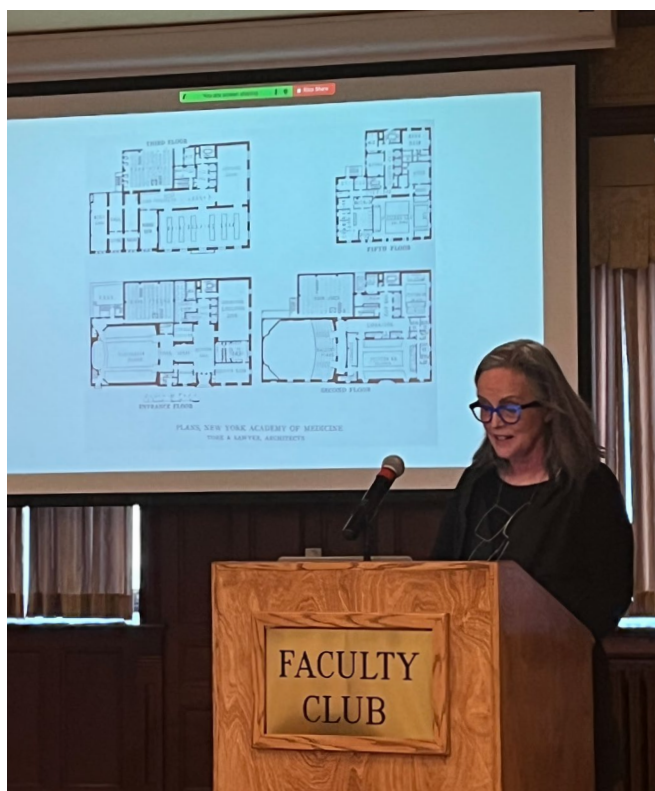
Friday featured a day-long symposium co-chaired by Professor Annmarie Adams of SSoM and Dr. Richard Fraser of the MAMM. Titled *Maude Abbott and the Medical Museum*, the symposium showcased 12 talks by a distinguished international panel. The talks encompassed a variety of topics related to Abbott, including her medical innovations, museology experience, publications, teaching, exhibitions, role as a pioneering female physician, and relationships with other individuals.

The virtual event was attended by several hundred individuals from around the world. As a celebration of the two anniversaries, it was a resounding success. The tour, lecture and symposium talks can be viewed via the following links:

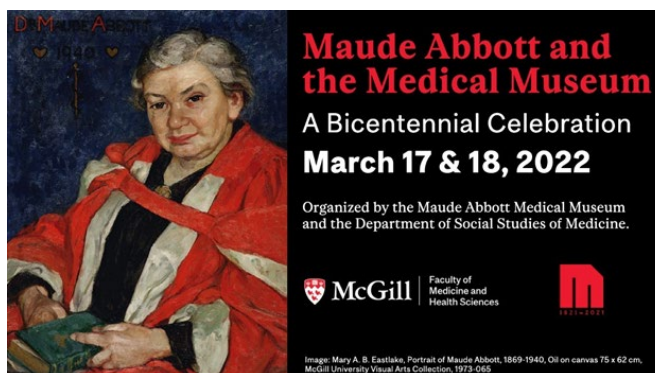
Virtual tour: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UsUkjW7DyU>

Holmes Lecture, "Museums and medical knowledge: past, present, and future," delivered by Sam Alberti, PhD: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Wkl49h5cZA>

Full symposium: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfMfJihLOASU7CKjS4HpFz4YgCeCkach>



Symposium co-organizer Prof. Annmarie Adams during her lecture, "Curating Abbott: the architecture of medical exhibits, 1931-33."





# "Finding Mrs. J. A. Parks": *the sequel*

Linda Granfield

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was anxious. It was time for me to leave my pandemic-safe home and venture onto Toronto's public transit for the first time since the COVID-19 "adventure" began so long before. I had to catch the bus, and then spend some time on the subway. I wish I could say the risky trip was for some entertaining event, some educational session, some time with long-missed friends. No, I was headed to the dentist's office.

