A Genealogy of American Obstetrics and Gynecology
The Early Years: 1750-1870

Ronald M. Cyr MD, FACOG

Key Moments in the History of OB/GYN
CTP39

Tuesday, May 8, 2007  2:30-4:00 p.m.
San Diego Convention Center
55th Annual Clinical Meeting, San Diego, CA
American Obstetrics and Gynecology

1750-1870: The Early Years
   - 100 years of medical teaching

1870-1930: A Specialty Develops
   - GYN surgery; antiseptic midwifery
   - German science: Johns Hopkins
   - AGS/AAOG/ABOG

1930-1970: The Golden Years
   - Hospital birth/Blood/Antibiotics

1970-Present: Wither OB/GYN?
   - Subspecialty/Gender Impact
   - Consumer movement
Midwifery in Colonial Times

history-of-obgyn.com
You shall be secret, and not open any Mystery appertaining to your office, in the presence of any Man, unless Necessity or great urgent Cause do constrain you to do so.

NYC 1738 law for regulating midwives
Early Men-Midwives in the USA

John MOULTRIE

Charleston, SC 1733-83. At his death Several of the ladies of Charleston bedewed his grave with tears and went into mourning on the occasion.

James LLOYD (1726-1810)

Boston. apprenticed in Boston; 4 years in London, received OB training from William Smellie and William Hunter.

John DUPUY (? - 1745)

Obituary in a NY newspaper: Last night died, in the prime of life, to the almost universal regret and sorrow of this city, Mr. John Dupuy, M.D., man-midwife...
College of Philadelphia 1765-1791

John Morgan 1735-1789
Theory and Practice of Physick

William Shippen Jr. 1736-1808
Anatomy, Surgery and Midwifery

Adam Kuhn 1741-1817
Materia medica, Theory and Practice of Medicine

Benjamin Rush (1746-1813)
Chemistry, Theory and Practice of Medicine

Caspar Wistar (1761-1818)
Chemistry, Anatomy, Midwifery and Surgery

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King’s College, NY (1767-1774)

Samuel CLOSSY (Dublin 1751)
Anatomy

Samuel BARD (Edinburgh 1765)
Medicine

John JONES (Rheims 1751) Surgery

Peter MIDDLETON (St Andrews 1752)
Pathology

John V. TENNENT (Leyden) Midwifery

BARD (1742-1821)
US Edinburgh Medical Alumni

William SHIPPEN Jr. (1736-1808) 1761 - U. Penn
John MORGAN (1735-1789) 1763 - U. Penn
Samuel BARD (1742-1821) 1765 - NY
Adam KUHN (1741-1817) 1767 - U. Penn
Benjamin RUSH (1745-1813) 1769 - U. Penn
Benjamin WATERHOUSE (1754-1846) 1776 - Harvard
Caspar WISTAR (1760-1818) 1786 - U. Penn
Philip S. PHYSICK (1768-1837) 1792 - U. Penn
David HOSACK (1769-1835) 1792 - NY
Ephraim McDOWELL (1771-1830) 1793 - Kentucky
Nathan SMITH (1762-1829) 1796 - Dartmouth
Valentine MOTT (1785-1865) 1807 - NY
Philadelphia was the largest and most cultured city in British N.A.

Benjamin Franklin had co-founded a College and a Hospital.

Edinburgh was at the center of the “enlightenment” movement, and a ferment of intellectual activity: “Athens of the North”

Its Medical school was considered to be the best in the world until overshadowed in the 19th century by France, and later Germany.
University of Edinburgh

1558 Elizabeth I
1560 Scottish Reformation
1572 St Bartholomew
1582 U. Edinburgh
1620 Mayflower
1652 Pitcairne A.
1685 Medical School
1707 Act of Union
1726 Medical Faculty
1729 Royal Infirmary
1668 Boerhaave H. (Leyden)
1698 Munro A. *Primus*
1710 Cullen W.
Medical School Expansion

Graduates of the first medical schools competed with their professors for paying patients.

Economic incentive pushed doctors to new towns. The more enterprising founded their own schools, earning fees from students.
Nathan SMITH (1762-1829)

MD Harvard 1790

Edinburgh/Glasgow/
London 1796-7

Founded Medical
Schools (Dartmouth
1797, Yale 1810, Bowdoin
College 1820, Vermont
1822)
Some Notable Medical School Founders

Benjamin W. DUDLEY (1785-1870) MD U Penn 1806
Transylvania U, Lexington KY 1817-1855

Daniel DRAKE (1785-1852) MD U Penn 1818
Medical College of Ohio, Cincinnati 1819-
Cincinnati Medical College 1834-46

Gunning S. BEDFORD (1806-1870) MD CPS NY 1829
University City NY 1841

James Platt WHITE (1811-1881) MD Jefferson 1834
U of Buffalo 1846 (with Austin FLINT)
The Erie canal from Albany to Buffalo spurred development of Upstate NY, northern Ohio, and Michigan.
Medical schools in the USA. Those in black type continued without interruption until the present.

