Special thanks to the Conference organizers (Antony, Jonathan and Amy) for the invitation to celebrate our 125-year anniversary of teaching osteopathic healthcare and to honor our Founder Dr. A.T. Still - 100 years since his passing.

Dr. A.T. Still was merely trying to help those suffering in his community; he never expected to start a global movement and health profession. Here are stories about osteopathy’s origins and the 100-years since his torch was passed on to others.
This year marks the 100-year anniversary since A.T. Still’s Death – December 12, 1917
“Andrew Taylor Still – The Father of Osteopathic Medicine” by Author Jason Haxton, MA, DO (hc) is now available.

This biographical book about Dr. Andrew Taylor Still will connect young readers (ages 12 to 14 years) to his life, events and accomplishments in discovering osteopathic healthcare.

To date no book for school-age children has been written about Dr. A.T. Still. It is the first of its kind!

Link to a sneak peek of the book!  

You can order a copy of the book through the Truman State University Press in Kirksville, Missouri.

Link:  
http://tsup.truman.edu/?s=Andrew+Taylor&post_type=product
This new major textbook to which I contributed has been published in German. It covers a broad range of topics from history, philosophy, embryology, clinical anatomy, neuroanatomy, physiology, interception/embodiment, the ecological-anthropological model with many clinical considerations from a medical and osteopathic perspective.

English version in the process for this year.

Currently, the most comprehensive textbook on osteopathic medicine.
Related to work a new documentary on osteopathy is being released.

Link: http://www.wedu.org/thefemininetouch/
The NEW Museum website provides access to much of the early materials of osteopathy
https://www.atsu.edu/museum-of-osteopathic-medicine/

Preserving the history of osteopathy.

Our mission is to preserve and promote the history and tenets of osteopathy through collections and research to a global audience.
Dr. A.T. Still’s initial attempt at opening a school was a fiasco...
A.T. Still University of Health Sciences – Today!
Chief Administrators at ATSU

PRESIDENT - CRAIG PHELPS, D.O.  KCOM DEAN - MARGARET WILSON, D.O.
A history of any person, place, thing, government or discovery [such as osteopathy], to be intelligently presented, must start at the point of time when this person or their discovery did not exist.

A.T. Still Papers Accession Number 2009.10.605
Dr. Still’s Grandparents

His Mother’s Family

Andrew Still’s mother, Martha Moore, of Scottish heritage came from a large wealthy frontier family that lived in Virginia at Abbs Valley.

Her father, James Moore Jr., had been captured as a teen by the Shawnee tribe and was sold to a Canadian trader, Batest Ariome.

Several years after that abduction the Shawnee returned. They attacked and killed the entire family except for one daughter.

Years after the Indian attack, a family neighbor of Abbs Valley, Thomas Evans, paid for James’ release.

His daughter Martha “Moore” Still would help and teach the very same Shawnee tribe, from the conflict at Abbs Valley, at the Wakarusa Indian Mission of her doctor/preacher husband Abram and son A.T. Still.

His Father’s Family

Boaz Still descendant of Bishop John Still was of English and German descent (A.T. Still’s Grandfather) and married...

Mary Lyda who was of ½ Dutch and ½ American Indian from the Cheraw later known as the Lumbee tribe.

A.T. Still’s claim of having Indian blood comes from the Lyda – Lumbee blood line.
The Cheraw changed to “Lumbee” is derived from the region near the Lumber River in Robeson County, North Carolina. In 1956, the United States Congress passed House Resolution 4656, known as the Lumbee Act, which recognized the Lumbee as American Indians but prohibited them from receiving federal services ordinarily provided to federally recognized tribes.

The Lumbee is the only American Indian tribe caught in these circumstances and there has been lots of opposition from other tribes, especially the eastern branch of the Cherokee, who do not consider the Lumbee’s genetic make-up pure enough for full Native American status.
Very early photograph of Dr. A.T. Still – 1880’s
Dr. Still related an incident from his youth – which was in essence the first osteopathic treatment.

