

TIDBITS AND TEASERS FROM ALBERTA'S MEDICAL HISTORY

- 1) **Question:** When did the first physician arrive on the prairies?
Answer: He arrived as a physician/fur trader sent by the Hudson Bay Company to York Factory in 1668. Name: Peter Romieux.
- 2) **Question:** Who was the first physician to be born, grow up and practice medicine on the prairies?
Answer: Dr. John Bunn. He was born at Norway House circa 1800 or 1801. He practiced in Winnipeg after being trained in Edinburgh. Dr. Bunn became the third Recorder (Magistrate) of Rupert's Land, at the Red Deer River Settlement during the 1860's.
- 3) **Question:** Who was the first physician born in Alberta?
Answer: Dr. Alexander Rowand. He was the second physician born on the prairies circa 1816 and the first to be born and raised in Alberta. He was the son of Chief Factor John Rowand of the HBC and was born and raised in Edmonton. His mother was the Indian woman who saved her husband's life after he was thrown from his wagon and seriously injured. He practiced as a specialist in Montreal.
- 4) **Question:** What physician visited the NWT in 1849/50 in search of Sir John Franklin?
Answer: Dr. John Rae who spent a winter at Fort Simpson in 1849/50. The HBC appointed Dr. Rae as the Chief Factor of the Mackenzie District in 1849. Rae received orders from the HBC/British Navy for his third Franklin expedition. They were to go back and explore the rest of the Northwest passage east of the Coppermine River in 1851.
- 5) **Question:** What physician was injured while exploring the Blackfoot Country and the Rocky Mountains for passes south of the Athabasca Pass, and after whom a famous pass and river are named?
Answer: Dr. James Hector who was kicked by his horse in August of 1858 while ascending the (now named) Kicking Horse River. The site was about 15 miles west of Field, BC.
- 6) **Question:** When was the first nursing care provided in Alberta?
Answer: By the Grey Nuns at the Ste Anne Mission at St. Albert in 1859.
- 7) **Question:** Who was the first physician to practice on the prairies?
Answer: Dr. W.M. MacKay. He was an HBC Trader/Factor who was transferred from York Factory to the NWT in 1867/68.
- 8) **Question:** What was the worst epidemic on the prairies; when did it occur and what were its effects?
Answer: It was the smallpox epidemic of 1870/71. It killed over half of the Indians on the prairies. There were also serious smallpox, influenza and diphtheria epidemics in 1837/38.
- 9) **Question:** Who delivered the 1870 smallpox vaccine to Fort Edmonton in 1870 and what happened to it?
Answer: The courier was Captain William Butler. The vaccine was provided by Queen Victoria's daughter. It froze en route so when it arrived in Edmonton it was not usable. Reduced travel in winter usually halted the spread of the disease further north.
- 10) **Question:** When was the first hospital built on the prairies?
Answer: In November 1874 by the Northwest Mounted Police at Fort Macleod at the end of the first NWMP Trek.
- 11) **Question:** Who built the first non-NWMP hospital in Alberta?
Answer: The Grey Nuns. They built an 80' by 40' hospital at St. Albert in 1881. It was moved to the Edmonton General Hospital site in 1895.
- 12) **Question:** What physician initiated a mass vaccination program for Indian children and aborted a US smallpox epidemic from spreading into Canada?
Answer: Dr. G.A. Kennedy along the 49th parallel from Milk River to the Cypress Hills in 1882.

- 13) **Question:** What physician came west before the railway in 1885 and along the way befriended Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens), who significantly influenced his medical life?
Answer: Dr. George Kennedy of Fort Macleod. He came and practiced with the Northwest Mounted Police in 1878 and then established a private practice starting in 1887. His years of practice at Fort Macleod were from 1878 to 1913.
- 14) **Question:** Who was the first pharmacist to arrive and practice in Alberta?
Answer: Dr. H.C. Wilson. He graduated in pharmacy before he entered medicine in Toronto. He established a pharmacy along side his medical practice in Edmonton and operated from 1882-86 when he sold it. He was also the first speaker of the Northwest Territories Legislature from 1888-91 and the Mayor of Edmonton in 1895/96. The second pharmacist was John D. Higinbotham whom Dr. Kennedy brought to Lethbridge in 1884.
