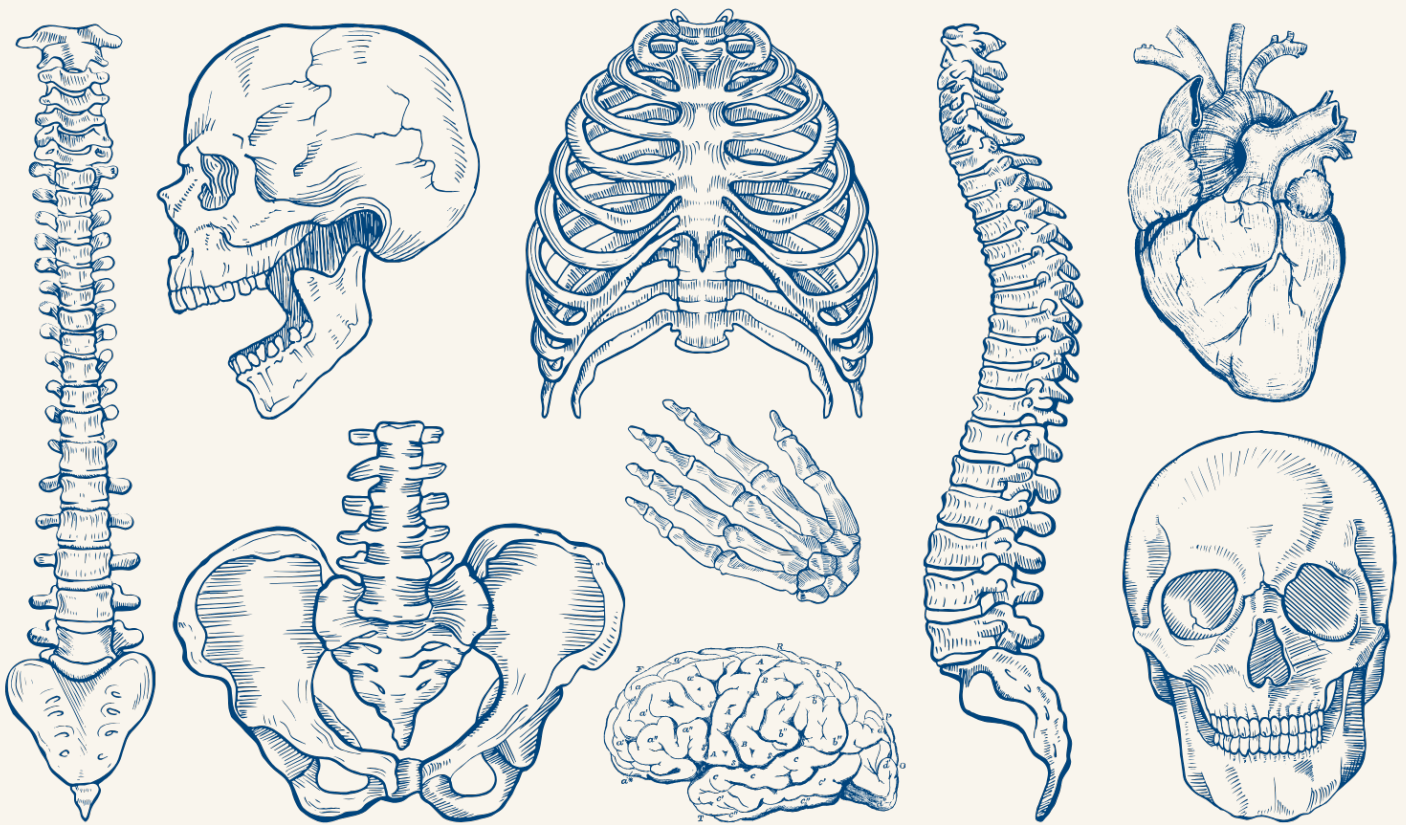

Waring Library Society

NEWSLETTER

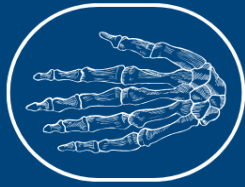
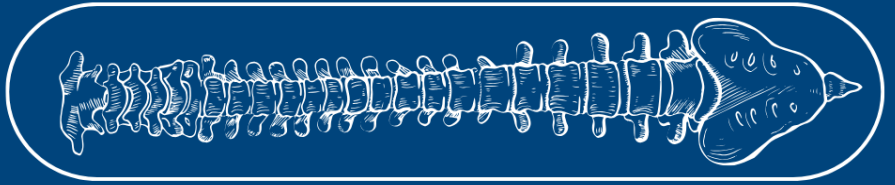


