

# CHAPTER V

## *AAOG: The Early Years*

### *1888-1910*

On April 19, 1888, Albert Vander Veer of Albany called a meeting at the Niagara Hotel in Buffalo for the purpose of organizing The American Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. William W. Potter of Buffalo acted as temporary secretary, a position he was to hold on a permanent basis for 23 years. Those invited to form the new organization were:

\*HENRY B. ALLEN, Baldwinsville, New York  
WASHINGTON H. BAKER, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
\*ROLLIN L. BANTA, Buffalo, New York  
F. E. BECKWITH, New Haven, Connecticut  
\*JAMES P. BOYD, Albany, New York  
N. B. CARSON, St. Louis, Missouri  
\*J. H. CARSTENS, Detroit, Michigan  
CLINTON CUSHING, San Francisco, California  
J. M. DUNHAM, Columbus, Ohio  
\*HAMPTON E. HILL, Saco, Maine  
EDWARD J. ILL, Newark, New Jersey  
GEORGE C. JARVIS, Hartford, Connecticut  
\*THOMAS LOTHROP, Buffalo, New York  
THOMAS J. MAXWELL, Keokuk, Iowa  
\*A. B. MILLER, Syracuse, New York  
\*E. E. MONTGOMERY, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
W. H. MYERS, Fort Wayne, Indiana  
\*THOMAS OPIE, Baltimore, Maryland  
\*WILLIAM WARREN POTTER, Buffalo, New York  
JOSEPH PRICE, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
GEORGE R. SHEPHERT, Hartford, Connecticut  
\*BYRON STANTON, Cincinnati, Ohio  
MELANETHORE STORRS, Hartford, Connecticut  
\*WILLIAM H. TAYLOR, Cincinnati, Ohio  
\*FRANKLIN TOWNSEND, Albany, New York  
\*ALBERT VANDER VEER, Albany, New York  
WILLIAM H. WATHEN, Louisville, Kentucky  
N. W. WEBBER, Detroit, Michigan  
\*X. O. WERDER, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

\*Those present at the meeting in Buffalo, April, 1888.

Thomas Opie was appointed temporary chairman. The motives for formation of the new organization were two: first, intellectual stimulation of the members through the organization and second, the formation of an organization of obstetricians and gynecologists from various sections of the country that could represent the specialty at the meeting of the Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons in Washington on September 18 through 20, 1888.

At the organization meeting of the Association, William H. Taylor was elected president; E. E. Montgomery, vice-president; J. H. Carstens, vice-president; William Warren Potter, secretary; and X. O. Werder, treasurer. In the first business session the members voted to make application for admission to the Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons.

The 29 founders of the American Association came from upper New York State, New England, Philadelphia, Baltimore, the midwestern states, and one from California. It is notable that there were no members among the founders from New York City or Boston. Twelve of 29 founders were professors in medical schools, while the remaining 17 were outstanding clinicians in their respective communities. Henry Allen was professor of obstetrics at Syracuse University; James Boyd was professor at Albany Medical School; J. H. Carstens was professor at the Detroit College of Medicine; C. Cushing was professor of gynecology, Cooper Medical College, San Francisco; J. M. Dunham was professor, Columbus Medical College; Thomas Lothrop was professor, Niagara University; Thomas J. Maxwell was professor of obstetrics and gynecology, Keokuk Medical School, Iowa; E. E. Montgomery was professor of obstetrics, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia; Thomas Opie was professor of obstetrics, University of Maryland; William H. Taylor was professor of obstetrics and dean, Miami Medical College in Cincinnati; William H. Wathen was professor of obstetrics and dean, Kentucky School of Medicine; while N. W. Webber was professor of gynecology and obstetrics, Detroit College of Medicine.