Canada Post had just delivered the day's mail in our condo letter boxes. Maybe I was procrastinating when I took a couple of minutes to check my mailbox before leaving. (Yes.) Oh, a lovely large envelope with the Summer/Fall 2021 issue of *The Osler Library Newsletter* ([https://www.mcgill.ca/library/files/library/oln-134-135-2021\\_0.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/library/files/library/oln-134-135-2021_0.pdf)) was the only item and I stuffed it into my tote bag and hurried for the bus stop. I was triple-masked; I could do this.

While sitting on the subway seat that was well-marked for pandemic safe-distancing, I opened the envelope and flipped through the newsletter. I had a few stops before I had to get off the train, maybe time enough to read one article. Hmm. What was this? "Finding Mrs. J. A. Parks" –an article with an inviting photograph of a rather dilapidated notebook. I looked at my watch. I had a few more stops to go; I began to read. And that, dear Reader, is when I fell down the proverbial Rabbit Hole.

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I've been down lost in research many times before. Historians like myself eagerly follow a trail when tantalizing stories, like Sophie Thompson's wonderful article, suddenly appear. I must confess that the story of Mrs. J. A. Parks grabbed me. When I arrived at my stop I had just read the line "She was greasing up the business end of the clyster." I laughed out loud; whatever a clyster was it didn't sound good, it sounded funny, and drat, I couldn't finish the article until I was done with my dental appointment. This first pandemic outing was proving entertaining and educational after all!

With cleaned teeth, and a jelly doughnut in my hand (don't ask; it's a family tradition), I couldn't wait to get back on the train to read more about Mrs. Parks. By the time I got home the doughnut was long gone, the story read, and I couldn't wait to try to 'meet' Mrs. Parks myself. I was impressed by the research and the caliber of writing presented by Sophie Thompson. Could I be Doctor Watson to Ms. Thompson's Sherlock Holmes? Could I perhaps locate some of the information Sophie wanted to learn? It was worth an hour or

two of my time. Again, to be honest, some procrastination was involved: I was working on two books about John McCrae, the "In Flanders Fields" soldier/doctor/poet. Surely a bit of "other" research would be healthy diversion?

The anticipated hour or two of my time became detective work spread over days and then weeks and then months. Mrs. John Alexander Parke (with all various spellings of her surname) grabbed me and didn't let go, just as Sophie discovered. I was pleased with my initial research results, however, some lingering mysteries still remain in this tale of two Montreal families. I contacted both Sophie Thompson and Mary Yearl, Head Librarian of the Osler Library of the History of Medicine to submit a proposal for a follow-up piece about Mrs. J. A. Parke; their hearty support encouraged me to continue my investigations.

Mrs. John Alexander Parke (the final 'e' appears as a 'backwards 3' in the signed documents located on Ancestry and other sources, hence it's possible reading as a 's.') was Mary Anne (Annie) Porter. She was born February 23, 1856, in Montreal, to John Porter and Mary Ann Wolaghan [Hoolihan]. (As Sophie noted, it would have been very helpful to not find so many Johns and Mary Ann(e)s in these family histories!) John (age 50) and Mary Ann (31) married in 1849: he was a labourer and widower, she was the widow of the late Thomas Hudson. Their marriage record states they were married 'by seconds' which implies one or the other, or both, were not at the ceremony. I had never before come across the 'seconds' expression: I wrote to a cousin who has considerable genealogical skill and asked if he'd encountered the term—he hadn't. Like me, he thought it meant a stand-in was at the ceremony.

According to various census entries, Mary Ann Hudson Porter was born in Ireland. And for a while I couldn't separate one John Porter from another in the many entries. Until. Until suddenly the 'key' that all researchers hope to find jumped off a page. In an 1868 Montreal death notice for a John Porter, "native of County Tyrone, Ireland" I read:

*Friends and relatives are respectfully requested to attend the funeral from the residence of his son, No. 107 Bleury Street, on Tuesday, the 18<sup>th</sup> [of February] at 3 p.m., to the place of interment, Mount Royal Cemetery.*

A-ha! Some new clues. The Bleury Street mention, and hours pouring over twenty years of *Lovell's City Directory* (blessings upon those who digitized *that* valuable resource) led me to John William Porter (Image 1), son of John Porter, the father of Annie Parke.

*Continues on page 14*



Image 1: John William Porter, half-brother of Annie Porter Parke, sat for his portrait at the William Notman Studio in 1869. McCord collection/Museum McCord: I-38575.1. Courtesy of the McCord Museum.