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MUSC
Medical University
of South Carolina

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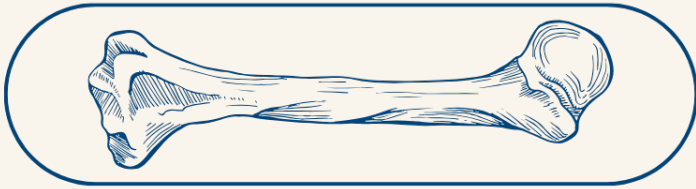
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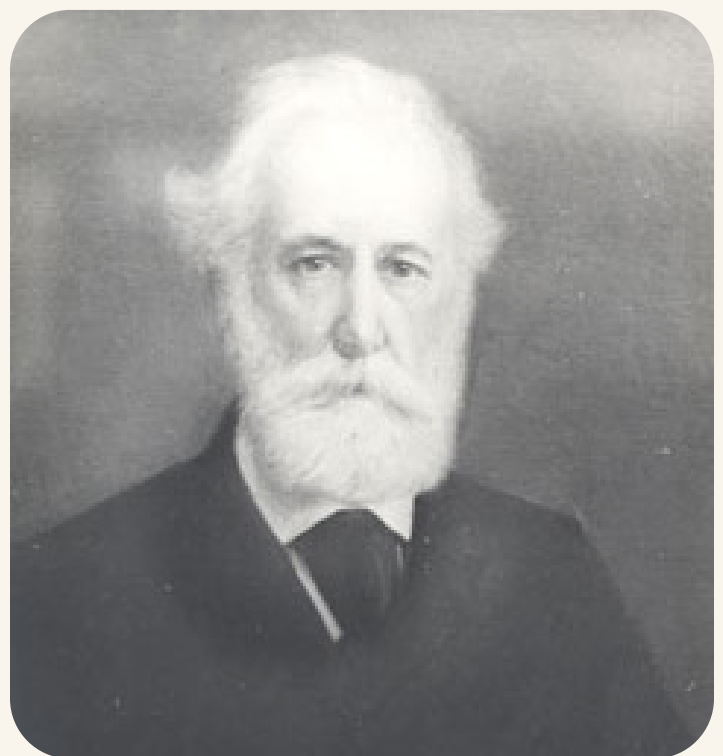
R.A. Kinloch's Contributions to the 19th century Surgical Revolution

*Jacob Steere-Williams, PhD
President, WLS*

On January 31st, 1873, at 11:00am, Charleston surgeon R.A. Kinloch, professor of surgery at the Medical College of the State of South Carolina, undertook a risky operation on Duncan Major, a 51 year old Black Charlestonian and stone mason by trade, who was suffering from a femoral aneurism of his right leg- a tumor, he described, larger than two-fists. Kinloch's operation on Duncan Major that day in Charleston followed the antiseptic principles laid down by Scottish surgeon Joseph Lister. Kinloch used a carbolic acid atomizer to spray the noxious fluid in the operating room, catgut ligature that had been soaked in carbolic acid for a week, and sponged the wound with a solution of carbolic acid. By 5:00pm Major was, according to Kinloch, "in all respects comfortable," though on a steady dose of morphine.. At a follow up a week later, Kinloch noted that Duncan Major "now suffers none," and two weeks later the wire sutures were removed. Fully recovered, in April Dr. Kinloch asked his patient Duncan Major, to accompany him to the meeting of the State Medical Association, where he presented Major to his white colleagues as definitive proof of Lister's antiseptic surgical practices. "As the views and practice of Mr. Lister, of Edinburgh, in regard to the antiseptic ligature are under trial, it is eminently proper that every case that may aid in making up a statistical record of this subject

should be given to the profession. We are aware of no reports of operations of this kind in our country, and certainly none can furnish a happier vindication of the success" of Lister's methods. "A revolution," Kinloch concluded, "is now pending."

