GOLDSTEIN PAPERS CHRONICLE THE
"COALFIELD CLINICS"

By Suzanne Rhodenbaugh

In the story of bringing health care to the Appalachian coalfields, and in the field of health care management, George S. Goldstein both made history and recorded it. From 1956 to 1980 Goldstein was executive director of the Medical Foundation of Bellaire in Bellaire, Ohio. One of the early “coalfield clinics,” the Foundation offered multispecialty physician care and ancillary services on a private, nonprofit, community-controlled basis. From 1982 to 1987 Goldstein was executive director of the Miners Clinics of New Kensington in New Kensington, Pennsylvania, a similarly-organized coalfield clinic system. From 1980 to his death in 1996, Goldstein researched the history of the United Mine Workers of America Health and Retirement Funds, the medical/pension trust which helped bring such clinics into existence and sustained them for almost thirty years. To understand the significance of his work, it is necessary to understand broadly the accomplishments of the Fund and the clinics.

The Fund and the Clinics

The UMWA Health and Retirement Funds (until 1974 the UMWA Welfare and Retirement Fund, hereafter referred to as “the Fund”) was established by the 1946 contract between the UMWA and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) as a trust for payment of medical care and pension benefits for employees of companies signatory to the BCOA, and those employees’ families.

The Fund medical care program got underway about 1950. From that date to 1978, when a new UMWA-BCOA contract specified that working miners’ and their families’ medical benefits would thenceforth be covered by commercial insurance carriers rather than the Fund, the Fund served as third party payer of medical benefits for mining families. It also served as much more. Early Fund leadership was proactive in seeking to make quality medical care available, accessible and responsive in regions where care had previously been in short supply, of poor quality, and/or under the control of the coal companies.

Thus, the Fund from its inception until 1978 was planner, facilitator and ombudsman as well as payer. It initiated, for example, the identification and transport of disabled miners to rehabilitation centers; the building of the Appalachian Regional Hospitals; the establishment of a drug formulary and system of centralized suppliers of chronic illness medications; and, in concert with physicians, community groups and UMWA locals, the establishment of clinics.

These clinics were accountable to boards of directors which included miners drawn from the communities they served. The clinics were not owned or managed by the Fund, but in the approximately thirty years of their development, the Fund provided the major portion of their financing through cost-plus-based “retainers” — in effect, early prepayment experiments — which enabled them to plan, and to focus on prevention. Some of the best-known of these clinics or clinic
systems were the Medical Foundation of Bellaire; the Miners Clinics of New Kensington / Russellton Medical Group; the Fairmont Clinic in Fairmont, West Virginia; and the Yablonski Memorial Clinic (formerly Centerville Clinic) in Centerville, Pennsylvania.

Goldstein at Bellaire, 1956-1980

George S. Goldstein was educated at Harvard and served in the Air Force in World War II, during the latter part of which he was a prisoner of war in Germany. After the war he continued his economics studies at the University of California at Berkeley, and then went to work for the International Union of Electrical Workers in Washington, D.C. In 1956 he relocated in Bellaire, Ohio, to direct what was then the fledgling coalfield clinic, the Medical Foundation of Bellaire.

Goldstein and Dr. Ed Sams, ca. 1966. When the physicians of the Bellaire Clinic were denied hospital privileges, the Clinic brought suit in the Sams v. Ohio Valley General Hospital case. The court’s ruling that hospitals could not deny privileges based on physicians’ practice arrangements, helped contribute to the rise of HMOs across the country.

Under Goldstein’s leadership the Medical Foundation of Bellaire grew from a single clinic housed in a ramshackle quasi-Victorian in Bellaire, to a clinic system with a modern central Bellaire Clinic, and satellite clinics in outlying areas. It grew to provide an array of primary and specialty physician care services, and such ancillary services as physical and inhalation therapy, counseling, on-site pharmacy and health outreach workers.

When its physicians were denied hospital privileges, it successfully fought the Sams v. Ohio Valley General Hospital case, which helped establish in law that hospitals could not deny privileges based on physicians’ practice arrangements, and thus contributed to the underpinning of what would much later be the growth in prepaid group practices including “health maintenance organizations” (HMOs) or “managed care” programs.

In the 1960s the Medical Foundation added a component dedicated to serving the poor, which became a “neighborhood health center” under the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity, in the controversial “War on Poverty.”

The Foundation was called to defend this initiative before a Congressional committee chaired by Congressman Wayne Hays.