But wait a moment. Wouldn't that make John William Porter a brother of Annie? More digging revealed that widower John Porter had been married in Ireland where John William Porter [henceforth designated as JWP for clarity] was born in 1833. I couldn't find the definitive birth record, or John Porter's first marriage record, or anything that noted when the father and son first arrived in Canada East. Ireland's Great Famine provides a plausible reason for the arrival of these Porters (and Mary Ann Hoolihan), bereft of marital partners, on Canadian shores. Canadian census records brought JWP, clearly the half-brother to our Annie Parke, to life. By the time Annie was born, JWP was twenty-three, married, and had two children. He and William Goodfellow worked at the Goodfellow & Porter "ale vaults" on Great St. James Street (opposite the then-Hotel Ottawa, a building still there), with warehouse space on Fortification Lane. With his friend Goodfellow, Mr. Porter was the agent for porter sales [I had to chuckle at Porter/porter], as well as the local distributor of the relatively new (1853) Labatt company's beer. JWP knew his father's second family but to what extent their lives meshed remains a mystery.

In 1859, three years after Annie's birth, Margaret Ann(e) Thompson was born in Montreal. (As Sophie found, verifying Margaret's parentage proved impossible.) Margaret became the first wife of John Alexander Parke, carpenter, twenty years later, gave birth to their daughter Ellen (Ellie/Ella) Isabella Parke that same year. In the 1881 census the family was living in the St. Antoine ward with Mr. Parke's mother, also Ellen, a forty-four-year-old widow from Ireland.

By the end of 1881, however, the young Parke family experienced much sorrow. Recorded in the Drouin Collection we find: "*Margaret [A] Thompson, wife of John Alexander Park[e], of the City of Montreal, died on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of December, aged 22 years, and was buried on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of the same month and year...*" John Parke and presumably a close friend, bartender Thomas E. Laughren, signed the church record as witnesses. There is no cause of death on record; one wonders if Margaret died in childbirth or while pregnant with a second child. She, like John Porter, was buried in Mount Royal Cemetery.

Seventeen days later, on January 17, 1882, John Alexander Parke "*of the city of Montreal, carpenter and widower, and Miss Annie Porter of the same city, a spinster, were married...with license and before witnesses.*" One of the witnesses was Thomas Ed. Laughren, the same friend who was present at the burial of John Parke's first wife, Margaret.

John Parke might have wished to re-marry quickly given that he had a toddler at home; I could find no mention of his mother Ellen still being present to take over the care of the child while Parke continued to work as the family wage-earner. How did John Parke know Annie Porter? Had she been the nurse caring for Margaret during her final days, or months of illness? Was the marriage one of love, or of practicality—someone had to care for little Ellen. While particulars of their acquaintanceship are unknown, John and Annie Parke, both 26, began a new life together.

Housing for the Parke family appears to have been an issue, for from their marriage in 1882 until Annie's death in 1918 they lived at least a dozen different addresses in Montreal. Like many residents of Montreal the Parkes rented rather than owned their lodgings. In 1888, the date of Annie Parke's student casebook ([http://digitalarchives.library.mcgill.ca/OSLER/P038/osler\\_mrs-ja-parks-fonds\\_P038\\_notebook.pdf](http://digitalarchives.library.mcgill.ca/OSLER/P038/osler_mrs-ja-parks-fonds_P038_notebook.pdf)), the Old Montreal Maternity Hospital on St. Urbain Street (Image 2) was near Dufferin Square, then a known hangout for some of the less fortunate citizens of the city; the Parkes lived around the corner from the hospital, at 577 de la Gauchetière; a quick walk got Annie to her midwifery classes. The next year they moved to St. Charles Borromée St. where, as Mrs. John Parke, Annie advertised her services as "a ladies' nurse" in *Lovell's City Directory* for 1890.



Image 2: The Montreal Maternity Hospital at 93 St. Urbain Street as it appeared in 1888 when Annie Porter Parke noted her observations in her casebook. Photograph published in *The Royal Victoria Montreal Maternity Hospital 1843-1943* by Barrett & Fraser, 1943, p. 9.



