

The original documents are located in Box 9, folder “Walker, Dr. Mary – Congressional - Medal of Honor, 1974 – 77” of the Bobbie Greene Kilberg Files, 1974 – 77 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

3/9/76

Bobbie,

Mr. B would like you to
handle.

Thanks.

shirley





THE NEWS

NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER

*Do. Bobbie
to handle*

5 March 1976

Phillip R. Buchen, Esq.
Law Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.



Dear Mr. Buchen:

Enclosed is a tearsheet of a story on Dr. Mary Edwards Walker which may be of interest to you.

Although I don't know of any legal implications which will ever arise concerning this case, I thought you might like to be made aware of it.

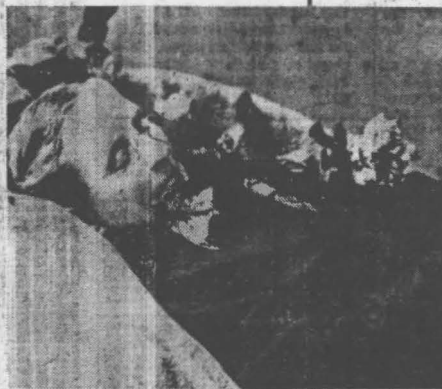
Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Brenda Stacks



Anne Walker (above left) holds replica of her great grandaunt's Congressional Medal of Honor which she wants re-instated. When asked to return it, Dr. Mary Edwards Walker refused.



The story of a liberationist

One hundred years ago, she wore pants suits, joined the army, and fought for her rights. And her Medal of Honor.

By BRENDA WOODS

Incredibly few Americans have ever heard of her. Yet Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, an Army surgeon during the Civil War, is the only woman ever to receive the nation's highest award for valor, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Even more incredibly, Dr. Walker's medal was revoked 50 years after it was bestowed, when she had reached 85. Indeed, her life story reads like a novel, well-sprinkled with scenes of tragedy.

Born in Oswego, N.Y. on Nov. 26, 1832, Mary Walker could rightfully be described as a "pretty young woman from upstate who taught school." However, she broke out of that mold when she graduated from Syracuse Medical College in 1855, and became a doctor.

She married another physician, who permitted her to put his name in the middle of hers and to practice under her own name in Rome, N.Y.

Perhaps her wedding ceremony gave the first clue to Dr. Walker's fiercely independent nature. Not only did she insist upon retaining her maiden name, but she had the word "obey" stricken from the marriage ceremony, and wore pantaloons as part of her wedding attire, because she deplored American women's slavery to fashions unsuited to their lifestyles.

Made attire her trademark

Her marriage lasted about four months, and she eventually divorced her husband. Devoted to her medical practice, she became a familiar sight walking alone dressed smartly in pants suits. Wearing male attire became her trademark, and her outspoken views as a feminist, urging women's suffrage and other reforms, classed her as a rebel with many causes.

At the beginning of the Civil War she offered her services to the Union Army. She worked untiringly attending the sick and wounded. She was even taken prisoner by the Confederates, and spent four months in notorious Libby Prison, from which she was released in exchange for a Dr. Lightfoot of Tennessee, a male of similar rank.

In 1864, she was commissioned assistant surgeon, the first woman to have such a commission.

On Nov. 11, 1865, Dr. Walker was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Andrew Johnson. She wore it proudly. The citation accompanying the medal

read, in part, that she "has devoted herself with much patriotic zeal to the sick and wounded soldiers, in the field and hospitals, to the detriment of her own health, and also endured hardships as a prisoner of war four months in a Southern prison, while acting as a contract surgeon."

When the war was over, Dr. Walker continued her medical practice, and took up the cudgels for the women's rights movement with a vengeance. She wrote two best-selling books, which could pass as present-day manuals, so modern were they in the reforms she urged.

Anti-tobacco battle

On her own, she waged a battle against the use of tobacco. Her approach to the problem was direct and immediate. She would step up to the offending male smoker, and knock the pipe or cigar from his mouth with a tightly rolled up umbrella she carried especially for that purpose.

Although Dr. Walker was aware that she was considered an eccentric, she was aghast when, on Feb. 15, 1917, her name, along with 911 others was stricken from the lists of those entitled to wear the medal of honor.

Reviewed by a special board of officers appointed by Secretary of War Newton Baker, the reasons cited for rescinding the medals were that "nothing had been found in the records to show the specific act or acts for which the decoration was originally awarded."

Dr. Walker's response to the Army's request to return the medal was: "Over my dead body." She wore the medal to the day she died. And after. (See picture above).

Another setback occurred when her yearly government pension was inadvertently paid to a woman sculptress instead, a mistake which was never rectified.

On Feb. 19, 1919, Dr. Walker died alone, lonely and indigent after a fall on the Capitol steps. (She had gone there to get Congress to restore her medal). She had worn the medal triumphantly on lecture tours throughout England, France and America during the last years of her life.

But the story of Dr. Walker is not yet finished. Her great grandniece Anne Walker of Washington, D.C., is seeking legal restoration of the medal to Dr. Walker. The medal can be reinstated by a special act of Congress.

Miss Walker, a science-medical writer by profes-

sion, is currently writing a book about her great grandaunt entitled "Mary's Lost Medal of Honor." Miss Walker recalls that although she had always "been aware of Aunt Mary being in the family," it was not until she started writing a book about American women in medicine, and found Dr. Walker to be among the most interesting of them, that she decided to work on the restoration of the medal.

Her research has led her to have definite opinions on the reasons the medal was revoked. "I can't help but feel that her role as a suffragette at that time had something to do with the revocation. She was a woman 100 years ahead of her time, and she was of course, resented and ridiculed by many."

What bothers Miss Walker now is the apparent refusal of the Army even to review Dr. Walker's case. Miss Walker's requests to meet with the Surgeon General of the Army continue to fall on deaf ears. (This reporter's request in writing to his office asking for his opinion on the case of Dr. Walker remains unanswered).

Of this impasse: Miss Walker says: "I think this is a sad way to treat one of our great heroines. This is a time when the U.S. is sadly in need of heroes, and for Dr. Walker's story not to be told especially to the young people of this country, is deplorable."

Not discouraged

Miss Walker, who is currently living in the Carnegie House in the Georgetown area of Washington, D.C. where Dr. Walker lived and posted her horse during the days when she worked at the Colonial Hospital, refuses to become discouraged about the difficulties she's encountered in reopening the case.

"If anyone exerted themselves on Dr. Walker's behalf as she exerted herself on the behalf of others, the issue of revocation would never have arisen, and Dr. Walker would have enjoyed her special destiny."

The Army still has an opportunity to right the wrong it did to Dr. Mary Edwards Walker. It could reopen her case, and reevaluate her many contributions to the war. And to humanity.

Miss Walker's photo by Stan Jennings; Dr. Walker's death portrait, Oswego County Historical Society Collection; Dr. Walker in Civil War uniform (with pants), the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Md.

Feminist's Medal of Honor at Stake

By Warren Brown

Washington Post Staff Writer

Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, a 19th century feminist and the only woman to ever have been awarded the Medal of Honor, seems destined to remain controversial—even in death.

Dr. Walker received the nation's highest military honor from President Andrew Johnson on Nov. 11, 1865, because of her work as a surgeon during the Civil War. Fifty-three years later—shortly before her death at 86—the honor was revoked by congressional action.

Now, Dr. Walker's great-grandniece, Anne Walker of Washington, has mounted a campaign to restore the award to her ancestor on the ground that its revocation was the product of sex bias.

Anne Walker's crusade is gaining momentum.

- Rep. Peter A. Peyser (R-N.Y.) is preparing a resolution asking Congress to restore the Medal of Honor citation to Dr. Walker.

- The Senate Veteran Affairs Committee is conducting an investigation to "see if restoration of the medal is possible," according to a Committee aide.

- The New York State Senate has approved a resolution asking Congress to reinstate Dr. Walker—born in Oswego, N.Y.—among the ranks of Medal of Honor recipients.

Dr. Walker has not always enjoyed so much popular support.

"She irritated people because of her espousal of women's rights at a time when women were kept in petticoats," said Anne Walker. "She irritated people because of her opposition to smoking, drinking, and other things she perceived as the vices of the day," the grandniece added.

Dr. Walker's entree into medical practice did not alleviate ill-feeling toward her—nor did her penchant for wearing male attire.

In 1855, at the age of 22, she graduated from Syracuse, N.Y., Medical College, the only woman in her class. Seven



Dr. Mary Walker, wearing Congressional Medal of Honor.



MEDALS, From C1

years later, she joined the Union Army as an unsalaried physician.

Dr. Walker's tenure in the military, according to available written accounts, was marked by harassment from her male counterparts, four-month's imprisonment by the Confederate army, and "untiring" service on the field of duty.

It was for that service that President Lincoln recommended her for the Medal of Honor shortly before his death. President Johnson endorsed Lincoln's recommendation and presented the award to her "for bravery and valuable services in the field."

But a military panel—The Adverse Action Medal of

Honor Board—ruled on Feb. 15, 1917, that there was insufficient reason indicated in the available record to warrant the presentation of the medal to Dr. Walker.

The board's action also stripped 910 other Civil War era recipients of the medal, the first of which was awarded in 1862.

Jerry White, national director of the New York-based Medal of Honor Historical Roundtable—a non-profit group engaged in documenting the achievements of Medal of Honor winners—said in an interview yesterday said that in most cases the revocations appeared justified.

White said the guidelines were rewritten so that "only a man with a gun in his

hand, engaged in combat against the enemy, is considered eligible for this award."

Anne Walker maintains these guidelines are discriminatory.

"What that means is that women are no longer eligible for the medal because there are no women in combat," she said. "It's also a pile of crap because there are men like Charles Lindbergh, who got the medal without picking up a gun. It's just ridiculous," she said.

Dr. Walker refused to return the medal to the government, even though she was stripped of the right to hold it. The medal, itself, is now in the possession of the Oswego County (N.Y.) Historical Society.

~~SECRET~~
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: *Bobbie*

FROM: *Karen*

For your information ✓

For appropriate handling

Per your request

Remarks:

Niece Appeals to Congress

Can Woman Doctor Regain Her Medal?

By Rebecca Leet

Washington Star Staff Writer

A movement is afoot in Congress to return the Congressional Medal of Honor to a Civil War Union Army doctor who was the only woman ever to be awarded the nation's highest medal for valor.

Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, a pants-wearing, outspoken women's rights activist, had her medal revoked by a panel of five retired Army generals in 1917. About the same time, the qualifications for Medal of Honor recipients were changed so that only males could receive it, her grandniece said at a press conference on Capitol Hill yesterday.

DR. WALKER, the first woman commissioned as an Army doctor and the only woman to serve as a Union Army physician during the Civil War, was recommended for the honor by President Abraham Lincoln and awarded the medal by President Andrew Johnson.

She was awarded it for her work in treating Union soldiers in the field, including the battles of Bull Run and Gettysburg, and in a Confederate prison, where she was held for four months after being captured in 1865.

