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## Pre-1850 Ovariectomy



**E. McDowell**  
1771-1830  
Danville KY  
(1809)

**Nathan Smith**  
1762-1829  
Norwich VT  
(1821)

**John L. Atlee**  
1799-1888  
Lancaster PA  
(1843)

**W. L. Atlee**  
1808-1878  
Lancaster PA  
(1844)

## Ovariectomy in the USA 1864-1871

(From January 1, 1864, to October 30, 1871.)				
Operations	Cases	Cured	Died	Per cent. of recoveries
Atlee, W. L.	181	74	107	40.9
Kimball, G. (Lowell, Mass.)	121	80	41	66.1
Dwight, A. (Ohio)	60	47	13	78.3
Wheeler, E. R.	48	37	11	77.1
White	35	27	8	77.1
Murken (Maine)	28	18	10	64.3
Thomas	27	18	9	66.7
Shufeldt, J. P. (Kentucky)	30	17	13	56.7
Sims, J. Marion	17	10	7	58.8
Emmett	9	5	4	55.6
Ashton	9	5	4	55.6
Blunt, J. P. (Connecticut)	8	4	4	50.0
Green	4	3	1	75.0
Emmett (Portland)	4	3	1	75.0
Boyle (Chicago)	4	3	1	75.0
Hill (Angiano, Maine)	4	3	1	75.0
Nonogren	4	3	1	75.0
Smith, A. G.	4	3	1	75.0
Jackson (Chicago)	3	2	1	66.7
Murray, R. D. (California)	3	2	1	66.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>68.2</b>
Deduct cases previous to 1864 included in above table	35			
<b>Total</b>	<b>629</b>			

In 1872 Robert Battey (1828-1895), from Georgia, reported 10 cases (9 vaginal) of ovariectomy for the treatment of PMS or sexual neurosis. This was imitated and much abused.

## Early Hospitals for Women

**Woman's Hospital State of New York, NYC - 1855**

J. Marion Sims (1813-1883)  
MD Jefferson 1835

**Woman's Hospital State of Illinois, Chicago - 1871**

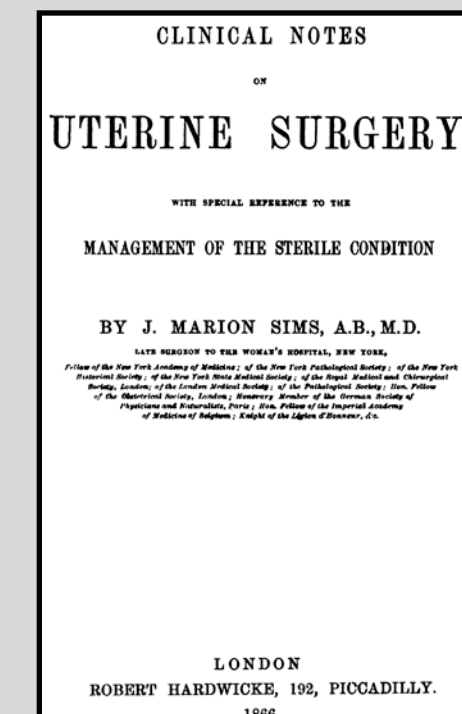
H. Reeves Jackson (1827-1892)  
MD U Penn 1848

**Free Hospital for Women, Boston - 1875**

William H. Baker (1845-1915)  
MD Harvard 1872

## J. Marion Sims (1813-1883)

MD Jefferson 1835. Successful surgeon in Birmingham AL. He developed a reliable technique for curing vesico-vaginal fistula. After moving to NYC for health reasons, he founded the Woman's Hospital in 1855. During the Civil War he moved to Europe where he became rich and famous during the next decade.



•Sims wrote very little, but his 1866 book *Clinical Notes on Uterine Surgery* is a classic.

•It describes his methods for examining patients, his instruments and techniques for home/office surgery on the cervix and uterus.


•He pioneered the investigation of infertility, including semen analysis and the post-coital test — controversial in Victorian England, where it was first published.