The first annual meeting of the American Association was held in Washington, September 18 through 20, 1888, at the National Medical College Building. The annual dues were \$25 and the entire expenses for the first meeting was \$207.20. The scientific program consisted of the following papers:

- “Drainage in Abdominal Surgery: by Joseph Price
- “A Contribution to the Study of Pelvic Abscess” by Clinton Cushing
- “The Relation of the Abdominal Surgeon to the Obstetrician and Gynecologist” by Albert Vander Veer
- “Surgical Treatment for Lacerations of the Perineum and Pelvic Floor” by William H. Wathen
- “The Perineum: Its Anatomy, Physiology and Methods of Restoration After Injury” by Henry O. Marey
- “Double Ovariectomy During Pregnancy; Subsequent Delivery at Term” by William Warren Potter
- “Vaginal Tamponnement in the Treatment of Prolapsed Ovaries” by Walter P. Manton
- “Note on the Treatment of Endometritis by Injections of Pure Nitric Acid” by A. Cordes (Paris)
- “Induction of Premature Labor” by Byron Stanton
- “Is the Frequent Use of Forceps Abusive?” by Thomas Opie
- “Reflex Neurosis of Pregnancy With a Case of Aphasia Graviditatis” by Gratz Ashe Moses
- “Intraperitoneal Hematocele With Suppuration” by J. H. Scarrff
- “An Unusual Case of Subserous Uterine Fibroid, With Operation” by Hampton E. Hill
- “Treatment of Certain Cases of Salpingitis” by Augustus P. Clarke
- “The Influence of the Sexual Life of Women in the Etiology of Certain Diseases of the Ear” by Thomas E. McArdle
- “Desmoid (Fibroid) Tumor of the Abdominal Walls” by Edward J. Ill
- “Some Diseases of the Skin Associated With Disorders of the Female Sex Organs” by George H. Rohé

- “The Resuscitation of the Asphyxiated Newborn Infant by the Suspension Method” by L. Eliot
- “Report of 63 Cases of Alexander’s Operation” by John H. Kellog
- “Fibroid Tumors of the Abdominal Wall” by Charles A. L. Reed
- “Some Minute but Important Details of the Management of Continuous Current in Gynecology” by A. Laphorn Smith
- “Hyaline Metamorphosis of the Placenta, Postpartum” by William H. Welch
- “Hysterectomy for Malignant Disease of the Uterus” by William H. Wathen
- “Removal of the Uterine Appendages” by Frank A. Glasgow
- “Diagnosis and Treatment of Uterine Fibroids” by Thomas J. Maxwell
- “Heart Failure in the Puerperium” by Thomas Lothrop
- “A New Operation for Repair of the Perineum” by Bernard Burns
- “Symposium—Extra-uterine Pregnancy”

Not all the papers listed on the program were read at the meeting and many of the authors were absent. The paper by Joseph Price pertaining to the surgical drainage of the abdomen was the first of many papers on the subject that he was to present at meetings of the Association. He was a strong believer in drainage and irrigation of the abdominal cavity as the most important element of the treatment of generalized peritonitis. He held firmly to this belief for the duration of his professional career. The symposium on extrauterine pregnancy was extremely interesting for it was in this period that the debate about surgical treatment versus electrical treatment occurred. How anyone ever cured ectopic pregnancy with electrical currents is hard to understand in modern times, but many of these men were completely serious about its advantages over surgery.

William Taylor, as first president, set the precedent for the annual address at high noon of the second day of the meeting. In his address he said that abdominal operations were good procedures when performed by the right hands, but he expressed the opinion that they were done too often. He was against the performance of abortion and castigated the unscrupulous who involved themselves and their patients in this practice. He dwelt upon the social habits of women who stayed in the home, away from exercise and fresh air, and thereby reduced their reproductive capabilities. He felt also that it was an exaggeration to blame the ovaries for most of women’s ills. He stated the ovariectomy for epilepsy was a poor practice and should be discontinued. Taylor deplored the shortage of nurses and thought men should be recruited into the profession. He spent some time in a plea for the use of more analgesia for laboring women.

The members learned to their dismay, at the first meeting of the Association, that they had been politely but firmly rejected for membership in the Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons. Their application was returned with the statement from the Congress that their application for membership would not be considered until the new Association had held at least two annual meetings. This was disturbing news to the members of the Association since anticipation of membership in the Congress was one of the principal reasons that this organization had been formed. The members were angry since the leaders of the Congress had informed the organizers informally that the Association would be the representative of the specialty of obstetrics and gynecology in the Congress in company with organizations representing the other major specialties within medicine. The officers and members felt betrayed, and it helped matters little that the American Gynecological Society after first refusing membership in the Congress then accepted membership as a representative of the discipline of obstetrics and gynecology.