Robert Alexander Kinloch was one of Charleston's most interesting surgeons. Kinloch was born in Charleston in 1826, graduated from the College of Charleston in 1845, and did a course of study at the Medical College before obtaining an MD from the University of Pennsylvania. Fashionable amongst elite American doctors at the time, he spent two years on a grand medical tour of Europe, visiting the teaching hospitals of Paris, London, and



Portrait of *Robert Alexander Kinloch*

Edinburgh. During the Civil War he served as a surgeon for the Confederacy on the staff of Robert E. Lee, and after the war his practice in Charleston boomed. He was selected as the chair of Materia Medica and Surgery at the Medical College, and as first Surgeon at Roper Hospital, and he also attended at St. Francis Infirmary. Kinloch helped to found the American Surgical Association in 1880, was the Vice President of the American Medical Association in 1884, and from 1888 until his death in 1891, Kinloch was Dean of the Faculty at MUSC. He lived throughout his professional career at 285 Meeting Street. He is buried at Magnolia cemetery. You will find a plaque on the Jonathan Lucas house on Calhoun Street that says "R.A. Kinloch Home for Nurses, 1910," named after Kinloch.

Kinloch was likely the biggest supporter of Joseph Lister's antiseptic surgical revolution in America. Lister had first advocated for antiseptic surgical techniques in a series of short papers in *The Lancet* in 1867, titled "On the Antiseptic

Principle in the Practice of Surgery." Drawing on the theoretical work of Louis Pasteur, Lister's technique centered on the use of carbolic acid—spraying it during surgeries using atomizers, soaking surgical tools in carbolic, spraying wounds with carbolic, soaking dressings with carbolic.

Kinloch was rare and outspoken amongst American surgeons at this time for accepting Listerian surgery. Samuel D. Gross, President of the American Medical Association and prominent surgeon at Jefferson Medical College, for example, asserted in 1876 that "Little, if any faith, is placed by any enlightened or experienced surgeon on this side of the Atlantic in the so-called carbolic acid treatment of Professor Lister."

Gross, like many of his professional surgical brethren, thought simple cleanliness was all that was needed.

In a contentious first meeting of the American Surgical Association in Philadelphia in 1882, where Kinloch was one of only two surgeons to defend antiseptic surgery, H.F. Campbell, surgeon from Augusta Georgia, noted that "I am getting old; and I am now too old, perhaps, to take up new things." J.W.S. Gouley, of Philadelphia, concluded his talk by saying "I do not think Listerism is going to die. It is dead. Few surgeons will long continue to use it," to which Kinloch immediately stood up and said, "Listerian is not dead. I believe we are going to hear more of it." It was a wild exchange.

J.W.S. Gouley

I do not think Listerism is going to die. It is dead. Few surgeons will long continue to use it.

R.A. Kinloch

Listerian is not dead. I believe we are going to hear more of it.

But a new group of particularly young surgeons began to slowly accept antiseptic surgery after 1876, when Lister himself visited Philadelphia in conjunction with the Centennial Exhibition taking place in Philadelphia. Kinloch was present at Lister's speech

in Philadelphia. Several Philadelphia surgeons contended that they had first practiced antiseptic surgery in America. J.Ewing Mears, for example, conducted an anti-septic surgery in July of 1876, and William Keen, a pioneer in neurological surgery, claimed that he was the first to operate using Listerian techniques in early 1876. Kinloch, in Charleston, as we have seen, had been operating using antiseptic principles from at least 1873.

Antiseptic surgery increased by 1880s in America, and with the introduction of German-influenced aseptic techniques, by the 1890s post-operative surgical infections had drastically decreased. Kinloch was central in America to making this transition occur.

CURATOR'S COMMENTS



First Curator's Comments with JoAnn

JoAnn Zeise
Curator, Waring Historical Library

I am thrilled to join the team at Waring Historical Library as Curator. I want first to thank the amazing staff and recognize the great foundation laid by my predecessors. I am also grateful for the decades of work and dedication by the board and the support of our members.