Before there were trained professional nurses there were self-employed, or private, nurses. Scholar Judith Young, in her article "Nineteenth-Century Nurses and Midwives in Three Canadian Cities, 1861-1891" (*Can Bull Hist Med*, Spring 2013) writes:

*Sick nurse, an unfamiliar term to present-day readers, was a title used by some 19<sup>th</sup>-century private nurses to indicate they cared for the sick rather than women (and infants) following childbirth...the title "monthly" or "ladies" nurse, [was] a 19<sup>th</sup>-century term for a nurse who cared for mother and infant for one month after the birth.*

It's difficult to understand how Annie Parke was able to work as a visiting, even a live-in, nurse during the 1880s and 1890s because she herself became a mother. She and her husband were raising her step-daughter Ellen. Two more daughters were born to them; Frances (Fanny) Elizabeth Parke in 1884, and Mary Ada Marguerite Parke in 1895 when Annie was thirty-nine years old. Presumably, John Parke was employed as a carpenter in an established business, such as a furniture manufacturer, however he might also have been self-employed, hired to complete projects within the community. The Montreal city directories during the nineteenth century show W.D. Park(e) with a wood yard, and James Park(e), wood dealer/merchant, situated in the J.A. Parke family's vicinity. Relatives and employers, perhaps?

A sad chapter in Annie Parke's story is the apparent fate of her mother Mary Ann(e) Porter. After her husband's death in 1868, she appears in the 1871 Census as a 53-year-old widow and one of the twenty-three female inmates living at the Montreal Protestant House of Industry & Refuge (MPHIR) on Dorchester Street; Mary Ann Porter was still living there as one of the elderly and/or destitute in 1881. She may have been what they called 'a permanent inmate,' working (sewing, knitting, etc) at the MPHIR during the days, wearing clothing and eating meals supplied by the House and sleeping in the third floor dormitories. In 1885, the MPHIR opened the newly built Country Home at Longue Pointe (Montreal) where inmates could live away from the crowded, unhealthy conditions of downtown Montreal and where able-bodied inmates maintained the gardens that in turn fed the residents.

Mrs. Mary Ann Hudson Porter died May 13, 1889, age approximately 74 years old; her place of death may have been the Country Home. She was buried, like other Porters and Parkes, in Mount Royal Cemetery. Her daughter Annie Parke's name does not appear on the St. John the Evangelist church burial record. Annie's husband John Parke, Mary Ann's step-son John William Porter, and Ella Parke are listed as witnesses. Where was Annie? Perhaps Annie was engaged in nursing duties that day, helping bring forth a new life as her mother was buried.

The marriages of the John and Annie Parke's three daughters and the births of their grandchildren undoubtedly brought joy to the household. Ellen (born 1879), born Margaret Thompson's daughter, married George Grover Morgan, a machinist/boilermaker and widower, in Montreal in 1899, with her father

and step-mother Annie as the witnesses. The Morgans had a son and eventually settled in Washington state in the United States. Ella, 72, died in Sedro Woolley, Washington in 1950.

Frances Elizabeth Parke (born 1884), married Montreal steamfitter/engineer Samuel John Laskey in 1906. The Laskeys, who lived in Montreal and later in nearby Verdun, were the parents of six children. Sam died in 1932, only 48 years old; Frances died aged 83 in 1968.

Mary Ada Marguerite Parke (born 1895), wedded Francis Anthony Walker of Montreal in 1913. Because both the bride and groom were only eighteen years old, they received permission to marry from the groom's brother William, and Ada's father, John A. Parke. Frank Walker was listed as an office clerk in the 1921 census; the couple had an unsubstantiated number of children. It's believed both Ada and Frank died in the 1970s.

Annie Parke, as "Mrs. J. A. Parke," continued to advertise as a ladies' nurse in the Montreal directory through the 1890s and into the early years of the twentieth century. By 1911, her daughter Ada, age 16, was also listed as a nurse. The family lived at 599 Sanguinet St., in Montreal's St. Jean Baptiste ward. The Laskey family was at 601 Sanguinet. When the Parke's daughter Fanny gave birth to her son James Alexander Laskey in January 1911, she was at her mother's home; there can be no doubt that her mother Annie assisted at the birth, and there is also reason to believe she delivered some of her other Montreal grandchildren. Everything Annie learned and jotted down in her 1888 casebook proved useful as her family grew.

