



The Grog Ration

From the Papers of RADM Cary Grayson, MC

The Role of a President's Physician in a Time of Crisis

—PART I—

By LCDR Michael Dickens, MC, USNR, (Ret.)

At dawn, 13 December 1918, USS *George Washington* (ID #3018), USS *Pennsylvania* (BB-38) and a small flotilla of destroyers approached the French coast under an overcast sky. Standing off shore was a welcoming fleet of French warships anticipating the arrival of the Americans. Shortly after dawn, the morning fog lifted and the lookouts on *George Washington* sighted the French. Standing on the captain's bridge were two solitary figures. One was the President of the United States, Woodrow Wilson, soon to be hailed by adoring millions in the streets of Paris, London, and Rome as the savior of the free world. His companion was RADM Cary Grayson, MC, USN, whose official position was White House physician and Naval Aide to the President, but who in reality played a much more complex role in the president's administration.

President Wilson and Grayson rarely spent a complete day apart. When Mrs. Wilson left the heat of summertime Washington for the Greenbrier Hotel, Dr. Grayson stayed with the president at the White House. When Wilson traveled Grayson was always with him. They played golf, went for long automobile rides, and dined together frequently. Grayson crossed the Atlantic to the Versailles Peace Conference with Wilson and was privileged to meet all the historic figures of the era including politicians, popes, and royalty. He wrote home about what he saw, whom he met, and what he heard. Cary Grayson, M.D. wrote letters almost every day to his fiancé, and then wife, Altrude whenever they were separated. The letters began during their courtship in early 1915 and continued on after their



RADM Cary Grayson, MC, USN

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Grayson and Wilson aboard the USS *George Washington*, 1918.

marriage. Each letter was handwritten and filled with detailed descriptions of Grayson's day. Grayson was proud of the service he was performing and you can sense that pride and excitement in his letters.

The letters, other personal documents and artifacts belonging to RADM Cary T. Grayson, MC, USN, and his wife Altrude Gordon Grayson

were recently donated by Mr. and Mrs. Cary Grayson, Jr. and their family to the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library in Staunton, Virginia. Included are scores of letters spanning the entire Wilson administration, Grayson's diaries, uniforms, formal typed correspondence, his hand written prescriptions for medications for President and Mrs. Wilson, and Wilson's medical charts for the period after his major stroke in 1919.

The frankness of Grayson's own opinions (or those of Wilson which Grayson was privy to) were relegated to his private diary or contained in letters to his wife asking her to keep them secret. Comments about Marshall Foch – "He was exposed to education but it didn't take" or Arthur Balfour –

Presidents and their Navy Physicians

Part I

James Madison

— Bailey Washington
(1787-1854)*

Andrew Jackson

— Thomas Harris
(1784-1861)*

Zachary Taylor

— William M. Wood
(1809-1880)*

James Polk

— Jonathan Foltz
(1810-1877)*

James Buchanan

— Jonathan Foltz
(1810-1877)

James Garfield

— Francis M. Gunnell
(1837-1922)*
— Philip S. Wales
(1837-1906)*

William McKinley

— Newton Bates
(1837-1897)
— Presley M. Rixey
(1852-1928)

Theodore Roosevelt

— Presley M. Rixey
(1852-1928)
— William C. Braisted
(1864-1941)*
— Cary T. Grayson
(1878-1938)*

Woodrow Wilson

— Cary T. Grayson
(1878-1938)
— Edward R. Stitt
(1867-1948)*

* Denotes "Consulting Physician"

"an aristocratic autocrat" or "the swelled head epidemic in Paris" or "the bacillus of ego" or the "French women who smoke like locomotives on an upgrade" are characteristic.

A small portion of the Grayson materials had been seen by the eminent historian, Dr. Arthur Link, editor of *The Papers of Woodrow Wilson* and incorporated in that 67-volume publication. But the private letters between Grayson and his wife, still in their original envelopes, had not been seen before. As a graduate of Princeton, Wilson's beloved alma mater, and as an ex-Navy physician, I was pleased to be granted access to all the original letters and other Grayson materials shortly after they arrived at the Wilson Presidential Library. I am most grateful to the

professional staff of the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library (Heidi Hackford, Ph.D. and Eric Potter, Ph.D.) and the staff of the Rare Books Collection at the Claude Moore Health Sciences Library, University of Virginia, and also to Mr. André B. Sobocinski, Office of Historian, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, U.S. Navy in Washington for their help with the research.