I come to you from the South Carolina State Museum where I was Curator of Cultural History. To introduce myself, let me recount a story from my childhood. When I was five, I got my head stuck in a display at the Daniel Boone house. My parents were horrified, but I like to think this is when I first got passionate about the past and material culture. Perhaps what stuck with me the most, was the excitement of connecting to history. It literally pulled me in.

As a child I also grew up watching naturalist Rudy Mancke, who just passed away, and I was honored to know him as an adult. He often quoted John Muir, "When one tugs on a single thing in nature, they find it attached to the rest of the world." I think the same is true when studying the history of the health sciences. We tug those strings and find all kinds of surprising, meaningful connections.

Waring's collections are full of these connecting strings. Students and researchers draw from the wisdom and experiences of their predecessors. They also find stories that help us understand

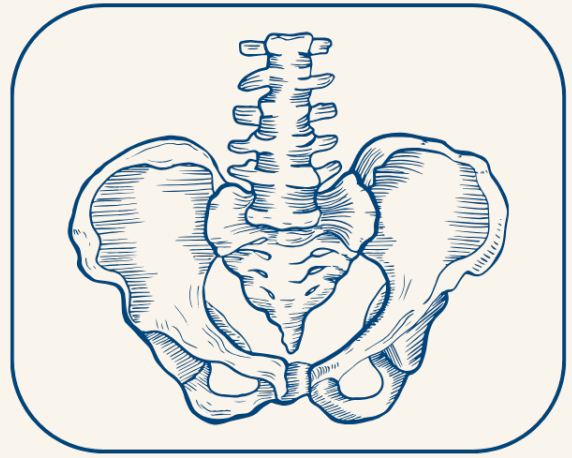
successes and failures and the context of public health decisions, the consequences of which we live with every day. This underscores WLS President Dr. Steere-Williams' statement that Waring should be "at the forefront in public discussions, academic discourse, and medical education."

With the bicentennial of MUSC fast approaching and the renovation of the building about to commence, it is a time of great momentum and opportunity. There is a lot to accomplish, but with our wonderful staff and your support, I am excited about the future. I have already seen in my short time at Waring that, "wherever the act of medicine is loved, there is also a love of humanity."



Portrait of JoAnn Zeise

PROJECT UPDATES



Unveiling Our Bicentennial Stories: Two Online Exhibits Reflecting on MUSC's Legacy

Anna Marie Schuldt

Assistant, Waring Historical Library

As part of our ongoing celebration of the Medical University of South Carolina's Bicentennial, we are delighted to present two compelling online exhibits developed and released this year. These exhibits, crafted by the Waring Historical Library, offer a look into the institution's rich history.

Tracing the Roots of MUSC's Founding: "Men of Unsullied Reputation"

"Men of Unsullied Reputation" takes us on a journey through the intricate historical context surrounding the founding of the Medical College of South Carolina. This exhibit examines the compelling narratives of the institution's founders, the first faculty, and the students who embarked on their medical education in the early 19th century.

Established in 1823 as the first medical college south of Baltimore, MUSC's founding was shaped by a confluence of economic, political, and cultural factors. This exhibit provides a nuanced exploration of the motivations behind the school's establishment, including the societal dynamics of the time. "Men of Unsullied Reputation" goes beyond the surface, aiming to situate MUSC within the broader narrative of the historical context of slavery. By examining the lives of the founders and the early challenges faced by the

institution, this exhibit invites reflection on the enduring effects of slavery in our community and beyond.

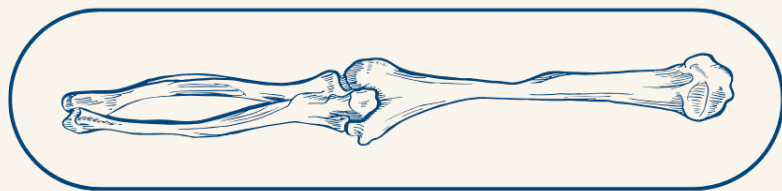
A Tribute to Pioneering Women in Medicine: "Opening Doors"

"Opening Doors" pays homage to the trailblazing women who have made enduring contributions to the Medical University of South Carolina over the past 128 years. This revamp of our living exhibit explores the diverse experiences and achievements of women as students, staff, and faculty at MUSC.