On Thursday, August 8, 1918, while the First World War still raged on in Europe, the *Montreal Daily Star* reported a death: "PARKE.--at Royal Victoria Hospital, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 1918, Mary Ann Porter (nurse), aged 58 (sic), beloved wife of John A. Parke." The following day, the repeated obituary gave Annie's age as 52 and informed readers that the funeral would be from her late residence, "848 St. André Street...on Saturday...to St. Agnes Church, thence to Cote des Neiges Cemetery." Annie was actually 62 when she died; the cause of her death was not provided on the documents I found. Sophie believes Annie may have been an early victim of the Spanish flu which gathered strength in Montreal over the autumn of 1918.

Five years earlier, the Parke's daughter Ada had married in the same church. Widower John A. Parke went to live with Ada and Frank Walker's family on Drolet Street near St. Louis Square, and there he died on December 22, 1938, age 82 years. He was buried at Mount Royal Cemetery.

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Like Sophie Thompson before me, the longer I spent searching for Annie Porter Parke's story the more I wanted to see her face. The Rabbit Hole wasn't getting any shorter but I needed to try to locate a descendant who might have a photograph album. In my past research projects social media had been an invaluable contact tool; it was worth a try.

Yes, it was worth the try. A 1997 obituary for one of Annie's granddaughters, Frances Louise (née Laskey) Elder led me to the Dufour family. But I had no luck at first; I couldn't find great-granddaughter Heather. However, the name of one of Annie's great-great-granddaughters popped up as the *only* Facebook "friend" I shared with one of my Facebook acquaintances. (How magnificent when this collapsing of history happens so unexpectedly?!) Within days there was a flurry of email introductions and telephone calls between a growing group of Annie's descendants and me. One result was Heather's recollected family story that gives us a glimpse of Annie Parke and daughter Fanny:

*When our grandmother [Frances "Fanny" Parke Laskey] was a child, about four years old, she tripped over a threshold and was injured. She was taken to the hospital where for months she was kept in traction for her damaged hip. When Fanny went home, one of her legs was shorter than the other and she limped. When I knew her, she wore a boot with a four or five-inch sole to compensate for the length difference.*

This story is particularly interesting because it relates something that happened at about the same time (1888) Annie was at the Montreal Maternity Hospital working towards her certification. Like so many other women, then and now, she was juggling a career and tending to the needs of her family at home. I wonder what kind of additional care young Fanny needed to thrive; how did Annie balance her studies, and the needs of her family and the women who called for her aid as a ladies' nurse?

Another, wish-fulfilling result (for both Sophie and me) of 'meeting' Annie's descendants was the photograph of Annie Parke that accompanies this story, the only image of her located thus far. There she is, on a warm summer's day, a woman surrounded by her grandchildren. (Image 3)

A perfect ending.

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Shortly after I began to discover more about "Mrs. J. A. Parke," my husband and I received the happy news that our grandson and his parents would welcome his baby sister in 2022. The future birth was much on my mind as I combed genealogical records and re-read Annie's casebook. Childbirth hasn't changed much, though I noted she measured cervical dilation in terms of the sizes of 10-cent or 25-cent coins in 1888 rather than in today's centimeters. "*Labor Omnia Vincit*"/"Labor overcomes all things" Annie wrote inside her casebook cover.



On the day after I finished my draft of this article our beautiful granddaughter was born. Annie Parke would have capably and tenderly assisted in this March 2022 delivery just as she had aided so many mothers exactly 134 years before. I'm sure Annie would welcome our lovely new baby.

A perfect beginning.



Image 3: Mary Ann (Annie) Porter Parke shares summer by the lake with some of her grandchildren. c. 1911. Courtesy of Annie Porter Parke's descendants.