- 15) **Question:** Who were the first part-time and full-time physicians to stay and practice in a NWT community?
Answer: The first part-time physician was Dr. Verey. He was brought west by the McDougalls circa 1872. After practicing in Edmonton he moved to Morley in 1872 before returning to Edmonton where he was a combined teacher, physician and farmer. The first full-time physician was Dr. R.B. Nevitt who came west with the NWMP in 1874. The first physician to practice in the NWT without benefit of a medical contract from the NWMP, Indian Affairs or CPR was Dr. L.G. deVeber in Fort Macleod in 1885.
- 16) **Question:** What physician made the longest recorded house call by horseback on the prairies?
Answer: Dr. L.G. deVeber in 1883 when he rode five horses from Fort Macleod to the Cochrane ranch west of Calgary. It was about 130 miles one way. A longer house call was made by Dr. A. E. Porter in Saskatchewan by democrat from Prince Albert to Battleford. The distance was about 160 miles one way.
- 17) **Question:** When was the first public, non-secular hospital built in the NWT?
Answer: In Medicine Hat in 1889/90.
- 18) **Question:** What western Canadian medical institution or the plan for it crystallized the formation of the Medical Council of Canada?
Answer: The Western Canadian Medical Federation, which was formed under the leadership of Drs. Brett/Kennedy in 1907. It was disbanded in 1909 after talks to restart discussions to approve the Canada Medical Act were made in Winnipeg in 1909 at the CMA annual meeting.
- 19) **Question:** Who gave the first research paper to a medical audience that was based on medical observations on the prairies?
Answer: Dr. G.A. Kennedy at the 1889 CMA meeting in Banff. The article was entitled "The Benefits of the Dry Climate of Southern Alberta". The content dealt mainly with the diagnostic and therapeutic problem of typhoid fever or as it was known then, typhomalaria fever. It was endemic around many NWMP Forts.
- 20) **Question:** When and by whom was the first appendectomy performed on the prairies?
Answer: By Dr. F.H. Mewburn in Lethbridge in 1893. He also operated on the first ectopic pregnancy in 1892 and performed the first cesarean section in 1903.
- 21) **Question:** What physician started the first golf club between Winnipeg and Vancouver?
Answer: Dr. G.A. Kennedy, helped found the Royal Fort Macleod Golf Course in 1892.
- 22) **Question:** What physicians entered into and maintained the longest contracted CPR medical services in its history?
Answer: Drs. Richard, MacGregor and William Parsons in Red Deer (67 years) and Drs. H.G. and L.S. Mackid in Calgary (61 years).
- 23) **Question:** What physician petitioned Ottawa on behalf of the Northwest Territories for legislative control over the Territorial Federal Government grant and was successful?
Answer: Dr. R.G. Brett. Along with Mr. R. Bett, the two politicians petitioned Sir John A. MacDonald for more legislation autonomy in 1891. They were partially successful.

- 24) **Question:** What physician aborted the smallpox epidemic brought to Calgary from Vancouver by the CPR in 1892?
Answer: Dr. Henry George. He quarantined himself with the Chinese community for over two months. A riot followed the release of the first Chinese contacts.
- 25) **Question:** What doctors performed the first ovariectomy (intra-abdominal operation) in the NWT and then couldn't agree on whether it was the ovary they were seeing, so had the patient re-operated on in Banff, Alberta?
Answer: Drs. H.C. Wilson, J.D. Harrison and E.A. Braithwaite in Edmonton circa 1892. The patient was re-operated upon by Dr. R.G. Brett later that year in Banff.
- 26) **Question:** What prairie physician politicians petitioned to the Northwest Territories to be divided into two prairie provinces?
Answer: Drs. T.A. Patrick of Yorkton and R.G. Brett of Banff.
- 27) **Question:** What physician had a school named after him that was used for the first Alberta legislature?
Answer: Dr. William Morrison MacKay. The school is named the McKay Avenue School (sic). It was located across from his home in Edmonton.
