

---

## MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHIVIST

Happy New Year and welcome to the new decade. The year 2019 has proven to be a very productive one for the New England Osteopathic Heritage Center (NEOHC). I have enjoyed the opportunities I have had over the past year to speak with many of you and reconnect at either the MOA or ROME conferences. We have expanded our collections through new acquisitions and our oral history project, broadened access through increased holdings in our digital repository, and continued the work of preserving the osteopathic legacy of New England through both digitization and more traditional means.

Last year we were able to continue to grow the NEOHC collections both through generous donations and as well as our oral history project. We received a fabulous collection of rare books from Ralph Thieme, D.O. William Kirmes, D.O., added to the collection records documenting the New England Foundation for Osteopathic Medicine and the New England Osteopathic Assembly. Robert Dow, D.O., and Samuel DiCapua, D.O., generously donated their time to participate in oral history interviews. Oral history interviews are central to the growth of NEOHC collections and the documenting of the osteopathic profession.

Access lies at the heart of what we do at the NEOHC. In today's world, that often means digital access. With that in mind, we have continued to digitize collections and make them available through our digital repository at [dune.une.edu/neohc](http://dune.une.edu/neohc). You can read more about one such collection in the Historical Spotlight section. Digitization also plays a role in our preservation work as well. This year we have digitized nearly 30 VHS cassettes. They include lectures given at UNECOM during the 1980s and 90s as well as interviews and lectures by Anne Wales, D.O. Wales attended the American School of Osteopathy in the mid-1920s and practiced in Rhode Island for nearly seven decades.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported our work over the past year. We look forward to an exciting new year.