## Woman's Hospital of the State of New York - 1855

*The New York Woman's Hospital stands today, and always will stand, a glorious monument to the genius, energy, and humanity of J. Marion Sims.*  
Paul F. Mundé 1883 Sims Obituary

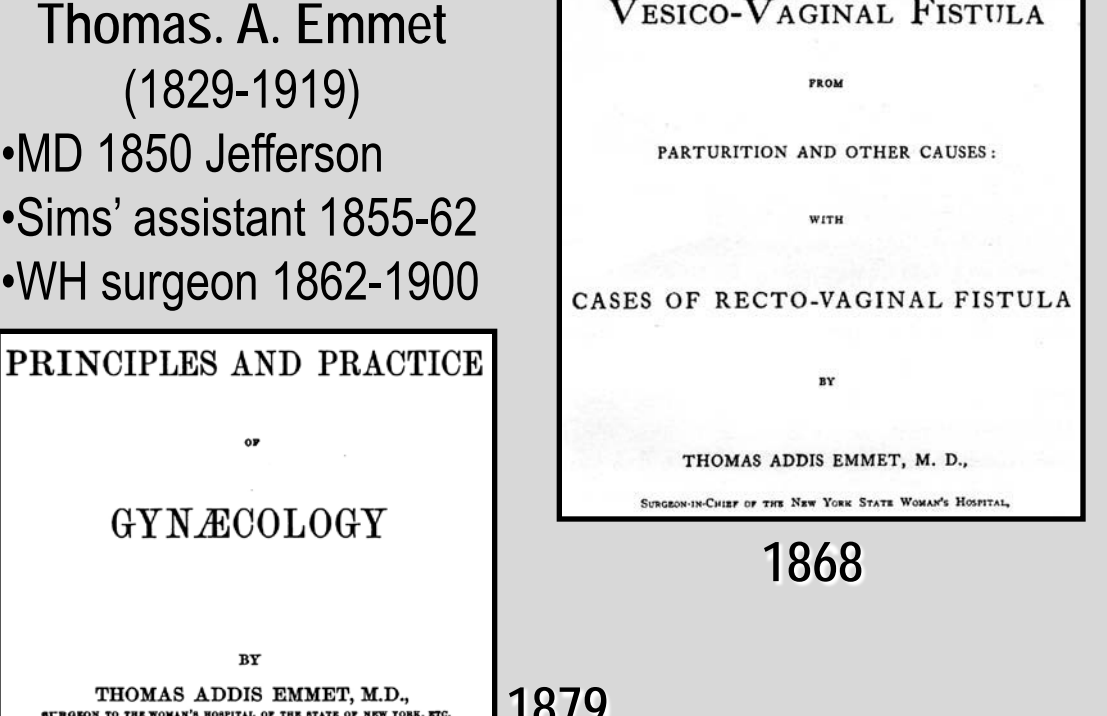
In 1855, it required vision and persistence to overcome widely-held prejudices within the profession, as reflected in this unattributed quote:

*The field is too small for a special hospital. Any one can apply nitrate of silver to an old ulceration through an old cylindrical speculum; and all that is needed to cure leucorrhoea is an astringent injection. There is no difficulty in introducing a Physick globe pessary for prolapsus.*

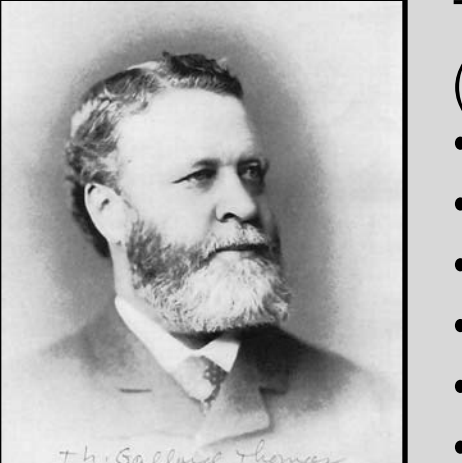


**Thomas A. Emmet (1829-1919)**

- MD 1850 Jefferson
- Sims' assistant 1855-62
- WH surgeon 1862-1900

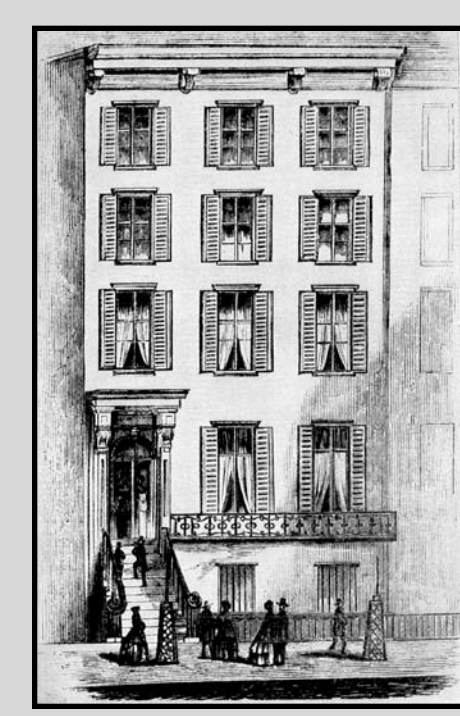


**THOMAS ADDIS EMMET, M.D.**  
1868



**T. Gaillard Thomas (1831-1903)**

- MD 1852 Med Coll SC
- WH surgeon 1872-1887
- Chair OB Bellevue 1858-65
- Chair ObDWC, CPS 1865-79
- Chair GYN CPS 1879-85
- Textbook 6 editions 1865-91