1783 - Harvard College, Cambridge MA
1787-1816 - Queen’s College NY
1791 - University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA
1797 - Dartmouth College, Hanover NH
1807 - College of Physicians and Surgeons NYC [Columbia U]
1807 - College of Maryland, Baltimore MD [U Maryland]
1811-1828 - Brown U RI
1812-1841 - CPS Western District, Fairfield NY
1812 - Yale College, New Haven CT
1817-1855 - Transylvania U, Lexington KY
1818-1861 - Castleton Medical College VT
1819 - Medical College of Ohio, Cincinnati OH [U Cincinnati]
1820-1921 Bowdoin College, ME
1823-1867 - Berkshire Medical Institution, Springfield MA
1823-1832 - Medical College of SC, Charleston SC
1824 - Jefferson College, Philadelphia PA
1825 - Columbian College, Washington DC [George Washington U]
1828 - University of Virginia, Charlottesville VA
1828 - Medical Academy of Georgia, Augusta GA [U Georgia]
1832 - Medical College State SC, Chaleston SC [Med U SC]
1834 - Medical College of Louisiana, New Orleans LA [Tulane U]
1835 - Geneva College, Syracuse NY [SUNY Upstate]
1837 - Louisville Medical Insitute, Louisville, KY [U Louisville]
1838 - Albany Medical College, Albany NY
1838 - Hampden-Sydney College, Richmond VA [VA Comm U]
1841 - University City New York, NYC [NYU School Medicine]
1842 - St. Louis University, St. Louis MO [Washington U]
1843 - Rush Medical College, Chicago
1846 - U Buffalo
1850 - U Iowa, Keokuk
1850 - U Michigan, Ann Arbor
1855 - Atlanta Medical College (Emory)
1858 - U. Pacific, San Francisco (Stanford)
1859 - Chicago Medical College (NWU)
1860 - Long Island College Hospital, Brooklyn, NY (SUNY Downstate)
1861 - Bellevue Hospital Medical College, NY
1864 - Toland Medical College, San Francisco (UCSF)
The development of railroads starting in the 1840s spurred westward development. Chicago grew in importance, as did California after completion of the transcontinental link in 1869.
Cartoon depicting the unregulated multiplication and expansion of medical schools during the mid-1800s.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>1820</th>
<th>1850</th>
<th>1880</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NYC</td>
<td>123,706</td>
<td>515,547</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>63,802</td>
<td>121,000</td>
<td>875,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore</td>
<td>62,738</td>
<td>169,054</td>
<td>332,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>43,298</td>
<td>136,881</td>
<td>363,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Orleans</td>
<td>27,176</td>
<td>116,375</td>
<td>216,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charleston</td>
<td>24,780</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td></td>
<td>13,247</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cincinnati</td>
<td></td>
<td>115,435</td>
<td>255,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn NY</td>
<td></td>
<td>96,838</td>
<td>567,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Louis</td>
<td></td>
<td>77,860</td>
<td>350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albany NY</td>
<td></td>
<td>50,763</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>503,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td></td>
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<td>234,000</td>
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OB-GYN Teaching in USA

-Until 20th Century, most births at home, attended by local women with no formal training. “Lying-In” wards in large cities for indigent and unwed mothers.

-Teachers were generalists who might have obtained some training in Europe. They earned their living from private practice, and lecture fees.

-Midwifery teaching was mostly theoretical, using manikins.

-The Faculties of early American medical schools were small, changed frequently, with professors teaching multiple subjects.
-Until the mid-1800s, Midwifery was frequently taught by the professor of Botany/Materia Medica, or Medical Jurisprudence.

-Between 1850-1890, professorial titles used combinations of “Obstetrics and Medical/Surgical Diseases of Women and Children”.

--Until the late 1800s, American OBS teaching and practice reflected the work of European authorities, especially from France, Great Britain, and Ireland.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William SHIPPMEN, Jr</td>
<td>1762</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. V. L. TENNENT</td>
<td>1768</td>
<td>King’s College, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel BARD</td>
<td>1768</td>
<td>King’s College, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan SMITH</td>
<td>1797</td>
<td>Dartmouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas C. JAMES</td>
<td>1802</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William P. DEWEES</td>
<td>1802</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan SMITH</td>
<td>1810</td>
<td>Yale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John B. DAVIDGE</td>
<td>1812</td>
<td>U Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter CHANNING</td>
<td>1815</td>
<td>Harvard</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
William SHIPPEN, Jr. (1736-1808)

Born Philadelphia. MD Edinburgh 1761. From 1762-65, he taught a 20-lecture course on midwifery and conclude the whole with necessary cautions against the dangerous and cruel use of instruments.