This is the first of a two-part article presenting a brief look at one of the most influential physicians to ever wear the uniform of a member of the Medical Corps, U.S. Navy.

Biographical Sketch

Cary Grayson was born in Culpeper, Virginia, on Oct. 11, 1878. His family had deep roots in Virginia having emigrated from Scotland in the early 18th century. He was a collateral descendant of President James Monroe through his ancestor William Grayson who had married Monroe's aunt, Susan Monroe. Though northern Virginia was generally impoverished in the years after the Civil War and Grayson was orphaned in childhood, he was raised in comfortable circumstances at the family estate known as "Salubria" which pre-dated the American Revolution and is now open as an historic site.

Working part time as a librarian and post office assistant, Cary Grayson graduated in 1899 from the College of William and Mary after only two and a half years. He then enrolled at the Medical College of Virginia for three year but before graduating he transferred to the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee to complete his medical education and graduated with both an M.D. degree and a certificate in pharmacology.

It is not known why he chose a career in Navy medicine but perhaps he was influenced by the fact that he was related to the Surgeon General of the Navy, Presley M. Rixey. In the less scientifically rigorous era prior to release of the Flexner Report in 1905, graduates of medical schools varied widely in their competence. Admission requirements to medical schools were much more lax as was the quality of in-



President Wilson greeting troops aboard USS *George Washington* as Dr. Grayson looks on.

struction. The Navy required officers applying for appointment to or promotion within the Medical Corps to sit for examination in Washington, D.C. According to testimony by Grayson before the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs in 1917, when he presented in January 1903 for examination to the rank of Assistant Surgeon (Lieutenant) he found the examination to be too difficult and requested permission to withdraw. Instead the Navy suggested he take the examination for Hospital Steward which he declined. The Navy apparently had very high standards even in those days. He then spent some months in post-graduate training at a Washington area hospital.

On 14 July 1903, Grayson gained a temporary appointment pending examination as "Acting Assistant Surgeon." Navy Medical Corps officers had titles with equivalent "relative rank" to line officers in those days. Some have speculated that Grayson's family

relationship to Surgeon General Rixey may have smoothed the path to appointment. In 1917, Grayson testified that he had boarded in Rixey's home in Washington for six months at the start of his career. Grayson's official service records still on file at BUMED indicate that Mrs. Eppa Rixey of Charlottesville, Virginia, Grayson's half sister, was listed as his next of kin. Her husband, attorney C.J. Rixey, brother of Surgeon General Rixey, was listed as Grayson's beneficiary in 1908.

Grayson's first year of service was divided between an initial appointment to the Naval Proving Grounds and then subsequently the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. One year after his acting appointment he was ordered to stand for and successfully passed the examination for permanent appointment to Assistant Surgeon (equivalent to a Navy lieutenant) and was so commissioned.

For the next year he served at the Naval Museum of Hygiene and Medical School, and then at the Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C. In May 1905, he was ordered to USS *Maryland* (ACR-8) where he saw sea duty for two years traveling with the *Maryland* to Cuba, China, the Philippines, and Japan. In 1906 he was temporarily posted to USS *Kearsarge* (BB-5), the flagship of the North Atlantic fleet, for duty caring for the wounded following an explosion in a gun turret on *Kearsarge* while she was training at Guantanamo Bay.

Finally, on 6 July 1907, he was assigned temporary duty on board USS *Mayflower* (PY-1), the presidential yacht, which was moored at the Washington Navy Yard. *Mayflower* was a deep water ship privately built in 1896, purchased by the Navy in 1898, and refitted as the president's private yacht. It required a crew of 171 officers and enlisted. Officers assigned to her during her presidential service years were given credit for sea duty.