At the request of Congress, a panel in 1917 re-

viewed the cases of all Medal of Honor winners, and rescinded the medals of Walker and 910 other honorees, most of them the members of one Army regiment who had received the medal for merely enlisting.

Anne Walker, the doctor's grandniece and a Washington freelance writer who has spearheaded the fight to see her grandaunt vindicated, speculated yesterday that the real reason behind the revocation was her aunt's sex and her outspoken views on suffrage, abortion, women's rights and other controversial subjects.

SHE APPEARED at the press conference with Rep. Peter Peyser, R-N.Y., who yesterday introduced a resolution to have the medal restored to Dr. Walker. Rep. Robert McEwen, R-N.Y., has introduced a similar resolution.

If Congress passes either resolution, the next step would for the President to file a request with the Pentagon's Board for the Correction of Military Records.

Although the medal was revoked, Dr. Walker never returned it as instructed to do by the panel. It is now held by the Oswego (N.Y.) Historical Society. She was born and died in Oswego.



May 1, 1976

Barbara Kilberg, Esquiress
Associate General Counsel
The White House
Suite 106
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D. C., 20500



Re: "Dr. Mary's Lost Medal of Honor"

Dear Attorney Kilberg:

Perhaps, you checked the AP White House person for the photos and articles circulated by AP from the Peter A. Peyser press conference! It is a very good story and series of photos, only a precis of it appears on page A-8 of today's Washington Post.

How may I be able to meet with President Gerald R. Ford on this matter and even perhaps enjoy as well a meeting with Mrs. Ford?

Yes, I must now apply for some funds to help me live while finishing the 'campaign' - unless, I have the opportunity of a press aide's job re: health and medicine in, for example, the President's campaign for re-election.

I am destitute without funds and have already expended a total of fourteen thousand dollars just to get the whole move this far. Hence, I have now depleted savings, etc., and need to recoup.

I fail to understand why the Nancy Hanks people could not give something to me, they gave Erica Jong over \$100, 000. for a questionable value towards either the arts or humanities from 'Fear of Flying'.

While, this is clearly history and in the interests of women-science- culture-education, etc., why have I been so coldly refused by the Bicentennial people..they have done nothing for science and/or medicine or women as a people!

Cordially,


Anne Walker

enclosure: 1

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
Presidential Libraries Transfer/Disposal Sheet

ITEM ID 00178

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| DESCRIPTION OF ITEM MOVED | One 8" x 10" black and white photograph, made from an illustration in the book "Deeds of Valor" published in 1905, of Dr. Mary Walker treating a wounded soldier. |
| COLLECTION/SERIES/FOLDER ID | 023400108 |
| COLLECTION TITLE | Bobbie Greene Kilberg Files |
| BOX NUMBER | 9 |
| FOLDER TITLE | Walker, Dr. Mary - Congressional Medal of Honor |
| ACCESSION NUMBER | 70-NLF-113 |
| MOVEMENT DATE | 01/07/1991 |
| TYPE OF MATERIAL | Photographs |
| NEW LOCATION | Audiovisual Collection |
| ARCHIVIST'S | William H. McNitt |

MARY E. WALKER, M. D.

FEBRUARY 21, 1888.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. O'NEALL, of Indiana, from the Committee on War Claims, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 4265.]

The Committee on War Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4265) for the relief of Mary E. Walker, M. D., report as follows:

The facts out of which this bill for relief arises will be found stated in House report from the Committee on War Claims of the Forty-ninth Congress, a copy of which is hereto appended and made a part of this report.

Your committee adopt the said report as their own, and report back the bill, and recommend its passage, with the following amendment:

In line 8 strike out the words "ten thousand" and insert in lieu thereof the words "two thousand."

[House report No. 4150, Forty-ninth Congress, second session.]

The Committee on War Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5086) for the relief of Dr. Mary E. Walker, submit the following report:

The Committee find the facts to be as stated in House report No. 820, first session Forty-fourth Congress, which report is hereto annexed and made a part of this report, and is as follows:

That they find the facts are as found in a report from the Committee on War Claims of the Forty-third Congress, which report is as follows:

"That Dr. Walker claims that she practiced medicine in the State of New York prior to the breaking out of the war of the rebellion; that soon after the commencement of the war she volunteered her services to take care of the sick, wounded, and disabled soldiers of the United States, and the Army had the benefit of her labors and her skill, and seemed to hold them in high esteem.

"She served as an assistant surgeon in the hospital in November and December, 1861, and received commendation from the surgeon in charge as 'an intelligent and judicious physician.' She served in hospitals in the field, in the manner mentioned, through the war, except such period of time as she was a prisoner under the Confederate authority.

"In April, 1864, she was taken prisoner, and remained such prisoner for about four months. She complains and insists that by reason of her exposure incident to the hardships of campaigns, she has suffered in her general health, and also in an atrophy of the optic nerves, which has impaired her powers of endurance, and has to a great extent deprived her of the power to earn her livelihood.

"She has submitted papers to the committee from General Thomas, General Whipple, and Surgeon-General Barnes, which show various positions held by her.



"She was for a part of the time a contract-surgeon under the Government of the United States, and received pay from August 6, 1864, to June 12, 1865.

"The services of women as nurses in hospitals and in attendance upon the sick and wounded in the field were of the highest value to the Army of the United States, encouraging the depressed, dressing the wounds of the combatants, and assuaging the fevers engendered by hardships and exposures. The Government and people of the United States should always hold in high esteem such services, and the inhabitants of those States which were loyal to the Union cannot, in justice to the cause which was so dear to them, fail to render appropriate rewards to such ministers in times of distress.

"The claimant acted in the capacity of a female physician, and, when officially recognized by the Government, was so treated."

The committee concur with the committee of the last House in recommending the payment to the claimant of the sum of \$2,000 for the services rendered by her during the late war, but the allowance in this case is exceptional and is not to be considered a precedent. They therefore report the accompanying substitute for the original bill, and recommend its passage.

Your committee therefore adopt said House report as the report of this committee, and report a substitute for said House bill, and recommend that it do pass.

Dr. Mary E. Walker

(Paper Given Before Oswego County Historical Society By Fred P. Wright, Oswego, N. Y., on May 19, 1953)

Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, born Nov. 26, 1832-died Feb. 21, 1919, physician, woman's rights advocate, dress reformer, author and lecturer was born in Oswego Town, Oswego County, N. Y., in what is styled Bunker Hill District. She was the daughter of Alvah and Vesta (Whitcomb) Walker early settlers. Among her ancestors was the "Widow Walker" one of the early settlers of Plymouth Colony who came to America before 1643. Dr. Walker took great pride in holding membership in Daughters of the American Revolution.

Her father was a farmer and teacher. He died April 9, 1880, leaving a wife, four daughters and one son. Her mother died April 26, 1886. Their funerals were held in the school house at Bunker Hill. The sermon was delivered by their son, Alvah, and consisted of a tribute to them as good parents and exemplary moral characters. These sermons can be found in the files of Oswego newspapers.

This son, Alvah, was a talented workman, a cabinet maker, and a magician of ability. Also a ventriloquist. Our Edgar Bergen and his Charles McCarthy of today's radio fame, had nothing on Alvah Walker. He constructed all of his talking dolls and all characters used in his famous "Punch & Judy Shows" which was a part of every performance. During Winter months he traveled around Northern & Central New York, putting on shows in school houses, which were received with great enthusiasm. Joseph Hibbard, a G. A. R. man from Bunker Hill, was his assistant. Alvah was a

Civil War soldier. He was a great admirer and believer in the teachings of the great agnostic Robert Ingersoll.

Alvah erected a monument in Rural Cemetery on which he carved his challenge to Almighty God and His plan of salvation:

"I want no fountain filled with blood,

Drawn from Emmanuel's veins.

I want a heart that's pure and good,

And free from guilty stains."

He claimed possession of powers by which he could do things seemingly impossible. Mr. Morris P. Pierce, owner of Rural Cemetery, a man of strict honor and veracity, told me it was known and an accepted fact, that Alvah Walker cursed an apple tree, and it never again bore fruit.

A sister, Mrs. Randolph Worden, lived on West Fifth Street Road. A sister, Mrs. Wickham Griswold, in Scriba, and a sister, Mrs. Aurora (Walker) Coats, was wife of Lyman Coats.

Dr. Walker, when a young lady, taught in the public schools. She taught district school at Minetto and Fanny Huntington, who became wife of James A. Griffin, was one of her pupils. Mrs. Lavina Tovey told me her mother was also a pupil there. They both said that at that time their teacher was handsome. She had an ambition to study medicine and in spite of the prejudices which the public had against women being in any profession except teaching, she completed her studies and graduated from Syracuse Medical College, as a phy-

sician, 1855. She practiced in Columbus, Ohio, later in Rome, N. Y. In those days services of a woman doctor were not in much demand.

Dr. Walker married Dr. Albert E. Miller of Virgil, Cortland County, N. Y. It seems they lived together only a short time. One of Dr. Walker's ideas was that the bride upon marriage did not take her husband's surname, but retained her maiden name. Therefore she was as before Dr. Mary E. Walker. She advocated that if children were born the child should have the choice of taking either the father's surname, or the mother's surname.

More people know of Dr. Walker because she wore men's clothing, than for any other reason. This was not her original idea as many seem to think. My mother told me that in the 40's and 50's it was a style that swept across the country. Girls and young ladies wore a short knee length skirt. Beneath this were trousers that extended to the ankles. These were called "Pantalettes".

In 1851 Elizabeth (Smith) Miller, daughter of Gerritt Smith, created great interest in Washington, D. C., by appearing in public dressed in knee length skirt, with baggy trousers, caught tight at the ankles. The wearer was a champion of Woman's Rights, a friend of Susan B. Anthony; Mrs. Elizabeth Stanton; Lucy Stone; Dr. Harriet M. Austin; Dr. Walker and others. She visited at Seneca Falls, N. Y., her friend, Mrs. Amelia (Jenks) Bloomer, wife of Dexter Bloomer, newspaper editor there. Mrs. Bloomer started a paper of her own called "The Lily", devoted to Temperance and Woman's Rights. She championed the cause of this new attire in "The Lily". It excited great interest throughout the U. S. and was the butt of much ridicule in newspapers and magazines. From the name of the editor of "The Lily", Mrs.

Bloomer, came the name "Bloomerites" applied to those who wore this costume, which included Dr. Walker.

Hoodums on the streets viewing ladies in this attire used to sing:

"Heigh Ho, in rain or snow,

Bloomers now are all the go.

Twenty tailors take the stitches,
Twenty women wear the breeches,

"Heigh Ho, in rain or snow,

Bloomers now are all the go."

Most of the "Bloomerites" dropped this style as they grew older and retired by age from being active.

Dr. Walker always wore male attire and advocated dress reforms arguing that men's clothing was more practical, more comfortable and more healthful. The weight of clothing being placed upon the shoulders, and removed from the hips and around the waist.

During the Civil War with the Union Army she wore men's attire, blouse, trousers, felt hat, with her hair long and in curls, so that all might know that she was a woman.