- 28) **Question:** What physician brought the first x-ray equipment into the province of Alberta?
Answer: Dr. George Malcolmson brought the first x-ray machine into the province to his hospital in Frank, in 1906.
- 29) **Question:** When was the first mental hospital opened in the province of Alberta?
Answer: At Ponoka in 1911 for 160 patients.
- 30) **Question:** What Alberta physician became the first President of the CMA and when?
Answer: Dr. H.G. Mackid of Calgary in 1911/12.
- 31) **Question:** When were the first semi-direct blood transfusions performed in Alberta?
Answer: By Dr. A.E. Archer at Lamont in 1912.
- 32) **Question:** When was the first medical school west of Winnipeg organized and when did it become a full four-year MD granting program?
Answer: At UofA in 1913. A full MD program started in 1921 with the first graduates receiving their MD's in 1925.
- 33) **Question:** What physician while at the UofA isolated two endocrine hormones and also received a DSc and an MD from the UofA?
Answer: Dr. J.B. Collip. He isolated insulin (1921/22) while on a one year sabbatical at UofT, and the parathyroid hormone (1925). He received a DSc (1923) and an MD (1926) from the UofA.
- 34) **Question:** What doctor in Canada first raised the concept of initiating a form of health insurance (State Medical Insurance) similar to that introduced by Lloyd George in Britain before WWI?
Answer: Dr. A.R. Munroe of Edmonton. He raised the subject at the CMA meeting of 1914.
- 35) **Question:** What Canadian physician commanded a battalion in WWI and was the only one to ever do so after the Boer War?
Answer: Dr. E.G. Mason of Calgary. Lt Col. Mason was the first commanding officer of the 50th Battalion. It was held in reserve in the battle of Vimy Ridge. When called upon, it participated in the capture of the two highest peaks, namely Hills 120 and 145. Dr. Mason had been "gassed" the previous November and had not returned to his unit, and did not do so until after the War. The Vimy War memorial stands on Hill 145.
- 36) **Question:** What Albertan was knighted for his contributions to healthcare in Canada?
Answer: Senator James Lougheed in 1916. He was knighted for establishing and chairing the Military Hospitals Commission which eventually acquired, converted or built over 13,000 beds for returning Canadian injured or shell shocked war veterans during WWI.

- 37) **Question:** What physicians became the second and third Lieutenant Governors of Alberta?
Answer: Drs. R.G. Brett (1915-25) and W.G. Egbert (1925-30).
- 38) **Question:** When was the first sanatorium opened in Alberta?
Answer: In the old CPR hotel in Frank in 1917. It received Veterans who had contract TB. It was moved to the Central Alberta Sanatorium (later named the Baker Memorial Sanatorium) with 185 beds in Calgary in 1920.
- 39) **Question:** When was the first Dean of Medicine appointed at UofA?
Answer: Dr. A.C. Rankin in 1920. He held the position until 1939 and again from 1943-45. From 1940-1943 he was assigned to the army as the Chief of Hygiene.
- 40) **Question:** By whom and when was the first free VD clinic started in Canada?
Answer: By Dr. H. Orr in Alberta in 1920.
- 41) **Question:** When was the first free Polio rehabilitation program established in Canada?
Answer: In Alberta in 1938.
- 42) **Question:** When was the first free cancer services program established in Canada?
Answer: In Alberta in 1941.
- 43) **Question:** Who saved the CMA from the brink of bankruptcy by recommending the doubling of fees and the selling of \$18,000 worth of \$100.00 bond guarantees to CMA members?
Answer: Dr. J.S. McEachern at the Halifax CMA meeting of 1921. The first near bankruptcy occurred in 1896. The problem in 1920 was the dwindling membership caused by the loss of physicians during WWI and the flu epidemic of 1918/19.
- 44) **Question:** What medical schools in Canada received a one half or one million dollar Rockefeller upgrading grants in 1920? Which medical school still has its grant?
Answer: Toronto, McGill, Dalhousie, Laval, Manitoba and Alberta. UofA received \$500,000. It was conditional upon the establishment of a full six year faculty of medicine program and the granting of MD's. The capital funds were received in 1923. The grant still exists.