WH - 1855  
83 Madison Ave, NYC

## Overview

### Before 1850: Pre-anesthesia: "Diseases of Women"

•Before the discovery of anesthesia during the 1840s, gynecology was mostly a medical specialty. In medical schools "Diseases of Women" was usually taught by the professor of midwifery, along with the "Diseases of Children".

•The few successful cases of ovariectomy were heroic: Ephraim McDowell performed the first in 1809, and achieved great posthumous fame.

### 1850-1880: Rise of Surgical Gynecology

•The Atlee brothers did much to promote ovariectomy in the US, long before the germ theory (Pasteur-Koch) and the concept of antisepsis (Lister) became widely accepted during the mid-1880s. In 660 cases reported between 1854-1871, mortality exceeded 30%.

•J. Marion Sims is considered the "father of gynecology" in the USA. He perfected a technique for curing vesico-vaginal fistula. His legacy was the Woman's Hospital (NYC) which he founded in 1855: the first US hospital dedicated to the surgical treatment of benign female problems. Women's hospitals were opened in Chicago (1871 - Reeves) and Boston (1875 - Baker).

•Professorships of Gynecology were established: Dartmouth (1872 - Peaslee), U Penn (1874 - Goodell), Harvard (1875 - Baker), CPS NYC (1879 - Thomas), Rush Med Coll Chicago (1879 - Byford). The American Gynecological Society was founded in 1876.

### 1880-1910: Gynecology rules! Schism from Obstetrics

•Howard A. Kelly was the prototypical ambitious young man attracted to the glamour of surgical gynecology. In 1883, at age 25, he founded the Kensington Hospital for Women in Philadelphia; by 1888, he had succeeded William Goodell as Professor of Gynecology at the U of Pennsylvania. In 1889 he followed William Osler to the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore where he started the first GYN residency program based on the German model. A long apprenticeship and pathology training raised the standard of surgery.

•Kelly had no interest in Obstetrics and delegated responsibility for this subject to J. Whitridge Williams in 1893; this *de-facto* schism was formalized in 1899.

•Gynecologists increasingly became general surgeons, leaving obstetrics to the surgically-timid. By 1912 only 8 of 42 academic departments had joint chairs and OB was relegated to "man-midwife" status in many institutions.

### 1910-1930: Rebirth of Obstetrics

•In urban areas, birth gradually moved from home to hospital after 1900. The availability of anesthesia, antisepsis and house staff increased the number and type of interventions, including cesarean section, performed by obstetricians.

•The prestige and scientific standing of obstetrics was boosted by academic leaders such as J. W. Williams (Baltimore), Joseph B. DeLee (Chicago), Barton C. Hirst (Philadelphia), Edwin B. Cragin (NYC), and Reuben Peterson (Michigan); they trained residents and wrote textbooks.

•All except Williams were surgically-inclined. They were unanimous, however, in recognizing the need for joint training in these specialties, bucking the trend established by Kelly and his disciples.

J. Whitridge Williams spent the last decades of his life lobbying for unification:

*I hope I may live to see the day when the term obstetrician will have disappeared and when all teachers, at least, will unite in fostering a broader gynecology, instead of being divided as at present into knife-loving gynecologists and equally narrow-minded obstetricians, who are frequently little more than trained man-midwives.*  
Presidential Address, American Gynecological Society, 1914

•Williams, through his eponymous textbook, his residents and the force of his personality, would eventually achieve his goal by influencing the selection of most academic OBGYN Chair positions in the USA between 1910 and his death in 1931.

•By the late 1920s, OB and GYN training were again unified in most centers. Ironically, OBGYN remained separated at Johns Hopkins until 1960 when Allan C. Barnes, who trained at Michigan under Norman F. Miller, replaced Nicholson Eastman and Richard W. TeLinde as the first joint Chair since Kelly.