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*Historian Linda Granfield is the author of more than thirty books for adults and young readers. She is presently working on two books about Dr. John McCrae. The Osler Library of the History of Medicine, to which she has donated historical medical ephemera, has been one of her Montreal research sites. [www.writersunion.ca/member/linda-granfield](http://www.writersunion.ca/member/linda-granfield)*

*It has been a pleasure to work with Sophie Thompson (McGill University, Class of 2022) on this journey. My gratitude is extended to her, to Dr. Mary Hague-Yearl, the Osler Librarian, and to the descendants of Annie Porter Parke who graciously shared their family history and photographs with me.*

*Grateful acknowledgement is made to all those who have granted permission to reprint copyrighted and personal material. Every reasonable effort has been made to locate the copyright holders for these images. The author would be pleased to receive information that would allow her to rectify any omissions or errors.*



# George Edward Bomberry, 1849-1879 (MD CM 1875): McGill's first Indigenous graduate

David S. Crawford

Date of Birth	Apl. 14, 1849.		Birthplace	Tuscorora, Ont.		
Name of Parent or Guardian	Dr. Dee + Dr. McCarqs.					
Home Address at Entrance	Tuscorora, Ont.			Ch. of England		
Sessions Attended	1.	1872-3				
	2.	1873-4				
	4.	1875-6				
Degrees obtained from McGill University	Degree	Year	Degree	Year	Degree	Year
	M.D.	1875.				
Degrees obtained from other Universities	Degree	University	Year	Degree	University	Year
Positions held since graduation						

George Edward Bomberry, student record, 1875. McGill University Archives, RG7 Container 122 Transcript 664.



n July 1649, the English parliament passed an "Act for the promoting and propagating the Gospel of Jesus Christ in New England" which created a corporation (which still exists), "The President and Society for propagation of the Gospel in New-England", commonly called The New England Company, (NEC). (1).

In 1786, following the American Revolution, the NEC was advised that it was unable, safely and legally, to "exercise the Trusts of its Charter in any part of America which is out of the King's Dominions". Accordingly it transferred its operations to the remaining Loyalist Colonies in North America and during the late 1820s John Brant (the son of Joseph Brant and the government appointed, superintendent for the Six Nations of the Grand River) asked the NEC to establish schools for the Six Nations near what is now Brantford, Ontario. A day school was opened first and then, by 1834, a boarding school,

the Mohawk Institute, was opened to educate Indigenous children. The Institute was fully funded by the NEC until 1891. Though it was called the Mohawk Institute, it accepted students from all of the Six Nations of the Haudenosaunee. At first the curriculum was confined to reading the Bible, writing and arithmetic but, starting in the 1860s, the NEC began to support a few students who showed promise and wanted to attend Brantford Grammar School and some who went on for further training, usually at a teacher training college in Toronto or London (Ontario).

George Edward Bomberry, who was a hereditary chief of the Cayuga (Gayogohóno), was born on the Tuscorora Reserve on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1849 and was enrolled in the Institute by, at least, 1859 when the Report from the Principal (2) notes that he was 9 years old and was learning "ciphers and simple proportion". He appears to be, by several years, the youngest student taking courses at that level. As noted above, the NEC supported some

*Continues on page 18*

of the Institute's pupils in further education and, by 1868, when Bomberry was 18 years old, he was one of two enrolled at the Brantford Grammar School. (The cost was \$1 per student per month, paid by the Institute).

The NEC insisted on very detailed reports from its missionaries in Canada and, in January 1871, Rev Robert James Roberts (the Assistant Missionary to the Six Nations from 1862-1878), wrote to the Company enclosing a letter from Bomberry, who Roberts notes "was educated for a short time at a commercial school in Toronto" and noted that "When he left the Commercial College at Toronto he obtained employment in a railway office at Montreal in connection with the Grand Trunk Railway. It was there that he acquired a greater facility in speaking the French language." (3b). Roberts noted that Bomberry wanted to become a doctor and recommended that the NEC should support his attendance at medical school. "His English is very good; his knowledge of classics and French are such as would enable him to pass the primary examination before the Medical Board of this Province." On 7<sup>th</sup> March 1871 the NEC approved a grant of 60 pounds "for the current year towards the expenses of educating George Bomberry for the medical profession" and "promised to continue it from year to year for four years, provided they were satisfied with his conduct and progress." Roberts noted that Bomberry "found that absence from the Reserve cut him off from all of his rights as an Indian, to the annuities annually paid to his tribe and also debarred him from taking his seat in the council as a chief. He is a chief of the Cayuga tribe, and he is, I believe, the best educated on the Reserve."