- 45) **Question:** What rural hospital in Canada received the first American College of Surgeons Accreditation?
Answer: The Lamont Hospital (renamed the Archer Memorial Hospital in 1949), secured ACS accreditation in the category of hospitals over fifty beds in 1921 and never lost it for the next fifty years.
- 46) **Question:** By whom and when was the second medical clinic established in Canada?
Answer: By Dr. D.S. Macnab and four others (Drs. Atkinhead, Lincoln, Murray and Stanley) in 1922 in Calgary. The first was in Hamilton. The clinic was named the Associate Clinic and still exists (2005).
- 47) **Question:** Who and where was the first Polio hospital built in Canada?
Answer: In Edmonton next to the UAH in 1928. It contained sixty beds.
- 48) **Question:** What area of Canada had the highest MD enlistment rate in WWI and WWII?
Answer: The prairies. The enlistment rate exceeded 35% in both WW's, a figure far in excess of the enlistment rate for the general population. It denuded many communities of their physicians, requiring a Board to be established during WWII to return to physicians.
- 49) **Question:** What physician established and is the father of Canadian Cancer Society?
Answer: Dr. J.S. McEachern who formed it in 1938 with the help of the CMA.
- 50) **Question:** When and where was the first continuous voluntary prepaid medical insurance program, established and operated?
Answer: In Cardston in March 1932. Drs. J.K. Mulloy and M. Brayton were the physicians. The Trustees were Messrs. N.E. Tanner, E.W. Hinman and D.O. Wight. It was replicated with modifications in Lamont by Drs. Archer et al in 1933, under the "Di Bozsha" program. The Alberta Government supported and agreed to subsidize a prepayment insurance program in 1935 and again in 1942. The former died because the UFA government was defeated. The latter was not acted upon because of a pending national program, which was first presented at the Federal/Provincial post WWII Reconstruction Conference of 1945.

- 51) **Question:** Who initiated and published a medical history bulletin, the only one of its kind in Canada, before 1980?
Answer: Drs. E.P. Scarlett and G.D. Stanley of the Associate Clinic from 1936-1958.
- 52) **Question:** What surgeon in Canada performed the first Siamese twin operation?
Answer: Dr. Eardley Allin and colleagues of Edmonton in 1950 at the Royal Alexandra Hospital.
- 53) **Question:** What surgeon performed the first cardiovascular bypass operation for replacement of heart valves in Canada?
Answer: Dr. J.C. Callaghan in 1956 in Edmonton.
- 54) **Question:** What was the largest hospital ever built at one time in North America?
Answer: Foothills Hospital (766 beds) in 1960-66.
- 55) **Question:** What was the largest hospital ever destroyed at one time?
Answer: Calgary General Hospital in 1998 (1000 beds).
- 56) **Question:** Where was the second medical curriculum, based on a systems approach, introduced in Canada?
Answer: By the first Dean of Medicine at the University of Calgary, Dr. W.A. Cochrane in 1967. Classes began in 1970. The first was at McMaster in Hamilton in 1966.
- 57) **Question:** When did the number of psychiatric inpatient beds peak in Alberta?
Answer: 1966. In 1930 the number of general and psychiatric beds in Canada were about equal at 30,000 each. The number peaked at 5400. Now the number of psychiatric beds is well under 20% of the total.
- 58) **Question:** When was the first provincial fully funded medical research program established in Canada?
Answer: In 1980 by the Lougheed Government. It funded the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research with \$300 million dollars.
- 59) **Question:** What physicians from Alberta have become CMA Presidents?
Answer: Drs. H.G. Mackid (1911/12), J.S. McEachern (1934/5), A.E. Archer (1942/3), H. Orr (1950), M.A.R. Young (1957/8), R.M. Parsons (1960/61), R.K. Thomson (1966/67), L.C. Grisdale (1975/76), T.A. MacPherson (1984/85), R.J. Kennedy (1992/93), R. Collins-Nakai (2004/05). All were Presidents of the Alberta Medical Association beforehand, except for Dr. H.G. Mackid, who was President of the NWT Medical Association (189_).