“One day, when about ten years old, I suffered from a headache. I made a swing of my father’s plow-line between two trees; but my head hurt too much to make swinging comfortable, so I let the rope down to about eight or ten inches off the ground, threw the end of a blanket on it, and I lay down on the ground and used the rope for a swinging pillow. Thus I lay stretched on my back, with my neck across the rope. Soon [the relief of pressure and gentle rocking] I became easy and went to sleep, got up in a little while with headache all gone.

As I knew nothing of anatomy, I took no thought of how a rope could stop headache and the sick stomach which accompanied it [Dr. Still is describing actually a migraine headache]. After finding relief from that activity Andrew Still would “roped” his neck whenever he felt one of those spells coming on. In images from his final years at the age of 86 – one can see an iron frame with an adjustable leather belt – a more practical and portable device that mimicked the plow rope invention of his youth. Many years later his understanding of anatomy helped to understand why the rope technique was so successful in alleviating those migraine headaches.

He had suspended the action of the great occipital nerves [these nerves were clinched tight by the muscles they pass through] restoring the natural flow of the blood eased the swelling of the muscles that caused the tightening. The body returned to normal – and gave harmony to the flow of the arterial blood to and through the veins, and ease was the effect.
FIRST LESSON IN OSTEOPATHY.
Notice the Saint’s Rest on Dr. Still’s treatment table.
The final incident that pulled all the previous ones together to form a new understanding about health and disease was told before a class in the amphitheater of the A.S.O. in 1901.

Dr. Still told a riveted group of students, how a lad rode up to his home on a mule in a great haste - lickety-split and seeing Dr. Still shouted: “Doc Still come quick, ma’s sick”; and the boy put his heels to his mule and took out back for home.

The lad had not been very explicit as to the trouble, so as a matter of course the doctor grabbed up his obstetrical outfit and got to his horse and took out after the boy – riding to a farm about 25 miles away.
Arriving at the house Dr. Still found not a woman in labor, but a case of pneumonia.

Meanwhile, during the trip to the home, a blizzard had blown up and there was no way for Dr. Still to go back for the needed medicines. He told how after examining the woman’s chest he sat there with his fingers mechanically continuing to examine, wondering what he would do not having any of his regular medicines; and he found that his fingers were in an absent-minded way following a certain line on her chest -- as fingers will in abstraction follow the edge of a table or chair.

He gave the rib region his attention, and found that he was feeling the lower edge of a rib. Was it broken? It did not seem to be broken. Dislocated? Yes apparently. Dr. Still thereupon summoned his anatomic knowledge and his back-woods direct approach and managed to set about reducing the rib dislocation – that at least was something he could do and perhaps bring his suffering patient some comfort; and he succeeded. First time in history so far as known.

The result was magical and very prompt. Almost immediately the pain was less, and soon left; the fever began to drop and was gone altogether with the embarrassed [stressed] respiration within the hour; and by morning the women, hardy pioneer that she was, was back at work hog-cleaning. By restoring the structure to its proper place, her body functioned normally almost instantly? Had the woman truly been afflicted with Pneumonia (Dr. Still’s first impression of the problem) then the patient recovery would have taken days or weeks – not hours. This baffled Dr. Still.
The dramatic part of the story was in the family’s hog-cleaning. Waiting around for the blizzard to pass, Dr. Still learned the story of that twisted rib from the family. It being winter time, they took advantage of the cold’s preservation ability to process their meat. They had been slaughtering hogs, whose carcasses were hung by the hind legs over the limb of a large tree back of the house, to be cleaned. The first being finished, it was tied out of the way against the trunk of the tree. But, in some way it came loose; swinging down, its snout struck the woman in the chest just under this rib; and although the snoot was soft, yet it had the full weight of the animal’s body pushing behind it. There was seen a small blue spot to record the impact of the blow. The chain of events from that dislocated rib to the symptoms that appeared to be pneumonia is of course not difficult to trace.
A. T. STILL,
Magnetic Healer.
ROOMS in Reid's building, south side square, over Chinn's store.
Office days—Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, from 9 A. M.,
to 5 P. M., with an intermission of one hour from 12 M. to 1 P. M.
Kirkville, Mo., March 11, 1875.

CHARITON
STEAM SAW & GRIST MILLS.