Following the war at social functions she was truly a person to attract attention in her faultless full evening male attire, wearing white gloves and her medal. On the street wearing a silk hat. At other times a felt hat, in Summer a straw hat. In Winter an overcoat, reinforced with a mink fur cape and carrying an umbrella to use as a walking stick, she was a familiar figure not only in Oswego, but in Albany, New York, Washington, D. C., and throughout the United States.

Many writers have stated she wore men's clothing by permission especially given to her by Act of Congress. Hon. Frances D. Culkin, M. C. from Oswego, had extensive search made. No such Act of Congress is on record. In wearing men's clothing, though a



woman, she often got into difficulties with police in various cities. Being always able to identify herself and produce papers to prove it, she got away with it.

There was never anything much that Dr. Walker ever attempted, that she did not get away with. She had supreme confidence in herself. In her ability regardless of anything or anybody, to do what she wanted to do—to go where she wanted to go—to see those she wanted to see (even presidents)—to say what she wanted to say—to write what she wanted to write—and have it published.

Civil War Services

Dr. Walker went to Washington, D. C., to offer her services to the government. Being a woman she could not be given a commission in the U. S. Army. Our Oswego Historical Society files show that we have Dr. Walker's appointment as surgeon written and signed by Abraham Lincoln, President. On its back was written Lincoln's comments, as to the considerations that led him to make the appointment. During the preparation of this address I have been unable through our curator to locate this paper.

Dr. Walker's official letter book from Feb. 21 to Sept. 15, 1861, is in the Confederate States of America material in Mss. Div. Library of Congress.

With our government entirely unprepared for war; the city of Washington itself entirely undefended when war began; with no hospitals ready to care for the thousands of wounded soldiers; no good stock of medical supplies; no sufficient personnel, of surgeons and nurses; records such as we seek today are hard to find in archives of the War Dept.

Through courtesy of Charles E. Van Wie, Oswego, N. Y., I was granted permission to copy and

release in this address an autograph letter signed by Dr. Walker and written to her parents dated November 13, 1861. She then being second in charge of Indiana Hospital, which was using an emergency location in part of the Patent Office Building.

Also I thank Mr. Van Wie for the original autographed poem of Dr. Walker which I will share with you.

We have official records of our government by two Major Generals Sherman and Thomas, that Dr. Walker had served the sick and wounded both in the field and in hospitals.

INDIANA HOSPITAL PATENT OFFICE

Washington, D. C.,
November 13, 1861.

Dear Brother & Sister:

Yours received a few days since, mailed from Rome. I suppose you all expected me to go to war and I thought it would be too cruel to disappoint you, and have accordingly made my way to "Dixie Land".

I have been over to Virginia several times, and in several places. I went to Alexandria in a small steam boat which leaves Washington every half hour and arrives in Alexandria in about the same length of time.

The city is built of brick and looks quite desolate, as nearly all of the wealthy people have gone farther South since the trouble commenced.

But few people are seen in the streets. I went to Camp Williams which is two and a half miles from Alexandria. As far as the eye can reach it was one connected city of tents up and down the Potomac. I have also been to Arlington Heights which you have read so much about. It is about two and a half miles from Washington and a most delightful view of this city can be had at that point.

We go across the Potomac on

what is called Long Bridge. It is one and a fourth miles in length and is not a suspension bridge, although but a little way below it, the largest crafts sail.

I have also been across chain bridge which is several miles up the river. It is about a half mile long, I should think, but do not know the exact distance.

It is not in reality a chain bride now, but it was several years since and hence the name.

I am Assistant Physician and Surgeon in this hospital. We have about eighty patients now. We have five very nice lady nurses, and a number of gentlemen nurses. We have several cooks and a dispenser to put up and prepare the medicine after our orders.

Every soul in the hospital has to abide by my orders as much as though Dr. Green gave them. And not a soldier can go out of the building after stated hours, without a pass from him or myself. This building is a fine one built on white marble and has marble floors, slate colored, and white thin blocks about two feet square.

It is warmed with hot air and well lighted with gas that burns all night. You would be delighted to go through it and see the thousands of every kind of patent, from patent medicines, and frames for peas to run on, to steamboats and engines. The saddle and bridle, sword, and coat and shirt-pants and teaboard and tea kettle and chair and various things that General George Washington owned, are here.

There are a thousand things that I shall have to tell you when I see you, but I cannot write more now.

I hear that Mary is to spend the Fall and Winter with her mother. Give her my love and tell her to write to me.

Give Mother Coates my love also, and all others who inquire.

You may have my hair cloth coat for Vesta L. It will be good

for her if it is newly lined. Tell Vesta L. that she must write to me. I wish you would hang my clothes up in the closet at home. Tell Ma that she can use anything she wishes to that belongs to me, if she will use it herself.

There are several pairs of woolen stockings that she can wear. No one is to be allowed to read any of my written matter or letters.

I wish that to be very distinctly understood, as there is nothing that in any way concerns any of you.

I received a letter from home remailed from Rome. Tell Ma I am not coming home until she can afford to keep a parlor for me. Nothing makes me so out of all patience, as to think that she will persist in every little while having a bed in the front room.

I knew she had it all tore up before I wrote, for I always dreamed about that matter every time she does it.

And if I never went there again or never expected to, it would annoy me exceedingly.

Yours in haste,
DR. M. E. WALKER

Charles W. Griswold of Oswego, nephew of Dr. Walker, told me she was in full charge of a large hospital for wounded Union soldiers. He went South and was employed as an orderly in her hospital.

Under date of March 2, 1937, to Hon. Francis D. Culkin, M. C., we have official records of U. S. War Dept. as follows:

"No record has been found of the active services performed by Mary E. Walker prior to her appointment October 5, 1864. However there is on file a letter of Mary E. Walker of Atlanta, Georgia, dated September 14, 1864, in which she sets forth that she had been serving with the Army for the last three years in various capacities in the treatment of sick and wounded soldiers, female persons, etc., in



which letter she requested an appointment or commission as a medical officer in the Army.

On Aug. 20, 1864, Major General Thomas, Commanding the Department of Cumberland, reported by telegraph that Mary E. Walker went to Chattanooga the previous Winter, and had a letter from the Assistant Surgeon General Wood recommending her for appointment in the hospital. She asked to be sent to the 52d Ohio Volunteers so that she might have a chance to get through the lines and get information of the enemy. On Aug. 23, 1864, Maj. Gen. Thomas forwarded by telegraph a copy of the order of Maj. Gen. D. McCook, assigning Mary E. Walker to the 52d Ohio Infantry and recommended that she be paid as contract physician from March 11, 1864, to Aug. 23, 1864. These telegrams were forwarded to this Dept. for an opinion and recommendation and were returned with the statement that she never received any contract as acting assistant surgeon, but her appointment was purely nominal to enable her to gain information from the enemy. On Aug. 25, 1864 the above telegrams were returned, to this Dept. with an endorsement that the Sec. of War direct that Mary E. Walker be paid as a contract surgeon. It appears that this recommendation was approved and she was paid \$436.36. No further record prior to her appointment in Oct. 1864 has been found.

The records show that Mary Edwards Walker entered into a contract Oct. 5, 1864 as acting assistant surgeon United States Army and this contract was terminated at her own request June 15, 1865. It is also shown by the records that she was on duty as a contract surgeon from March 11, 1864 to Aug. 23, 1864 and from Sept. 22, to October 4, 1864.

Attested—E. T. Conley,
Major General
The Adjutant General.

From Oswego Commercial Times Sept. 15, 1864:

"Dr. Mary E. Walker who was captured in front of Chattanooga some months ago and taken to Richmond and confined as a prisoner of war, and who recently was exchanged, passed through Louisville the other day enroute for Sherman's front. Her object to visit her old brigade Col. Dan McCook's; to settle her business; obtain her trunk and bid adieu to the Army. She will make a tour through the States and lecture on her experiences "Down In Dixie."

(Copy of original Executive Order custody of our Society.)

EXECUTIVE ORDER

WHEREAS, it appears from Official Reports that DR. MARY E. WALKER graduate of Medicine, of the Medical School at Syracuse, N. Y., has rendered valuable services to the Government, and her efforts have been earnest and untiring in a variety of ways, and that she was assigned to duty and served as an Assistant Surgeon in charge of female prisoners at Louisville, Kentucky—and upon the recommendations of Generals Thomas and Sherman; and faithfully served as a contract surgeon in the service of the United States and has devoted herself with patriotic zeal to the relief of our sick and wounded soldiers, both in the field and hospital to the detriment of her own health and has also endured hardships as a prisoner of war, four months in a Southern prison, while acting as a Contract Surgeon and—

WHEREAS, by reason of her not being a commissioned officer, in the military service, a brevet or honorary rank cannot be conferred upon her and;

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the PRESIDENT, an honorable recognition of her services and sufferings should be made,—

IT IS ORDERED

That a suitable testimonial

thereof shall be made and given to the said DOCTOR MARY E. WALKER, and that the usual medal of honor for meritorious services be given to her.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, D. C. THIS ELEVENTH DAY OF NOVEMBER A. D. 1865.

ANDREW JOHNSON
PRESIDENT

CY THE PRESIDENT
EDWIN M. STANTON
SECTY. OF WAR.

Dr. Walker was the first woman to receive the Medal of Honor now known as the Congressional Medal, highest award of our Government. On Jan. 24, 1866 it was awarded her. Engraved on its reverse:—"The Congress to Dr. Mary E. Walker, Acting Assistant Surgeon U. S. A. Nov. 11, 1865."

Forty nine years later by adverse action of the Board of Medal Awards, this award was stricken from the list Feb. 15, 1917, nothing having been found in the records to show the specific act or acts for which the decoration was originally awarded, I do not know that the U. S. Government ever asked the return of the medal. I do know that they never could have repossessed it except over Dr. Walker's dead body.

The medal itself is carefully treasured in the family of the late Byron Worden, Town of Minetto, he being Dr. Walker's nephew.

They also have a small gold shield worn by her inscribed Mary E. Walker, M. D. Acting Assistant Surgeon—Army of the Potomac.

After leaving the Army she worked on a New York City newspaper—one of the first women to be so employed; then set herself up as a practising physician in Washington.

She is credited with inventing the inside neck band on men's shirts that prevents the collar button from rubbing the neck.

In 1871 she wrote a book entitled "HIT". This had a large sale. The frontpiece was a fine picture of Dr. Walker in trouser attire and beneath her curious signature, which abounded in many flourishes. This book's chapters were about reforms which she advocated viz:—SINGLE MORAL STANDARD FOR MEN AND WOMEN—DRESS REFORM FOR WOMEN. (Now in vogue.)—VOTES FOR WOMEN. (Amendment 19 to U. S. Constitution ratified Aug. 26, 1920)—PROHIBITION OF THE MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF LIQUOR. Amendment 18 passed Jan. 29, 1919. Repealed 1933. TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF TOBACCO AND TOBACCO HABIT—UNIFORM DIVORCE LAWS FOR THE WHOLE UNITED STATES—ELECTION OF U. S. SENATORS BY THE PEOPLE. (Amendment 17 ratified May 31, 1913.) In 1878 she published a second book—UNMASKED OR THE SCIENCE OF IMMORTALITY. This dealt about sex.

