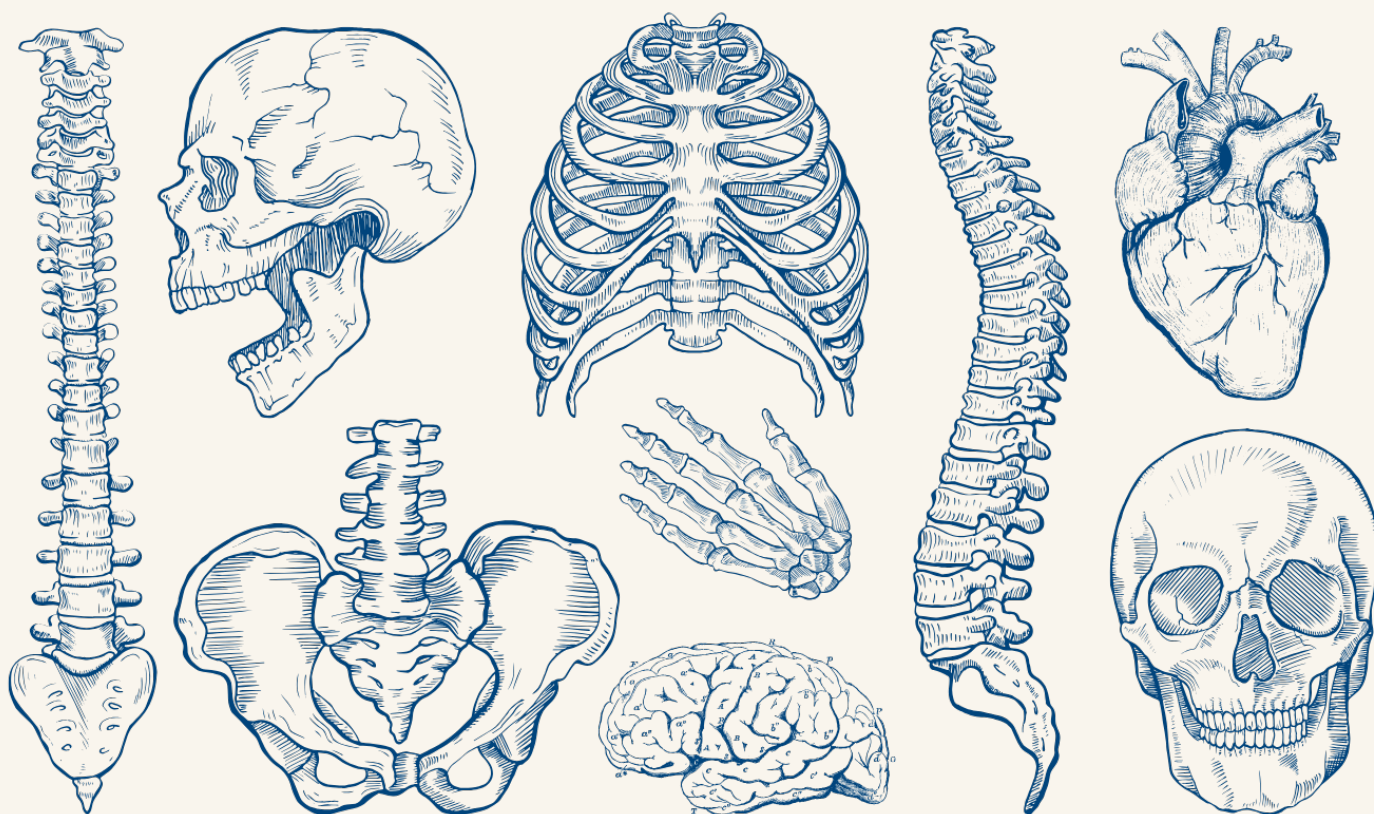

Waring Library Society

NEWSLETTER

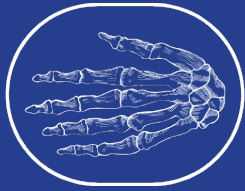
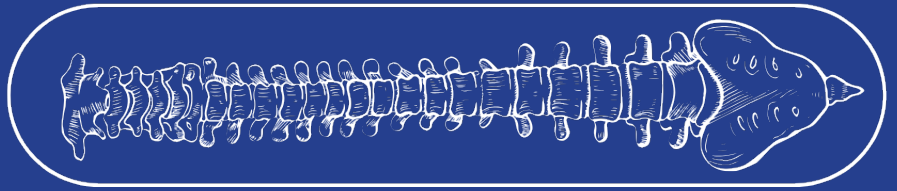