*Zachary Enright, M.L.I.S.*  
NEOHC Archivist

---



INNOVATION FOR A HEALTHIER PLANET

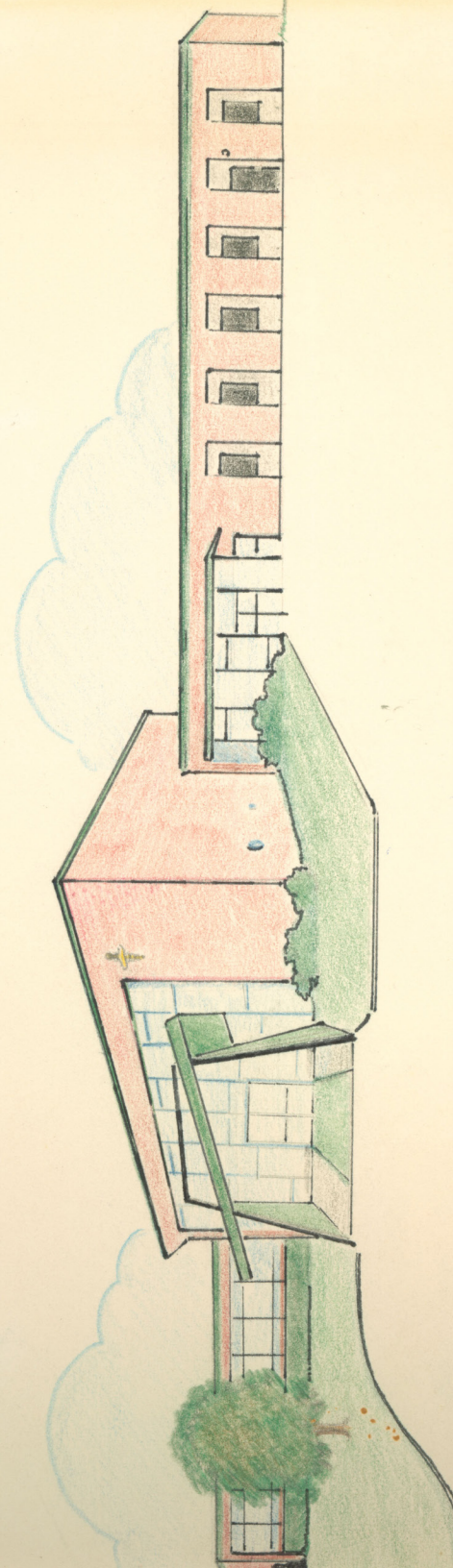
New England Osteopathic Heritage Center

University of New England

11 Hills Beach Road, Biddeford, Maine 04005, U.S.A.

# NEW ENGLAND OSTEOPATHIC HERITAGE CENTER NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2020

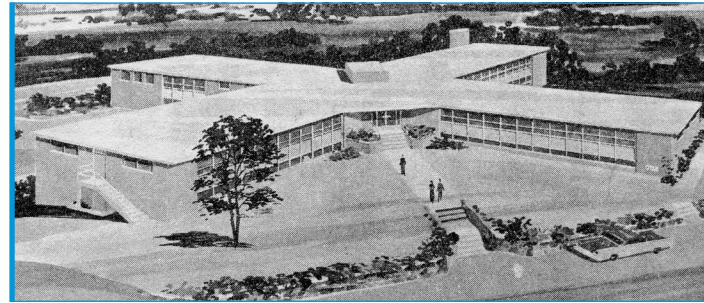
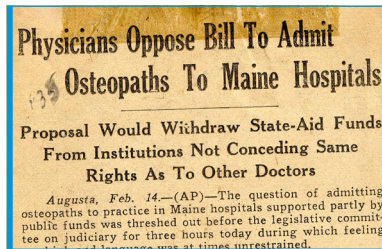


## HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT

### Tri-County Hospital

When osteopaths began to arrive in Maine in the early 20th century, they found a political and legal atmosphere hostile to osteopathy. They were denied licensure by boards dominated by allopathic doctors, denied privileges at hospitals, and threatened with arrest for practicing medicine. Dr. Albert Chittendon and the Maine Osteopathic Association led the legislative fight to escape from under the thumb of the American Medical Association. In

1919 osteopaths secured an independent Board of Examination and Registration, and in 1929 they added surgical and obstetrical privileges. In light of this progress, the AMA threatened any hospital or M.D. working with D.O.s with loss of AMA approval. Without access to laboratories, x-rays, and surgical rooms, the osteopaths had to start their own hospitals. Over the next 20 to 30 years, D.O.s opened hospitals large and small across the state of Maine.



One such hospital was Tri-County Hospital located on Route 1 in Kittery, Maine. The Tri-County Hospital was incorporated in 1956. Over the next three years, a group of 11 D.O.s worked to raise funds and plan for the construction of a new hospital building. These doctors included Edward T. Newell, Scott Perkins, Arvid Lundin, C.B. Robbins, Rudolph Tomes, Verne L. Rice, Thomas MacFarlane, Lawrence Kimball Jr., Andrew Longley, Earl Beasley, and Thomas Allen. The groundbreaking took place on April 26, 1959, and the completed hospital was opened May 1, 1960. The hospital building had several interesting features, including its unusual cross shape with the nursing unit at the center. The hospital also housed a Community Health Center which included an auditorium as well as facilities for eye and dental care.

As is the case with many of the small osteopathic hospitals, very few records remain. Despite our research, we have been unable to even determine when or why the hospital closed. If you have information or records pertaining to Tri-County Hospital, or any of the osteopathic hospitals that have come and gone in New England, we would love to hear from you. To view our collection go to [dune.une.edu/tricounty](http://dune.une.edu/tricounty).



## CONTRIBUTE TO OUR COLLECTIONS

Are you interested in donating to the New England Osteopathic Heritage Center? Do you have papers, photographs, videos, newsletters, or other materials that document the osteopathic profession? Consider donating them to the NEOHC. At the NEOHC we are able to preserve those materials and make them accessible to researchers all over the world.

If you are interested in contributing to the NEOHC but do not have materials of historical value, consider participating in our oral history project. We are looking for D.O.s and those with experience in the osteopathic field of all ages and experiences — from students to the retired.

If you or anyone you know is interested in contributing materials or participating in the oral history project, please contact archivist **Zachary Enright** at [zenright@une.edu](mailto:zenright@une.edu) or (207) 602-2131.

