

**IF YOU HAVE** original artifacts you would like to share, or if you would like additional information about the Andrew Taylor Still Papers/American School of Osteopathy, contact:

Museum of Osteopathic Medicine™ and International Center for Osteopathic History  
A.T. Still University  
800 West Jefferson  
Kirksville, MO 63501

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## Andrew Taylor Still Papers (1828-1917)

Founder of  
Osteopathic Medicine

American School of  
Osteopathic Medicine



Dr. Andrew Taylor Still in 1874 rebelled against standard 19th century medicine and launched his own health care system, later named osteopathy. Rather than just tweak old therapies, Still offered a new philosophy. He met heavy resistance, and the papers reveal Still's frank opinions of those who refused to see the truth of his ideas. His rivals fought, and failed, to make osteopathy illegal. Still founded the American School of Osteopathy in Kirksville in 1892.

Still's father – a preacher, doctor, and abolitionist – shaped his ideas about religion, medicine, and politics. Following his parents to Kansas in 1853, Still became a physician and farmer. He took up the antislavery cause and served with the Union during the Civil War. While the death of four children in 1864 caused him to give up medicine for a time, he eventually returned to his practice. When his work was rejected by family and friends, he returned to Missouri, settling in Kirksville for the rest of his life.

American School of Osteopathy, Kirksville, Mo.



### The Collections

The Andrew Taylor Still Papers comprise about six linear feet (1864-1917; bulk 1891-1917). The bulk consists of Still's essays, letters, book drafts, and other writings. Also present are letters to Still, military records, other personal documents, and letters and other items relating to Still's death in 1917. Formats include handwritten, typed and printed materials.

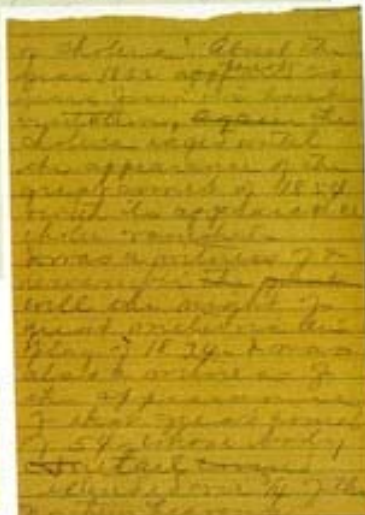


The American School of Osteopathy (ASO) comprises about two linear feet (1892-1924; bulk 1894-1900). The collection consists of the school's Articles of Incorporation, including by-laws and officers' job descriptions; the Board of Trustees' records, handwritten by H.E. Patterson, D.O., secretary and ASO graduate; the Records of proceedings of the faculty, containing the Board of Trustees' by-laws; rules, regulations, and records of faculty meetings; and records of meetings and extensive lists of individuals recommended by faculty to receive ASO diplomas. Formats include handwritten, typed and printed materials.

See these historic materials hosted by Missouri Digital Heritage at our website.  
[www.atstu.edu/museum](http://www.atstu.edu/museum)

#### Research Features:

- High-caliber scans of research documents
- Transcriptions with side-by-side comparisons to the scanned image
- Keyword search
- Historic interpretation



Finding he had more patients than he could handle, Still trained his children and a few others to assist him in his practice. Finally, there were enough people who wanted to learn his methods that he was persuaded to start a school. The American School of Osteopathy (ASO) was founded in Kirksville in 1892, in a two-room frame building. The first class of five women and sixteen men—including three of Still's children and one of his brothers—graduated in 1894.\*

The school became a huge success. In August 1894, work was begun on a new infirmary building, which opened in January 1895; by 1897, it was necessary to add two wings that more than tripled the size of the original building. More than 30,000 osteopathic treatments were given at the infirmary in 1895. It was estimated that on any given day, there were more than 400 people who had come to Kirksville to be treated. The Walnut Railroad increased to four the number of daily passenger trains to Kirksville.

