

Selected Sources for Biographical Information about 17th – Early 20th Century American Physicians

1. General Dictionaries, Directories, and Indexes

- *American Medical Directory*. American Medical Association, 1906; 2nd. ed., 1909; 3rd. ed., 1912. A register of legally qualified physicians of the U.S. and Canada. NLM Call Number: W22 AA1 A512
- *Blacks in Science and Medicine*, by Vivian Ovelton Sammons. New York: Hemisphere Pub. Corp., 1990. A biographical directory with career information and bio/bibliographical references. NLM Call Number: W 22 AA1 518b 1990
- *Cleaves Biographical Cyclopaedia of Homoeopathic Physicians and Surgeons*. Philadelphia, Galaxy, 1873. NLM Call Number: WZ 140 AA1 C6b 1873
- *Directory of Deceased American Physicians 1804-1929*. American Medical Association, 1993. Concise biographical sketches with references to obituaries in JAMA. NLM Call Number: W 22 AA1 b56 1993 (2 v.)
- *Dictionary of American Medical Biography: Lives of Eminent Physicians of the United States and Canada, from the Earliest Times*, by Howard A. Kelly and Walter L. Burrage. New York, London, D. Appleton and company, 1928. More than 2,000 North American physicians and surgeons from colonial days to 1927. Published in 1912 as *Cyclopedia of American Medical Biography* and in 1920 as *American Medical Biographies*. Some earlier material dropped in 1928 edition. NLM Call Number: WZ 140 AA1 K2c 1928
- *Dictionary of American Medical Biography*. Martin Kaufman, Stuart Galishoff, Todd L. Savitt, Editors. Greenwood Press, 1984. More than 1,000 personages from the 17th to 20th century, who died prior to 1977. NLM Call Number: PR: WZ 140 AA1 D5 1984 (2 v.)
- *Index-Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office, United States Army (Army Medical Library)*. Washington, GPO, 1880-1955. 55 vols. Comprehensive dictionary catalog of books, pamphlets, dissertations, journal articles. Includes some biographical and obituary articles. NLM Call Number: Z675.M4138
- *Index Medicus 1879-* The standard bibliography of medicine, 1879–1927. Biographical articles and obituaries indexed.

NLM Call Number: ZW 1 I383

- *Medical Obituaries: American Physicians' Biographical Notices in Selected Medical Journals before 1907*. Lisbeth M. Holloway, et al. Garland, 1981.
NLM Call Number: ZWZ 112 H745m 1981
- *The Medical Register and Directory of the United States*, by Samuel W. Butler. Office of the Medical and Surgical Reporter, 1874-77; 2d. ed., 1878. Arranged by state with names of more than 50,000 physicians. Lists medical societies, colleges, hospitals, and medical laws of each state.
NLM Call Number: W 22 AA1 B985m 1874
- *Necrology of Alumni of Harvard College, 1851-52 to 1862-63*, by Joseph Palmer. Boston, Wilson, 1864. *N.B.*: alumni directories are useful sources for biographical information, as are college catalogs.
NLM Call Number: LD P174n 1864.
- *Physicians and Surgeons of America: A Collection of Biographical Sketches of the Regular Medical Profession*. Edited and compiled by Irving A. Watson. Concord, N.H., Republican Press, 1896.
NLM Call Number: WZ 140 AA1 W3p 1896
- *Polk's Medical Register and Directory of the United States and Canada*. (Title varies). Polk, 1886, 1890, 1896. First national directory with an index.
NLM Call Number: W 22 DA2 P769

2. Military Medicine Sources

- *The Army Medical Department*. (vol. 1: 1775-1818; vol. 2: 1818-1865; vol.3: 1865-1917), by Mary C. Gillett. Washington, Center of Military History, 1981, 1987, 1995. Army historical series.
NLM Call Number: UH 223 G479a 1981, 1987, 1995
- *Doctors in Blue: the Medical History of the Union Army in the Civil War*, by George Worthington Adams. LSU Press, 1996.
NLM Call Number: UH 215 AA1 A1d 1952a
- *Doctors in Gray: the Confederate Medical Service*, by Horace Herndon Cunningham. LSU Press, 1958.
NLM Call Number: UH 215 AA1 C9d 1958
- *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army, from Its Organization, September 29, 1789 to March 2, 1903*, by Francis B. Heitman. Pub. under act of Congress approved March 2, 1903. 2 vols. Washington, Govt. print. off., 1903
NLM Call Number: U11 AA1 H4h 1903

- *The Medical Department of the United States Army in the Civil War*, by Captain Louis C. Duncan, Medical corps, U. S. Army. Washington, 1910.
NLM Call Number: UH 215 A2 D9m 1910
- *The Medical and Surgical History of the Civil War* (15 vols.) Broadfoot, 1990. Compiled and published between 1870 and 1883 as the *Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion (1861-65)*. Prepared under the direction of Surgeon General Joseph K. Barnes, United States Army. Washington : G.P.O., 1870-1888. 2 v. in 6.
Barnes was U.S. Army Surgeon General during the war.
NLM Call Number: UH 224 1861/1865 A31870a
- [National Archives. National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records. Veterans of all services during the 20th century and veterans of earlier conflicts.](#)

3. NLM Databases

- [MEDLINE/PubMed](#)
To search for articles about a person, enter last name, initials (optional) and [ps] (personal name as subject) in the query box. For example, for William S. Halsted, enter halsted ws [ps].

For journal articles in the history of medicine that were published after 1964, click Limits on the PubMed homepage and select Subset History of Medicine. For articles published from 1958 through 1965, select Subset OLDMEDLINE for Pre1966.
- [Images from the History of Medicine \(IHM\)](#) Database of images in the NLM's Prints and Photos collection. Includes portraits.
- [IndexCat](#)
The online version of the *Index-Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office*, U.S. Army (61 volumes in 5 series, 1880-1961), IndexCat is a comprehensive subject catalog of books, pamphlets, dissertations, reports, and journal articles published from the 17th-20th century and held by NLM. Researchers will find material in IndexCat that is not in the Library catalog (LocatorPlus).
- [Directory of History of Medicine Collections.](#)
Descriptive and contact information for U.S., Canadian, and overseas history of medicine collections. Free print copy available at History of Medicine Reference Desk.

4. Pictures and Portraits

- Images from the History of Medicine (IHM) (<http://www.ihtm.nlm.nih.gov>) Database of images in the NLM's Prints and Photos collection. Includes portraits.

- Union Catalog of Portraits. A card catalog of historical portraits found in published sources. Located in NLM's History of Medicine Reading Room.

5. Other Sources

- *Bibkit: History of the Health Sciences*, compiled by Stephen J. Greenberg and Patricia E. Gallagher. Medical Library Association, MLA Bibkit #5. A bibliographic resource for librarians and their patrons, Chapter 3, Secondary Sources in the History of the Health Sciences, includes biographical sources. NLM Call Number: ZWZ 40 G798h 2002
- *Morton's Medical Bibliography: An Annotated Check-List of Texts Illustrating the History of Medicine*, 5th edition, edited by Jeremy M. Norton. Sclar Press, 1991. ("Garrison and Morton"). NLM Call Number: ZWB 100 N842m 1991

Prepared by Elizabeth Tunis
History of Medicine Division
National Library of Medicine