Roberts reports that this proposal was strongly supported by Dr Robert Henry Dee ("the government-supported doctor who attends the sick over the greater part of this reserve") and his colleague Dr William McCargow ("who has a large white practice besides a small portion of the Six Nations") (4, 5) In fact, Dr Dee not only agreed to "give the young man all the aid that is in his power to acquire a knowledge of the medical profession" but he also offered accommodation to Bomberry who was registered as living in his home in the April 1871 Canadian census (where his occupation is given as "Medical Student" and his age as 21). It was also noted a few months later that Bomberry "went to Dr McCargow for six months" as Dr Dee "thought it would be of great benefit to George to see a variety of practice". Roberts himself took a great interest in Bomberry and, in September 1871, reported that 'George Bomberry is preparing for his preliminary examination before the Medical Board at the beginning of October. I give him instruction in his Latin and French almost every day.' In late October 1871 it was reported by Roberts that "the two young Indians, George Hill and George Bomberry (Cayuga Chief) have passed their preliminary examinations as Medical Students". (George Hill was the brother-in-law of Dr. Oronhyatekha (Peter Martin) and was a student at Albert College, a high school in Belleville, and then, as far as can be found, attended Trinity Medical School in Toronto for one year only, 1872-73.) Roberts reported "I have been told that

Bomberry passed his [preliminary examination] with great credit. Dr Dee, who has taken him in charge, proposes to give him instruction in anatomy, the use of medicines and to show him some medical practice for one year, and then send him to medical school in Toronto." (3c)

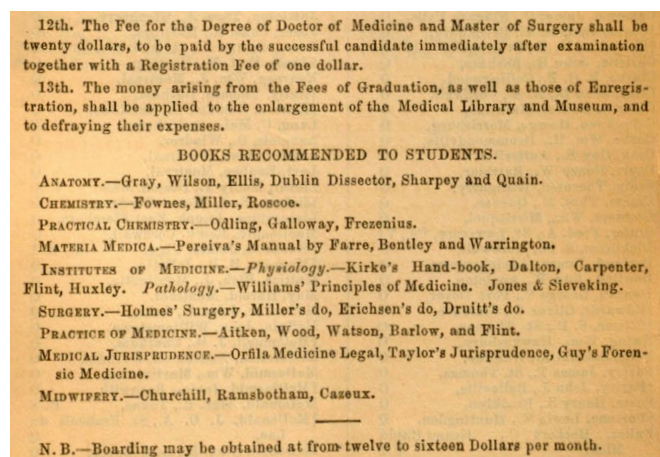
In October 1872 Roberts reported "George is now in Montreal attending lectures and the hospital at McGill College. It was intended he should go to Trinity Toronto but several of his old schoolmates were going to Montreal and it would be pleasant for George; and as the school was as good as that in Toronto, he went with his friends. I was the more willing for him to do so as he will room with a very industrious and clever student, which will encourage George." (3c) It is uncertain who Bomberry roomed with but two of his classmates were from Brantford and all three passed the Preliminary Examination set by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario at the same time. They were James Melvin Nelles, who was also awarded an MDCM, in 1875, and Levi Secord who graduated in 1876 and assumed the medical supervision of the Six Nations Reserve from Dr Dee when he retired in 1889. (6) In Bomberry's McGill records Drs Dee and McCargow (mis-spelled as McCarg) are listed as his "Parents/Guardians."

Though not much is known of Bomberry's time in Montreal, he did participate in a University Athletic Meeting in October 1873, where, "on the seventh round of the 2-mile race he dropped out". (7) Roberts reported to the NEC in April 1874 (3c) that he had passed his primary examination at McGill and in 1875 it was noted that Dr William Scott, the Professor of Anatomy at McGill, "spoke very highly of him and said he was very attentive to his lectures. He also informed me that Bomberry had, at his primary examination last year, come out first in anatomy." During their final year, medical students at McGill still had to write graduation theses, Bomberry's thesis (of which, like most of these short medical theses, no copy has been found) was on Delirium Tremens and Roberts reported that "I have learned within the last few days that he has successfully passed his final examination. He is, therefore now fully qualified to enter on the practice of medicine, and I trust some means may be devised to enable him to labour among his own people on this Reservation..." (3c).