With his medical school and practice firmly established, Still returned to one of his other great loves: mechanical inventions. He had long been interested in machines, faced with a mechanical problem, his solution had always been to come up with a better approach. In the 1870s, he had patented an improved burner (chairs, in the years since, he had come up with a number of other inventions. Some were related to the practice of osteopathy, such as the patient brace, a simple device designed to keep patients from falling off the narrow treatment table during vigorous manipulations. In about 1904, Still began work on several new inventions. In 1930, he patented a smokeless furnace burner but had some trouble producing a full-sized working model. Heartbroken from Mary Elvira's death in May 1910, he did not have the will to pursue the matter further, and the invention was never successfully marketed.

\*The number of students in the first class varies, depending on how and when they are counted. At first, students were admitted at A.T. Still's discretion and graduated when he felt they were ready. The numbers listed here are from one of two known pictures of the class that convened in the fall of 1892.

Andrew Taylor Still was born on August 6, 1828, in a log cabin in Lee County, Virginia. The third of nine children born to Abram and Martha Still, young Andrew led a typical frontier boy's life, with plenty of hard work and intermittent schooling. His father was a Methodist circuit-riding preacher and a physician, whose work led the family to move several times between 1834 and 1841, to circuits in Tennessee and Missouri. Finally, in 1851, Abram was assigned to head up the Wakarusa Shawnee Mission in Kansas. At least part of the reason he received this assignment was to get him out of Missouri, a pro-slavery state where his strong anti-slavery sermons were getting an increasingly hostile reception.

Andrew, by then married with two young children, followed his parents to Kansas in 1853. It was about this time that he decided to become a physician. It was common practice in those days for a would-be doctor to train by studying medical books and working with a practicing physician—in this case, his father. He may have received additional, formal training at a school in Kansas City, but no records remain to establish where and when this training took place.

At first, Still had a typical frontier medical practice, sometimes traveling great distances to reach the bedside of his patients. Once there, he employed the usual methods of the time, outlined in the medical books owned by him: bleeding, blistering, purging, and so on.

During the same period, Still became deeply embroiled in the fight over whether Kansas would be admitted to the Union as a slave state or a free state. The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 provided that the settlers in those two territories would decide the question for themselves. For more than four years, civil war raged in Kansas as both sides tried to gain control of the territorial government. Several of the Still brothers, including Andrew, took up arms in the cause. Andrew Still found himself in continual danger as he traveled the countryside tending his patients.

Still remained active in the ASO almost until his death at the age of 89, though greatly weakened by a stroke in 1914. When he died on December 12, 1917, the beloved "Old Doctor" was mourned by the students at the ASO and the more than 3000 members of the healing profession that he had conceived more than 50 years before.

Cheryl Gracey, Former Curator

#### Suggested Reading

- Geertz, Norman. *The D.O.'s: Osteopathic Medicine in America*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1982.
- Hildreth, Arthur G. *The Lengthening Shadow of Andrew Taylor Still* (2nd edition). Macon, MO: Mrs. A. G. Hildreth and Mrs. A. E. Van Vleck, 1942. Reprinted by Osteopathic Enterprises, Inc., Kirksville, MO.
- Still, Andrew Taylor. *Autobiography of Andrew T. Still, with a History of the Discovery and Development of the Science of Osteopathy* (revised edition). Kirksville, MO: Author, 1908; reprinted by the American Academy of Osteopathy, 1994.
- Still, Charles E., Jr. *Frontier Doctor, Medical Pioneer: The Life and Times of A.T. Still and his Family*. Kirksville, MO: Thomas Jefferson University Press, 1991.
- Townbridge, Carol. *Andrew Taylor Still, 1828-1917*. Kirksville, MO: Thomas Jefferson University Press, 1991.
- Walter, Georgia Warner. *The First School of Osteopathic Medicine*. Kirksville, MO: Thomas Jefferson University Press, 1992.
- Walter, Georgia Warner. *Osteopathic Medicine: Past and Present*. Kirksville, MO: Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, 1993.