NO. 72
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MUSC
Medical University
of South Carolina

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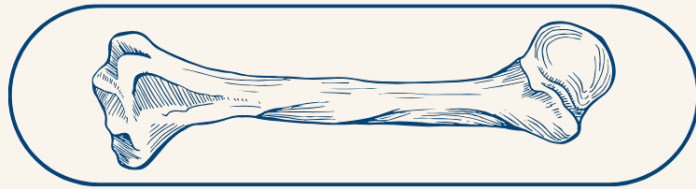
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PRESIDENT'S



CORNER

Bicentennial Reflections on Legacy and Ancestry

*Robert Ball MD MPH FACP
President, Waring Library Society*

In this bicentennial year of the Medical University (ne' College) of SC, please pause to reflect on our founding fathers, aptly called "Men of Unsullied Reputation." Many of their oil portraits are preserved by the Waring Historical Library (WHL). The portraits were the subjects of a WHL-led fundraising campaign in the 2010s to address conservation issues. These portraits and the founders' histories can be found in a [recently released online exhibit](#).

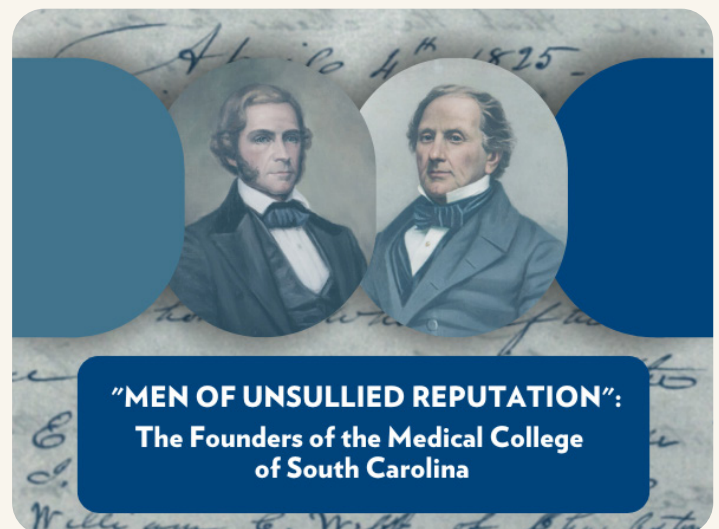
Most were founding members of The Medical Society of SC, formed in 1789, and started the original Roper Hospital. The purpose of this small group of private physicians was to "improve the Science of Medicine, promoting liberality in the Profession, and Harmony amongst the Practitioners in this City."

Members of The Medical Society of South Carolina in 1824 founded The Medical College of South Carolina (MCSC), which would eventually become the Medical University of South Carolina, and most served as early faculty. Dr. James Moultrie Jr. was an early member and in 1827 helped launch the Charleston Journal of Medical and Physical Science.

In 1847, several prominent members (i.e., Drs. Robert Wilson and Dr. Moultrie) of the Medical Society helped co-found a trade union

(the American Medical Association, or AMA) as part of a delegation of 250 physicians from 22 states, representing 40 individual medical societies and 28 colleges. Moultrie was AMA's first Vice-President, then President. They were also instrumental in forming the SC Medical Association in 1848, in which Moultrie, having thrice been MCSC Dean, was the first SCMA President. He is this writer's great granduncle.

Their histories speak volumes of medical and societal foresight. We pray for just a portion of his and his colleagues foresight. Our legacy is writ in their histories.