She was a writer for various newspapers especially in New York & Washington. She secured a position as clerk in the Pension Office, Washington. Her brother, Alvah, applied for a pension. She used her voice and pen to prevent its being allowed but Uncle Sam honored Alvah's proofs and awarded the pension.

She lectured and wrote advocating a Safe & Sane Fourth of July. This was enacted into Law by New York State in 1940.

Dr. Walker; Rev. Susana Harris, noted preacher; and Attorney Belva Lockwood, were three of the most noted professional women of their day. Belva Lockwood was nominated for President by Equal Rights party 1884-1888, as a part of their campaign for reforms.



Dr. Walker wrote "THE CROWNING CONSTITUTIONAL ARGUMENT — THE OPENER OF THE DOOR FOR WOMEN'S VOTES." It stated Constitutional bodies exceeded their rights when they inserted the word "male" as a qualification of eligibility to vote. It denied also the fact that anywhere, males were ever given authority to decide whether or not females could vote.

Dr. Walker was President of U. S. Constitution Association; Member American Peace Society; and Woman's Democratic Club. She attended public functions where ever she was and included herself into the same and refused to be excluded.

Being a Democrat she called persistently on local, county, state and national party leaders insisting to be heard on women's rights. From the caucus in Oswego Town, to the National Conventions in the great cities, she was there. Great was her indignation when she was not allowed to speak. Squelched or insulted she appeared again, perhaps in a few minutes and renewed her tactics.

In 1881 she announced her candidacy for United States Senator. Among her qualifications she stated her brain was not numbed by drugs, liquor or tobacco.

In Nov. 1885 she amazed the election board at Oswego Center on Election Day by demanding she be given a ballot and allowed to vote. Upon their refusal she threatened to bring suit against the election board and great was her anger. A month later newspapers record her call on President Grover Cleveland. She visited every President in the White House since General U. S. Grant.

During the nineties she wrote extensively, lectured, addressed state meetings of Grangers and other orders. She spent much energy attempting to have a sanatorium established on her farm at Bunker Hill.

She filled engagements at The Eden Musee, New York, where thousands met her and heard her views about what she believed in. Audiences were able to procure her autographed photograph, or cards as souvenirs. She was a personal friend of P. T. Barnum, great showman and temperance reformer; of General Tom Thumb, knew Governors, Senators, Generals, Actors, Authors, Musicians, and practically all of the famous people of her day.

She was an invited guest and attended many Presidential inaugurations. Publicity was sweet to her, she was in the public eye and the press continually.

From time to time she brought to her home, patients from distant cities. Some of these she compelled to wear male attire, which was very displeasing to them. She brought people from far away to live with her and work the farm. None of them were able to adjust themselves to her peculiar ways and all eventually left. She sustained severe injuries falling on the steps of the Capitol at Washington. For a time during World War I she was a patient in Base Hospital at Fort Ontario.

She was spared to be active up to the year of her death. Her home at Bunker Hill was the dearest spot on earth to her. She was tenderly cared for by her neighbour and friend, Mrs. Frank Dwyer, during her last sickness. She died Feb. 21, 1919, and its news together with sketches of her career were published throughout the world. The contents of her home were sold at auction.

In the Old Acre in Rural Cemetery, Town of Oswego, her grave is marked by a headstone "Mary"; also by a bronze marker of The Grand Army of the Republic. This alone gives the passer-by a hint that there lies a woman who was once a soldier. The lot is cared for by Elmina

Spencer Tent, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

When I Would Die And How

The Voices Of Six Stages.

I would not die in infant years,
With no ideas of life—

Without a sense of hopes or fears,
Or even bitter strife.

I would not die in childhood days,
Ere I one earth joy knew—

In having many kinds of plays,
With other children true.

I would not die in life mature,
With all its castles built—

And golden hopes that seem
secure,

With wreaths that never wilt.

I would not die in middle life,
Just when fruitions come—

When children bless husband and
wife,

The midday of life's sun.

I would not die when age creeps
on,

With mental gains in store—

When to be numbered with the
"ton",

Showered with blessings o'er.

I would not die until I felt,

A longing then to go—

And into future life would melt,
As gently as the snow.

At whatever time in life's date,
I go to fields Elys-ian—

I've never longed to see that
state,

Thought quiet transition.

MARY E. WALKER, M. D.

Following presentation of the paper, many in the audience who were friends and acquaintances of Dr. Mary Walker during her lifetime, contributed personal anecdotes and gems of history about the famous doctor. Among those who participated in the discussion were Raymond Cooper, M. Prouse Neal, Harger Woodworth, Mrs. Mabel Downey, Miss Sophie

Crandell, Arling Worden, Nelson Coe, Mr. and Mrs. Gail Smedley.

Many exhibits of personal articles of clothing and other mementos belonging to Dr. Walker were on exhibit and carefully examined by those present to hear Mr. Wright's scholarly paper.

During the meeting, which was presided over by Dr. W. Seward Salisbury, society president, Dr. and Mrs. Paul deR. Kolisch of West River road, Oswego, were voted into membership in the society.

Anthony Slosek, curator of the society, announced receipt by the society of the following valuable articles:

From Arling Worden, grand-nephew of Dr. Mary Walker, the boots, hat, congressional medals, and diplomas of Dr. Walker; from Joseph Cortese, 142 West Bridge St., Oswego, several books once the property of the Kingsford family; from Peter Sheridan, 314 West Third St., Oswego, several books which once belonged to Virgil C. Douglas, a former principal of Oswego High school; from Charles H. Barlow, R.D. 2, Oswego, an agreement between Richard Lockyer and Isaac R. Parkhurst, to bring Richard Lockyer, Jr., as an apprentice to learn the farming trade in the Town of Scriba, Dec. 20, 1837.

Also from Clarence E. Van-Buren, 605 Park Ave., North, Winter Park, Fla., a ribbon of the Oswego County Agricultural Society, 1851; from Mr. and Mrs. Frank Thrasher, 3 Rogers Ave., Rochester, through courtesy of Frank M. McDonough of Oswego, an 1888 wrench manufactured in Oswego; from Martha Harding of Oswego, copy of New York Journal, published by Frank Leslie in 1855; from Luther Harding of Oswego, a pocket New Testament, found by John Wetherby in the rifle pits of the Battle of the Wilderness.



CONTRACT WITH A PRIVATE PHYSICIAN.

This Contract, Entered into this 5th day of October,
 1864, at Louisville, in the State of Kentucky, between Col. R. C.
Wood, Assistant Surgeon General of the United States Army,
 and Dr. Mary E. Walker of Louisville,
 in the State of Kentucky

Witnesseth, That for the consideration hereafter mentioned, the said Dr. Mary
E. Walker promises and agrees to perform the duties of a Medical Officer,
 agreeably to Army Regulations, at Louisville, Ky, or elsewhere,
 and to furnish and keep in good order, and accessible at all times, complete sets of amputating, trisphi-
 ning, and pocket instruments; and the said Col. R. C. Wood
 Assistant Surgeon General, U. S. A., promises and agrees, on behalf of the United States,
 to pay or cause to be paid to the said Dr. Mary E. Walker the
 sum of one hundred dollars for each and every month she shall continue to perform the services above
 stated, and one hundred and thirteen and $\frac{83}{100}$ dollars per month, and transportation in kind, when per-
 forming service in the field, which shall be his full compensation, and in lieu of all allowances and
 emoluments whatever.

And it is further agreed, that in case the said Dr. Mary E. Walker
 be unable to provide the aforesaid instruments, they will be furnished by the Medical Department of the
 United States Army, and the cost price thereof deducted from his monthly pay, for the first three
 months, in three equal installments. This contract to continue at least three months, if not sooner deter-
 mined by the commanding officer for the time being, the Medical Director, or the Surgeon General.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of

F. L. Town

Ass't Surgeon U. S. Army.

R. C. Wood

Ass't Surgeon Gen., U. S. A.

Mary E. Walker, M. D.

Usual Post-Office Address

Oswego N. Y.

NOTE.—Notice of the annulment of this Contract, stating explicitly the cause therefor, and the date, must be forwarded through the Assistant Surgeon General.

Accounts arising under this Contract will be paid by the Treasury Department only. They must be sent in duplicate to the Surgeon General, with the certificate of the commanding officer, or Medical Director, that the services have been satisfactorily performed, and the surgical instruments furnished as required, and stating whether the services were rendered at a station or in the field.

Upon this certificate the account will be passed in the Surgeon General's office, and a Treasury warrant, payable by any disbursing medical officer or paymaster, be sent to the physician entitled to receive it.

A duplicate of the Contract must invariably be sent to the Surgeon General when the Contract is entered into, or the account will not be paid. When instruments are furnished by the United States the fact will be stated.

CONTRACT

BETWEEN

Col. R. C. Wood

Ass't Surg. Gen. U. S. Army.

AND

Mary E. Walker

at 5th 1864, at \$100 per

PROVED,

By order of the Surgeon General.

Ass't Surgeon U. S. Army

General's Office,

186

Surgeon Gen's Office
Washington D.C.
June 15, 1865

Mr. Walker's Contract is
this day annulled at her
own request.

By order of the Surg. Gen.
Charles Lee
Asst. Surg. Gen.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 14, 1973



Dear Anne:

I was pleased to see you at the Health Seminar, along with many others I have met while pursuing my interests in the health field.

It is unfortunate that there are no women among the nine public members on the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. I share your disappointment that the present Board is deficient in this respect. Hopefully, when the first normal vacancies occur (during the summer of 1975) this situation will be remedied.

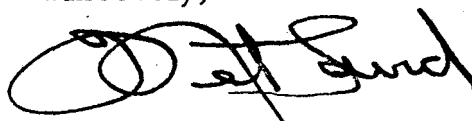
The present lack of a woman member on the Board, however, does not mean that women will not be admitted to the University. Applicants for admission will be considered without regard to sex and, in this connection, I am sure the rapidly rising percentage of women graduates from U.S. medical schools will be reflected in the University's enrollment figures.

Regarding your great-grand aunt, Doctor Mary Edwards Walker, it is my understanding that the revocation of the award resulted from Section 122 of Public Law 64-85. That law required the Secretary of War to convene a Board to review the cases of all persons who had received the award up to that time (1916) and to revoke the award if the Board found that it had been awarded for any cause "other than distinguished conduct by an officer or enlisted man in action involving actual conflict with an enemy." Under the terms of the law, the President has no authority to overturn the Board's findings.

Dawn appears to be a very exceptional young lady and one who, as you noted, will undoubtedly make a great contribution toward the achievement of our goals of equality for women.

With best wishes and kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melvin R. Laird", written in a cursive style.

Melvin R. Laird
Counsellor to the President
for Domestic Affairs

Ms. Anne Walker
c/o Mary A. Walker
Allen Road
Wolfeboro, New Hampshire 03894

... from the desk of

LOLA S. TILDEN
Editor, National Business Woman

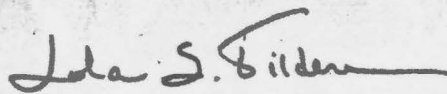
January 26, 1976

Dear Ms. Walker,

I tried to telephone you several times last fall after you sent a copy of your June 16 issue but could not reach you. Then in the pressure of getting out monthly issues, the holidays, and National Board meetings, I was unable to call again.