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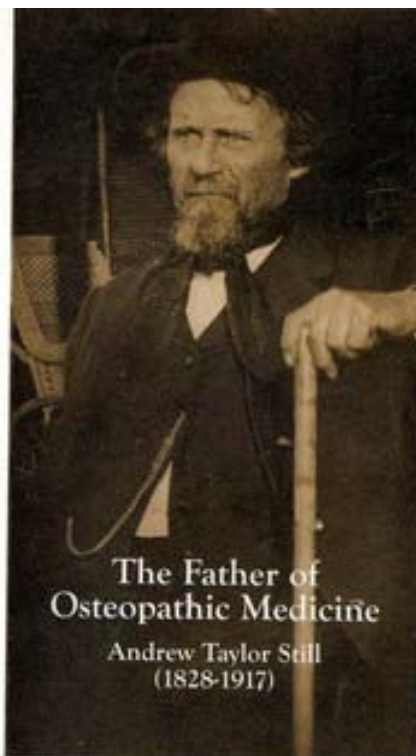
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In October 1857, Still was elected to represent Douglas County in the territorial legislature. By August 1858, a free-state constitution had been passed. Kansas was admitted to the Union as a free state on January 29, 1861.

After the Civil War broke out in 1861, Still enlisted, serving as a hospital steward in the 9th Kansas Cavalry, a captain in the 18th Kansas Militia, and a major in the 21st Kansas Militia. In October 1864, Still's outfit saw action near Kansas City, helping to repel the Confederate forces advancing on the city and pursuing the army of General Sterling Price for more than 90 miles. Soon thereafter, Still received orders to disband the regiment and go home.

Back at home, Still faced a grave personal crisis. Earlier that year, an epidemic of spinal meningitis had swept through the area and killed three of his children. He had already lost his first wife, Mary Vaughan, to child-birth complications; a month after the epidemic, the daughter born to his second wife, Mary Elvira Turner, died of pneumonia. His inability to save his family, coupled with his grim experiences as a Civil War doctor, led Still to reject most of what he had learned about medicine and search for new and better methods.

Still's explorations were grounded in the study of anatomy. Having grown up as a hunter and farmer, he already had a basic understanding of the structural relationships of bones, muscles, and organs, knowledge which he now extended through the study of human skeletons. He became convinced that most diseases could be alleviated or cured without drugs. The key was to find and correct anatomical deviations that interfered with the free flow of blood and "nerve force" in the body.



The Father of  
Osteopathic Medicine  
Andrew Taylor Still  
(1828-1917)

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and International Center for Osteopathic History

It is impossible to say exactly what influences Still drew on as he shaped his new system of healing. He was a well-read man, deeply interested in the social and intellectual developments of his time, which undoubtedly helped shape his philosophy. His religious beliefs also affected his thinking about health and the human body. Furthermore, there is evidence that Still knew about a number of alternative medical theories then in circulation—magnetic healing, bonesetting, Grahamism, hydropathy, homeopathy, and eclecticism—and that in his search for a new way of healing, he investigated several of these systems for himself. Most he rejected outright. From others, he retained and adapted—consciously or unconsciously—those elements which seemed to have some validity.

From the beginning, Still met with considerable opposition to his new theories and techniques. The local church denounced his claims of hands-on healing as sacrilegious. His brothers were embarrassed by his outspoken questioning of medical tradition; they criticized his willingness to risk his livelihood by driving away patients and to neglect his family and farm in pursuit of his "crazy" ideas. When Still asked to present his ideas at Baker University, which his family had helped to establish in the 1850s, school officials refused him permission. In 1874, Still decided to leave Kansas and return to Macon, Missouri, where he hoped his ideas would be better received. They were not, and after a few months of trying, Still moved north to Kirksville. There he finally found some acceptance, enough to open an office on the town square in March 1875. Advertising himself as a magnetic healer and a "lightning bonesetter" and traveling to towns as far away as Hannibal, Still slowly built up his reputation. Word spread about the doctor whose system of drugless, manipulative medicine—officially named "osteopathy" in 1885—was able to cure many apparently hopeless cases.

