

Indiana Medical History Museum Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2014

Memorial Service for Dr. John E. Pless - April 11 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Dr. John E. Pless passed away on March 17, 2014. He was an award-winning forensic pathologist, an advocate for abused and neglected children, and an accomplished musician. The Clyde G. Culbertson Professor Emeritus of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Dr. Pless was formerly Director of Forensic Pathology at the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis. As Director of Forensic Pathology he managed a medical examiner death investigation facility that served most of Central Indiana. He testified as an expert witness in criminal and civil cases in 70 counties in Indiana, 12 U.S. States, and Nigeria East Africa.

Dr. Pless was also a great friend and supporter of the Indiana Medical History Museum. He was a generous donor and a member of the museum's Board of Directors, serving as the Board president from 2008 until 2011. Dr. Pless also served as president of the Indiana University Dean's Council, National Association of Medical Examiners, the Indiana Association of Pathologists, the Indiana Medical Society and the Indiana Coroner's Association, and was Medical Director of the American Institute of Toxicology.

He is survived by his wife, Lois Pless; daughters, Jan (Brian) Whitesell, Cindy Pless Boschen; son, Josh (Tricia Csire) Pless; grandchildren, Carly, Tess, Cole and Brody Whitesell, Austin and Brooke Boschen and Katy Pless.

A memorial service will be held on April 11, 2014 in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 6050 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, starting at 10 a.m., with a reception to follow in the Parish Hall.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to one of the following organizations:

IU School of Medicine, AMPATH/Kenya Program, IU Foundation, P.O. Box 6460,

Indianapolis, IN 46206, The Villages 3833 N. Meridian Street, Suite 101, Indianapolis, IN 46208 or the St. Paul Episcopal Church, 6050 N. Meridian, Indianapolis, IN 46208.

Arrangements entrusted to Albertson's Metro Mortuary, Sherman Chapel, Indianapolis.

Microscopes Arrive at IMHM: A Feature Article

by Dr. John K Sturman

Dr. Sturman's feature article surveys the history of microscopy, highlighting particular pieces in the Indiana Medical History Museum collections. Of special interest are microscopes currently on display in the exhibit "Looking through the Lens," as well as those recently gifted by Patrick Metro, DDS. To view the article, click here [\[PDF\]](#).

Upcoming Event: April 30, 2014 at 6pm Spaceflight and the Human Body: A Presentation from NASA's Destination Station

Liz Warren, Ph.D., a scientist for the International Space Station NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, will discuss NASA's history of space medicine and physiology research, describing the many effects of spaceflight on the human body. From the Mercury program through today on-board International Space Station, we have learned to overcome challenges of living in space. The space station is a world-class laboratory for conducting research that delivers advances in technology and scientific knowledge. Results from this research are key enablers for future long-duration missions beyond low Earth orbit, and will also enhance human health on Earth.

Seating is limited

Please RSVP

Phone: 317-635-7329

E-mail: education@imhm.org

Destination Station is NASA's International Space Station Program national awareness campaign that promotes research opportunities, educates communities about activities performed on the International

From the Archives:

Read Dr. Charles A. Bonsett's 1982 article on Dr. William Henry Wishard here [\[PDF\]](#). The above portrait of Dr. Wishard by T. C. Steele (mentioned in the article) is on display at the museum.

Charles A. Bonsett, MD, "Medical Museum Notes," *The Journal of the Indiana State Medical Association*, Vol. 75, no. 3, (March 1982), p. 154. Reprinted with the permission of the Indiana State Medical Association.

Coming Soon: The Medicinal Plant Garden

Spring is here, which means the medicinal plant garden is coming soon! The Purdue

Space Station, and communicates the real and potential impacts of the station on our everyday lives.

Upcoming Exhibit: May 3 - September 3

The Heart of Healthcare: Professionalization of Nursing in Indiana

In the early 19th century, women in Indiana had little or no opportunities for formal education and training, and most worked as homemakers and farmers in their own families. Nursing care for the sick was also a family matter, provided primarily by untrained family members. Care for the poor was inferior or nonexistent. Growing populations, epidemics of disease, and injuries and diseases affecting soldiers during the Civil War made the need for formally trained nurses in Indiana all too clear. Training for nurses was first made available by religious and women's organizations, and later by hospital schools of nursing across the state. Using photographs and documents from the collections of the Indiana State Archives and objects from the collections of the Indiana Medical History Museum, this exhibit explores the history of nursing education in Indiana.

The exhibit can be seen during regular museum hours, and is included in the tour of the museum.

Master Gardeners of Marion County, led by Dr. Kathy Hull, are currently hard at work preparing the garden beds for this beautiful and educational feature.

There will be free guided tours of the garden at 11am on Saturdays beginning in May. In addition, for only \$25 you can schedule a special group tour with one of the gardeners - for more information contact Elizabeth at education@imhm.org

New Director of Public Programs

Elizabeth Nelson worked as a volunteer docent at the museum beginning in 2010, before taking up the Director of Public Programs position in January 2014. She is a PhD student in history at Indiana University, Bloomington, currently completing a doctoral dissertation on science and reform at a Parisian

mental institution c.
1900.

If you have any ideas or queries regarding programs and events, volunteering, guided tours, or our social media, please contact Elizabeth at education@imhm.org

Admission Prices Going Up this July

As of July 1, 2014, Admission prices for Adults will be \$10, Seniors (over 65) will be \$9. Rates for university students and children under 18 will remain the same as before (\$5 and \$3, respectively).