He also ran a makeshift “hospital”: In order to make this course more perfect, a convenient lodging is provided for the accommodation of a few poor women, who otherwise might suffer for want of the common necessities on these occasions...
A COMPRENDIUM
OF THE THEORY AND PRACTICE
OF MIDWIFERY,
Containing
PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF WOMEN
DURING PREGNANCY, IN LABOUR, AND IN CHILDBED;
Calculated
To correct the Errors, and to improve the Practice, of MIDWIVES;
As well as to serve as an Introduction to the STUDY OF THIS ART,
For STUDENTS AND YOUNG PRACTITIONERS.

By SAMUEL BARD, M. D.

NEW-YORK:
PRINTED AND SOLD BY COLLINS AND PERKINS,
NO. 189, PEARL-STREET.
1807.

Samuel Bard (1742-1821)
Co-founder King’s College
1st American Textbook OBS;
5 editions
Published 1807 after retirement
Thomas C. JAMES (1766-1835)

MD U Penn 1787

1790-92 London/Edinburgh

1802, OBS lectures

1st Prof Midwifery U Penn 1810-1834
A COMPENDIOUS SYSTEM
OF MIDWIFERY,
CHIEFLY DESIGNED TO FACILITATE THE INQUIRIES
OF THOSE WHO MAY BE PURSUEING THIS BRANCH OF STUDY.

ILLUSTRATED BY OCCASIONAL CASES.

WITH THIRTEEN ENGRAVINGS.

SECOND EDITION, WITH ADDITIONS, &c.

BY WM. P. DEWEEP, M. D.

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF MIDWIFERY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA,
MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, &c. &c.

PHILADELPHIA:
M. C. CAREY & L LEA, CHESNUT STREET.
1826.
Walter CHANNING
1786-1876

MD U. Penn 1809
Edinburgh/London 1809-12
OBS Harvard 1815-
Founded Boston Lying-In
1847 Ether in Childbirth
University of Pennsylvania ObGyn Faculty. Hodge was the most influential Obstetrician in the USA between 1840-1865. The younger members did not become influential until the 1880s. Kelly became the 1st Professor of ObGyn at Johns Hopkins U in 1889.
Jefferson College, Philadelphia ObGyn Faculty.

Charles D. MEIGS (1792-1869) Chair 1841-61

Ellerslie WALLACE (1819-1885) Chair 1862-1883

Theophilus PARVIN (1829-1898) Chair 1883-1898

Edward P. DAVIS (1856-1938) OBS 1898-1925

Edward E. MONTGOMERY (1849-1927) GYN 1898-1927
James P. White was censured by the Buffalo Medical Society for allowing senior medical students to participate in the management and delivery of a young woman. White sued for libel, and the resulting controversy occupied the medical press for months.

"...we deem it wholly unnecessary for the purpose of teaching, unprofessional in manner, and grossly offensive alike to morality and common decency."
A TREATISE
ON THE
THEORY AND PRACTICE
OF
OBSTETRICS.

BY
WM. H. BYFORD, A.M., M.D.,
PROFESSOR OF OBSTETRICS AND DISEASES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE CHICAGO MEDICAL
COLLEGE, ETC., ETC.; AUTHOR OF THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY APPLIED TO
THE DISEASES AND ACCIDENTS INCIDENT TO WOMEN; CHRONIC INFLAMMATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED UTERUS, ETC., ETC.
SECOND EDITION; THOROUGHLY REVISED.

NEW YORK:
WILLIAM WOOD & CO., 27 GREAT JONES STREET.
1873.

William H. BYFORD (1817-1890)
MD Ohio Med Coll 1845
Chicago Med Coll 1859-79
Marmaduke B. WRIGHT
(1803-1879)

MD U Penn

1838 Prof OBS Dis Women
Ohio Med Coll, Cincinnati

1854 *Difficult Labors and their Treatment*
This described a technique of version
now usually associated with Braxton-Hicks.
George T. Elliot (1828-1871)
MD U City NY 1849
Intern Rotunda 1849-50
Prof OBS DWC Bellevue
1861-71
The 1st US hospital devoted solely to the surgical management of GYN problems. Sims is often referred to as the "father of American Gynecology". He pioneered the repair of vesico-vaginal fistulas, although he was superseded in this by his assistant Emmet. His disregard for hospital rules and record-keeping got him expelled from the hospital he founded.