View Dr. A.T. Still's handwritten papers at <http://www.atsu.edu/museum/stillpapers/index.htm>

## Long live the Medicinal Garden!

It may be hard to believe, but we just recently hosted our 10th annual Garden Tea (June 21). As always, it was a wonderful success, and many thanks go out to all those who helped in its production, especially Elaine, Jason, Delfina, and Mike. Our featured presenters this year were John F. Nolan and Michael J. Dijk of Transscape LLC, a relatively new and rapidly-growing landscaping service located here in Kiberville. The guests were told of the company growth from thousands of odd jobs to a full-blown business in just a few years.

At the tea, company CEO John Nolan announced that Transscape had been awarded the bid to design and plant the green spaces and parking areas that surround the Interprofessional Education & Dentistry School Building.

This year, we added several new groupings to the garden, primarily on the south end along Jefferson Street. Although this officially completes the planting portion of the garden, as all gardeners know, things may and most likely will vary a bit for next year depending on the upcoming winter and heatwaves of our latest addition. This will be reflected in the second printing of our new garden catalogue later this winter. If the garden can survive what has been a real monster – which I'm sure it will – this summer should finally



With a lot of help, the garden made it through the summer of 2012!

establish the garden as a modern, yet movable, feature to the Kiberville landscape. We are very proud of our little oasis. It is truly hard to imagine what we started with back in the summer of 1999, we have come a long way. Make sure to stop by and visit the garden if you are passing through the Kiberville area.



With the installation of the shrubbery and red bud tree, the cemetery improvement project is practically complete.

## Still Family Gravesite project

The Still Family Gravesite project is one of our most visible projects to date in the Kiberville area. Starting in 2008, ATSU partnered with the City of Kiberville to redevelop the gravesite of the Still family, improving it for friends, alumni, and citizens alike. What started out as committee meetings and a schematic plan has finally reached its fruition as of June 2012. Last year the city leveled the site (with erosion walls, installed fencing and walkways, and realigned grave markers). This spring, working with both local landscape companies, Transscape, and the City of Kiberville, the Museum overtook the installation of both shrubs and trees at the gravesite, as well as the ongoing process of selecting a company to design and install a new, wide stair-well leading to the site.



We may install a decorative plaque, flowers, and biographical information on Dr. Still's gravesite, but we are more than happy to celebrate the physical completion of the site and welcome visitors year-round. It truly is a relaxing place to sit and rest amidst the rolling hills of Fortson-Llewellyn Cemetery; please make sure to visit the site and the Museum if you are in the area.

### Three cheers for Mike Medaris

The Museum would like to extend a hearty thank you to Mike Medaris! Medaris has now been working at the Museum for well over a year and is a huge asset, working in areas such as collections care, facilities, maintenance, and exhibitions. He has taken on many of the time-consuming and less-seen activities (to the public) these tasks however include many of the integral maintenance jobs necessary to keep the museum operating efficiently and on course for accreditation. Below is just a sampling of what Medaris' day might include.

#### • Exhibitions

Daily maintenance and monitoring of the museum's galleries, including audio and lighting  
Medieval Garden – regular pruning, weeding, pond, walkway maintenance, etc.  
Occasional errands for materials or supplies

#### • Facilities

Monitor and evaluate HVAC (ventilation system) in regard to humidity and temperatures  
Monitor and evaluate air quality and pest control on regular basis  
Basic walk-throughs of Museum spaces, checking water leaks, mold control, etc.

#### • Accreditation

Conducts research on future security (door) alarm systems, as well as surveillance  
Most likely to help out with other, upcoming accreditation projects

#### • Miscellany

Performs a wide variety of miscellaneous tasks in most areas of museum operations

#### • Collections

Indexing search terms for the online collection

To sum up, Medaris has taken on a series of tasks – several not even listed here – that frees up considerable staff time for others, while at the same time helping us to operate much more smoothly. Most importantly, Medaris will quickly offset up a smile or joke to keep things light. Three cheers for Medaris!



Thanks Mike for all your help!