Our magazine does not devote space to historical topics, interesting as they are, because we have so many contemporary matters to cover, I am sorry to say. Whether or not we could support legislation to restore the Medal of Honor to Dr. Walker would have to be decided by our Legislative Platform Committee which does not meet until July.

Sincerely,





Women's Hall of Fame, inc.

P. O. Box 335, Seneca Falls, New York 13148

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March 11, 1976

Ms. Anne Walker
Suite 9
Carriage House
1240 Wisconsin Ave., N.W.
Georgetown, DC 20007



Dear Anne:

It was a pleasure to talk with you yesterday regarding your aunt, Dr. Mary Walker. To have lived in those days, and to have witnessed parts of Dr. Mary's life would indeed have been exciting.

Enclosed please find the brochure which we have, describing our goal and purpose and listing the first group of outstanding American women elected to the Women's Hall of Fame back in 1973.

Our second election and Second Honors Ceremony is to take place in the Fall, 1976. The date has not yet been decided and presently, we are thinking about having the Second Honors Ceremony in New York City rather than here in Seneca Falls where the First Honors Ceremony took place. These plans are only in the thinking stages.

The nomination of Dr. Mary Walker has been turned over to the Research-Screening Committee for further study. Final selection of nominations are then placed on a ballot and sent to the members of the National Honors Committee. This committee is in the process of being completed. The members of the Honors Committee vote. Those elected are announced at the Ceremony.

We look forward to meeting you and shall be in touch with you regarding your famous aunt. We appreciate your interest and shall look forward to your support.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Ann A. Bantuvanis
President

AAB/enc.

Seneca Falls, New York — birthplace of Women's Rights

Here is the President's order--

"EXECUTIVE OFFICE.

"Whereas, It appears from official reports that Dr. MARY E. WALKER, a graduate of medicine, 'has rendered valuable service to the Government, and her efforts have been earnest and untiring in a variety of ways', and that she was assigned to duty and served as an Assistant-Surgeon, in charge of female prisoners at Louisville, Ky., upon the recommendation of Major Generals SHERMAN and THOMAS, and faithfully served as Contract-Surgeon in the service of the United States, and has devoted herself with much patriotic zeal to the sick and wounded soldiers, both in the field and hospitals, to the detriment of her own health, and has also endured hardships as a prisoner of war for four months in a Southern prison while acting as a Contract-Surgeon; and

"Whereas, By reason of her not being a commissioned officer in the military service, a brevet or honorary rank can not, under existing laws, be conferred upon her; and

"Whereas, In the opinion of the President an honourable recognition of her services and sufferings should be made,

"IT IS ORDERED, That a testimonial thereof shall be hereby made, and given to the said Doctor MARY E. WALKER, and that the usual medal of honour for meritorious services be given her.

"Given under my hand, in the city of Washington, D.C., this eleventh day of November, A.D. 1865.

"ANDREW JOHNSON, President.

"BY THE PRESIDENT,

"EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War."



I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy from the files of National Republican newspaper of the date of November 22nd, 1865, which publication was made from the original Official parchment

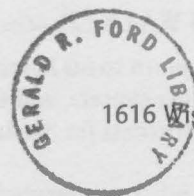
W. H. Pope

Bu's. Manager

National Republican

Jany 17/74

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1616 Wisconsin Avenue, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20007
(202) 333-2439

6824

Vol. 1 No. 3

ANNE WALKER, PUBLISHER

June 16, 1975

SHOULD THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND CONGRESS LEGALLY RESTORE THE MEDAL OF HONOR TO THE ONLY WOMAN RECIPIENT— MARY EDWARDS WALKER, M.D., CIVIL WAR SUFFRAGETTE-SURGEON?

True To Her Word, She Wore The Medal Until She Died

She dressed smartly in pants suits—one hundred years ago. She was an army surgeon with the Union Army in the Civil War and was taken prisoner by the Confederate Army, treated as a physician-prisoner-lady, and the first woman exchanged for a male ranking officer by any army. Dr. Mary Edwards Walker was—and is—the only woman to ever have been awarded and have affixed upon her uniform—the Congressional Medal of Honor.

This nation's highest citation has undergone changes in wording of citations, design, and a Navy and an Air Force Medal of Honor have been added to the original one which was an Army Medal of Honor!

The Medal of Honor was revoked, but never reclaimed, and rests today in the Oswego County Historical Society—Dr. Walker's hometown in New York. The statement from the select committee revoking the Medal of Honor—"insufficient reason indicated in available record"—bears little resemblance to documented reality. Even today after much pilfering and mysterious disappearances of records, there is good and sufficient reason to legally restore the dignity of its award to her name.

Even a modicum of intelligence would question its revocation fifty years after its award when Dr. Mary was 83 years of age. The original citation was written on the back of an envelope by President Lincoln and, after his death, a separate Executive Order was signed by President Andrew Johnson. The Medal of Honor was affixed upon Dr. Mary Edwards Walker on November 11, 1865, with additional award ceremonies for two other Army Medals commending Dr. Walker's work as the first woman physician to serve in any Army without concealing her sex. Her role as the first woman ambulance surgeon is interestingly described in her own handwriting.



*Mary E. Walker, M.D., shortly after receiving
the Congressional Medal of Honor*



During her four months as a prisoner of war at Castle Thunder in Richmond, Dr. Mary described how she begged for supplies to treat the wounded patients they would let her treat. But the Confederate Surgeon recognized that he had seen her

- libby Prison -

(Continued next page)

DR. MARY EDWARDS WALKER—Continued from page 1

before he left the North to return to his homeland and serve the South—so she “got off easy”! The Confederate physicians did not believe the spy story of her capture, and arranged for her exchange for a “Reb Major”—and she returned to continue “tearing up pretty nightgowns and petticoats for bandages” on the Union side.

During her months in prison she learned much about dentistry and integrated this knowledge into her work as a physician.

Prior to the numerous injustices inflicted upon her, Dr. Mary was clearly the “pretty young woman from Oswego”, who taught school before becoming a physician. She had practiced in Oswego and New York City, and also in Washington. Her divorced husband was also a physician who permitted her to put his name in the middle and practice under her maiden name in Rome, New York. After Dr. Mary divorced him for adultery, he married another woman physician but again had no children. He died finally in New England.



Mary E. Walker, M.D., at the time of the revocation of her Congressional Medal of Honor

True To Her Word, She Wore The Medal Until She Died



Dr. Mary survived the members of her own family and her ex-husband, and died alone, lonely, indigent and ill after a fall on the Capitol steps where she had gone to get Congress to restore her Medal, which she had worn triumphantly on a lecture tour in England and France and this nation. It added insult to injury that her story was so well known and celebrated.

Since her death on February 19, 1919, there has never been another citation for the Medal of Honor to be awarded and affixed upon any woman's name.

The record, as it stands, detracts from the Congressional Medal of Honor—everywhere. ♦

UNITED STATES SENATE
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20510

November 25, 1974

Ms. Anne Walker
3025 Dunbarton Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007

she sought have come about. Others have not, and no doubt she would be active in the cause of furthering women's equality that so profoundly affects our society today.

Dear Ms. Walker:

Let me offer my congratulations to you and the Oswego County Historical Society for organizing a commemorative day for your great, grand aunt, Dr. Mary Walker.

It is, therefore, very worthwhile that we pause to honor Dr. Walker, who was both a fighter and a visionary. Things can be changed if people believe strongly enough, as did Dr. Walker. Dr. Walker's example reminds us again that one person can make a difference. I am pleased to be a part of this commemoration.

From research that the staff of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee has done, it is clear that your great, grand aunt was not only courageous during the term she served as a contract-doctor in the Union Army, but also as an outspoken proponent of feminine rights.

I would add that the Veterans' Affairs Committee staff is pursuing an investigation to see if the restoration of the Medal of Honor to your great, grand aunt is possible, or what other courses might be open to honor her should that course fail.

Both as a doctor and feminist, she was much ahead of her time, and, as is usual, she was not regarded kindly by many of her contemporaries.

Very truly yours,

Today, she appears prophetic. Many of the changes

/s/ Vance Hartke
Chairman

UNITED STATES SENATE
Committee on Armed Services
Washington, D.C. 20510

November 22, 1974

Ms. Ann Walker
3025 Dunbarton Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007

Dear Ms. Walker:

I certainly want to commend all the individuals involved in the memorial service for Dr. Mary Edwards Walker. Such a tribute is surely richly deserved and appropriate—especially so at this time.

In this period, which has seen an increasing number of women taking on ever broader responsibilities in the armed services, I cannot imagine anyone more deserving of a warm and respectful tribute than Mary Edwards Walker, who was, I believe, the Army's only woman physician-surgeon and, to this day, the only woman to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

I share in your wish to honor her memory and recall the fine services she performed during another very trying and difficult time in our nation's history.

Sincerely,

/s/ John C. Stennis



Malcolm C. Todd, M.D., American Medical Association President 1974-75, and Anne Walker, Publisher, Alert Science-Medical Weekly, discussing Ms. Walker's upcoming book on Dr. Mary Edwards Walker

MILLICENT FENWICK
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TELEPHONE: (201) 538-7267

June 6, 1975

Ms. Anne Walker
Alert Science-Medical Weekly
2449 39th Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007

Dear Ms. Walker:

I was happy to learn about the forthcoming celebration of the American Bicentennial by the American Medical Association and about the AMA's convention plans in Atlantic City, New Jersey from June 12 to 19. I would like to extend my greetings to the convention and wish the AMA the very best during the Bicentennial.

I was particularly pleased to find in your newsletter the emphasis on the role of women in medicine—a role which will, I hope, increase and develop rapidly.

This brings you all good wishes in this, the International Women's Year.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ MILLICENT FENWICK
Member of Congress

DR. GRACE ARABEL GOLDSMITH DIES— WORLD-RENOWNED NUTRITION, PUBLIC HEALTH PHYSICIAN



Goldsmith

Dean Grace Goldsmith was honored by the government of Thailand and others around the world for her outstanding contributions to saving lives of populations who, otherwise would have been lost by starvation. The recent death of Dean Grace Arabel Goldsmith of Tulane's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine took from the scene the only woman to head a major medical school department in the United States.

During an interview with Dean Goldsmith a number of years ago, she emphasized that "returning to nature's garden a variety of foods was the simplest and best way to halt malnutrition." Dr. Goldsmith commented, "It takes a good bit of work to have a garden, but it is psychologically beneficial as well as nutritionally fulfilling to eat fresh fruits and vegetables from your own crops."

The modest medical school leader felt that there was much in the simpler plants and if we came to know and utilize them—such as peas, beans and lentils, the legumes as they are called—and cut down on the "cheap candy" so often given to children which starts them into bad habits early, we would "all be better for it."