In the 1970s the Medical Foundation developed an HMO and began to offer its services to other employed groups in the region. Among coalfield clinics, it was the first state-certified HMO. With the UMWA’s relatively new focus on occupational health and safety, the Medical Foundation also became one of the ambulatory treatment centers for black lung disease.

Through these and other programs, in the first twenty years of Goldstein’s leadership the Foundation not only met the challenges and served the communities of mining families and others locally, but also took steps with implications for the coalfield community at large, and for the nation. During this time and later, Goldstein contributed much to the national dialogue on health care, especially through his

The eastern Ohio and West Virginia northern panhandle area then, as now, comprised a region of small towns and rural areas. The only city of any size is Wheeling, West Virginia, on the east bank of the Ohio River. In the 1950s the region was an inauspicious place to develop and sustain what was then a radical departure from the prevailing nationwide pattern of medical care organization: solo or small group private physicians paid on a fee-for-service basis. Though examples of such departures then existed in more sophisticated areas — most notably Kaiser Permanente in California, Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York in New York City, and Group Health Association in Washington, D.C. — the establishment in the Upper Ohio Valley of a prepaid group practice of salaried physicians, accountable to a community-controlled nonprofit corporation, represented a huge challenge. The challenge was compounded during the years of Goldstein’s tenure at Bellaire by major changes in the political climate and policies of the UMWA, the Fund, federal and state governments, and medical and health-related organizations.

United Mine Workers President Arnold Miller (second from left) visits the Bellaire Clinic circa 1958. Pictured with him from left are UMWA District 6 President John Guzik; George Goldstein; Bellaire Mayor Membrino Castricone; and Mike Miriz, President of the Bellaire Medical Center Board of Trustees.
participation in the Group Health Association of America, the advocacy group and clearinghouse for prepaid group practices.

1977 Fund cutbacks, followed by the loss of the Fund for working miners and their families with the 1978 UMWA/BCOA contract, jeopardized all the coalfield clinics, the Medical Foundation of Bellaire among them. Though the Appalachian clinic administrators were not to prevail in attempting to educate the UMWA on the implications of loss of the Fund and its prepaid arrangements, a valiant, articulate effort was made by the approximately twenty coalfield clinics with Goldstein in the leadership role.

Goldstein at New Kensington and after, 1980-1996

Upon his retirement from Bellaire in 1980, Goldstein began researching the history of the UMWA Health and Retirement Fund. Originally intent on publishing a book-length account of the Fund, both for its accomplishments and for what they might signal for a national health care plan, he began locating pertinent records of the Fund and the UMWA and interviewing key present and former Fund, UMWA, and clinic staff. His research was interrupted in 1982 when he came out of retirement to serve as executive director of the Miners Clinics of New Kensington (staffed by the always separately-designated Russellton Medical Group), where he oversaw the development of an HMO. He resumed his study upon his second retirement in 1987 and continued until his death in June 1996. While he did not live to complete his book, he did contribute a chapter on "The Rise and Decline of the UMWA Health and Retirement Funds Program, 1946-1995," to The United Mine Workers of America: A Model of Industrial Solidarity?, edited by John H.M. Laslett, which was published by the Pennsylvania State University Press in 1996.

The George S. Goldstein Papers, which were recently donated to the West Virginia and Regional History Collection, contain the fruits of Dr. Goldstein's painstaking research. Comprising more than one hundred linear feet of administrative archives, files on health care related issues, correspondence, and sound recordings of meetings and interviews, the Goldstein Papers should prove invaluable to future Fund historians as well as to scholars in a variety of other fields.

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Danske Dandridge: "Laureate of Elf-Land" and Proto-Modernist

By Dr. Cheryl B. Torsney

[Editor's Note: The West Virginia and Regional History Collection's holdings of the correspondence and personal papers of West Virginia poet Danske Dandridge (1854-1914) are currently the subject of research by Professor Cheryl B. Torsney of West Virginia University's Department of English. Dr. Torsney is in the process of preparing a new edition of Danske's Joy and Other Poems, which was originally published by G. P. Putnam's Sons (New York and London) in 1900. Although she is nearly forgotten today, Dandridge was highly regarded in elite American literary circles a century ago. As the following article reveals, Dandridge's work represents an intriguing blend of convention and iconoclasm. We extend our thanks to Dr. Torsney for sharing her insights regarding one of West Virginia's leading poets with our readers.]

