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98 Down, 2 to Go

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In the last issue of Bellwether, we described the origin of the School of Veterinary Medicine in this column. Before going further with our story, it is appropriate to capsule the history of the University of which we are a part. In our next issue we will resume the saga of the Veterinary School.

In light of the problems facing institutions of higher education today, it may be of some small comfort to remember that the University of Pennsylvania has survived four major wars, several horrendous depressions, a wholesale dismissal of the provost and faculty, and a dismemberment by the state government. Considering its humble beginning and its prestige among world universities, it is apparent that the University of Pennsylvania not only survived, but responded to adversity with vitality and growth.

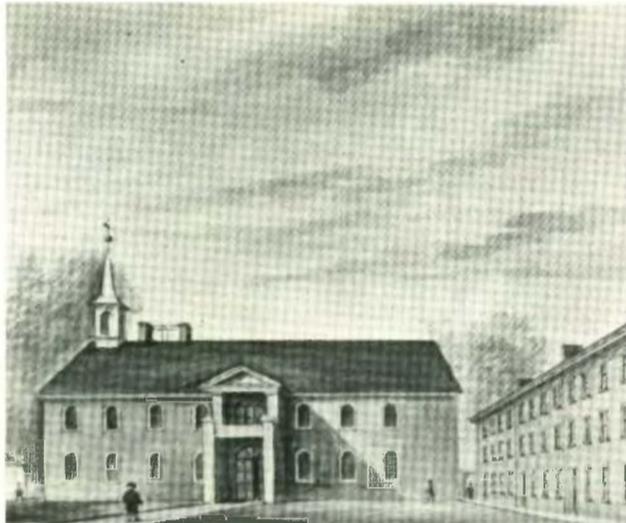
The University of Pennsylvania is the fourth oldest university in the United States, following Harvard (1636), the College of William and Mary (1693), and Yale (1701). In the late nineteenth century there was considerable controversy selecting a year of origin for the University. The trustees finally settled upon the year 1740, although the thread stretching back to that date is somewhat thin. It was in 1740 that a Free or Charity School was erected in Philadelphia by the followers of a dynamic English preacher, George Whitfield. The original trust described the mission of the school as being "for the instruction of Poor Children Gratis in the useful literature and knowledge of the Christian Religion." The school stood at Fourth and Arch Streets and was the largest building in Philadelphia. It became a showplace, but despite the terms of its trust the school functioned mainly as a site for religious gatherings, and was not used for educational purposes until 1749.

Despite the fact that we usually regard Benjamin Franklin as the founder of the University of Pennsylvania, he had little to do with the first school. In 1749, through Franklin's influence, a group of wealthy and influential citizens purchased the buildings and charter of the Charity School and created the Academy. Until 1757, when he left for Europe, Franklin was a major force in the affairs of the Academy and its successor, the College.

Although not opposed to teaching the arts, Franklin wished that some time be allotted to the consideration of practical matters. In his proposals for the school he queried, "while they are reading Natural History might not a little Gardening, Planting, Inoculating etc. be practiced?" Despite this plea, and the fact that he served as President of the Board of Trustees, most of the instruction in the Academy followed the classical English style of education.

The charter of the Academy was amended, in 1755, and the school became known as the College of Philadelphia. Degrees were granted, and the institution was affectionately referred to as the "Colonial College."

A major step in the development of the College took place in 1765 with the addition of a medical department—the first in the country. Dr. John Morgan is credited with starting the school, although it was Dr. William Shippen who had the idea in 1760. Dr. Morgan, with a brilliant discourse, convinced the trustees to take this adventuresome step, and united with Shippen to form the original faculty. In 1768 they were joined by Dr. Adam Kuhn as professor of



The College of Philadelphia c. 1790

botany, and in 1769, Dr. Benjamin Rush, who taught chemistry. The medical course continued for three years, and in 1768 ten men were awarded Bachelor of Medicine degrees—the first to be awarded in America.

During the American War for Independence, the College's buildings were occupied by troops and from June 1777 until January 1779 the institution was closed due to the Philadelphia occupation by British soldiers. When the school reopened in 1779 some strange events unfolded. First, the newly formed Pennsylvania state legislature passed an act changing the name of the institution to the University of the State of Pennsylvania. Next, the new breed of patriot politicians, who were not about to endure the old British aristocratic atmosphere, discharged the faculty and trustees of the old College. A new faculty and board were assembled and these were responsible to the laws of the state. The old faculty and trustees agitated vigorously for reinstatement, and this finally came about in 1789. For the next two years there were two institutions, the old College, and the new University. Finally, in 1791, the two schools merged, with each contributing twelve trustees to a unified institution which was named, for the first time, the University of Pennsylvania.