The year the American Association was founded Benjamin Harrison ran for president of the United States against Grover Cleveland, who was seeking a second term. Cleveland received a plurality of popular votes but Harrison was elected president because he received the most electoral votes. In 1888, the Treasury of the United States had a \$100 million surplus that was attributable to high protective tariffs, and Cleveland campaigned on a platform to reduce tariffs in order to help the laboring class, but lost the election. There were 38 states in the Union in 1888, and the population was approximately 61 million.

It is of medical interest that Max Sänger introduced suture closure of the uterine incision in 1885 as part of the cesarean section operation as a means to control hemorrhage, and the same year William Stewart Halsted introduced conduction anesthesia. In 1886, Reginald Heber Fitz described appendicitis for the first time. Wilhelm Konrad Roentgen discovered x-rays on December 28, 1895. These were the medical advances that were made about the time the founders of the American Association began making medical history themselves.

The constitution of the Association set the membership goal as 100 active fellows. At the second annual meeting the members elected to honorary foreign fellowship W. A. Freund of Strassburg, G. Leopold of Dresden, Max Sänger of Prague, and Lawson Tait of Birmingham. Several interesting points of information about obstetrics and gynecology may be found in volume II of the Transactions of 1889. The mortality rate of ovariectomy was stated to be 10%; hysterectomy for cancer of the uterus was associated with an 11% postoperative mortality; while the operative mortality for uterine myomas was stated to be 24%. Death from postpartum hemorrhage was estimated to occur once in each 200 deliveries; Porro cesarean section carried a maternal mortality of 19%; while Max Sänger's transperitoneal cesarean section followed by suture closure of the uterus was associated with a 26% mortality rate.

The third annual meeting was held in the Hall of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, September 16 through 18, 1890, under the presidency of E. E. Montgomery. Montgomery reviewed the present state of the practice of obstetrics and gynecology in his address and made the statement that electrolysis was no longer an acceptable treatment for ectopic pregnancy. In his review he said the maternal death rate from placenta previa was 23% to 35% in the various major cities and institutions, while perinatal loss from this complication of pregnancy ranged from 50% to 75%.

G. H. Rhoe gave a paper at the meeting of 1890 titled "The Practical Teaching of Obstetrics in the United States." He was professor of obstetrics and hygiene at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Baltimore. Rhoe urged teaching of medical students under supervision at home deliveries and spoke strongly against medical school graduates being licensed to practice medicine after receiving only lecture room experience in normal and abnormal obstetrics.

The fourth annual meeting of the Association was held in the Hall of the Academy of Medicine in New York, September 17, 18, and 19, 1891. The membership was still fuming at the Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons and the American Gynecological Society for excluding the American Association from membership in the Congress. At the business meeting, after considerable discussion, the members voted to drop their application to the Congress with dignity and proceed with their work within their own Association. Further evidence that their anger did not last long became evident when the Association passed a motion in tribute to Fordyce Barker, found and first president of the American Gynecological Society. Re-elected for a second consecutive term, he died in 1891. The tribute reads, "One of the grandest and noblest physicians the world has ever seen."

The only memorable scientific paper given at the meeting in 1891 was by Llewellyn Eliot of Toronto. Its title was "Is a Child Viable at Six and a Half Month?" Eliot presented clinical data to prove that it was possible for a child born at six and one-half months' gestation to survive.

L. S. McMurtry of Louisville was present in 1893, and while he did not dwell on matters concerning the Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons and their rejection of the American Association's application for membership, he did make reference to the American Gynecological Society that was not entirely friendly. He said in his address, "It is contrary to the genius of our American institutions and opposed to the broad catholic spirit of science, as it were, to claim the prerogative of a national organization, and debar from membership honorable members of the profession, capable and desirous of advancing science. The exclusive methods of the American Gynecological Society, and the abuse of the blackball in secret session, necessitated the establishment of a society upon a broader and more liberal basis." He concluded by suggesting that the Association adopt a policy of unlimited membership.

William B. Dewees of Salina, Kansas, the inventor of the Dewees forceps, gave a paper at the annual meeting in 1894. The paper was entitled "A New Axis-Traction and Anti-craniotomy Forceps" (Transactions 1894;7:477). Ninety years later the Dewees forceps, with solid but gently curved blades, are still popular with many obstetricians. It is interesting to note that Dewees came from a small Kansas town and not from a large medical center.