James Russell Lowell and Oliver Wendell Holmes praised her. John Greenleaf Whittier used one of her poems in Songs for Three Centuries. E.C. Stedman included "The Dead Moon" and "The Spirit of the Fall" in American Anthology, one of the first significant collections of American poetry. Her work appeared in Harper's and The Century, two of the most respected periodicals of the day. Putnam's published two volumes of her poems. The work of Danske Dandridge

Danske Dandridge (1854-1914), historian as well as poet; this portrait served as the frontispiece to the author's study focusing upon Historic Shepherdstown (Charlottesville, Va.: 1910).
is absent, however, from the two most recent anthologies excavating the history of American women's poetry, through no fault of the editors of these volumes.

The daughter of Henry Bedinger, a prominent Shepherdstown politician, poet and orator, Dandridge was born in Denmark in 1854, where her father was in service as a U.S. foreign minister. Upon the death of both her parents several years later her care was entrusted to her maternal grandfather, John W. Lawrence, of Long Island, New York. Educated in private schools in Staunton, Virginia, she married A.S. Dandridge of Jefferson County in 1877. The couple settled at “Rose Brake,” near Shepherdstown, where Dandridge spent the remainder of her life.

Despite the great promise and national recognition of her early career, Dandridge’s fame as a poet never really took hold. She spent her later years writing both scholarly histories — George Michael Bedinger, a Kentucky Pioneer (1909), Historic Shepherdstown (1910), and American Prisoners of the Revolution (1911) — and articles for garden magazines. All of her work is now out of print and few West Virginians even recognize her name though she lived all her life, except for her earliest years, in the Mountain State. In reevaluating women’s poetry in the last half of the nineteenth and at the turn of the twentieth century, we might well turn to Dandridge’s work. One of her strongest supporters, Waitman Barbe, himself a poet, editor, and chair of the West Virginia University Department of English, wrote that “she is the poet ... of nature’s blossoms and birds and moonlight mysteries. To be the laureate of elf-land and of rose-land requires a delicate touch .... She is master of her art as well as of her elves, and her verses are, metrically considered, almost faultless.” Given this description, Dandridge defines the sentimental quality attributed to women writers of the period.

Indeed, her conventional subject matter puts Dandridge in a long line of nineteenth-century poetesses or “nightingales,” for whom the genre registered an emotional attachment to nature, family, and religion. At the same time, however, Dandridge is also radically different than other sentimental poets who focused on family and feeling. Her poetry is often self-consciously literary in its use of language and subject matter. Poetry is, in fact, the subject of several poems, including “On the Endymion of Keats,” “Sidney Lanier,” and “To a Poet.” She often overturns conventions related to traditional Christianity and its system of belief, wondering, for example in “The Tide,” “Lord, is there any tide for me?” Frequently she refers to herself as “wild.” In “The Fairest Child” section of “The Wood Demon,” Dandridge confesses, “Sure never yet, in woman’s breast,/ With its pink tinge and purple dream-land pass/ The soaring spirit of its poor being made/ A thing of wonder.” She [the moon] looks on horrid mysteries, And never shuts her shrinking eyes: And sees where the murdered corpse is hid; Where the miser opens his coffer’s lid; She hears the cries of the beaten wife; She hears small children plead for life.

Although it contains echoes of Emily Dickinson, the poem “Fate” sounds positively contemporary in its message:

With Sodom apples fill thy harvest bin;
Barter heart’s wealth for gold in Fashion’s mart;
Traverse rough seas some distant point to win,
Without a chart;
Fray the fine cord of Love until it break;
Launch thy pirogue before the storm abate;
Tease the prone, sleeping Peril till it wake,— Then rail at Fate.

It is clear that Dandridge’s verses, although products of the nineteenth century, reflect a twentieth-century sensibility and sensitivity to disaster.

Dandridge’s work can be characterized by “individual vision, idiosyncratic insights, and enduring imaginative power”—in other words, by what scholar Joanne Dobson terms “sentimental.” These same qualities, however, with their focus on the individual and idiosyncratic, also suggest a modern voice. Because it causes us to rethink definitions and traditional classifications, Dandridge’s work is important to American literary history. But its lush descriptions, its

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**THE WOOD DEMON.**

That mocking pixy pipe to me,
Airily, O airily,

v.

When all the place is still in sleep,
By turns I laugh; by turns I weep;
By turns I sing; by turns I pray;
So wears the restless night away.
My step is slow; my cheek is pale;
I feel my vital forces fail.
Erelong I know that I must lie
A-tremble 'neath a gleaming eye;
And as my heart-beats die away
His wildest weird that sprite will play
And as I draw my feeblest breath
His sweetest strain will mock at death
And when, at last, my spirit flies,
He will not pause to close mine eyes,
But he will sing my threnody,
Airily, O airily.

careful attention to poetic form, and its marvelously original voice make it a pleasure to read as well. Danske Dandridge’s poetry richly deserves to be rediscovered and enjoyed by a new generation of appreciative readers.