PANABAKER & TINSMAN,
Proprietors.

LOCATED 6 miles west of Kirkville. Do custom grinding and sawing promptly. Have constantly on hand a large assortment of Flour and Lumber. In consequence of our last increasing custom we have added another large run of Burrs to our mill which will enable us to do work with neatness and dispatch. We pride ourselves especially on the quantity and quality of Flour we can make out of a bushel of wheat, and solicit a fair trial from the farmers of Adair and adjoining counties.
Our small beginnings in 1892
The First Class of Osteopathy
Faculty: A.T. Still and William Smith
William Smith graduated as an MD after a full seven years of medical study at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Scotland. The best medical school then still in the top 30 best today!

I had a half hour appointment to visit with the “Old Doctor” our conversation lasted four hours. I sat entranced; the theories he introduced were so novel, so contrary to all I had ever read or heard that I failed to follow the reasoning. My arguments were met with the statement “It is so; no “ifs” and “ands” about it; I do tell you, and the people get well.

Dr. William Smith’s association with Dr. Still brought credibility to Dr. Still’s ideas and osteopathy. Dr. Smith strengthened the teaching curriculum, quality of equipment and research.
The first graduate was an M.D. William Smith. He was also the Anatomy Instructor

American School of Osteopathy

Know all men by these presents, that
William Smith, M.D.
having attended a full course of lectures on, and
demonstrations of Osteopathy, and having, after the
examination, been found fully qualified to practise the
art in all its branches, is hereby conferred by me
with the title
Diplomate in Osteopathy.

Given at Kirksville, Missouri
this, the 15th day of February 1893

A.T. Still
President
Experimentation to view the circulatory system intact in the human body.

Using honeybee wax and red sulfur which contains mercury salt residue, Dr. Smith and Dr. David Littlejohn create a solution that when injected into a cadaver is opaque – and permits viewing of the circulatory system.

The process involved warming a cadaver in hot water and injecting the solution (just below the boiling point) into the blood drained cadaver.

Once cooled x-rays show aspects of the circulation of blood undetectable in dissection.
William Smith, MD, DO
Professor of Demonstrated Anatomy, X-Radiance and Obstetrics
Started October 1892 – left November 1899

John Martin Littlejohn, (Ph.D. questioned)
Dean (5-months) and Professor of Physiology
Started Jan. 1897

James B. Littlejohn, MD
Professor of Surgery
Started March 1898

David Littlejohn, MD
Public Health, Venereal Disease, Assistant in Histology, Pathology and X-Radiance
Started Sept. 1898

All three Littlejohns left June 13, 1900
Annual Address
Delivered by A. T. Still, D. O., to the students of Osteopathy.

OSTEOPATHY.
The first annual address to the pupils of Osteornuvara, delivered Jan. 23, 1891 in Pittsburg, Mo., by Dr. A. T. Still, discoverer of the A. T. Society of Health. He said: "One of the first duties of small things" was said long ago. That is just as good today as then. You can count on the fingers of one hand. One year ago you had one thumb, now you have two, the writer of this book address was all there was of the school and its pupils. Sit still men until I tell you some good news. Since you first entered the school, applications have been legion to become pupils of this school. Money is offered to establish a hospital to treat the sick, and teach the philosophy of healing without drugs and medicines. I have read every step you take in health, death, insanity, idleness, drunkenness, opium eating, morphine habit, alcohol eating, whisky drinking, drug doctors, cage drugs, no cures and no cures by the physician. You are now in the possession of a study which is necessary to the mind. You can never do anything as easily as the Astronomer can trace his observations. The pupils and students of the Medical College of the nearest institutions will never, have a chance to show their ability in the field. Your success is absolutely sure. Now let me say to you in solemn truth, that no physician can ever be a great physician, nor youthful physician has ever answered the question, what is the cause of disease? You can, and prove what you say by your work. Or the M. D. does not do his work, as well as Dr. Still, not to the present up. The name of Dr. Still, the discoverer of Osteopathy, has gone on from mouth to mouth. When you are old and all the world can look into your life and say 'No man, woman or child has been doomed to any of the habits of drugs by you,' then, as morphine eating, pill taking, whisky drinking, or any of the whole host of habits by being discharged by your school. Any one of the pupils has cut off fifty years of American eating habits. No, but they can stop any way we have taught them. For every year which makes thousands of books, we, the M. D. of America have made many and seven out of every ten are now at the hospital for the sick and diseased. The medical men of America say: "We cannot do more. We cannot do less." They ask the legislature to prohibit and punish by fine and imprisonment any and all treatments for diseases but the regular old bone-wrench of pulleys, springs, bladders, skin syringes, etc. Our教材s, Blowers, and so on until the money is gone, then advise the mountains or Florida, whereозбродов are plenty. You may be laughed at but the last laugh is the greatest which will be yours. Should I live to give months to live for more of the same kind.