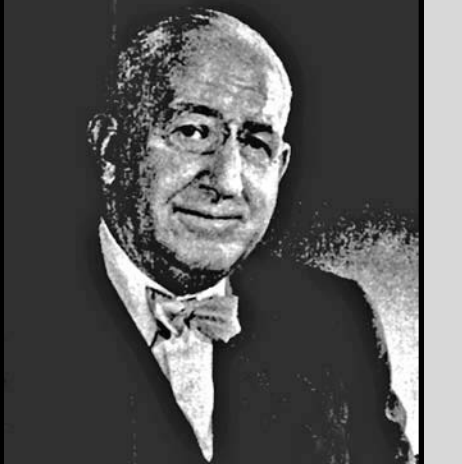
•The final impetus for integrated training was creation of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology in 1930.

### 1930: American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology

•The ABOG, organized in 1930, was the brainchild of Walter T. Dannreuther of New York City. He was its first president, and occupied that position until 1955.

•Dannreuther's goal was to standardize OBGYN training and recognize publicly those who met those requirements. Implementation required the support of 3 national OBGYN organizations, and was achieved over a three-year period.


•153 men and 1 woman were awarded certificates based on their achievements; certification without examination was discontinued on December 31, 1931. The first written examinations were held in March 1931, and 89 diplomates passed the first oral examination in June 1931.