This image promotional image for the "Men of Unsullied Reputation" exhibit features portraits of Samuel Henry Dickson (left) and James Moultrie, Jr. (right).

CURATOR'S COMMENTS



Building Foundations

JoAnn Zeise
Curator, Waring Historical Library

We are poised to start renovation of our beloved building and now seems a great time to reflect on how our building came to be. Our physical foundations ground us, steady us, and even elevate us when we reflect on the collective dreaming, planning, and labor that went into its construction. There are a lot of interesting threads we can pull on about our building, but since we have limited space, let's focus on how the building came to be.

In 1892 Rev. A. Toomer Porter was in New York on another trip to raise money for his school, the Porter Military Academy. Originally named the Holy Communion Church Institute, the school opened in 1867 thanks to Porter's efforts and named for him in 1886. He had created the school to educate and train destitute and orphaned boys following the Civil War. The school was located at the site of the old federal arsenal, which Porter had secured for the school in 1879. He was constantly travelling, making connections, knocking on doors, and giving speeches to raise money for the school.

And that is what brought Porter to New York City in 1892. As he sat in his hotel with no prospects of which door to knock next, divine inspiration struck. He thought of Rev. Charles Frederick Hoffman. They had never met, but Porter knew Charles' brother and that the Hoffman family was one of the richest in the city. Porter knocked on door of the Hoffman's mansion. He was called

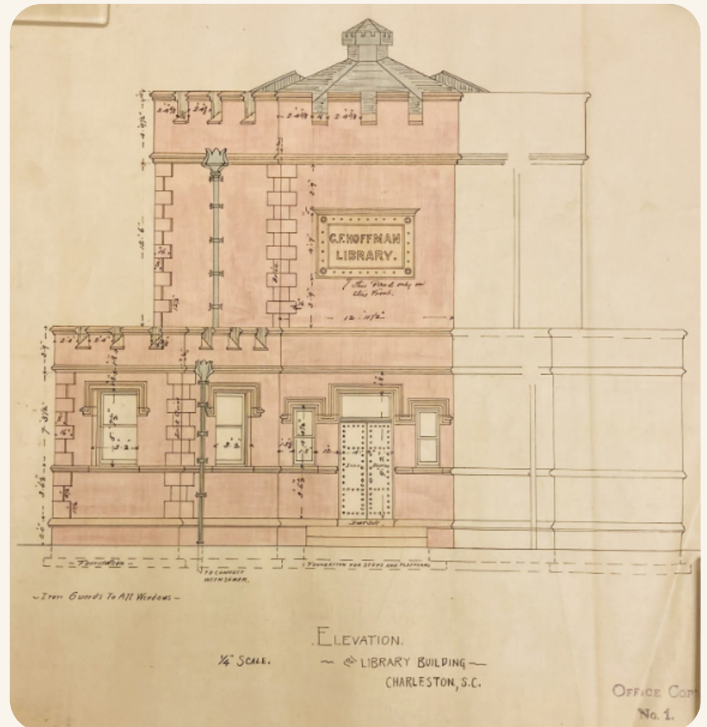


Image courtesy of the New York Historical Society. C.H. Hoffman Library Building, 1893, PR 64, John B. Snook Architectural Records Collection 1762-1948, New York Historical Society, New York.

up to Hoffman's office who greeted him directly, "I know what you are here for." This did little to quell Porter's anxiety, but, happily, Hoffman was already a fan of Porter and the school. Hoffman next asked if the school had a library building. Porter responded that it was a luxury they could not afford. This was unacceptable to Hoffman who immediately send Porter to his personal architect, J.B. Snook, one of the most prestigious architect in New York, to get started on plans for a new library building.