Dr. Still, by parade, the only living Natural Form School in America.

Drug and towel drug.

Obligation
I hereby oblige myself to live and practice the principles of Osteopathy as long as life lasts, and I solemnly promise, as a medical officer, to exercise my profession in strict conformity to the principles of Osteopathy, as laid down by Dr. Still, as far as is in my power and capability. To practice this as carefully as possible.

William A. Taylor,
President.

Dr. A. T. Still,
LIGHTNING BONE SETTER.

Willistown, Mo.

A. T. Still Papers, Museum of Osteopathic Medicine, Kirksville, MO (2000: 10:10)
A.P. Davis’ Osteopathic School in Quincy, Illinois in 1895

HE CURES ALL DISEASES

Without Medicine—Dr. A. P. Davis, One of the First Teachers and Graduates of the Osteopathic School at
Kirksville,

Coming to Quincy—All That Are Afflicted Should Call on Him Next Tuesday.

Osteopathy and artificial surgery are the latest and most wonderful healing agencies known, and over 80 per cent of all chronic diseases are cured thereby. Osteopathy means the proper adjustment of the bones, muscles, ligaments, tendons, arteries, veins and freeing the nerves.

Dr. A. P. Davis, one of the first teachers and graduates of the Osteopathic School at Kirksville, has arranged to be in Quincy to treat patients with chronic diseases three days each week, beginning on next Tuesday (Dec. 3). He invites all afflicted persons to call on him at the Tremont House between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. The doctor is a graduate, not only of osteopathy, but of all the medical schools of medicine, and his experience has been remarkable in his line. He treats chronic diseases successfully without the use of drugs, and will give you a sensible, philosophical reason for his method of treatment. For forty years he was a general and special practitioner of medicine, and is thoroughly posted in all lines pertaining to the healing art.

Dr. Davis is a very pleasant-faced old gentleman.
Dr. Alva Gregory, M.D. started the second school to train Chiropractors With D.D. Palmer.

SPINAL TREATMENT

AUXILIARY METHODS OF TREATMENT DESIGNED FOR THE USE OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN AND APPRECIATE THE TRUE PRINCIPLE OF PROGRESS IN THE HEALING ART, NAMELY, TRY ALL THINGS WITH AN OPEN MIND, AND HOLD FAST TO THAT WHICH IS FOUND TO BE GOOD

BY ALVA A. GREGORY, M.D.
GRADUATE OF THE INDIAN HONORABLE NORMAL INSTITUTE, HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS.
GRADUATE OF THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS.
PRESIDENT OF THE PALMER-GREGORY COLLEGE, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA.

ILLUSTRATED WITH ORIGINAL ENGRAVINGS ESPECIALLY PREPARED FOR THIS EDITION.

SECOND EDITION REVISED AND ENLARGED.

ORIGINAL IN THE POSSESSION OF MUSEUM OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE KIRKSVILLE, MO
PROPER CREDIT MUST BE GIVEN IN ANY USE OF THIS MATERIAL.

PUBLISHED BY THE PALMER-GREGORY COLLEGE OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

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trust and some of the specific methods of a later school of Chiropractic Spondylotherapy.