Stephan Woolbright

### New Staff

Stephan Woolbright is from Jefferson City, Mo., and is the Museum's new part-time assistant engineer. She is a 2012 graduate of Truman State University with a BA in history. Woolbright plans to begin her master's program at Truman State University in leadership studies with a focus in museum education and non-profit administration. Woolbright enjoys gardening, reading, and cooking.



Truman State University senior, Britany Nansie, scanning early x-ray film.

### Summer Intern

Britany Nansie, a Truman State University senior spent her summer helping the Museum create digital scans of the Ottobaker yearbooks (1907-1917) and posting those images on the Museum's website for alumni to view. For several weeks the scanned digital images and PDF files that are word searchable for each yearbook. This project is part of the larger ongoing project to digitize the Museum's collection.

You may view these yearbooks at [http://www.atsu.edu/museum/alumni\\_yearbooks/index.htm](http://www.atsu.edu/museum/alumni_yearbooks/index.htm).

# Now & Then

MUSEUM OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE™

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR OSTEOPATHIC HISTORY

## THE JOHNSTON RESEARCH EXHIBIT

The Museum is happy to announce the soon-to-be completed Johnston Research Exhibit, located in the rear portion of the main gallery. Produced in 10 sections, this long-awaited exhibit addresses the history and development of osteopathic medical research, starting with its shared historic roots in ancient medicine. The first portion of the exhibit examines the development of medical research in both Europe and America through the mid-nineteenth century. (This portion is essential for understanding the context under which Dr. Sell developed his perspective on medical care and a more comprehensive approach to treating the human body.)

The visitor then moves into an explanation of how Dr. Sell reached his conclusions. By examining artifacts, images, and first-hand accounts, one can hopefully understand some of the complex factors that led to his early and mid-life conclusions regarding healthcare and educating the osteopath. By mid-exhibit, we hope the visitor will begin to understand how both medical research and clinical education dovetailed to evolve into what became the scientific basis of osteopathic medicine. The main portion of the exhibit brings together the early philosophy with the pragmatic development of a school and a curriculum - a development shaped by the selection of faculty, facility, and ideology.



The first image reveals a portion of the first three historical osteopod panels.

The second half of the exhibit chronologically advances from the Pioneer Era (questing for higher national educational standards) through the subsequent decades of osteopathic research in cranial manipulation of the 1930's and 1940s and into 1950s - the age of J. S. Denslow, Irvin Kees, and others.

The last section of the exhibit looks at the influence that Dr. William L. Johnston had on the curriculum from 1950 to the end of his career. He and his New England Osteopathic Association peers knew students needed better teaching methods in order to achieve consistent results in osteopathic manipulation treatment. The last part of the exhibit brings us to research today by the A.T. Sell Research Institute (ATMRI). It follows the influence that Dr.



The central (main) section of the exhibit features early X-ray equipment, imaging, and interpretation of the School's first, formative years and the development of a science-based osteopathic education.

Johanson had on Dr. Brian Degroot's. The recent in computer technology and laser imaging provide accurate measurements in manipulation for physicians like Dr. Degroot's. In this way, the ATSR is addressing the concerns that Dr. Johanson presented in teaching modern doctors manipulation.

Each segment within addresses the value and complexity of different research and educational contributions and contributions, eventually culminating in present day manifestations of the osteopathic research and educational model.

A special thank you is extended to Marilyn Brooks and Gail Johanson, Dr. Johanson's daughters, who helped to fund both this exhibit and also the funding side for their father's extensive research in osteopathic medicine.

## Online Collection

Several major projects are underway in the collections area. The first is the ongoing collections inventory project. Currently, we are in the second phase of the project. A major portion of this effort is to give the patrons access to our artifacts through our Perfect Online Database, <http://museum.perfect-online.com/>. Our staff is working hard to inventory and scan the collection to achieve this goal. At this point, over 17,700 artifact records are available to the public through our website.