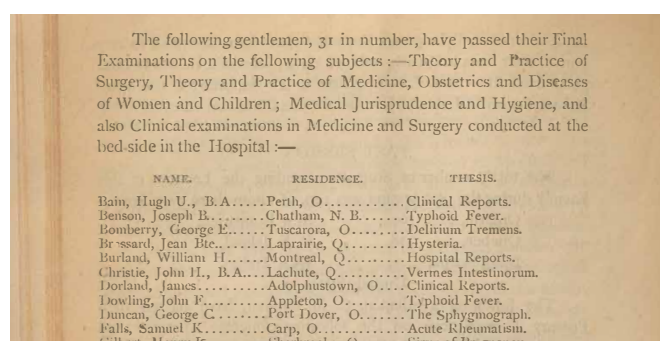
Bomberry was almost immediately "appointed by the Six Nations as their doctor on the Reserve" and "during the two years ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 1878 he received from the Indian Department alone more than 300 pounds for his professional service on the Reserve. The Company's grants-in-aid of his medical education... totalled 285 pounds." (3c).

Though Bomberry had obtained his MD CM degree and was working as a physician for the Six Nations, alongside Drs Dee and McCargow, he was not actually registered to practice in Ontario. As a doctor serving "only Indians" and paid by the (Federal) Indian Department he was exempt from this provincial registration but, in June 1878, he made a special application to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario for registration and Dr Alexander Bethune (of the





List of suggested text books included in the McGill Medical Faculty bulletin during Bomberry's final year of study.



Detail from the list of the previous year's Medical Faculty graduates in the 1875-76 bulletin; one can see that Bomberry wrote his thesis on *Delirium tremens*.

Registration Committee) explained that "Dr Bomberry only desired to practice among Indians and that he desired to be protected from prosecution. He had been prevented from attending the last examination by illness." (8) (Presumably, Bomberry was working alongside Drs Dee and McCargow and was thus sometimes being asked to treat settlers.) The College agreed that Dr Bomberry be granted a special examination and he received Licence 01955. According the College it was back-dated to 15 June, 1877. (9 & 10).

Since he had returned to his Reserve, Bomberry clearly regained his Indian status and his chieftainship, and he attended a meeting of the Grand Council in Sarnia on 27 June 1878 as a representative of the Six Nations of the Grand River. (11)

Bomberry was clearly influential among his contemporaries and Onondayoh (Frederick Ogilvie Loft) who attended the Mohawk Institute in the 1870s and was an important First Nations political leader in the period following the First World War, was interviewed by a Toronto newspaper in 1920 and stated, without mentioning his name, that his childhood hero had been "an Indian graduate of McGill who was well dressed and prosperous, a perfect gentleman." (12)

Bomberry died of consumption in Tuscarora, "after a long illness", on 29<sup>th</sup> January 1879. He was only 29 years old. (13)

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2. Graham, Elizabeth. *The Mush Hole: Life at Two Indian Residential Schools*. Waterloo, Ont: Heffle Pub, 1997. (This useful book reprints some of the class registers of the Institute.)
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Information on the current activities of the New England Company is available at <http://www.newenglandcompany.org>.

The diaries of Rev. Robert James Roberts' -including those during his time at the Six Nations -are available, digitised, at the Archives of British Columbia. <https://www.memorybc.ca/robert-james-roberts-fonds>.

# Expanding access: two digitization projects in the works



he Osler Library currently has two major digitization projects in the works: scanning the letters in the Harvey Cushing Fonds (P417) and digitizing our East Asian languages materials up to circa 1920.

The Cushing Letters (as we call them) are some of our most requested items. These are the letters described in the Osler Letter Index (<https://osler-letters.library.mcgill.ca/>) and are the correspondence Harvey Cushing collected for his hagiography of Osler. Most are transcriptions of letters to and from William Osler.

Following up on the success of digitizing our Middle Eastern languages material, a project described in *Osler Library Newsletter* No. 130, we are endeavouring to make our works written in East Asian languages available. As of mid-June 2022, we have 92 items available in Chinese and Japanese, though the numbers are bolstered by the multi-volume nature of many of these works.

Erratum: On p. 7 of the printed edition of OLN 134-135, the first line of text in the second column of Jessica Dandona's piece was missing. The first sentence reads, "The phantom's main purpose, according to its author, was to enable students to visualize the various presentations and positions of the fetus during pregnancy and labor."

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Hua Shou's *Jūshikei hakki* contains many woodcuts illustrating acupuncture points. See the full work: <https://tinyurl.com/3ht6hv5x>

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