In 1909, Grayson was permanently assigned to *Mayflower*. Since *Mayflower* spent most of its time in port officers were free to be assigned other duties in official Washington. Grayson's service jacket indicates that he was often detached for special duties at the White House during the Theodore Roosevelt and Taft administrations. He maintained his friendship with ex-President Taft during the Wilson

years and his letters refer Taft and Grayson dining together alone on several occasions.

In the years before he met his future wife Altrude Gordon, Grayson was considered a very eligible bachelor in Washington. One clipping found in the Grayson papers was a gossip column item from a Washington newspaper which hinted that Grayson had been linked in the Washington rumor mill with Edith Bolling Galt (Wilson's eventual second wife), Alice Roosevelt, and subsequently President Taft's daughter. There is no evidence to substantiate these rumors but Grayson obviously was a man who was well liked by all who knew him and was comfortable in the higher echelons of society.

Growing up in the pre-automobile era and reflecting his northern Virginia heritage, he developed a lifelong passion for riding, breeding, and racing horses. In January 1909, because of his status as an expert horseman, he was selected to accompany President Theodore Roosevelt on a well publicized mid-winter 104-mile round trip horseback ride from Washington to Warrenton, Virginia, to demonstrate to military officers the need for physical fitness.* His reputation as an expert judge of horses did not go unchallenged in Navy circles. A humorous remark found in his BUMED file dated 1970 reported that those who had known Grayson and had followed his advice regarding race horses "were still waiting for the hay-burners to cross the finish line."

In December 1912, Grayson was detached from USS *Mayflower* and reported for duty at BUMED in Washington with the expectation that his White House days were over. But fate intervened when on Inauguration Day in March 1913, incoming President Woodrow Wilson's cousin, Helen Woodrow Bones, had an accident and Grayson was present with his medical kit. He so impressed the new first family with his handling of the mishap that he was shortly invited to lunch with President and Mrs. Wilson. The lunch was in reality a job interview.

Grayson made such a favorable impression on the Wilsons that the President had Grayson's orders changed and Grayson was appointed as White House physician and Naval Aide to the President. Within months the Wilson family and Grayson developed an appreciation and comfort with each other. While on

vacation with her cousin the President and Mrs. Wilson, Helen Bones wrote jokingly to Grayson in the summer of 1913 “If you have any poison pills in the stock will you send me some? – the quiet working ones. I need some for a lady who talks too much. Very truly yours, HWBones” In time, as the relationship between Wilson and Grayson deepened from a chance beginning, it broadened considerably beyond what would normally be considered those of a physician or military aide.

The Chemistry of the Wilson – Grayson Relationship

Woodrow Wilson came to the presidency with a reputation as a somewhat aloof and private man. He had a brilliant academic career at Johns Hopkins and Princeton, and is still the only president in our history to have earned a Ph.D. As a professor, Wilson was beloved of the students having been voted favorite lecturer at Princeton many years in a row. But toward the end of his tenure at Princeton, Wilson fell prey to a rigid and combative streak in his personality. Perhaps due to subtly advancing atherosclerosis or the after effects of two mini-strokes, Wilson, when challenged in a firmly held belief, increasingly found it difficult to compromise. This trait bore bitter fruit years later in the Senate fight over ratification of the Versailles Treaty. But throughout his life Wilson, in the private sphere out of the public view, was relaxed, warm and passionate, loved limericks and humorous stories, enjoyed singing, and was very close and considerate to his wife, daughters, and other relatives. As the years passed this combination of public and private personalities resulted in Wilson having fewer and fewer really close intimates other than family with whom he could share his thoughts and feelings.

Perhaps Grayson’s ability to remain as Wilson’s closest non-family confidant over the years they knew each other may be the result of two factors. First, Grayson in his official capacity was not expected to challenge the president’s political views so he was insulated to some degree from the socially isolating aspects of Wilson’s sometimes rigid personality. Indeed Grayson was an admirer of President Wilson and this admiration grew to the point of frank hero worship. On 7 September 1918 Grayson wrote his wife

“He is a hero and truly the most wonderful man in the world. I like, admire, and love him more and more every day I know him.” Second, Grayson’s personality and the coincidence of his falling in love and marrying Altrude Gordon, who was a protégé and companion of Wilson’s second wife Edith Bolling Galt gave the Graysons and Wilsons a relationship very much like that of family.