Another major project started this summer is the alumni yearbook scanning project. Once this is completed, the entire collection of yearbooks and early class photos will be made available online at [http://www.ama.edu/museum/alumni\\_yearbooks/index.htm](http://www.ama.edu/museum/alumni_yearbooks/index.htm), along with a listing of alumni names and graduation dates.

We believe these ongoing projects will be very beneficial to researchers and genealogists. By continuing to add artifacts, yearbooks, and journal information to the website, visitors will be able to experience more of the history of osteopathic medicine.

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## AMAOPS DO Care Fun awards the Museum Grant Funds

The Auxiliary to the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons (AMAOPS) – whose mission is to promote and support the osteopathic profession. Each year provides grants and support to those who actively promote the profession and its legacy.

During the spring AMAOPS meeting, the Museum received recognition for its work on preserving the history of the profession and funding of \$2500. These funds will be utilized for the digital scanning and preservation of the early journals of osteopathy to ensure access is provided for all to see.

Our focus this fall will be adding as much of *The Journal of Osteopathy* from 1911-1917 as possible.

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## Changes to Reproduction Fees and Historical Research Membership:

As part of the Museum's yearly review of policies and procedures, starting in January 2013 we will be raising the prices of the Historical Research Member fee and Reproduction fees. We will post more information regarding these changes on our web site at a later date.

## New Acquisitions



Since the beginning of the year, the Museum has acquired several unique artifacts for the collection. The first is a special certificate issued by the American School of Osteopathy to J. Gilbert Chapman after completing the physiology course in 1915.

Courtesy of the Museum of Osteopathic Medicine™ (2012.01.01)



Another item is a Japanese translation of the book "Sage Sayings of Sui" by George V. Wilbur. This book illustrates the growth of the osteopathic profession throughout the world.

Courtesy of the Museum of Osteopathic Medicine™ (2012.01.01)



Donor: The Estate of Harold Magnus Sr. (2012.09.01)

The McMeris Table was used by Harold Magnus Sr. It was reported that Dr. Magnus Sr. treated President Dwight Eisenhower on the table. It was then used by Harold Magnus Jr. from 1951 until his retirement in 2012. Magnus Jr. treated such notables as Merritt Eisenhower, her mother Evita Dowd, Patsie Van Gibson, Colorado Governor John Lamm, and New York Yankees Tony Kubek, Rance Plow, and Norm Selman on this table.



Donor: Mr. Kath Downing (2012.11.01)

The last item is a letter from Private Bradley Downing to his father on March 10, 1918. This letter is interesting because it discusses the possibility of osteopathic treatments being used on United States soldiers during World War I in France.

These pieces are just a small portion of the artifacts acquired by the Museum this past year. With the continued support of the osteopathic community, we are able to acquire these rare pieces in an effort to preserve the history of the field.



Courtesy of the Museum of Osteopathic Medicine™ (2012.04.01)

The stereograph image is of the ASO Infirmary in April 1899 after the devastating Kilauea cyclone on April 27, 1899. When seen through a stereograph viewer the image becomes 3-D.



**Online Research Resources**

**Museum Collection Online**

<http://www.mom.org/perfect-online.com>

The collection of the Museum of Osteopathic Medicine™ and International Center for Osteopathic History

The perfect online research tool for the history of Osteopathic Medicine™ and International Center for Osteopathic History

**Andrew Taylor Still Papers & American School of Osteopathy Collection**

[www.aos.edu/museum/ostpapers.html](http://www.aos.edu/museum/ostpapers.html)

The Andrew Taylor Still Papers is comprised of letters, book drafts, and other writings.

**The American School of Osteopathy Collection**

A complete set of records of proceedings and lists of individuals recommended to receive A.S.O. diplomas.

**Charles E. Still Sr. and Jr. Collection** is comprised of documents used in transactions to Dr. Charles E. Still Sr. regarding his father Andrew Taylor Still.

Access to these records is available to those who have been granted access to the Museum's online research resources.

**Osteopathic Journals and Books**

<http://www.aos.edu/museum/journals/books.htm>

History journals and books

Subscription is required for the online journals and books.

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