Plans and money in hand, Porter returned

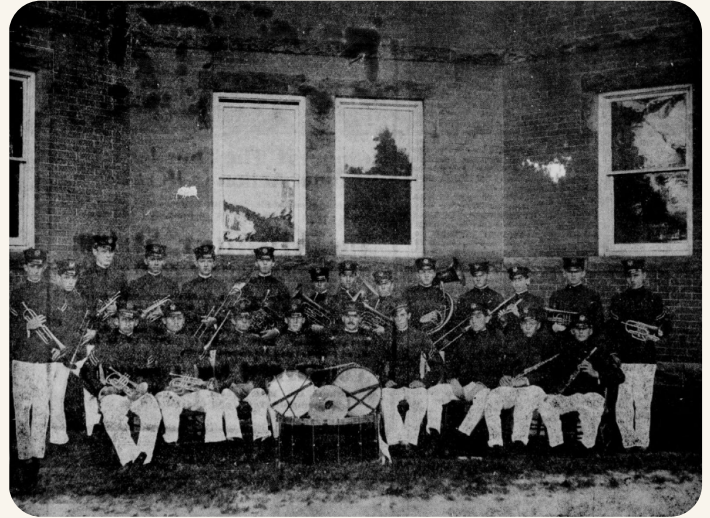
to Charleston. On October 19th, 1893 the cornerstone was laid. During the ceremony, Robert McCarell, an Irish immigrant responsible for many prominent building projects in Charleston, received the ceremonial trowel while the Grand Master of the Masons offered a blessing: "May the abounding wealth of nature bless the inhabitants of this place with necessities, conveniences, and comforts of life; protect the workmen against accidents; long preserve the structure from decay, and grant to us all a supply of the corn of nourishment, the wine of refreshment, and the oil of joy."

Before the cornerstone was struck, a tin box was placed inside. Inside was a history of Porter Academy, a catalogue from the 1892-1893 semester, a copy of the Charleston News and Courier for Oct. 19, 1893, a roll of current Porter Academy cadets, along with names of the builders, contractor, architect, and workers. One of those workers was Holten Bell, a Black prominent builder and brick mason who also responsible for the design and converting of the old artillery shed into what is now St. Luke's Chapel. His son, Hiram helped build the brick fence that still guards the chapel and library.

McCarell, Bell and the other workers completed the building eight months later. The building was christened the Hoffman Library, for its main benefactor. It was described as a "modern first-class library" that was "massive and solid" with "charming nooks" and "inviting corners in which to throw down one's lazy bones and read and rest." It was built with red pressed brick and Tennessee sandstone. The walls, ceiling, and moldings are all be native hard pine. Interestingly, the beautiful wood ceiling on the second floor was plaster.

The next 131 years saw a lot of changes at the library, including a name change to honor Dr. J.I. Waring, Jr, the first director of the Historical Library. There have been a few restorations but relatively few changes to the building. It has stood as a sentinel watching over the campus and countless students, staff, and faculty. The current plans call for few structural changes, but some needed repairs, upgrades, and redesigns to help protect our precious collections. Just as

that October day in 1893 when the cornerstone was laid, it has taken dreamers, planners, and the labor of so many to get us here. Building on that, we have a great foundation for the future!

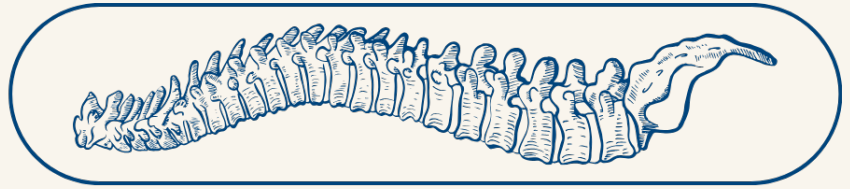


Porter Military Academy students in front of Hoffman Library. Baptist courier. (Greenville, S.C.), 06 June 1912. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress.



Hoffman Library-Porter Military Academy-Charleston, S.C., c.1910, postcard, University of South Carolina.

EVENT



UPDATES

Sneak Peak at the Upcoming SHC Noon Lecture Series!