One ingredient in the Wilson – Grayson bonding was that both were native Virginians and were aware of this shared southern heritage. Grayson wrote after having slept in the Lincoln Bedroom that he was sure his father would be “turning over in his grave” if he knew. On 20 July 1918 he wrote, “Lincoln was not in the class of W.W. when it comes to a great man – and I have great admiration for Lincoln – not withstanding my Virginia raising.”

Wilson valued civility, politeness and, given his strong religious heritage as a Presbyterian minister’s son, expected a correct moral attitude in public. Wilson also admired and sought out seriousness of purpose and competence in those who worked under him, traits which he recognized from his first encounter with Grayson.

Even though it is evident that the men admired each other and spent a great deal of private time together, it is very hard in reading Grayson’s correspondence to judge how much of the hours spent with Wilson and the private conversations they enjoyed were genuinely two-way exchanges or were simply Wilson using Grayson as a sounding board. But it is clear that Wilson confided a great deal of information in Grayson.

Woodrow Wilson as a Patient

Wilson was seriously ill by the time he became president. He had suffered at least two, and perhaps three, small strokes over the preceding 15 years and was functionally blind in one eye as a result. He had temporarily lost the function of his dominant hand forcing him to learn to write with the other hand. Physicians who examined him prior to his election found evidence of atherosclerosis and hypertension. One physician in 1913 went so far as to predict that Wilson would not outlive his term of office. Wilson also had a history of asthma and dyslexia since childhood and

prostate problems in his later years. He suffered from chronic headaches and upper respiratory infections which might have been a consequence of chronic sinusitis, nasal polyposis, or allergies. A chronic episodic digestive disturbance also plagued Wilson throughout his adult life which he referred to with wry humor as his “turmoil in Central America.” Grayson, as Wilson’s chief physician, was confronted with a real challenge. How he met that challenge and his role on the world stage during and after WWI is the subject of **Part II**.

Michael Dickens, M.D., graduated with honors from Princeton in 1968 and received his M.D. degree from Columbia University in 1972. He volunteered for service in the Navy Medical Corps in 1969, and served two years on active duty in the Navy assigned to the Naval Hospital at Guantanamo Bay and served brief TAD assignments aboard USS *Pensacola* and USS *Nautilus*. He is in private practice in Charlottesville, Virginia.

A Look Back: Medical Women Pioneers and the U.S. Navy

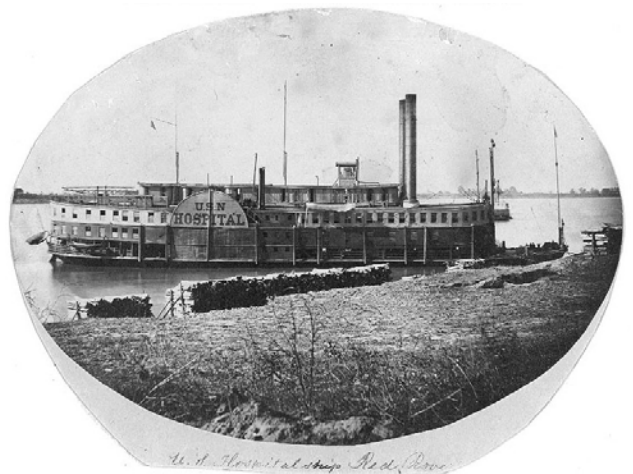
19th Century

1813. Stephen Decatur takes two women (Mary Allen and Mary Marshall) aboard USS *United States* to work as “nurses.”

1839. The Nurse Society of Philadelphia begins to formally train women on how to “help with maternity cases.”

31 August 1842. Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) is established. William P.C. Barton, the first Chief of BUMED, advocates for female nurses in the U.S. Navy.

1847. Elizabeth Blackwell is admitted to the all-male Geneva Medical College in western New York. She becomes America’s first formally trained women doctor. Up until 1847 there were no female healthcare professionals in the U.S. (i.e., women trained as doctors or nurses).



Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell

1854. Florence Nightingale is asked to become general superintendent of nursing in hospitals in Turkey. In 1860, she establishes the Nightingale Training School at London’s St. Thomas Hospital. The Nightingale system of nursing would forever change the field of nursing.

1857. Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell and Dr. Marie E. Zakrzewska start training nurses.

30 September 1862. The 786-ton side-wheel river steamer *Red Rover* is converted into a U.S. Navy Hospital ship. On Christmas Eve 1862, while in port in St. Louis, Missouri, four nuns from the Sisters of the Holy Cross come aboard to treat patients. These charitable women are remembered as the first female nurses to serve on a U.S. Navy hospital ship.

3 March 1871. U.S. Navy Medical Corps established.

1898. Four female medical students at Johns Hopkins Medical School serve as “nurses” at Naval Hospital Brooklyn, New York and five Sisters of Charity from St. Vincent’s Hospital in Norfolk, Virginia, volunteer for duty at the Naval Hospital Norfolk. At the very same time, six trained nurses from the Red Cross serve at Naval Hospital Portsmouth, New Hampshire. These women are the first trained nurses to serve in the Navy Medical Department.

17 June 1898. U.S. Navy Hospital Corps established.

20th Century

17 May 1908. U.S. Navy Nurse Corps founded.

1908. Laura Hughes, a Boston physician and also graduate nurse, writes directly to President Theodore Roosevelt asking for the job of superintendent of the newly created Navy Nurse Corps.

17 August 1908. Esther Voorhees Hasson, former U.S. Army nurse, is chosen as the first superintendent of the Navy Nurse Corps. Between 17 September and 3 November, BUMED carefully selects 19 additional nurses. These “first” nurses of the Navy will be immortalized as the “Sacred Twenty.”

2 December 1910. Florence T. Milburn, one of the “Sacred Twenty,” becomes the first Navy woman to serve at a Navy hospital outside the continental United States (Naval Hospital Canacao, PI)

16 January 1911. Superintendent Hasson resigns after numerous disagreements with Surgeon General Charles Stokes over the way to run the Nurse Corps.

22 August 1912. Navy Dental Corps established.

January 1923. First Assistant Superintendents of the Navy Nurse Corps selected. (Clare L. DeCeue, Anna G. Davis, and Betty W. Mayer.)

December 1920. Chief Nurse Beatrice Bowman and 10 other nurses are the first Navy women assigned to a Navy ship (hospital ship USS *Relief*)

March 1943. First members of the Women’s Reserve (WAVES) report to Hospital Corps School for instruction.



LTJG Jane Kendeigh, the first Navy nurse in a combat theater.

April 1943. Congress approves directly appointing women physicians and surgeons in the Army and the Navy with the same pay and benefits as men.

19 April 1943. Reservists LTJG Achsa Bean, LTJG Cornelia Gaskill and LTJG Hulda Thelander are among the first women physicians in the Navy.

1 June 1944. LT Sara Gdulin Krout, USNR, is the first woman dentist in the U.S. Armed Forces.

February 1944. Mary Eileen Dunnigan and Maxine Hlabanja are the first two women to graduate from Hospital Corps School in Bethesda.

26 February 1944. Sue Sophia Dauser, Superintendent of the Navy Nurse Corps, is the first woman in the Navy to achieve rank as captain.

November 1944. Destroyer USS *Higbee* becomes the first combat ship to be named for a woman of the service. Ship was named in honor of Lenah S. Higbee, second superintendent of the Nurse Corps.

8 March 1945. ENS Phyllis Daley is the first African-American woman in the Navy Nurse Corps.



Miss Hazel Herringshaw, USN with two of her patients. 1918.



Dr. Gioconda Saraniero is the first woman physician to achieve the rank of Captain in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps. Here she stands with Navy Surgeon General, RADM Bartholomew Hogan, MC, USN.

6 March 1945. Navy flight nurse LTJG Jane Kendeigh arrives in Iwo Jima. She is acknowledged as the first nurse to serve in a combat theater.

16 April 1947. Congress gives Navy Nurse Corps members rank. As part of the Army-Navy Nurses Act the Nurse Corps becomes a permanent staff corps of the U.S. Navy.