By 1797, the school had outgrown the facilities at Fourth and Arch Streets. The trustees purchased a new home for the University on the west side of Ninth Street between Chestnut and Market Streets in Philadelphia which had been built as an official residence for George Washington. (Unfortunately, it had not been finished in time for Washington's occupancy during his term as President. His successor, John Adams, had refused to live there. It was therefore a "white elephant," and the trustees purchased it and twelve adjoining lots for \$41,650.)

The Civil War caused another disruption of college life as students joined the Blue or Gray armies. During the battle of Gettysburg (July 1863), earthworks were thrown up south and west of the city, just outside the sites of the present botanical gardens and the Veterinary School.

In 1870 the University migrated to its third, and present, home in West Philadelphia. The trustees purchased a 200-acre strip of land along the Schuylkill River. At the time this was known as Blockley Farm or Almhouse Farm. The first building to be constructed on this site was College Hall, followed by



Benjamin Franklin



University Library

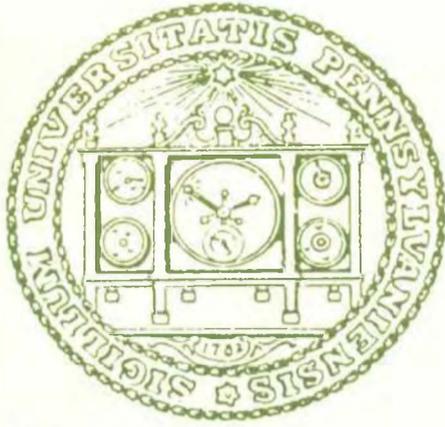
Photographs courtesy of the University of Pennsylvania Press and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Medical Hall (now known as Logan Hall), the Robert Hare Laboratory of Chemistry, and the first section of the University Hospital. All of the buildings were constructed of the green serpentine stone native to nearby Chester County. The University Hospital was the first hospital in the United States to originate as part of a university.

Until the late nineteenth century, the University was a small provincial school with an enrollment of about 1,000 full-time students. During the period from 1880 to 1910 there was astonishing growth, under the auspices of two remarkable provosts. The first was Dr. William Pepper who initiated thirteen new departments during his term (1881-1894). These included the Wharton School (1881), the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (1882), the Veterinary Department (1884), and the Department of Physical Education (1885). The University Museum and Wistar Institute were created in 1887 and 1892, respectively, followed by the School of Engineering, and the Graduate School of Education in 1893.

Although Provost Pepper was the creator of departments, his successor, Dr. Charles C. Harrison was the builder. Under him thirteen buildings were constructed—the University Museum, the Law Building, the Chemistry Building, Wistar Institute, Franklin Field, the Observatory, Houston Hall, the Laboratory of Anatomy and Physiology, the quadrangle dormitories, and the Dental and Zoological Buildings.

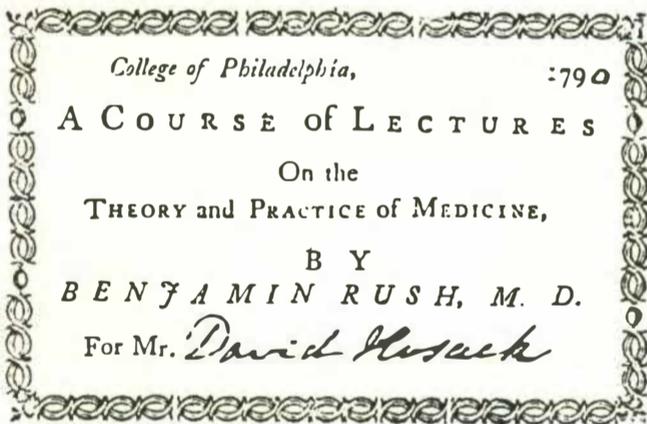
A Nice Place for Fairman Rogers



University Seal, 1782-1847



Joseph Wharton



Ticket of admission to lectures, 1790

In the midst of all of this activity, enrollment increased rapidly. By the end of World War I there were about 11,000 students, and by 1938 this figure had reached 16,000.