Anna Marie Schuldt
Assistant, Waring Historical Library

Every year the Waring Historical Library coordinates a noon lecture series that originated as the Student History Club lecture series. During the COVID-19 pandemic, this lecture series evolved to a virtual lecture series open to anyone interested in the history of medicine. Now we see attendees from across campus, across the states, and sometimes across borders. We are enthusiastic about providing access to medical history knowledge to all who seek it.

This year we are quite excited for the line-up of speakers we have curated. While they span backgrounds and topics, but all are passionate about their niches in medical history. Save the date for these events and keep an eye out for when registration opens!

How Clinical Medical Practice, Medical Education, the Hospital and Healthcare have Evolved During the Past Half Century

With Dr. David J. Wolf
September 18, 2024 | 12 PM EST | Online
[Register here.](#)

Dr. Wolf will describe the extraordinary changes in medicine that he experienced and observed during his professional career at Weill Cornell University Medical College and on the staff of the New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

The Heroin Epidemic That Wasn't: Returning Vietnam Servicemen, Controversies Over Methadone Maintenance, and the Future of Drug Rehabilitation, 1971-1975

With Dr. Ulrich Koch
October 16, 2024 | 12 PM EST | Online
[Register here.](#)

Dr. Ulrich Koch will discuss methadone maintenance treatment (MMT) in the early 1970s spurred on by the reports of heroin-using servicemen in Vietnam and the implications of this episode for the public perception of MMT.

Francis Peyre Porcher, M.D.: Botanist, Physician, Pharmacist, and Scientist

With Dr. Amy Welling Gregg
November 13, 2024 | 12 PM EST | Online
[Register here.](#)

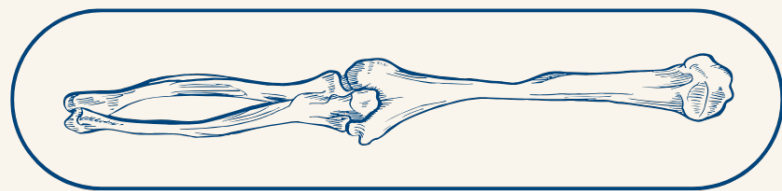
Dr. Gregg will discuss Francis Peyre Porcher, the prominent Charlestonian doctor who was hugely significant to the history of the health sciences in Charleston and the author of *Resources of the Southern Fields and Forests*.

With a Flashlight and a Speculum: Envisioning a Feminist Revolution

With Dr. Judith Houck
December 11, 2024 | 12 PM EST | Online
[Register here.](#)

Dr. Houck will explore the political deployment of cervical self-exam and examine how women reacted to the semi-public display of their privates.

CONTRIBUTING



VOICES

Restoring the Waring Historical Library

*David B. Adams, M.D.
Emeritus Distinguished University
Professor
Past-president, Waring Library Society
Chair, Waring Library Renovation
Committee*

The building that houses the Medical University of South Carolina's Waring Historical Library was built in 1894 as the library for the Porter Military Academy. It served in that role until the University purchased land from Porter Military Academy in the 1960's. The Library was named after its first director, Dr. Joseph I. Waring, a medical historian and professor of pediatrics. Today, it is home to the Medical University's rare book and special collections, including the original library collection and meeting minutes of the Medical Society of South Carolina. The Library's books cover the history of the Atlantic Medical World in the 18th and 19th centuries, and records documenting the history of health sciences in South Carolina and the South. The library building is on the National Register of Historic Places and is considered the finest example of Neo-Gothic architecture in Charleston.

Although it is one of the oldest buildings on campus, the Waring Historical Library has not received any structural attention since the university acquired it. Given its historical significance and the value of its collections,

the building's declining condition raises many concerns. The overall lighting is poor. The wiring is old and insufficient, with exposed cords running across the floor. Its fire suppression system is outdated. It is not reliably climate controlled, putting valuable documents at risk. There is inadequate space for storage, meetings, and events. The ceiling, walls, doors, floors, and window casings are all damaged. Rodents and water intrusion are constant problems.