This is not to say in any way that Dean Goldsmith was not aware of medical problems, allergies, etc., and these have a place. But she stressed that otherwise, breakfast is the most important meal of the day and a good time to have the basic nutrients. Moreover, she cautioned against heavy dining at night, mentioning that trouble starts more easily when a heavy meal is eaten at night. "I feel sorry for those who have three banquets a week, or so," she said. ♦

ODYSSEY AWARDS



Levy
Senior Partner
Goldman, Sachs & Company

The second annual Odyssey of the Year Award was presented to Gustave Lehmann Levy, when business and political leaders attended a dinner in his honor Thursday, June 5 at 7:00 p.m., in the Grand Ballroom of the New York Hilton. Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller, recipient of the first annual Odyssey of the Year Award, was this year's Honorary Chairman. Morris Crawford, chairman of the board of The Bowery Savings Bank, was chairman.

Also receiving special awards of appreciation were Joan Glynn, President of Simplicity Patterns, for her dedication to the children of Odyssey and a Posthumous award to Duke Ellington, a former member of the Odyssey Board of Directors and one of Odyssey's earliest supporters. The Odyssey Choir provided entertainment. Comprised of 50 adolescents in treatment at Odyssey, they have previously performed at the New Hampshire Governor's Inauguration Ball and before the United States Congress.

Odyssey, which was founded in 1966 by lawyer-psychiatrist Judianne Densen-Gerber, presently operates 22 treatment facilities and out-patient centers in seven states, including New York. Among the Odyssey House treatment programs are those for the adolescent drug abuser, the gifted addict with high I.Q., the schizophrenic addict and the returning addicted Vietnam veteran. In addition, educational programs, vocational training, medical services, psychological testing and research and development services are available.

Recently Odyssey has developed a Prison Reform Program in New Orleans. Odyssey's Parents' Program, focusing on the pregnant addict and addicted parents remains unique in the entire country, and is open to parents of all states.

Odyssey has been working diligently the last two years in the area of child abuse and neglect, and, in keeping with our nation's Bicentennial, Odyssey wishes to recommit itself to the future of America's children. The eve of our 200th birthday celebration would seem an appropriate time for such a commitment. ♦



This medallion was designed and crafted by Arthur King, a self-taught world renowned master craftsman. The piece is cast from solid silver with one gold and one silver hand in a clasped position. The inscription reads, "A Journey Through Changes Together".



Odyssey House

New York New Jersey New Hampshire Utah
Michigan Louisiana Nevada New Mexico

June 1, 1975

Ms. Anne Walker
2449 39th Place N. W.
Georgetown, D. C. 20007

Dear Ms. Walker,

It is with the greatest pleasure and reverence that I forward this letter to you highly commending your Great-Aunt, Mary Edwards Walker, M.D. 1855, Syracuse Eclectic School, to the American Public. That Dr. Walker be rightfully acknowledged now for her outstanding contribution to the role of American Women is doubly important.

First, at this time of our struggle to have the Equal Rights Amendment passed, the Anti-ERA forces constantly state that if ERA becomes law, women will have to serve alongside of their men in the Armed Forces. Dr. Walker is a role model to us all, having been the first woman to serve as an Army Doctor in United States History. Participating in the Civil War as a woman physician, Mary Edwards Walker proved that American Women care as passionately as their men about the freedoms of this country and are willing to fight to preserve them. She is a dramatic example that bravery and patriotism know no sexual distinctions.

Second, on the eve of this nation's bicentennial, Mary Edwards Walker is to be honored as the first woman to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor which was awarded and affixed on January 26, 1866 by President Andrew Johnson. Too few have followed in her footsteps.

The position of women in American Medicine has too slowly improved since the days of the Blackwells and the Walkers. Though all medical schools are now open to us and we no longer have to sit in a physical purdah hidden behind the curtains and screens designed to protect us and our male colleagues from the embarrassment of mutually facing the anatomy of men and women, we still sit in intellectual purdah hidden by the rationalization that there are female specialties for us to be relegated to, such as pediatrics, psychiatry or obstetrics

continued.... /

Board of Directors: Chairman, Nicholas J. Coolidge, J.D.; President, Judianne Densen-Gerber, J.D., M.D.; Vice Presidents, Alan V. Tishman, New York; E. Donald Shapiro, New Jersey; Myrtle McIntyre, New Hampshire; Quentin Kolb, Utah; Arthur E. Summerfield, Jr., Michigan; James C. Storm, Louisiana; Thomas Luebben, J.D., New Mexico; Judge Carl Christensen, Nevada; Secretary, Robert Reid, J.D.; Treasurer, Renee E. Belfer; Beatrice Densen, L.L.B., Senator Fairleigh Dickinson, Duke Ellington, Elliott Landau, Ph.D., Robert Leibowits, Rev. Dr. Blaise Levai, Eleanor McGovern, John Maher, J.D., James H. Maroney, Alice Gross Newhouse, William R. Pitts, J.D., J. Fenton Speller, M.D., Paul Thompson, J.D.



Page Two

June 1, 1975

Ms. Anne Walker

(albeit to the benefit of our female patients) with little or no opportunity in surgery, orthopedics, etc. and almost none in Chairmanships of Departments in Medical Schools and Academia. And even more distressing, we sit in emotional purdah hidden in guilt because we displace a male when one of us occupies a seat in school; it is generally accepted that a woman will not use her medicine during her child nurturing years and if she does, then the confrontation of deviancy in redefining the mothering role is ever present.

We, who must live within the confines of societal deviance, salute a great woman, an inspiration to us all - Mary Edwards Walker, M.D. 1855. United State Army Physician 1861-65. Congressional Medal of Honor Winner 1866 - She dared to be different - She dared to be herself - She dared to be a full functioning person.

Sincerely yours,

Judianne Densen-Gerber
Judianne Densen-Gerber, J.D., M.D.,
F.C.L.M.

JDG/ss

PEARL OF DENTAL WISDOM

"Imagine knowing all that in those days."—is a comment designed to get listener reaction. The value of regularly cleaning the teeth was known in ancient times elsewhere in the world, and certainly in this country during the earliest days, as collections of the essential tools will make clear. But competition in the choice between reaching for a fruit or vegetable and a sweet came much later.

The first woman to become a professional dentist in this country was born Lucy Beeman Hobbs into a modest family in Ellenburg, New York on March 4, 1833. Lucy was seventh of ten children and even home-made fudge or other sweets were real luxuries in their small farm home. Nuts and wild fruits were more popular additions to the home-grown fruits and vegetables. Lucy early became curious as to why some of the family members had more trouble with their teeth than others and in her teens she came to know the dentists in her community who treated her family and friends.



Hobbs

When gathered in a group playing school, Lucy would focus on the teeth and found she was learning and being fascinated by playing dentist as well! Later she became a teacher but found this was not enough for her own satisfaction.

Lucy Beeman Hobbs found that getting into a dental school program was much harder than "pulling teeth." It was impossible for a woman. Her pleasant, teaching, well-poised manner was impressive to those men who found it awkward to advise her. "There is no precedent," or similar words, "No woman allowed in our classes!"

Fortunately for Lucy there were enough supportive friends advising her to "apprentice yourself to a practicing dentist and then begin a practice of your own." This, of course, would be ill-advised action today, but in those days it was the only way for her ultimate success as this nation's first woman professional dentist.

Ohio has long been a leader in promoting equal educational privileges for women. Oberlin as a college admitted both women and blacks from the beginning. Women physicians were practicing in Ohio and were encouraged to do so, even before the Civil War. Now we come to the Ohio College of Dental Surgery in Cincinnati, Ohio. Dr. John F. Taft of the Ohio College of Dental Surgery was almost apologetic when he first had to refuse Lucy Beeman Hobbs's application for matriculation. But his cordial manner prompted Lucy to set her heart on one day graduating from this dental school. Credit must also be offered to another leading dentist of the time, Dr. Samuel Wardell, who assisted Lucy and kept in touch with her.

Just at the end of the Civil War in 1865, Drs. Taft and Wardell made the Ohio College of Dental Surgery a coeducational institution, and Miss Lucy Beeman Hobbs was admitted as the first and only woman student in that class. One full academic year later, leading her class with highest honors, Lucy Beeman Hobbs became the nation's first woman dentist, and was accepted into the Dental Society. This honor granted her the privilege of active attendance at the Dental Conventions. Thus, the dental profession was already a milestone ahead of the medical profession.

Miss Lucy Beeman Hobbs was in her middle thirties when she married one of her patients, a James W. Taylor, a railroad man who had courted Lucy years earlier and was refused her hand. After their marriage, her husband became one of her students and later went to dental school. The couple, now Dr. and Mrs., soon became a team of two professional dentists and opened their first of several offices, each one growing in importance.

Dr. James M. Taylor was a Civil War veteran and especially fond of New York where the couple first settled and practiced. Then came Iowa, Ohio and Kansas. 93 West Washington Street in Chicago, Illinois was their fourth office address. Their fifth dental office was opened in Lawrence, Kansas, and the husband and wife dentist-team soon became the finest dentists in the State.

Dr. Lucy Beeman Hobbs Taylor survived her husband by a few years, and before she died followed with the couple's Will to have the State of Kansas accept their important professional documents, instruments, etc. Dr. Lucy's Degree certifying her graduation from an accredited dental school was recognized by Kansas as a historical document and may be seen in the Museum of the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka, Kansas.

The date of her death was November 3, 1910. ♦

"RELEASED FOR DISCUSSION, BUT NOT FOR PUBLICATION"

This notation, appearing on a paper prepared for delivery at any of the many medical meetings in this nation, is a clear symptom of a very disturbing trend! If this "disease" reaches epidemic proportions, what are likely to be the destructive side effects and aftermaths?

The primary cause, of course, is abuse of information by "rabble-rousing" fanatics which has made the scientific community clam-up.

At the annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association at Anaheim, California, in May of this year, Dr. Philip Stoddard, Ph.D., (State Department Deputy Director for Research and Development in the Near East and South Asia) discussed "New Concepts Of An Old Conflict," and included some very interesting material on the Middle East. But it was clearly marked on the program—"Released For Discussion, Not Publication"!

Also at The American Neurological Association's 100th Annual Meeting in New York early in June of this year, Dr. John Tower, M.D., of NIH refused to permit members of the media to be present at his paper.



Sabay

Our sincere congratulations to the American Medical Association for a very healthy and growing relationship with the media of the United States.

It seems almost too simple to say that a good, healthy relationship takes regular "working at it," but that the largest and oldest major medical association in this country has done well with their programs of public information and education suggests the value of the mutual respect for freedom of information—especially where the functions of good practice avoid problems resulting from malpractice!

Congratulations to Gabit Sabay, Ph.D., newly elected President of The Society of Biological Psychiatry. The group is awakening in time for the Bicentennial. The media supports Dr. Gabay's resolution that during his term of office this seriously scientific medical organization will grow up and open up into the world of today.

Though its membership lists some of the leading medical pioneers of yesterday, its policy direction of exclusivity away from the patient's world frightens young medical people from joining into membership participation.

If the trend continues, another name would be added to the list of "endangered species!" ♦

GENERAL SCHAEFER APPOINTED AIR FORCE DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL

Washington, D.C., April 1—Major General George E. Schaefer, United States Air Force, Medical Corps, as anticipated, became the Air Force Deputy Surgeon General. The attractively competent, personable and popular physician was this year's President of the Aerospace Medical Association.