The first school established that used the spinal thrust exclusively as a system for the treatment of all ailments, both acute and chronic, was started by D. D. Palmer, who obtained his first ideas of spinal lesions from an osteopath by the name of Struthers. The spinal thrust we understand he obtained from a Bohemian. Palmer, however, established the first school known as Chiropractic, being so named by its founder and to him properly belongs the honor, if such be due, of founding a new school of practice. We find no evidence whatever that he was a discoverer, but find facts to the contrary. Palmer being an uneducated man it has fallen to the hands of others to develop this science.

Because of the gross errors taught in this original school by the founder and his successor, many have prejudged and condemned this science. Many have felt that no important truth could be mixed with so many gross errors.

Some of the medical profession and others of the better educated class of people have felt that because spinal adjustment was first introduced by a man who was wholly uneducated in therapeutic lines, he could not have known of any method of much consequence or importance as a therapeutic auxiliary; but this does not, by any means, follow.

Hydrotherapy.—Was established as a cure for disease by Priestnitz, an uneducated peasant of Northern Europe. The “water cure” has accomplished good in the alleviation of disease, both acute and chronic.

Electrotherapeutics.—Was first recommended and used for the relief of disease by men outside of the medical profession. It was considered a fraud and by the ignorant was thought to be the work of the devil, and it was slow in being accepted by the medical profession, as too much was claimed for it. Both hydrotherapy and electrotherapy, being originated and championed by men outside of the medical profession and by men uneducated in therapeutic lines, were therefore slow in being received.

The false and extravagant claims made concerning their efficacy caused these remedial agents to be branded as “fakes” and their reception retarded. After the medical men became convinced that there was merit in hydrotherapy and electrotherapy they have adopted these methods as adjuncts to their therapeutic measures, and by their superior education and intelligence have greatly developed these agencies of treatment, making them much more effective and meritorious.

Looking forward, we feel sure that when the medical world know the value and potency of this new method of treatment herein described, they will be glad to use it successfully in so many cases where no other method of treatment will effect a cure, and that they will appreciate the one who has been instrumental in bringing this knowledge to their minds.

We fully appreciate that ignorance and superstition have shrouded the meritorious effects of this most potent and wonderful method of treatment, and also prevented its progress and acceptance by the medical profession.

We are also hopeful that the present explanation of the philosophy of this treatment will be a continuation of developments begun by the author, and that this work will be a real blessing to our profession and their clients, who will be benefited by the use of the rational methods herein introduced and described.
The Columbia School of Osteopathy 1899 – the other Kirksville osteopathic school begun by Dr. Marcus Ward.
The ASO’s second class graduates of 1895
Dr. Elmer Barber also started a school in Kansas City - The National School of Osteopathy - you could be a D.O. or M.D. or M.D./D.O.
Abraham Flexner

Flexner Review of the American School of Osteopathy

In the late fall of 1909, Abraham Flexner visited the American School of Osteopathy per his commission by the Carnegie Foundation to inspect and report on all medical schools in America and Canada.

AMERICAN SCHOOL OF OSTEOPATHY. Established in 1892 and owned by two individuals.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENT: Less than a common school education.

ATTENDANCE: 566 (ranging in age from 18 to 54 years).

TEACHING STAFF: 12 with 11 student assistants. (There actually were 14 faculty and an additional 6 postgraduate assistants and interns that were not mentioned by the report.)

RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR MAINTENANCE: Fees, amounting to $69,600 (estimated).

LABORATORY FACILITIES: These are absurdly inadequate for the number of students, as is likewise the teaching staff. A single room, with corresponding preparation room, is used as a bacteriological and physiological laboratory, a six-weeks' course being given by one teacher to success squads of 32. In the same way separate additional laboratories are provided for chemistry, anatomy, and pathology. Material of a pathological demonstration is bought; there is no museum, and no effort is made to save gross material. The dissection room is foul. The "professors" in charge of histology, pathology, and bacteriology are senior students.

CLINICAL FACILITIES: A hospital of 54 beds adjoins, but its work is practically all "surgery"; the ward cases are "occasionally used for clinics. Students witness operations." Obstetrical work is comparatively scanty. There is no other hospital in town. A large dispensary is operated. An instructor is on hand the first time the student administers a "treatment"; after that, "only if summoned."