During the early years of the American Association the fellows were obstetricians, gynecologists, and general surgeons. Men like George W. Crile of Cleveland, John F. Erdmann of New York, Thomas B. Noble of Indianapolis, Joseph Price of Philadelphia, John B. Deaver of Philadelphia, and John Benjamin Murphy of Chicago were well-known and highly respected general surgeons who became members. Later, William Wayne Babcock of Philadelphia and Thomas Evans Jones of Cleveland, general surgeons, became members of the Association. Price, Crile, Erdmann, and Babcock each served as president of the Association. The annual programs of the Association during the early years contained many papers on abdominal surgery ranging from the upper abdomen to the pelvis. Thyroid gland surgery, breast surgery, and hernial repairs were also frequently discussed. The patients discussed were male as well as female.

In 1897, Thomas J. Maxwell of Keokuk, Iowa, presented a paper of some interest titled "Senile Irritable Uterus" (Transactions 1897;10:358). From reading his report it is evident that he was describing atrophic vaginitis for which there was no satisfactory treatment at that time.

The program of 1898 contained several papers in which the signs and symptoms of floating kidney were discussed; and criteria for diagnosis of the problem and description of surgical methods for its cure were presented. At this same meeting, B. Sherwood Dunn read a paper entitled "The Relations of Diseases of the Female Generative Organs to the Nervous and Mental Affections" (Transactions 1898;11:190), while W. H. Humiston followed with a report on "The Graver Nerve Disturbances Due to Changes in the Genital Organs" (Transactions 1898;11:216). Humiston's thesis was that pelvic problems were a principal cause of hysteria.

While the scientific programs continued during the early years to feature papers on gallbladder surgery, appendicitis, bowel obstruction, diaphragmatic injuries, and peritonitis; gynecologic operations, obstetric subjects, and social aspects of obstetrics and gynecology were discussed. For instance, Edward J. Ill, in his presidential address, talked of "The Rights of the Unborn—the Prevention of Conception." He expressed horror in finding some of his patients were practicing conception control and was firmly against abortion except in the most extreme medical problems. The next year (1900), Rufus B. Hall addressed the Association as president and chose as his subject "The Education of the Laity Upon Sexual Matters: When Shall They be Taught, and to What Extent?" Hall stated that sex education should begin in high school as a preventive against pelvic infections and allied problems. He made no mention of birth control techniques or prevention of pregnancy; he believed in abstinence.

A report by Edwin Ricketts of Cincinnati, a found, generated multiple and lengthy discussions. His paper was titled "House-to-House Operating" (Transactions 1899;12:58). The author was enthusiastic about kitchen table surgery and presented his excellent results from patients operated on for ectopic pregnancy, ruptured uterus, bowel obstruction, and oophorectomy. Many members present spoke against surgery in the patient's home and favored a hospital environment. Ricketts' opinion was that the home was cleaner than the hospital environment.

By 1899, papers were being given on the subjects of abdominal and vaginal hysterectomy. B. Sherwood Dunn felt that in the case of abdominal hysterectomy, the cervix should be left in place if it has no pathologic lesions (Transactions 1899;12:218). Showing an enlightened surgical and obstetric attitude as early as 1901, E. Gustav Zinke presented a paper justifying cesarean section as a method for treatment of placenta previa (Transactions 1901;14:137). Zinke's report was 26 years ahead of that of Arthur Bill, who is usually credited with originating the practice of cesarean section for the treatment of placenta previa.

The annual meeting of 1901 was held in Cleveland and those in attendance were saddened by the death of President William McKinley by an assassin's bullet fired while he attended the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo. The President died on September 14, 1901, having suffered two revolver shots at close range



that perforated his stomach and pancreas. Surgeons were able to close the perforation of the stomach, but death followed traumatic pancreatic necrosis and its complications. Matthew D. Mann of Buffalo performed the surgery and it is of interest that Charles McBurney, a well-known New York surgeon, saw the President in consultation on the morning of the third day after the tragedy. The members of the Association held a memorial service in Cleveland to honor the memory of their dead President.