Major General Schaefer officially opened the 46th Annual Scientific Meeting on April 28, 1975, at the San Francisco Hilton Hotel, San Francisco, California. In the image of the classic physician, concern and optimism were expressed in the welcoming words of his formal address. The prominent flight surgeon had this to say:



Schaefer

"I recognize that some divergencies are necessary because of economic realities; however, I am among the many who believe the need for expertise in the aerospace medicine field is greater than ever." General Schaefer took note of the many significant accomplishments which continue to be made, but as well, he cautioned that the unsolved problems in the aerospace medicine field are legion. He stated further, "The scientific and technological advances which are taking place in the aerospace industries and in the military continue to require an ever-increasing sophisticated knowledge of human tolerance and man-machine systems."

(Continued next page)

GENERAL SCHAEFER—Continued from preceding page

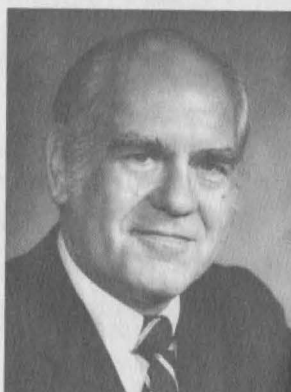
Surgeon General Robert A. Patterson (Lt. Gen., USAF), his Deputy General Schaefer and others on the Air Force medical team are to be lauded for their visibility at the many and varied medical meetings in this and other countries. What General Schaefer said of the Aerospace Medical Association Meeting is equally true elsewhere. He said: . . . "This meeting provides a unique opportunity to share the knowledge, experiences, and problems of the various services and agencies, and enhances international cooperation in aerospace medical research efforts. The success of this meeting—and of our efforts throughout this year—depend on you, the membership, and the support you provide. . ."

Congratulations, General Schaefer for your cognizance that the team approach is the best way to get positive results to materialize. Maybe women physicians and younger physicians will come into their own now in the Air Force.

General Schaefer did not reflect upon the history of military medicine. We wonder if he knows of the "mothballing" of the United States Military Medical Museum—so that in 1976 it will be hidden from Bicentennial view. He can be excused—the Air Force is also relatively new. General Schaefer is, moreover, not responsible for there not being a single woman physician or other feminine member on the Board of Regents of the upcoming Military Medical School—now set for construction in Bethesda's Navy area.

There is a lot of room for the great thing Aerospace Medicine is destined to accomplish. ♦

ART OF MEDICINE—MEDICINE OF ART



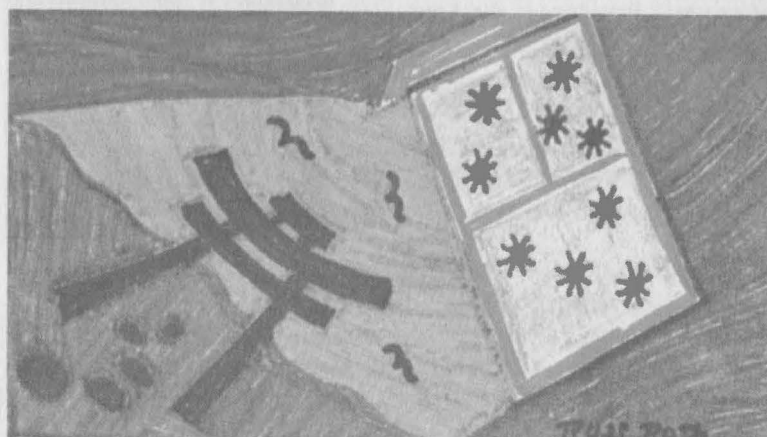
Roth

Always one of the more popular exhibits at a major medical meeting is the one where everyone gets to see the expressions of artistic talent of the member physicians and their families. Certainly one of the fastest-growing ideas is that freedom of art expression is felt as an experience.

It is interesting to note why the particular physician chooses which art form to express this talent. The manner or mood may match that of the other artists—as Picasso's "blue mood"—but generally artistic expressions cannot be stated so simply.

Former AMA President, Dr. Russell B. Roth once mentioned, "Part of the fun of doodling is that ideas express themselves inspiringly without there being any advance plan." When given the moment to elaborate, he added, "Of course, when I am at a Congressional hearing what I 'doodle' may be very much different than when I am waiting in a television studio, at home or on our boat." Dr. Roth's wife, Jeanne, has been an enthusiastically talented collaborator and

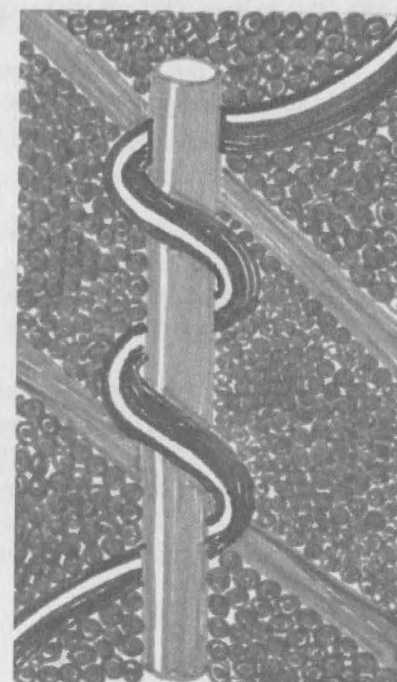
has turned some of the couple's favorite doodles into "doodlepoint pillows, wall hangings, personal stationery, etc. A very colorfully congenial togetherness is expressed by this famous and busy couple.



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**ART OF MEDICINE—MEDICINE OF ART**—Continued from preceding page

In her Philadelphia office, world-renowned plastic and reconstructive surgeon Dr. Alma Dea Morani, sculptress daughter of a distinguished sculptor, greets patients. A sculpture she frequently exhibits is the bust she did of her father, Salvatore Morani, A Sienes famed for his religious works of art. The multi-talented sculptress-surgeon is, perhaps, more competent in one because of her interest in the other, as she has built miracles with plastic surgery. Her manner, especially with young people, is maternal and instructive as they respond to her artistry and sensitivity. While she was yet a very young woman, her training focussed on art: "Then I realized creating beauty was not enough for me," she said. "Sculpture is lonely. I entered Woman's Medical College and took my degree in medicine in 1931. I now teach surgery, my own specialty being plastic and reconstructive surgery."



Morani

Whenever there is time to do so, Dr. Dea Morani takes pictures of the patient before surgery and again after surgery, which helps in the recuperative period as they sometimes forget how bad it was and are comforted by the marvelous improvements she brings about in the damaged areas. The patient's psyche is as important to her as the physical body, and everything is done to rehabilitate the patient. It is indeed a lucky one of her patients who shows an interest in sculpture or other art form.



A psychiatrist from Miami, Florida, Norman R. Shulack, M.D., observes:

"Exchanging ideas and communicating feeling is a healthy and therapeutic means of relief." Dr. Shulack and his wife, Greta, feel it is a wholesome idea for physicians to find within themselves a resemblance to a favorite artist, as participation creates appreciation and the fun is worth finding a flair.

Freedom of expression is a right extended to us by law. Modes of communication are as various and diverse as the many personalities that indulge in these acts.

It's no wonder that many doctors take part in the medicine of art as well as the art of medicine. Dr. Shulack (left) is surrounded by his paintings in his Miami office. ♦

IN UPCOMING ISSUES: MEDICAL MALPRACTICE. . . Is "No-fault" the answer?—because certainly under the present circumstances everyone is at fault, even the patient! **FROM THE PUBLISHER.** . . A "first", and the subject is Cancer—Where Are We? Where Should We and Could We Be? **MAJOR MEDICAL ADVANCES OF RECENT DATE.** . . **MEDICAL SCHOOL NEWS:** 1) What are the pressures felt by today's talented medical students? 2) Medical and Science Names On the Stock Exchanges; 3) American Neurological Association's 100th Birthday Year: 100 years in Neurpathology. . . Neurochemistry. . . Neuroanatomy. . . Neurophysiology. What of the present century, and the next?

GOVERNMENT'S EXPANSION INTO MEDICINE. . . a daily diet of a prescription of bitter "trade name" (Congress) pills to swallow. . . **PLUS** book reviews; reviews of other periodicals; drug news; profile in the news. . . **AND** watch for coverage of the July 15th U.S./Russian space experiment.

A CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON . . rape. . . dentistry. . . medical-legal matters. . . hospitals—and other science-medical news, as it happens. **AND A CHANCE TO TURN BACK** in time and meet the newsmakers and pathfinders, the men and women who handed us our science and medical heritage. ♦

"ALERT" CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Lillian Levy, author, editor and lecturer, will be contributing some of her rare and special talent for preparation of articles on science and news briefs for Alert Science-Medical Weekly, commencing with the upcoming issues.

Inasmuch as the year 2000 is only 25 years away, life and living in space is no longer a matter of the science fiction of the comic magazines, but as well, Lillian's area of interest and expertise and her informative discussions will be a valuable source of education for all of us.



Levy

AN "ALERT" PHYSICIAN

Dr. Pascal J. Imperato follows the 'Qualities Of A Physician' as outlined by the world renowned psychiatrist-Neurologist, Leo Alexander, M.D., of Boston, Massachusetts.



Imperato

Dr. Alexander is well known and widely respected for his work as a pioneer of development of the ACTH method of treatment of Multiple Sclerosis, his neurological work in diagnosis and therapy and patient care of other neurological conditions, including Myasthenia Gravis, a factor in the illness and recent death of Aristotle Onassis.

The Viennese-born son of famed Gustave Alexander—consultant-physician to the Emperor Franz Joseph—the polylingual psychiatrist was the architect of the medical aspects of the Nuremberg Code—and is generally regarded as the traditionally-trained, classic-style physician. He prepared for us this description of 'Qualities Of A Physician': **Intelligence:** A near inexhaustible store of energy, mental and physical; **Availability;** Freedom from squeamishness, or phobic responsiveness to blood, dirt, excrement and bodily mutilation; **Perceptiveness,** empathy and understanding; **Optimism;** **Determination;** **Courage;** **Leadership,** preferably charismatic; **Open-minded acceptance** of justified criticism, rational and vigorous defense against unjustified criticism, without becoming disappointed or disillusioned; **Imperturbability.** Dr. Pascal J. Imperato, M.D., is first Deputy Commissioner, Public Health in New York City.

ALERT SCIENCE-MEDICAL WEEKLY

1616 Wisconsin Avenue, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20007

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 27, 1976



MEMORANDUM FOR

Mr. Alan Woods
Special Assistant to the Secretary
Department of Defense

As we discussed at the White House Correspondents' dinner, the Counsel's Office would like Secretary Rumsfeld's office to look into the question of whether Dr. Mary Walker's Congressional Medal of Honor should be restored and what procedural steps would be necessary to accomplish that restoration.