1948. The days of the superintendent is gone. CAPT Nellie Jane DeWitt is given the title of “Director of the Navy Nurse Corps.”

June 1948. Under the Women’s Service Integration Act, the first women officers are sworn in as commissioned officers in regular Navy.

12 July 1948. Ruth Flora becomes the first woman hospital corpsman in the regular Navy.

15 October 1948. LCDR Frances L. Willoughby becomes the first female physician in the regular Navy.

1953. CAPT Kay Keating, MSC, is the first Navy woman pharmacy officer.

4 November 1955. Gioconda R. Saraniero becomes the first woman physician in the Navy to attain rank of captain.

1965. Mary Faye Keener becomes the first woman MSC officer promoted to the rank of captain while on active duty. She is, also, the first woman named a fellow of the Aerospace Medical Association.

1970. LT Helen Paulus becomes the first woman dentist in the regular Navy. LT Paulus is, also, the first woman to graduate the Navy Postgraduate Dental School.

27 April 1972. Navy nurse Alene Duerk becomes the first woman to attain flag rank.

7 August 1972. Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, Chief of Naval Operations, releases Z-Gram #116 calling for equal rights and opportunities for women in the U.S. Navy.

8 September 1972. The first of 53 enlisted women reports as a crewmember aboard the hospital ship USS *Sanctuary*. These women were part of the sea duty pilot program to determine if they could handle the ship-board tasks usually assigned to men.

1973. LTJG Noreen Considine, MSC, USN, becomes the first woman industrial hygienist in the Navy. LT Jane Ogden-McWilliams and LT Victoria M. Voge become the first female flight surgeons in the Navy.

25 April 1975. LT Donna P. Davis is the first African-American female physician in the Navy.

29 July 1975. Jean E. Todd is the first woman physician to enter the Navy as a direct appointment captain.

24 October 1978. The Navy convinces Congress to modify the 1948 Women’s Armed Services Integration Act (Section 6015 of Title 10) which barred women from serving on ships, other than temporarily on hospital ships and transports, and in combatant aircraft. Women could now have permanent duty aboard hospital ships and transports and temporary duty on other noncombatant ships. They could also act as crew in aircraft not on combat missions. After the modification, the Navy immediately launched its Women in Ships Program and, by 1980, 56 officers were serving in 14 ships and 396 enlisted had duty in 5 of these.

1 November 1978. Nine female ensigns become the first women assigned to serve in vessels other than hospital ships and transports.

1997. RADM Bonnie B. Potter becomes the first woman physician to attain the rank of Rear Admiral. In 2000, she is awarded her second star. Potter is also the first woman to command a hospital ship (USNS *Comfort*).

21st Century

2002. RADM Kathleen L. Martin, SHCE, is the first woman to serve as Deputy Surgeon General of the Navy Medical Department.

Breaking Barriers: The Career of Gioconda Rita Saraniero (1911-1983)

By Dr. Mercedes Graf

Dr. Gioconda Rita Saraniero's service in the Navy spanned two decades. She holds the distinction of being the first woman to achieve the rank of captain in the Navy Medical Corps. "A little 12-year-old Brooklyn girl who thrilled to tales her Italian uncle told about his experiences as a ship's doctor," she longed to follow in his footsteps. This desire grew even stronger as her younger twin brothers enlisted in the Navy and a third brother enlisted as a hospital corpsman. Dr. Saraniero contended: "I can best serve my country as a physician in the Navy. I believe my special training in Hematology might be of some help to the Navy at the present time."



Born 24 September 1911 in Brooklyn, New York, Saraniero graduated from Women's Medical College of Philadelphia in 1935. She did postgraduate work in diseases of digestion and advanced clinical hematology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University, established a private practice, and was an instructor of clinical medicine at Long Island Medical College of Brooklyn. When she volunteered in April of 1943, at the age of 32, she was not shy about sharing her position on the restrictions placed on women in the Navy. As one newspaper account recorded: "She hoped the law [allowing for women to serve overseas] will be changed, so that she might serve overseas or on a hospital ship."

