

Indiana Medical History Museum

Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2014



Mary Ellen Hennessey Nottage at the dedication of the Central State Hospital Cemetery grave marker (Photo by Tricia Pierce)

Executive Director Mary Ellen Hennessey Nottage Retires

In June Mary Ellen Hennessey Nottage retired from her position of Executive Director of the Indiana Medical History Museum. During her five-year tenure as Director, Mary Ellen guided the museum through considerable changes, including the economic downturn and the major development of the surrounding grounds of the former Central State Hospital. Mary Ellen also served as a teacher and mentor to museum staff and volunteers, who have benefited from her extensive experience with the methods and ethics of collections management. Her hard work and dedication are worthy of admiration, and we thank her for her many contributions.

Mary Ellen's retirement is a loss for us but a much-deserved opportunity for Mary Ellen to rest, travel, and work on special projects with her husband and longtime collaborator, James Nottage. Furthermore, we are happy to report that Mary Ellen plans to continue on at the museum in the capacity of volunteer, with a focus on collections.

A Letter from the New Executive Director, Sarah M. Halter

Dear Members,

I began working at the Indiana Medical History Museum as a graduate school intern in 2007, and as many of us do, I became fascinated by this magnificent place. When my internship ended, I stayed on as a volunteer and soon became a part-time docent. In 2009 I became Director of Public Programs. Now I follow in the footsteps of my friend and mentor, Mary Ellen Hennessey Nottage, as the new Executive Director of the museum.

I am thrilled to have this opportunity to help preserve and advance an organization that already means so much to me. The IMHM is an incredible resource. Its building and collections are truly to be treasured. As a cultural and educational organization, it has great potential to reach out to new and existing audiences and inspire future generations to love both history and medicine. The IMHM also has an amazing group of dedicated and enthusiastic board members, staff, volunteers, members, and donors, who love this place as much as I do and who have always provided support and assistance to us. I look forward to working with each of you to fulfill our mission and reach our long-term goals.

Thank you for your continued support,
Sarah M. Halter

Autopsy Room Dedication



In June, the Board of Directors dedicated the autopsy room in memory of former Board president Dr. John E. Pless.

Dr. Pless was a state and national leader in forensic pathology and had performed thousands of coroner's autopsies during his career.

From the Archives



Think you lead an interesting life?
Think again after

New Grave Marker Dedicated at the Central State Hospital Cemetery



City/County Councilor Marilyn Pfisterer and Mayor Greg Ballard unveiling the new grave marker (Photo by Tricia Pierce)

On Monday, June 2, Mayor Greg Ballard, City/County Councilor Marilyn Pfisterer, and the Indiana Medical History Museum dedicated a new grave marker in the Central State Hospital Cemetery. The cemetery contains 575 individual graves including two Civil War veterans. The monumental headstone is the result of three years of efforts from people in government, nonprofit (including the Indiana Medical History Museum), and the private sectors. This dedication will help preserve the history of the former Central State Hospital and the dignity of those buried in the cemetery.

The Central State Hospital Cemetery is located on Tibbs Ave., just south of Mount Jackson Cemetery.

reading this short biography of Hoosier doctor Andrew J. Smith! [\[PDF\]](#)

Charles A. Bonsett, MD, "Medical Museum Notes," *The Journal of the Indiana State Medical Association*, Vol. 73, no. 10, (October 1980), p. 650. Reprinted with the permission of the Indiana State Medical Association.

Help Put the IMHM on the Indy A-List! Vote Today



Help make us the "Best Museum in Indy" on the Indy A-List! Voting ends August 17 - click [here](#) to cast your ballot!

A June BBQ at the IMHM



Party guests: (Left) Meredith Hull and Jim Smith; (Right) Mary Ann Cates looking fabulous as usual.

(Photos courtesy of Tom Lane and Pam Perry)

Board members, volunteers, and staff gathered at the museum to eat some delicious Judge's Barbecue on June 14. The weather was idyllic, and many opted to dine and chat in the garden. It was wonderful to see so many friends of the IMHM all gathered together in one place.

That evening the Board dedicated the autopsy room in memory of Dr. Pless. The Board also presented Mary Ellen with a stately plaque. Attendees signed a banner, donated by Cliff and Karen Bush, wishing Mary Ellen a happy retirement. We also took this opportunity to announce and welcome Sarah as the new Executive Director.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to making this such an enjoyable event.