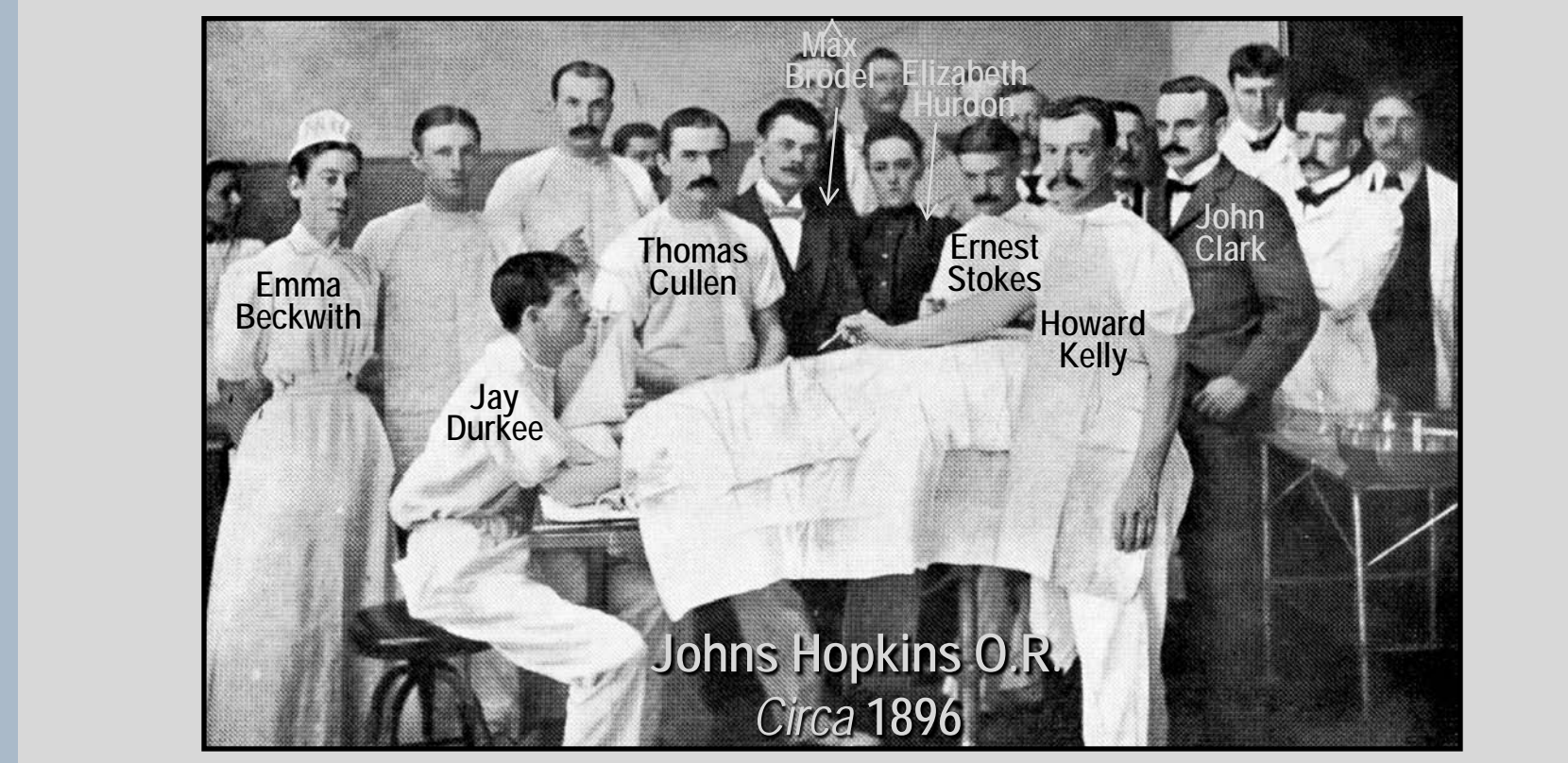
**W.F. Dannreuther 1885 - 1960**

*His greatest contribution was the men he trained, especially those who became chairmen of university departments of obstetrics and gynecology...*  
Nicholson J. Eastman (Chair Obstetrics Johns Hopkins 1935-1960) in 1964

### Howard A. Kelly 1858-1943



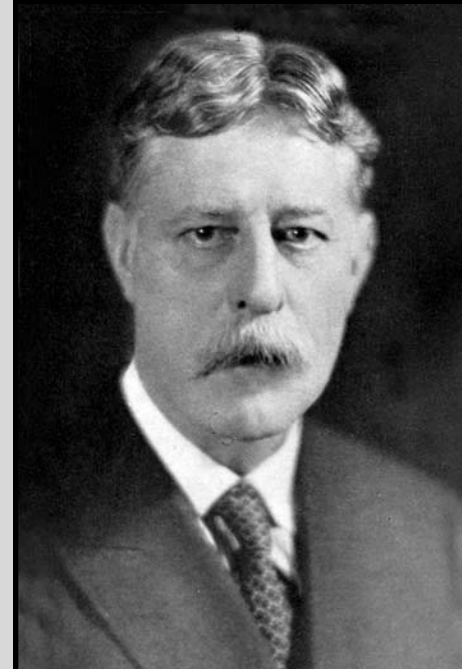
The most influential gynecologist in America from 1890-1920. A complex man: bold and inventive surgeon; inspirational mentor; great scholar, linguist and writer; great entrepreneur and philanthropist; crusading Christian moralist. He created the GYN residency at Johns Hopkins; he authored numerous textbooks and almost 500 articles; he founded 2 private hospitals and was a promoter and practitioner of radium therapy. He collected rare books, snakes and fungi.



## Notable Kelly Residents

- Hunter Robb (1863-1940): Prof Western Reserve U, Cleveland 1894-1914.
- John G. Clark (1867-1927): Prof Gyn U. Pennsylvania 1897-1927.
- Thomas S. Cullen (1868-1953): Chair Gynecology Johns Hopkins 1919-1939.
- Guy L. Hunner (1868-1957): Director Female Urology Division Johns Hopkins U.
- John A. Sampson (1873-1946): Prof Gyn Albany Med Coll, NY; endometriosis.

## J. Whitridge Williams 1866-1931



- MD 1888 U. Maryland
- 1888-90 Studied pathology/histology Vienna and Berlin
- 1890-93 Kelly's staff at Johns Hopkins U. as surgical assistant and worked with Welch in pathology lab.
- 1892 Fellow of Am Gyn Soc: Thesis on pelvic TB.
- 1893 Director of Obstetrics in the new JHU Med School
- 1894-95 Studied obstetrics in Leipzig and Prague.
- 1899-1931 Chair of Obstetrics Johns Hopkins U.
- 1910-1923 Dean Medicine JHU; "full-time system"
- Authored 6 editions of "Williams' Obstetrics" 1903-1930

## Williams' Legacy

*His greatest contribution was the men he trained, especially those who became chairmen of university departments of obstetrics and gynecology...*

- George W. Dobbin: Coll Phys Surg, Baltimore
- Frank W. Lynch: U California, San Francisco
- J. Morris Slemmons: U California, San Francisco; Yale U., CT
- Francis C. Goldsborough: U. Buffalo, NY
- Arthur H. Morse: Yale U., CT
- Karl M. Wilson: U. Rochester NY
- Everett D. Plass: Henry Ford Hosp, Detroit; U. Iowa, Iowa City
- John W. Harris: U Wisconsin, Madison WI
- Thomas O. Gamble: Albany Med Coll, NY
- Robert G. Douglas: Cornell University, NYC
- John L. McKelvey: U Minnesota, Minneapolis