Commissioned a LTJG on 23 September 1943, Dr. Saraniero completed the Naval Indoctrination Course in December of that same year. Some of her duties during her three-year tour of duty from December 1943 to August 1946 included that of a medical officer in charge of WAVES Barracks as well as Officer in Charge of the Blood Bank and Hematology at the U.S. Naval Hospital, Philadelphia. She was re-

leased from active duty in 1946 and returned to private practice, teaching, and consulting.

It was not long before she tired of private practice, however, and Saraniero returned to the Navy with "plans to make a life career" there. In 1949, she re-joined the service and, in 1950, she was appointed Officer in Charge of the Blood Bank and Hematology of the Naval Medical School, Bethesda. She, also, had a tour of duty at Naples, Italy. She was promoted to lieutenant commander August of 1951. In 1955, she was the first woman in the Navy to be selected for promotion to the rank of captain in the Medical Corps.

In an interview with the press in the late 1950's, Saraniero stated: "Words cannot express my debt of gratitude to my colleagues in the Navy who have fostered my career with their kindness and warm welcome. She added, "Half the secret of doing a good job is knowing that you're wanted."

In her book *Serving Proudly: A History of Women in the U.S. Navy*, Sue H. Godson held that, "Navy women encountered resentment, opposition, harassment, and sexism. There was always a lingering doubt about whether they were wanted in the U. S. Navy."

Dr. Graf is a professor of psychology at Governors State University in Illinois. An author of several books on women and medicine, she is currently writing a history of women physicians in the military.

From the Annual Reports of the Surgeon General of the U.S. Navy: A Visit to the Plague Fort in Cronstadt

Surgeon (Lieutenant) Andrew Reginald Wentworth, MC, USN was medical officer aboard the cruiser USS Albany from 1901 to 1903. During this period, Dr. Wentworth wrote a series of reports which were published in the Annual Reports of the Surgeon General of the U.S. Navy. The following text is extracted from a report dated 1902 in which he offers a glimpse of a unique medical laboratory set up in the fort "Emperor Alexander I" located in Cronstadt (also, Kronstadt, Russia) to develop anti-plague measures.

Our cruise in the Baltic during the summer was interesting and instructive, and the people everywhere were most hospitable, giving us every opportunity of seeing the places of interest to the greatest advantage.

The hospitals in all the cities were kept and equipped with modern furniture and appliances as well as a carefully regulated administrative staff. Those of especial interest were at Cronstadt, Russia, and at Copenhagen, Denmark. At the former place the military hospital, although originally an old building, has been remodeled and furnished throughout and at present is quite up to date, clean and commodious, accommodating about 1,500 patients, and having a female ward attached, as it is the only hospital in Cronstadt proper.

On a small island below Cronstadt is an old fort called Alexandria [sic], now obsolete, and this was given by the Czar and furnished by Prince Oldenberg or Alexander Petrivitch at a vast expenditure of money for experimental work to meet that dreadful enemy, plague, should it again appear in Russia, and every means has been given to Dr. Schoreronoff to pursue investigations. Camels, horses, dogs, cats, rodents, and other animals are inoculated. The upper casemates have been converted into rooms and furnished with microscopes, photomicroscopes, and other scientific appliances for bacteriological work and research. We were shown effects of the disease on all the different tissues and organs of the body, as well as the

growth of the germ on different media; were taken into the room where the serum was duly prepared for distribution, and the method and appliances were fully explained. One cabinet contained about 300 flasks of the sterilized serum, each flask holding about 1 liter. We visited the lower part of the building where camels and horses had been inoculated and were passing through the different stages of the disease.

These animals are principally used for obtaining serum for the "Yersin method." Every precaution was observed by us during our visit to protect ourselves from infection; rubber boots, gowns, caps, and gloves being furnished before we were permitted to enter the infected rooms. Photographs of the different proceedings and small sample flasks used for containing a single dose of the serum as sent out for distribution were given [to] us.

The occupants of the building, besides the doctor in charge, were three assistants for the laboratories and six or eight Cossack employees of whom the doctor was quite proud, and who appeared to have no fear of the deadly surroundings. All refuse is burned in a huge furnace in the base of the building. The outbreak at Odessa has shown the wisdom of being prepared for such an emergency.



