

Extract from article in Boston Sunday Herald of May 14, 1899.
entitled "Boston Doctors of a Century Ago."

" Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse, "the Jenner of America", and the first professor of the theory and practice of medicine at Harvard, was born March 4, 1754, in Newport, R.I. His father, Timothy Waterhouse, was judge of the court of common pleas, and his mother, a niece of the illustrious Dr. John Fothergill of England, founder of the Fothergill medal and course of lectures. Among his fellow students at Newport were Gilbert Stuart, the portrait painter, and Arthur Browne, who became king's professor of Greek at Trinity College, Dublin. In 1775 Dr. Waterhouse sailed for England in the last ship that escaped the interdicted port of Boston, and remained abroad and studied medicine during the whole period of the revolutionary war. He was consigned to the care and direction of his kinsman, Dr. Fothergill of London. He studied in London and Edinburgh for nearly two years, and then went to the university of Leyden, where he entered and completed a full academic course of four years in what was considered the most celebrated medical school in the world.

While Dr. Waterhouse was at Leyden, John Adams, afterwards President, was resident there, trying to secure for his country an alliance with Holland, and the medical student and the statesman came to know each other intimately. In 1782 Dr. Waterhouse returned to Newport, where he took the practice of a former teacher, Dr. Halliburton, who had been a royalist, and had removed to Halifax. In 1783 he was invited to come to Cambridge and assist in establishing the Harvard medical school. He accepted and held the chair of theory and practice for 29 years, until he was succeeded by Dr. James Jackson in 1812. Dr. Waterhouse's greatest contribution to medical science was his introduction of vaccination. His friends in England sent him an early

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copy of Dr.Jenner's article on vaccination, and he introduced the matter to the attention of Boston people by a communication to the Columbian Sentinal. Soon afterward Dr.Waterhouse went to England and became Jenner's pupil. When he returned to this country he proceeded to vaccinate his four children and several of his servants to show his faith in the virus. He invited all the leading physicians of Boston out to Cambridge to see the first smallpox postules ever raised in the new world. The children were afterwards exposed to smallpox without harm at Dr.Aspinwall's hospital in Brookline. "

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
IN SENATE
JANUARY 1877
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th inst. in relation to the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

Very respectfully,
J. M. McKim

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

RECEIVED
JAN 15 1877

YALE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

333 CEDAR STREET · NEW HAVEN CT · CONNECTICUT

APR 12 1955

Department of the History of Medicine
Historical Library

April 11, 1955

Dear Miss Holt:

I wish to thank you again for your kindness and courtesy in showing me the Waterhouse material in the Harvard Medical School Library.

At the same time, I wonder if I might have official permission to publish or to cite the copies of Waterhouse's letters to Dr. James Tilton, dated Cambridge, 24 March 1815; to John Warren and to the Massachusetts Medical Society, dated Cambridge, 28 September 1806; and to Major Daniel Jackson, dated 2 April 1803 (this last is in the Place Book).

With my best regards,

Sincerely yours,

John B. Blake
John B. Blake

Miss Anna C. Holt
Harvard Medical School Library
25 Shattuck Street
Boston 15, Massachusetts

*Mrs. Southworth
7 Waterhouse St
Cambr 38*

Ki 7-0330

1967-m-918-947

13 April, 1955

Mr. John B. Blake,
Historical Library,
Yale Medical Library,
333 Cedar Street,
New Haven 11, Connecticut.

Dear Mr. Blake:-

It was a pleasure to have you visit the Library last week and delve into the Waterhouse material.

I have cleared with the Archives Department of the University about the use of the material for your purpose and also with the great-great-granddaughter, Mrs. Southworth Lancaster, because of the copyright clause. She is most interested and readily gave her consent for you to make use of the letters etc. Mrs. Lancaster asked if you will be good enough to send her a copy of the publication when it appears, provided it is not too expensive a volume. If it is she will be glad to come to our Library and see it.

Mrs. Lancaster's address is 7 Waterhouse Street, Cambridge 38, Mass. She lives in the old Waterhouse house facing the Cambridge Common.

With best wishes to your Waterhouse undertaking and hoping you will call here again to use the Library,

Sincerely yours,

Anna C. Holt,
Librarian

Sesquicentenary
of the
Professorship of Theory and Practice of Physic at Harvard
(December 24, 1782 - December 24, 1932)

Benjamin Waterhouse (1782-1812), James Jackson (1812-1836), John Ware
(1836-1859), George C. Shattuck (1859-1873), Francis Minot (1873-1891),
R. H. Fitz (1892-1908), Henry A. Christian (1908-).

Anniversary Meeting in Building D, Harvard Medical School
at 8:15 P.M. December 20, 1932.

Programme

1. Benjamin Waterhouse and the Introduction of Vaccination into America.
By his great-great-granddaughter, Margaret Thayer Lancaster.
2. James Jackson as a Professor of Medicine. By his great-grandson,
George R. Minot, A.B., M.D., S.D., Professor of Medicine.
3. John Ware, the Family Physician. By his grandson, Robert M. Green,
A.B., M.D., Assistant Professor of Applied Anatomy.
4. George Cheyne Shattuck and his Medical Contributions. By his grandson,
George Cheever Shattuck, M.D., A.M., Assistant Professor of Tropical
Medicine.
5. Francis Minot and Hemorrhage in the Newborn. By his grandson, Francis
Minot Rackemann, A.B., M.D., Instructor in Medicine.
6. Reginald Heber Fitz and Appendicitis. By his son, Reginald Fitz, A.B.,
M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine.

Henry A. Christian, A.M., M.D., LL.D., S.D.

Hersey Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic
Presiding.

By JOHN HARRISON, Esq. of the Middle Temple, Barrister at Law.

Printed by J. HARRISON, at the Sign of the Sun in Pall-mall.

1726.

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1726.

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