The West Virginia and Regional History Collection contains two boxes of materials related to Dandridge which shed light on the poet and her world. Several folders contain letters to Dandridge from friends and family, including numerous letters written by Dandridge’s young daughter, Dolly, who died as a child. A cryptic note written in a bold hand, evidently from a jilted lover who signs herself “Lilian,” suggests that Dandridge’s personal life was not as conventional as one might have thought. (In fact, Joy and other Poems is dedicated to Lilian Whiting, a famous travel writer, spiritualist, and suffragist at the turn of the century.) A body of correspondence from directors of sanitariums affords insight into Dandridge’s long-term battle with depression, a struggle that ended in her suicide when she was 54. Additional items include notices of payment for gardening magazine articles, and what must have been a devastating letter from Putnam’s indicating that because the volume had not sold well, they would not be printing a new edition.

Although the Danske Dandridge Collection is limited to correspondence received by the poet, a group of lively letters by Dandridge can be found in the Waitman Barbe Papers, also in the West Virginia and Regional History Collection. Among the most dramatic is one in which the poet recounts her mad sister-in-law’s attempt to set fire to her home, à la Bertha Rochester in Brontë’s Jane Eyre. An extensive body of additional letters, journals, and manuscripts by Dandridge, as well as those by her daughter, Violet Dandridge, are available in the Women’s Manuscript Collection at Perkins Library of Duke University, Durham, North Carolina. Together, the Duke and WVU Dandridge Collections afford a fascinating look at one of the most intriguing figures in West Virginia’s literary history.

ARTWORKS BY STROther AND LEIGH AUGMENT THE WEST VIRGINIA HISTORICAL ART COLLECTION.

The Bathkeeper of Berkeley Springs has returned to West Virginia! An historic oil painting by David Hunter Strother, The Bathkeeper is one of several notable recent accessions to the WVU Libraries' newest special collection, the West Virginia Historical Art Collection. The Historical Art Collection’s mission is to preserve and elucidate the little-known fine arts heritage of the Mountain State.

A native of Martinsburg, David Hunter Strother (1816-1888) studied painting in New York and Italy before achieving national prominence as a writer and illustrator for Harper’s Monthly during the 1850s. Though he is best remembered for his graphic works, Strother created perhaps as many as 200 paintings during the early part of his career, the vast majority of which are currently unlocated. Painted in 1848, The Bathkeeper descended in the family of the artist. The subject of the painting, Mr. John Davis, was reportedly the keeper of the mineral baths at Berkeley Springs for some forty years during the early and mid-nineteenth century. The Strother family operated a hotel in the town from the 1830s until shortly after the Civil War. The acquisition of The Bathkeeper was funded in part by the Col. Eugene E. and Florence H. Myers Trust.

William Robinson Leigh (1866-1955) also hailed from Berkeley County. Born near Falling Waters in 1866, he too achieved initial fame as a magazine and book illustrator, work-
ing in New York City during the 1890s and early 1900s. In 1906, encouraged by the great American landscape painter Thomas Moran, Leigh joined the artist Albert Groll on a train excursion to New Mexico. Profoundly inspired by the region and its inhabitants, Leigh went on to become one of the leading artistic interpreters of the Old West. Painted in 1905, Two Gentlemen represents a fine example of Leigh's turn of the century illustrative work. The artwork was donated to the West Virginia Historical Art Collection by Harvey D. Peyton of Nitro, Putnam County.

Two Gentlemen, ink wash and watercolor on paper, 1904, by William Robinson Leigh.

**SELECTED RECENT ACCESSIONS**


Genealogical records relating to the Beall and McClure families of Monongalia County, W.Va. including photocopies of genealogical annotations from family bibles.


Operational records on microfilm of the Fourco Glass Company of Clarksburg, W.Va. Included are records documenting work performed by assemblers, packagers, and warehouse storage staff.


The papers of coalfield health clinic administrator George S. Goldstein. Goldstein was executive director from 1956 to 1980 of the Medical Foundation of Bellaire, in Bellaire, Ohio, a neighboring community of Wheeling, W.Va. After a brief retirement, he became executive director of the Russelton Medical Group staffed Miners Clinic of New Kensington in New Kensington, Pa. from 1982 to 1987. Both the Bellaire and the New Kensington facilities were private, nonprofit, community controlled corporations offering a prepaid and salaried group practice of multispecialty physician care and ancillary services. Bellaire and New Kensington along with a few other coalfield clinics were among the earliest HMO facilities in America. Goldstein's tenure at the Medical Foundation of Bellaire coincided with UMWA support for health clinics in coal mining regions. The UMWA, starting in the 1950s, based on its 1946 contract with the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA), became proactive in seeking and establishing measures, including building the Appalachian Regional Hospitals, to make quality medical care available to its members.