The exterior of Fort Emperor Alexander I. In August 1899, a laboratory was established in this fort to provide counter measures for infectious diseases such as the bubonic plague.

Scuttlebutt: Maritime Medical History Happenings



The Society for the History of Navy Medicine (SHNM) Takes a Page from Horace

Quintus Horatius Flaccus (65 BC—8 BC), also known as Horace, was a Roman lyric poet famous for his *Odes*, and Latin phrases that remain in use today, such as “carpe diem,” and “Dulce et decorum et pro patria mori.” It is from his *Odes* (Book I) that the Society has taken its newest motto “Aesculapius commisit pelago ratem” which means “Aesculapius has committed his raft to the sea” but a literate Roman would hear it as “committed himself to risks of seafaring” or “the life of a sailor.”



Office of the Navy Medical Historian Begins “Shooting Stepping Stones to Tokyo”



The Office of the Navy Medical Historian has begun taping location scenes for the upcoming video, “Stepping Stones to Tokyo,” part 5 of the 6-part Navy Medicine at War series. Overseas shooting will include stops in Saipan, Guam, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. This 30-minute documentary focuses on Navy medicine’s support of the Marine Corps from the August 1942 Guadalcanal landing to the epic Battle of Iwo Jima in February-March 1945.

DVDs of the first four parts of this series can be obtained by e-mailing ABSobocinski@us.med.navy.mil.

Filming Navy Medical Historian in front of the Tarawa exhibit at the Marine Corps Museum in Quantico, Virginia

A Memorial to A Navy Surgeon, “Erected by His Naval Friends”

In historic Laurel Hill Cemetery, in Philadelphia, stands a marble obelisk memorializing the career of a physician named Mordecai Morgan (1790-1841) who served in the U.S. Navy from 1818 until his premature death in Pensacola in 1841. According to our records Surgeon Morgan, the son of a Revolutionary War soldier, was highly esteemed by his fellow Navy surgeons, and in 1843 they paid for the erection of a “Mordecai Morgan Memorial.” In the coming months we hope to learn more about Dr. Morgan’s life and career. We will be sure to present our findings in *The Grog Ration*.

Did you know? Laurel Hill serves as the final resting place for a number of 19th century Navy Surgeons including William P.C. Barton (First Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery), Elisha Kenta Kane (Polar Explorer), and Albert Leary Gihon (the preeminent sanitarian.)



BUMED Library and Archives Accessions Artifacts



RADM Rossiter's Boat Cloak

Perceval Sherer Rossiter (1874-1957) served as Navy Surgeon General from 1933-1938. His boat cloak was donated to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Library and Archives by Rossiter's daughter, Ernestine.

Made of navy blue wool broadcloth with a black velvet collar, the cloak is fastened with a black mohair frog. The boat cloak was mainly worn over full dress uniforms, as an overcoat would not fit over the officer's epaulets. It is identical to the garment President Roosevelt wore to the Yalta conference in 1945.



**RADM P.S. Rossiter
(1874-1957)**

Other Recent Acquisitions...

- ◆ American Flag from the USS *Solace* (AH-2). This artifact measuring 8 x 15 feet was made at the Brooklyn Navy Yard in 1910. (Donated by the Schattman Family)
- ◆ Dress Uniform of Surgeon Charles Norman Fiske, circa 1917. (Purchased on eBay)
- ◆ Red Cross Flag of the USS *Sanctuary* (AH-17) from 1966. (Donated by Mrs. Gerald Duffner)

***The Grog Ration* is looking for original historical articles to publish in its July-August 2007 edition. As of now there is an opening for a cover story (1,000-2,500 words) and two feature stories (500-1,000). If you are interested in submitting an article please contact André B. Sobocinski at telephone: (202) 762-3244 or e-mail: ABSobocinski@us.med.navy.mil .**

In the next issue...

- ◆ From the Papers of RADM Cary Grayson, MC, Part II
- ◆ The Songwriter was a Navy Dentist
- ◆ From the Annual Reports of the Surgeon General of the U.S. Navy

****Disclaimer:** *Articles and information published in The Grog Ration do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Navy Medical Department, Department of the Navy, or Department of Defense.*