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Do You Doodle?

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Do You Doodle?

Abstract

If you were, are, or will become a student, then you have probably thought about doodling during class. Fear not! We are not the only generation to draw in the midst of a lecture. Today's research escapade led me to investigate George Currier's notes from his time as a student at the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College. [*excerpt*]

Keywords

Musselman Library, Gettysburg College, Exhibits Intern, Fortenbaugh Internship, Civil War, Civil War Medicine, Pennsylvania College

Disciplines

History | History of Science, Technology, and Medicine | Library and Information Science | Museum Studies | United States History

Comments

The Interns at Gettysburg College's Musselman Library captured their internship experiences since the spring of 2011. Over time the blog has featured Fortenbaugh, Smith, and Holley interns. They shared updates on semester long projects, responded to blogging prompts, and documented their individual intern experience.

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Blogging the Library

The Interns @ Gettysburg College's Musselman Library

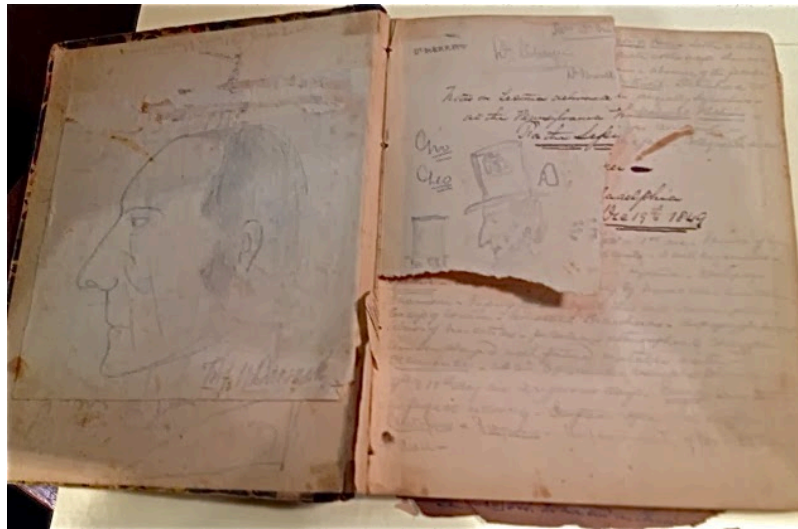
Do You Doodle?

October 1, 2013

By: Natalie Sherif '14

If you were, are, or will become a student, then you have probably thought about doodling during class. Fear not! We are not the only generation to draw in the midst of a lecture.

Today's research escapade led me to investigate George Currier's notes from his time as a student at the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College.

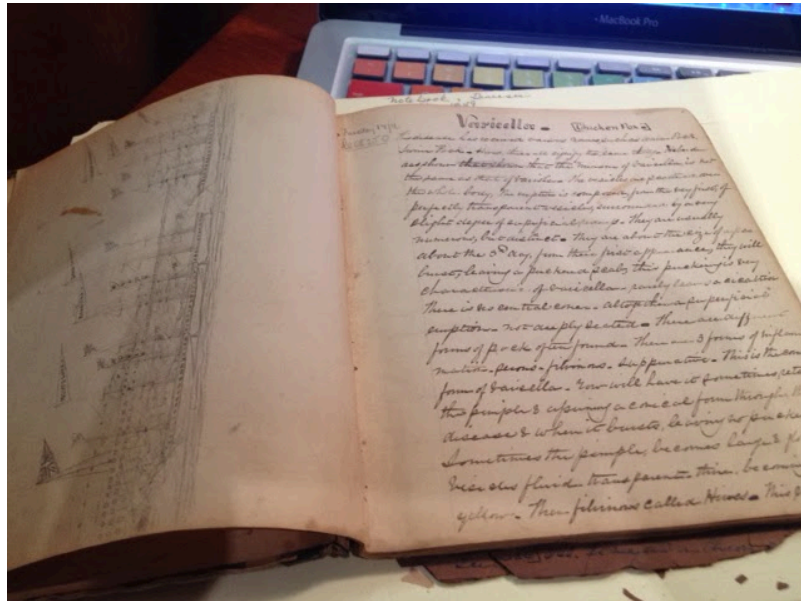


Note the sketch of Currier's Professor, William Darrach, M.D., who taught the Principles and Practice of Medicine.

The notebooks span the years 1849-1850 and include information on diseases, "materia medica," and surgery.

Oftentimes when I think about history and the people who lived "back then," I put them on a metaphorical pedestal. They were a perfect representation of a flawless society — minus their poor hygiene. As I perused Dr. Currier's notes, I realized that he was no different than students today. Perhaps his doodles were a bit

more sophisticated than the average lecture art, but the premise is the same. If nothing else, his intricate drawings (ships, primarily) indicate that he had to focus even more on the details of his pictures than a twenty-first student sketching a flower.



This sketch depicts a row of ships in the harbor. The lecture was about Chicken Pox.

Though this is merely speculation, Currier's notes provide tangible evidence that people seldom change as a whole, no matter how much time has passed. We might know more about germs now than they did in the 1800s, but we're still the same at heart!

Look for Currier's notes in the exhibit when it opens in February 2014!

Until next time,
Natalie

Titillating Medical Fact of the Week: If you were a surgeon during the American Civil War and followed Joseph Janvier Woodward's *Hospital Steward's Manual*, the Civil War guide on how to properly run military hospitals, this is how you would clean your tools: "Surgical instruments should be invariably cleaned immediately after using. Tepid water answers very well for this purpose: hot water is injurious to the handles; with cold it is more difficult to remove dried blood. A little castile soap may be employed to get rid of the grease."**

** Joseph Janvier Woodward, M.D., *The Hospital Steward's Manual: For the Instruction of Hospital Stewards, Ward-Masters, and Attendants, in their Several Duties* (San Francisco, CA: Norman Publishing, 1991), p274.

<http://blogging.musselmanlibrary.org/2013/10/>