A course of twenty lectures on the fallacies of medicine is given, so that the graduate will know why he does not use "drugs." The school is a business in which a large margin of profit is secured by its owners. The teaching furnished is of the cheapest kind. Its huge income is therefore largely profit.
Dr. Brian Degenhardt – Director of the A.T. Still Research Institute (SRI)
Using 3-D Imagery and models to teach accuracy and objective measurement of student skill in OMM.
The osteopath who is a competent engineer of the human body should not allow tumors to form and because of his this lack of knowledge of cause and effect say that he does not know the cause of their production. The osteopath is right at home when meeting a tumor – because she/he knows and sees the cause – and enters the combat.

Every atom of blood when sent forth from the lungs is a living seed. As much so as the seed of any shrub, flower or tree in all nature. When those atoms are delivered to the proper soil in the human body they grow – creating real substance.

When these seeds or atoms are not normal they are not appropriate in the human system, but are refused or thrown off by the body tissues and become active agents in disease. The quality of life imparted by the lungs they will grow in a lower stratum – an when they do not find healthful soil or conditions they will grow in diseased soil.

Physical and Mental Shocks to the body.

Explore for the true cause of the deadly effects on the system keep in mind that any organ when injured by atmospheric changes, wounds, bruises, mental shocks etc. very often produces such changes as results in death.
Current cancer research at the Founding School of Osteopathic Medicine.

In agreement with Rudolf Virchow and Dr. A.T. Still – the cell is the smallest living unit of the body and from it comes all cells. These cells obey the working of a cell which is performed by proteins.

The proteins keep the cell alive and tell it what to do – to keep its shape to take in nourishment. Dr. Cox believes he has found the protein that tell the cell to stop. By adding a peptid to the protein – it will seek out cancerous cells and make them stop growing – multiplying. His research is now pending a patent.

Dr. Still felt the best way to fight cancer was to keep the physical body healthy – and nourished. Physical trauma and emotional trauma would permit the cancer -- cells which occur naturally – and typically contained or expelled to get the upper hand.
Proteins in the cell membrane

- Proteins
Identifying the Protein that tells the Cancer cell to stop or rupture and die.
Dr. A.T. Still Teaching OMM in the surgical pit at his school.
Dr. Still always intended Osteopathy to be International and trained students from around the world.

Dr. A.T. Still stated in 1913 - The Flag of scientific progress is accepted as truth and honored as such, not only in America, but other countries.

In 1915 - Dr. Still stated that by compromising with medicine, Osteopathy is doomed as the school that could have incorporated all the natural and biological healing arts.

One of his final statements on the topic in late 1915 - “I hope the faithful will rally around the [osteopathic] flag and we will build an International school that will offer no compromise unless it is the golden truth.
Dr. Florence Mac George

Florence was a woman of Scottish decent, born on Tasmania on 20 November 1882. Just before she turned four years old she suffered a bad fall down the stairs of her family home, which caused some damage to her cervical vertebrae. Throughout the rest of her childhood and adolescent life her eyesight depleted and she often suffered from eye and back aches. After consulting many of the leading oculists in London and on the Continent she was left with no hope and the guarantee she would lose her eyesight. On her way home from Europe, via America, she learned of Dr. Andrew Taylor Still in Kirksville, MO and what he might be able to do for her. She immediately journeyed to Kirksville and began treatment, soon afterwards recovering her eyesight and ridding herself of the eye and back pains she had suffered from for so many years. Florence was so impressed by the successful results of her treatments she enrolled into the American School of Osteopathy class of 1900. After graduating Florence went on the practice in several countries, including: America, Canada, England, Scotland, France, Italy, New Zealand and Australia. Dr. Florence Mac George was the first Osteopath to practice in New Zealand and the first woman Osteopath in Australia.
Florence McGeorge spread osteopathy throughout Oceania
"The Development of Osteopathy in the United States and Around the World."
Does are Founder look like anyone else?
The Museum of Osteopathic Medicine was begun in 1934 by Dr. Blanche Still Laughlin. With two display cases, now we have 100,000 artifacts.
Lecture by Jason Haxton, M.A, DO (h.c.)
Museum of Osteopathic Medicine - Director