It was not until 1930, however, that the University had a full-time president. The election of Thomas Sovereign Gates was a fortunate choice since Gates was the noted financier who artfully guided the school through a major depression.

The School of Veterinary Medicine is a part of a long, and proud academic heritage. Here are a few statistics about the University as it is today:

- Enrollment: Over 22,000 students.
- Alumni: Over 120,000 living alumni.
- Total yearly payroll: Over \$232 million.
- Faculty: Over 1,700 full-time faculty.
- Library books: Over 3 million.
- Plant replacement value: Over \$1.2 billion.

In 1893 the librarian of the University of Pennsylvania reported that he had received 566 bound copies and 357 unbound pamphlets and periodicals from Mr. Fairman Rogers. This magnificent collection, now known as the Fairman Rogers Collection on the Horse and Equitation, eventually found its way to the School of Veterinary Medicine, and now resides in the Jean Austin duPont Library at New Bolton Center. Dean Robert R. Marshak has pointed out that this beautiful library on the rural campus of the School of Veterinary Medicine is a perfect setting for those who want to browse through or read on the ancient art of horsemanship. It is also apropos that Mrs. Alice Holton should be the librarian and custodian of this world famous collection, which brings us to the connection between Fairman Rogers and gourmet cooking. We do not have any documentation about Mr. Roger's gastronomic tastes, but considering his appetite for many of the other good things in life, it can be concluded that food would be among them. Alice Holton, who has been at New Bolton Center since 1963, is a gourmet cook, who recently developed the art of baking French bread from ingredients found here in the United States. It seems very probable that Fairman Rogers would highly approve of such a person with such tastes being in charge of his collection.

Mr. Fairman Rogers was a man of many talents who undoubtedly enjoyed life to the fullest. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Pennsylvania in 1853, and by 1855 was professor of civil engineering. From 1871 to 1876 he was a member of the Board of Trustees of the University. Mr. Rogers served on the special trustees committee which recommended the establishment of a veterinary department in 1884.

Fairman Rogers had a keen interest in many things—engineering, architecture, military service, horticulture, horsemanship, yachting, photography, the fine arts, and veterinary medicine. He was one of the original fifty members appointed to the National Academy of Science by the U.S. Senate. He served in the Civil War, and is believed to have contributed substantially to the development of the first typewriter. Mr. Rogers had a great interest in photography, and in this he was joined by his good friend, Thomas Eakins, the famous Philadelphia artist. Rogers was involved in the development of the zootrope which made it possible for Eadweard Muybridge to take photographs of horses in motion. Many authorities consider Muybridge to be the "Father of Motion Pictures."

While he was an expert in things of a scientific nature, it seems probable that Fairman Rogers' great love was driving. He was the first to introduce four-in-hand driving as a pastime in Philadelphia. In the years just before his death he wrote the *Manual of Coaching* which is a classic in this field. Mr. Rogers was a

serious student of equitation as evidenced by his collection of books on the subject. Over the years books have been added to the original Fairman Rogers Collection so that it now comprises over 1,000 volumes and periodicals. The collection is international in scope and covers about four centuries of literature on the horse and horsemanship.

In order to make the Collection more accessible to readers, students, and scholars, Dr. Mark Allam, former dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine, commissioned Dr. Clarie Gilbride Fox to prepare a guide to the Collection. This was published in 1975 (Medical Documentation Service, College of Physicians, Philadelphia). As well as being a guide, it provides an interesting and informative biography of Fairman Rogers.

We do not need to look far to find some parallels between the interests of Fairman Rogers and those of Alice Holton. Mr. Rogers was an architect; the handsome building which houses the Union League on Broad Street in Philadelphia is mainly his conception. In turn, Alice is interested in old buildings. She and her husband, Herbert, have been involved for twenty-seven years in renovating their pre-revolutionary home. Mr. Rogers traveled extensively, and Alice and her husband have traversed Europe many times. Last year they spent five weeks in the Orient.

When Alice Holton came to New Bolton Center in 1963, the library was located in what is now known as the Allam House, and consisted of five books and a few periodicals. Today, the Jean Austin duPont Library, which is located in the Alarik Myrin Memorial Research Building, contains about 5,000 volumes.

History has been kind to the Fairman Rogers Collection. It is housed in a good place, and is under the care of a person who cares and appreciates it.



Mrs. Alice Holton