These were the issues that Dr. Brian Fors identified over four years ago when he was the Waring Library Director. Dr. Fors led the charge to develop a plan to address the many challenges. We consulted with Kristopher King from the Preservation Society of Charleston and Winslow Hastie from the Historic Charleston Foundation. Glenn Keyes, well-known for his 30-year experience in Charleston historic building renovations, inspected the Library with Moby Marks, also highly respected for his Charleston historic renovation work. Keyes and Marks loved the building and its wonderful architectural history and building details, and they clearly understood the many issues that Dr. Fors outlined in the vision for the future. The goal was set to create an environment for the reliable preservation of our history, while also setting the stage for an expanded use of the Waring Historical Library with improved exhibit and work space. At the same time, it was important to return the interior to the original condition as much as possible and to maintain the character and historic charm of the building.

Notable plans included installing a modern fire suppression system, updating the electrical system, reconfiguring and updating the HVAC system, improving temperature and humidity conditions, installing new lighting throughout the library, installing hurricane grade windows, removing metal screens from the first-floor windows, restoring the original shelving on the first floor, creating more shelf space for the collection, and making more open space to accommodate student, faculty and staff use.

Glenn Keyes and Associates did a feasibility study and design which beautifully depicted how to achieve these goals. The repairs and updates were projected to cost an estimated \$1.2 million. Of this amount, the Medical University has committed \$900,000, and the Waring Library Society was enlisted to raise the remaining \$300,000. Dr. Fors asked me to chair a committee to help raise the additional funds. I asked Dawn Hartsell, David Trachtenberg, Sally Self, Mindy Hong, Faye Jensen, Zoher Kapasi, and Jacob Steere-Williams to join me in the committee's efforts.

The Waring Library renovation presents a singular opportunity to mark MUSC's Bicentennial year. The building has a magical effect on those who enter and represents an iconic campus image. On the second floor of the Waring Library one can open a large, leather-bound book and see the beautifully hand-written minutes of the first meeting of the Medical Society of South Carolina on December 24, 1789. The late 18th century was a time period when Charleston ranked with Philadelphia and Boston as a leading medical and scientific center of the young country. There are not many other health science centers that can match this foundational heritage. High school, college, and post-graduate students who visit the Waring Library sense that connection, one of the many things that make the Library a unique space on campus. Because the Library serves both as a historical medical library and a museum, the renovations can help establish MUSC as one of the top ten health science history centers in the U.S.

Every fund-raising campaign has surprises and disappointments. I visited with all of the University Deans and College of Medicine chairs that I could. I found a Dean that was willing to join the Committee. I found Department Chairs in Surgery and Neurosurgery who committed meaningful departmental gifts to the campaign, and many Chairs and leaders who contributed personally. Friends of the Library, faculty, students, and MUSC employees contributed at all levels. A New York physician with a deep history in medical history who has a retirement home at Kiawah visited the Library and joined the effort with major contributions. Descendants of Robert Wilson, the Dean appointed in 1908 who saved the Medical College by transferring it to state ownership, were contributors as well as originators of a challenge grant. A total of 163 gifts were made, perhaps none more important than that of the Medical Society of South Carolina whose contributions will be recognized by naming the second floor octagonal domed room "The Medical Society of South Carolina Reading Room" with a permanent display that records the creation of the 1789 Medical Society of South Carolina and the role of its physicians and Roper Hospital in the 1824 foundation of the Medical College of South Carolina.

A total of 163 gifts and pledges have been made totaling \$376,438, well beyond our original goal. Such is the record of the many surprises measured by the number of the generous contributors who recognize the spirit of this invaluable building in critical need. The major disappointment is that the renovation will not be completed and celebrated in the bicentennial year. The exciting Glenn Keyes project-design which outlined a 2024 completion date was delayed when Dr. Fors and I learned that the original plan to engage Keyes's firm for the project was not allowed by University rules. However, his concepts and ideas are the inspiration for the project that will begin in the bicentennial year and with patience and persistence will be completed in 2025 when the celebration will begin with many, many thanks to all the generous supporters who have helped make this possible.