While women had historically played crucial roles in healthcare, it wasn't until 1895 that the Medical College of the State of South Carolina officially welcomed female medical students. The exhibit highlights the struggles and triumphs of these early pioneers, emphasizing their impact on the institution's trajectory. As we navigate through their stories, "Opening Doors" not only commemorates the advancements of women in medicine broadly but also individually acknowledges women at MUSC.

Both exhibits were meticulously researched, written, and curated by the Waring Historical Library with tremendous guidance by Dr. Gabriella Angeloni, our Bicentennial Historian. Each reflects our dedication to preserving and sharing the history of MUSC.

CONTRIBUTING



VOICES

Moses Camplin: An Early African American Physician in Charleston

Lahnice Hollister

Since publishing *Resisting Jim Crow: The Autobiography of Dr. John A. McFall* in 2021, I've made discoveries within Dr. McFall's narrative. McFall was an African American pharmacist who opened McFall's Pharmacy in the Morris Street Business District in Charleston in 1899. I thought when I published the "found" manuscript, I was finishing a project. Instead, it's been the start of another. One discovery concerns Dr. Moses G. Camplin, whom McFall called "the dean" in the field of medicine. McFall continued: "Whether he was slave or freeman I do not know...he served an apprenticeship in medicine..." and "was placed in charge of sick slaves." Was Dr. Camplin held in slavery and if so, how had he come to practice medicine in Charleston? Who was this Dr. Camplin? Curiosity led me down the internet rabbit hole where I found a researcher at the Smithsonian Institute who directed me to the scholarship of Gretchen Long.¹ More clicks through digital archives revealed Dr. Camplin's poignant story.

On March 29, 1865, Black citizens of Charleston had gathered at the Zion Presbyterian Church where they unanimously adopted a series of resolutions including one that thanked Abraham Lincoln and military officials for the "timely arrival of the army of the United States in the city of Charleston" thus "being saved from a vast conflagration, our houses from devastation, and our persons from those indignities that they

would have been subjected to."² Moses Camplin signed the resolution as chairman. Camplin was enumerated in 1870 and 1880 U.S. censuses in Charleston as a mulatto³ physician. The troops he was thankful for included the 21st U.S. Colored Troops and 55th Massachusetts Infantry who had marched into Charleston in February garnering great jubilation from the people held hostage for generations. Camplin's position as committee chair tells of his leadership and his own high expectations of the future.

An eloquent letter from Camplin to the Freedmen's Bureau⁴ dated July 1866 shows those hopes nearly dashed. In the letter he said that he began to learn to practice medicine as "a servant"⁵ of Dr. Thomas L. Ogier in 1848. He anticipated continuing in his profession once freedom came and at first, he did. He was given blank death certificate forms which he could use to confirm death just as any physician. But complaints from Charleston's mayor prevented Dr. Pelzer from continuing to provide Camplin with blank forms. Thus, he was prevented from entering the formal process of declaring death and attending coroner's inquests.

Camplin's request to the dean of the medical college to "pay the highest price" to take the medical examination and obtain a medical license was denied. "Dr. Frost said to me, the Medical College will not admit Colored Men...nor will the Medical Board License any Colored person to practice Medicine in the State of So Ca...." Camplin proved "that only my color and prejudice that is against me" by naming white doctors who had not attended college but who had practiced over twenty years. Camplin declared his right to

practice and emphasized that he had risked his life by providing medical aid and all the money he had to help Union officers who had escaped jail. "All I ask is to be practiced in my honest endeavor to make a living for my family...."⁶

Images and transcription of the letter can be viewed at the [National Museum of African American History & Culture website](#).

No known evidence shows that Camplin received

Sir

I beg leave to call your attention to a few facts, in relation to a case of mine, and as I am unwilling to tax your valuable time, I shall endeavor to be as brief as possible.