Managed by the UMWA Welfare and Retirement Fund, later renamed the Health and Retirement Fund, or more
simply known as the Fund, this effort lasted until 1978 when commercial insurance carriers assumed the role of medical benefits provider. At Bellaire, Goldstein oversaw the expansion of the Bellaire Clinic, including the construction of satellite facilities as well as changes related to its scope of outreach. In the 1960s the Clinic joined the "War on Poverty" by offering service to the poor. In the 1970s it focused on occupational health and safety, in particular caring for black lung disease patients.

Starting in the 1970s Goldstein became an advocate through active participation in the Group Health Association of America for prepaid medical group practices or HMOs. As a part of this advocacy, Goldstein researched the history of the Fund from 1980 until his death in 1996. This culminated in a valuable chapter-length history of the Fund for the John H.M. Laslett edited, 1996 Pennsylvania State University Press release, The United Mine Workers of America: A Model of Industrial Solidarity.

Included among Goldstein’s papers are operational files, manuscripts, correspondence, sound recordings of meetings and interviews, and files on related health care issues.


Correspondence, publications, deeds, certificates and photographs of the Ladwig and Hardway families documenting their personal and professional lives in medicine and teaching, 1870-1959. The collection includes correspondence, appointment and memo books for Dr. Otto Ladwig, MD, as well as correspondence, teaching certificates, and school photos of Colora Hardway Ladwig (Mrs. Otto Ladwig). The Ladwigs lived in Randolph and Harrison counties and were active in itinerant logging communities. Also included are correspondence and photos regarding Cornelia Ladwig’s service in the American Red Cross in Europe during World War II.


Correspondence and papers of artist Blanche Lazzell. Included are Daughters of the American Revolution membership papers and correspondence from Lazzell’s nephew James C. Reed to her residence in Provincetown, Mass. during his service in World War II.


Papers of E. Grant Nine, Principal of Arthurdale School, including correspondence, telegrams, publications, photographs and sound recordings, documenting the development of the public school program at Arthurdale, a New Deal planned community in Preston County, W.Va. Included is correspondence between Nine and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt concerning the conditions and needs of the school.


Papers of J. J. Rutledge, a mineral engineer with the Maryland Bureau of Mines. Included are archives, maps and photographs relating to the Eastern Appalachian coal region, as well as technical pamphlets and monographs on coal (and other minerals) mining published by the U.S. Bureau of Mines, the U.S. Geological Survey and other organizations.
Genealogical research papers on the Alexander Scott Family. The collection consists primarily of photocopies of census and court records, wills, land grants and other notes relating to family genealogy and history from the late 1600s into the nineteenth century. Alexander Scott was the first member of the family to emigrate to America from Scotland, settling in New Jersey in the late seventeenth century. In the eighteenth century the family settled in present-day Grant County, along the South Branch of the Potomac, and later in Monongalia County, where Scott’s Run was eventually named for them. A prominent early family member was Capt. David Scott, who served on the frontier in Lord Dunmore’s War and in the Revolutionary War.

Genealogical and biographical information on the Stone Family of Parkersburg whose most noted members were involved in medicine or sports. Included are notes on the related families of Tracewell and Farnsworth, including Daniel Farnsworth, the founder of Buckhannon, W.Va.

A 34-page transcript of the Civil War diary of Elmore Wilkinson of the W.Va. 15th Volunteer Infantry, Company G for April 3, 1864 to July 7, 1865. The first entry in the diary concerns Wilkinson’s furlough to his home near Parkersburg where the unit had been stationed. From there he recounts the unit’s movements through the Kanawha, Greenbrier, and New River valleys telling of skirmishes, battles, and encounters with Confederate regulars and bushwhackers. The unit is then deployed to campaigns in the Shenandoah Valley with specific mention made of fighting in the Battle of Fisher’s Hill and in the Battle of Cedar Creek. In 1865 the unit participated in the Richmond and Petersburg campaigns often on picket duty near Richmond but in battle at Petersburg. It followed Lee’s army in its rout nearly to Appomattox, where the war ended. Immediately after the war it was deployed near Richmond where it was eventually mustered out. Also included are a list of the company wounded.

McKinleyville Miners. Rutledge Papers.

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