It is my understanding that Dr. Walker was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor on November 11, 1865 by President Andrew Johnson. In 1917, at the request of Congress, a special board of officers appointed by Secretary of War Newton Baker reviewed the cases of all Medal of Honor winners and rescinded Dr. Walker's Medal and those of 911 other honorees.

Congressmen Peyser (R., N. Y.) and McEwen (R., N. Y.) have introduced a resolution to have the Medal restored to Dr. Walker. If Congress passes the resolution, does the President file a request with the Pentagon Board for the Correction of Military Records? Since the Medal was revoked by a board appointed by a Cabinet Secretary, can the Medal be restored by administrative action without necessitating passage of a Congressional resolution? Or, does the fact that the board reviewed the cases at the request of Congress mandate Congressional passage of a restoration resolution?

Please keep me posted on this matter.

Bobbie
Bobbie Greene Kilberg

cc: Richard A. Wiley

WH 10696



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

24 JUN 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR Bobbie Greene Kilberg
Associate Counsel

THRU: Mr. Warren L. Gulley
Executive Assistant to the Military
Assistant to the President
The White House

Bobbie —

Pursuant to your request, I have collected information on Dr. Mary Edwards Walker's Medal of Honor. Doctor Walker was awarded a Medal of Honor in 1865 for services performed during the Civil War as a civilian physician with the United States Army. At the time of her award, the Medal of Honor was authorized for "such officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates as have most distinguished or who may hereafter most distinguish themselves in action " (Act of 3 March 1863; 12 Stat. 744, 751)

The Act of 3 June 1916 (39 Stat. 166, 214, inclosed) required the Secretary of War to convene a board of five retired general officers to investigate prior awards of the Medal of Honor for purposes of determining whether any medals were awarded "for any cause other than distinguished conduct by an officer or enlisted man in action involving actual conflict with an enemy " If any such incident were discovered by the board then "the name of the recipient of the medal so issued shall be stricken permanently from the official medal of honor list."

The Board submitted to the War Department the names of 911 persons, including Doctor Mary Walker, who it determined were not entitled to the Medal of Honor under the 3 June 1916 criteria. These 911 names were stricken from the Medal of Honor list on 15 February 1917.

The present criteria for awarding the Medal of Honor are contained in section 3741, title 10, United States Code (see also 38 USC 560). The President may award the medal in the name of Congress to a person who, while a member of the Army, distinguished himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty, while engaged in armed conflict. (There are similar provisions for members of the other Military Departments.)

Section 3744, title 10, United States Code, provides that no Medal of Honor may be awarded more than three years after the act justifying the award. Therefore, the President is not authorized at this time to award a new Medal of Honor to Doctor Walker. Moreover, as Doctor Walker was not a member of the Army, she was not eligible for award of the Medal of Honor under the statutory criteria in effect at the time it was awarded to her (Act of 1863), at the time it was withdrawn (Act of 1916), or at the present time.

Section 1552, title 10, United States Code, authorizes the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR), to "correct any military record of that department when he considers it necessary to correct an error or remove an injustice." The three-year time limit for filing an application with the Board may be waived by the Board "in the interest of justice."

Section 190g, title 2, United States Code, provides that no private bill or resolution authorizing or directing the correction of a military record shall be received or considered in either the Senate or the House.

A joint resolution of Congress directing the issuance of a new Medal of Honor to Doctor Walker would have the same effect as a bill passed by Congress. It could not require correction of the previous withdrawal of Doctor Walker's Medal of Honor (see 2 USC 190g), but could direct the issuance of a new Medal of Honor. The ABCMR would not be involved in such a process if Congress directed, by joint resolution, the issuance of a new award.

A concurrent or simple resolution of Congress would not have the effect of a bill. Any such resolution authorizing the award of a Medal of Honor to Doctor Walker could be submitted to the ABCMR for

appropriate action within its jurisdiction by an heir of Doctor Walker. An heir could also make application to the ABCMR to restore Doctor Walker's Medal of Honor without action by Congress. The law does not authorize the President to unilaterally make such an application, either with or without congressional action. The ABCMR could correct Army records so as to restore Doctor Walker's award only if it determined that the action of the 1916 Medal of Honor Board in withdrawing her award was erroneous or unjust. In view of the circumstances of this case, the statutory standards governing eligibility for award of the Medal of Honor, and the Congressional action in 1916 that led to its withdrawal from Dr. Walker, it is highly improbable that the ABCMR would act favorably on such a request. Thus, as a practical matter, there is no available administrative action that would permit restoration of the medal. If Dr. Walker is to be given the award it almost certainly would have to be done by the Congress.

Finally, you have asked if the Medal of Honor "should" be restored to Dr. Walker. Dr. Walker's wartime service and distinguished career may be deserving of great honors. However, Congress has restricted the award of the Medal of Honor to military members performing above and beyond the call of duty and at risk of their lives in combat situations. It would not appear appropriate to make the award to Dr. Walker or any other person not meeting these standards.



Alan Woods

The Special Assistant

1 Inclosure
39 Stat. 166, 214

Medals of honor.
Board authorized to
investigate past issues,
etc.

Names to be stricken
off if improperly is-
sued, etc.

Expenses.

SEC. 122. INVESTIGATION CONCERNING MEDALS OF HONOR.—A

board to consist of five general officers on the retired list of the Army shall be convened by the Secretary of War, within sixty days after the approval of this Act, for the purpose of investigating and reporting upon past awards or issues of the so-called congressional medal of honor by or through the War Department; this with a view to ascertain what medals of honor, if any, have been awarded or issued for any cause other than distinguished conduct by an officer or enlisted man in action involving actual conflict with an enemy by such officer or enlisted man or by troops with which he was serving at the time of such action. And in any case in which said board shall find and report that said medal was issued for any cause other than that hereinbefore specified the name of the recipient of the medal so issued shall be stricken permanently from the official medal of honor list. It shall be a misdemeanor for him to wear or publicly display said medal, and, if he shall still be in the Army, he shall be required to return said medal to the War Department for cancellation. Said board shall have full and free access to and use of all records pertaining to the award or issue of medals of honor by or through the War Department. The actual and necessary expenses of said board and its members shall be paid out of any appropriations available for contingent expenses of the Army of the War Department.

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Pursuant to your request, I have collected information on Dr. Mary Edwards Walker's Medal of Honor. Doctor Walker was awarded a Medal of Honor in 1865 for services performed during the Civil War as a civilian physician with the United States Army. At the time of her award, the Medal of Honor was authorized for "such officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates as have most distinguished or who may hereafter most distinguish themselves in action" (Act of 3 March 1863; 12 Stat. 744, 751)

The Act of 3 June 1916 (39 Stat. 166, 214, inclosed) required the Secretary of War to convene a board of five retired general officers to investigate prior awards of the Medal of Honor for purposes of determining whether any medals were awarded "for any cause other than distinguished conduct by an officer or enlisted man in action involving actual conflict with an enemy" If any such incident were discovered by the board then "the name of the recipient of the medal so issued shall be stricken permanently from the official medal of honor list."

The Board submitted to the War Department the names of 911 persons, including Doctor Mary Walker, who it determined were not entitled to the Medal of Honor under the 3 June 1916 criteria. These 911 names were stricken from the Medal of Honor list on 15 February 1917.

The present criteria for awarding the Medal of Honor are contained in section 3741, title 10, United States Code (see also 38 USC 560). The President may award the medal in the name of Congress to a person who, while a member of the Army, distinguished himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty, while engaged in armed conflict. (There are similar provisions for members of the other Military Departments.)

Section 3744, title 10, United States Code, provides that no Medal of Honor may be awarded more than three years after the act justifying the award. Therefore, the President is not authorized at this time to award a new Medal of Honor to Doctor Walker. Moreover, as Doctor Walker was not a member of the Army, she was not eligible for award of the Medal of Honor under the statutory criteria in effect at the time it was awarded to her (Act of 1863), at the time it was withdrawn (Act of 1916), or at the present time.

Section 1552, title 10, United States Code, authorizes the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR), to "correct any military record of that department when he considers it necessary to correct an error or remove an injustice." The three-year time limit for filing an application with the Board may be waived by the Board "in the interest of justice."

Section 190g, title 2, United States Code, provides that no private bill or resolution authorizing or directing the correction of a military record shall be received or considered in either the Senate or the House.

A joint resolution of Congress directing the issuance of a new Medal of Honor to Doctor Walker would have the same effect as a bill passed by Congress. It could not require correction of the previous withdrawal of Doctor Walker's Medal of Honor (see 2 USC 190g), but could direct the issuance of a new Medal of Honor. The ABCMR would not be involved in such a process if Congress directed, by joint resolution, the issuance of a new award.

A concurrent or simple resolution of Congress would not have the effect of a bill. Any such resolution authorizing the award of a Medal of Honor to Doctor Walker could be submitted to the ABCMR for

appropriate action within its jurisdiction by an heir of Doctor Walker. An heir could also make application to the ABCMR to restore Doctor Walker's Medal of Honor without action by Congress. The law does not authorize the President to unilaterally make such an application, either with or without congressional action. The ABCMR could correct Army records so as to restore Doctor Walker's award only if it determined that the action of the 1916 Medal of Honor Board in withdrawing her award was erroneous or unjust. In view of the circumstances of this case, the statutory standards governing eligibility for award of the Medal of Honor, and the Congressional action in 1916 that led to its withdrawal from Dr. Walker, it is highly improbable that the ABCMR would act favorably on such a request. Thus, as a practical matter, there is no available administrative action that would permit restoration of the medal. If Dr. Walker is to be given the award it almost certainly would have to be done by the Congress.

Finally, you have asked if the Medal of Honor "should" be restored to Dr. Walker. Dr. Walker's wartime service and distinguished career may be deserving of great honors. However, Congress has restricted the award of the Medal of Honor to military members performing above and beyond the call of duty and at risk of their lives in combat situations. It would not appear appropriate to make the award to Dr. Walker or any other person not meeting these standards.



Alan Woods

The Special Assistant

1 Inclosure
39 Stat. 166, 214



Medals of honor.
Board authorized to
investigate past issues,
etc.

Names to be stricken
off if improperly is-
sued, etc.

Expenses.

SEC. 122. INVESTIGATION CONCERNING MEDALS OF HONOR.—A
board to consist of five general officers on the retired list of the Army shall be convened by the Secretary of War, within sixty days after the approval of this Act, for the purpose of investigating and reporting upon past awards or issues of the so-called congressional medal of honor by or through the War Department; this with a view to ascertain what medals of honor, if any, have been awarded or issued for any cause other than distinguished conduct by an officer or enlisted man in action involving actual conflict with an enemy by such officer or enlisted man or by troops with which he was serving at the time of such action. And in any case in which said board shall find and report that said medal was issued for any cause other than that hereinafore specified the name of the recipient of the medal so issued shall be stricken permanently from the official medal of honor list. It shall be a misdemeanor for him to wear or publicly display said medal, and, if he shall still be in the Army, he shall be required to return said medal to the War Department for cancellation. Said board shall have full and free access to and use of all records pertaining to the award or issue of medals of honor by or through the War Department. The actual and necessary expenses of said board and its members shall be paid out of any appropriations available for contingent expenses of the Army of the War Department.