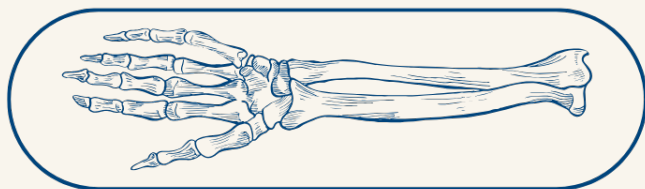
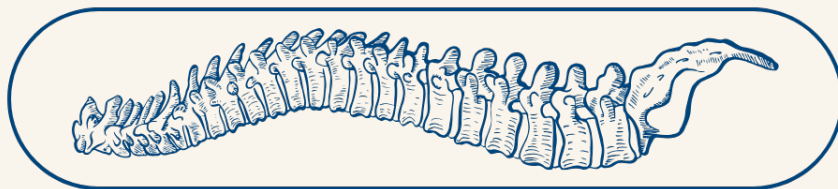
In the year 1848, I entered Dr^r Thos. L. Ogier's Office as his Servant, where I studied and practice medicine without Molestation, until the 18th day of Feb^ry 1855, when I obtained my freedom from the said Dr^r Ogier, and two ^{weeks} after I opened an Office of my own, and seeing the necessity of having something like an official protection, I applied to Dr^r Geo. H. Pelzer, City Register, to give me blank Official Certificates, so as to enable me to bury any that may die under my care, Dr^r Pelzer readily complied with my request and sent me the blank Certificates which enable me to ^{continue the} practice of medicine and to give Certificates in cases of death, as a regular Physician, until the 10th day of Feb^ry 1856 when Mayor Peter. C. Gaillard, ordered

First page of [Camplin's letter to the Freedman's Bureau](#).
Image courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration.

the requested license. Neither Medical Society of SC Meeting Minutes nor Roper Hospital Meeting Minutes mention Dr. Camplin. When Hamilton Slawson made a claim related to the services of the steamer *DeKalb* to the Southern Claims Commission, Camplin gave supporting testimony in 1870. Under oath Camplin said that he was an “assistant assessor in the city” and that “previously, I was practising [sic] medicine....”⁷ Dr. Camplin lived as a freedman near Calhoun and Coming St. He died on 29 October 1891 at age 72. He and his wife, Margaret, were buried in Unity and Friendship cemetery. Without his letter and its preservation, Camplin’s story and this history would be unknown.

1. Long, Gretchen. *Doctoring Freedom: The Politics of African American Medical Care in Slavery and Emancipation*. UNC Press: 2012.
2. Rollin, F. A. *Life and public services of Martin R. Delany: sub-assistant commissioner Bureau Relief of Refugees, Freedmen, and of Abandoned Lands, and late Major 104th U.S. colored troops*. Boston: Lee and Shepard; p. 196-197; HathiTrust, <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=hvd.hx5z kf&seq=6> : accessed 16 November 2023).
3. In these censuses, mulatto, or mixed-race vs black or white depended upon the judgment and care of the enumerator.
4. A federal agency whose mission was to resolve conflicts and keep the peace between the newly freed and those wanting to cheat or inflict violence upon the vulnerable.
5. Servant was how slaveholders typically referred to those they enslaved.
6. Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of South Carolina, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865–1870, Unregistered Letters Received, A – E. See also, Gretchen Long, *Doctoring Freedom: The Politics of African American Medical Care in Slavery and Emancipation*, University of North Carolina Press, 2012.
7. The National Archives at Washington, D.C.; Washington, D.C.; *Barred and Disallowed Case Files of the Southern Claims Commission, 1871-1880*; Record Group Title: *Records of the U.S. House of Representatives, 1789 - 2015*; Record Group Number: 233; Series Number: M140. Ancestry image 11827.

EVENT



UPDATES

Semester Event Highlights at the Waring Historical Library

Anna Marie Schuldt
Assistant, Waring Historical Library

Student History Club Noon Lecture Series

This semester's Noon Lecture Series, orchestrated by the Student History Club, unfolded as a captivating journey into the diverse realms of medical history. From the lively tales of the history of cocktails and medicine by Camper English to Patricia D'Antonio's thought-provoking repositioning of the study of nursing and medicine, and finally, Sarah DiGregorio's passionate exploration of nursing's crucial role in the fight against injustice, each session resonated with dynamic narratives and cutting-edge research. These talks underscored the contemporary relevance of these narratives in shaping our understanding of healthcare today.

