CONTRIBUTE TO OUR COLLECTIONS

Are you interested in donating to the New England Osteopathic Heritage Center (NEOHC)? 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 doctors of osteopathy and those with experience in the osteopathic field of all ages and experiences — from students to the retired. This can take a variety of forms including journals, essays, videos, and musical performances. Any format that expresses your experience is welcome.

If you or anyone you know is interested in contributing to or participating in the oral history project, or in donating materials to the NEOHC, please contact archivist Zachary Enright, at zenright@une.edu or (207) 221-4324.
Happy New Year from all of us at the New England Osteopathic Heritage Center (NEOHC). The New Year is a time of both reflection on the past and planning for the future in the NEOHC as well as our personal lives. The NEOHC has made steady progress in preserving and providing access to the amazing history of Osteopathy in our region, and we have exciting plans for 2024.

In 2023, we have worked hard to expand our offerings on our digital repository, dune.une.edu/neohc. The process of digitizing physical items is time intensive and requires sustained attention to detail. Over the course of 2023, we have been able to add several collections including the William Kirmes, D.O., collection and the John McPartland, D.O., collection. Kirmes records document the early years of UNE COM, the New England Foundation for Osteopathic Medicine and the New England Osteopathic Association. McPartland’s collection is one of the very few collections we have documenting Osteopathy in Vermont. If you or anyone you know has records documenting the profession in Vermont, or any of the six New England states, that you are looking to donate please don’t hesitate to reach out. We continue to grow our physical collections as well. Over the course of 2023, we have received several donations ranging from a single photograph to several boxes of materials.

In 2023, we’ve not only focused on digitization but also dedicated our efforts to expanding our oral history project, actively preserving and indexing physical collections, participating in the Maine Osteopathic Association conference to make new connections and reestablishing old ones. One of my favorite projects this year was continuing our exhibits focusing on UNE COM founders. This year, we chose to shine a light on Carman Pettapiece, who was an exceptional man, a consummate supporter of the osteopathic profession, in addition to being one of the founders of UNE COM. Read more about him in the Historical Spotlight or check out his digitized scrapbooks at dune.une.edu/pettapiece.

The past year has been an exciting and productive one for the NEOHC and it is our hope that continues into 2024. In the coming year, we will be preparing for COM’s move to the Portland Campus for the Health Sciences by moving the collections to Portland and preparing exhibits. We will also be working with the UNE Featherman Archives staff to develop a digitization lab where student interns and workers can assist with the digitization of NEOHC collections, learn about archival processes, and gain an appreciation for the history of osteopathy in New England.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you who have supported the NEOHC over the years. Your support is essential to our mission to document the history of Osteopathic Medicine in New England.

Thank you and Happy New Year!

—Zachary Enright
NEOHC Archivist

Historical Spotlight
CARMAN PETTAPIECE, D.O.

Milton Carman Pettapiece, D.O., was born November 12, 1908, in North Gower, Ottawa, Canada. He attended the Philadelphia College of Osteopathy (PCO) and graduated in 1932. During his time at PCO, Pettapiece trained under renowned radiologist Paul T. Lloyd, D.O., considered the father of radiology, and met his wife Hilda Ferne Moore. In 1935, Pettapiece moved to Camden, Maine, to join his brother Harry Pettapiece, D.O., a graduate of the Massachusetts College of Osteopathy, at his clinic.

In 1937, Carman Pettapiece moved to Portland, Maine, and was one of the founding staff members of the Osteopathic Hospital of Maine. He worked to help the hospital grow, first from its origins in a residential, Victorian home in Portland, to its permanent home on Brighton Avenue, and later in several expansions to the facility. Pettapiece remained on staff at OHM for 38 years as the head of radiology, retiring in 1975.

Pettapiece was dedicated to the growth of the osteopathic profession as well. In 1941, he was a founding member of the American Osteopathic College of Radiology. He served as president of the Maine Osteopathic Association (MOA) from 1941 to 1942 as well as the MOA historian and helped to preserve the history of the profession in Maine. His dedication to the profession was unwavering. He was appointed to the state osteopathic board and advocated for the acceptance of osteopathic medicine throughout his life.

After his retirement, Pettapiece continued his work developing the profession. He was instrumental in the founding of the UNE College of Osteopathic Medicine and is rumored to be its first donor. He served on the UNE Board of Trustees for 12 years. Pettapiece passed away in 2000.

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