2023 Sawyer Lecture with Lindsey Fitzharris

Lindsey Fitzharris, acclaimed author of *The Facemaker*, took center stage for the 2023 Sawyer Lecture, weaving a compelling narrative about the history of facial reconstruction. Attendees engaged in vibrant discussions with Lindsey Fitzharris, experiencing the intersection of history and storytelling firsthand. The book signing that ensued turned this intellectual journey into a tangible connection, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended.



Portrait of Tracy Kidder and Dr. Jim O'Connell.

Waring Library Society's Collaboration with the Literary Festival

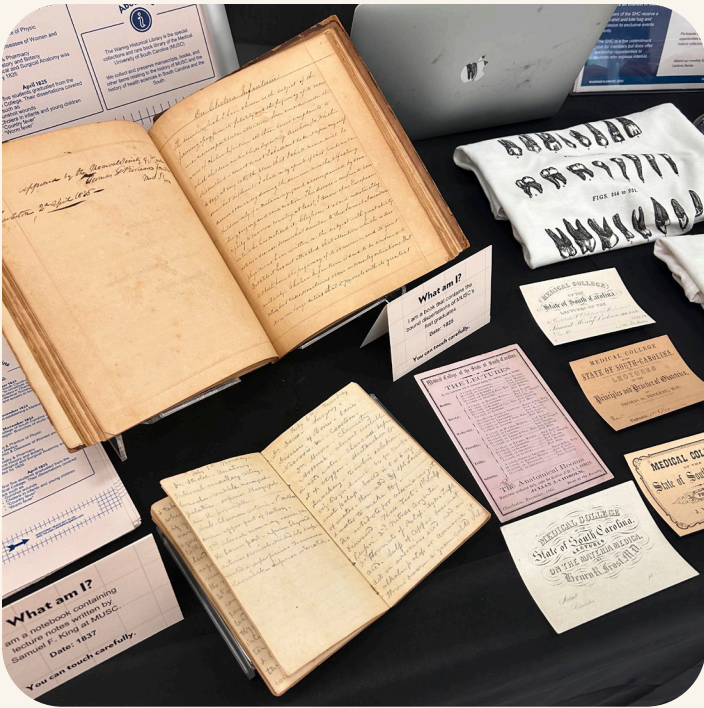
The Waring Library Society's collaboration with the Literary Festival reached a pinnacle with the impactful Tracy Kidder's *Rough Sleepers* event. This sponsorship offered our community an opportunity to delve into Kidder's narrative chronicling the dedicated efforts of Dr. Jim O'Connell in providing medical attention for the unhoused. The event, set at the Circular Congregational Church, became broadened the Society and Waring's reach into the Charleston community, fostering meaningful conversations and connections around the intersection of medicine and social issues.

Medical Milestones: A Pop-Exhibit Series

The *Medical Milestones* emerged as connection between the Waring Historical Library and the vibrant MUSC community. These pop-ups, ranging from an exploration education at MUSC in the early 1800s to a dive into the history of pharmacy in South Carolina and a journey through the evolution of reproductive history, served as portals into our rich archival collections. By enhancing campus awareness and inviting the community to explore our historical treasures, the series became a method of highlighting medical history in a new way on campus.

Through this event series, we connected with over one hundred individuals, spotlighting the Waring Historical Library and our collections. Additionally, we were able to strengthen on campus relationships through utilizing items the College of Pharmacy's Alumni Museum collection as well as the Department of Pathology's Gordon R. Hennigar Pathology Museum collection.

As we reflect on these experiences, we anticipate building upon these successes in the semesters to come, fostering an even deeper appreciation for medical history.



Manuscript collections on display at the Medical Milestones: MUSC Origins pop-up in September.



Prescription slips on display at the Medical Milestones: Prescriptions, Pills, Poisons, Oh My! pop-up in October.