In keeping with the attitude of members about theirs being a national organization with wide representation, a committee was appointed to explore the possibility of the American Association uniting with the Southern Surgical and Gynecological Association. The proposal was reported and laid on the table for a year, not to rise again.

Edwin Ricketts was president in 1902 and presented a gavel to the Association that was thereafter passed from president to president. His words of presentation are as follows:

“The head is from wood taken from one of the poplar girders in the old home of Ephraim McDowell, and has the marks of the builder’s strip-saw. The handle was made from hickory wood taken from one of the joists in the double log house near Greenfield, Ohio, in which Alexander Dunlop performed his first ovariectomy, the subject being Susan Rosen, September 17, 1843, just 59 years ago tomorrow. This handle, fortunately, bears one mark as coming from the edge of the woodman’s axe.”

John B. Deaver, a colorful pioneer surgeon from Philadelphia, inventor of the Deaver retractor, gave a paper titled “Diagnosis” (Transactions 1905;18:193). This was more of a philosophic essay than a scientific paper, and in it one of his lasting aphorisms is quoted, “He who would cure well must diagnose well.” Deaver said many things that are repeated today, among which are “Without a proper diagnosis there can be no intelligent treatment” and, speaking to a surgical assistant, “Hold onto this retractor until I tell you to let go or until you drop dead.” These things we remember while forgetting the other contributions he made.

By 1907, the membership had voted to raise the constitutional limit on membership from 100 to 150. William Potter had been secretary of the Association from its inception and the membership recognized his devotion, efficiency, and services by a resolution, presentation of a gold watch, and his nomination to presidency of the organization, an honor that he humbly declined. William Potter’s response after hearing of these honors is quoted here:

“I am extremely grateful but it is utterly impossible for me to consider the honor of the presidency at this time, and certainly hope it proceeds to a final conclusion. It would please me very much under other circumstances to preside over the deliberations of the Association; but my heart has been in the work for so many years, that I feel suited to detail work, and I am not gifted with that kind of executive ability to preside over such a distinguished body.”

William Potter was secretary of the Association for 23 years, a quarter of the life of the organization. From his remarks on declining the office of president, it is evident that he wished to continue as secretary but hoped to have another chance at the presidency. Unfortunately that did not happen because he died as secretary in 1911. Irving Potter of Buffalo, who became a fellow in 1914, was the son of William Potter’s cousin, Milton G. Potter. Irving became known for his enthusiastic practice of elective internal version and extraction of the fetus as a preferred method of delivery, and he was a very active participant in scientific programs of the Association, particularly concerning version and extraction. He died in 1956 and I remember his attendance at annual meetings during my early years of membership. By this time, Irving W. Potter was not participating in the program but enjoyed the social activities. Milton Grosvenor Potter, son of Irving W. Potter, was a fellow of the Association from 1935 to 1970, and often accompanied his father to the meetings. Milton Potter’s two sons, Grosvenor and Paul, now practice obstetrics and gynecology in Buffalo.

E. Gustav Zinke was president in 1907, and in his address he stated there had been no improvement for the last 20 years in maternal and fetal mortality rates, except in hospital clinics and maternity hospitals. He predicted that cesarean section would become the preferred method for delivery for the patient with contracted pelvis, feeling that it was preferable to high forceps operations, craniotomy, induction of premature labor, or prophylactic internal version. He did state, however, that the maternal mortality rate from elective cesarean section was 2%.

Asa B. Davis of New York was famous for his high fundal incision for cesarean section and was a firm advocate of his operation. In 1910, he presented a paper entitled "Cesarean Section by the Small Median Incision Above the Umbilicus"; his study included 124 patients with a mortality of 6.45%. The principal cause of death was sepsis. Davis felt that his operation was a better choice for delivery of infants than the high forceps operation, internal version, or pubiotomy. He also believed cesarean section at term or during labor to be a better choice than early induction of labor as a method to avoid complications of contracted pelvis.

Albert Vander Veer of Albany, a founder, presented a paper in 1910 titled "What Has Been Accomplished by Our Association?" He said that in the 23 years of the life of the Association physicians had come to understand the diagnosis and treatment of pelvic abscess as well as ectopic pregnancy. Other advances that he mentioned were the surgical treatment of uterine myomas with supracervical hysterectomy and the satisfactory surgical treatment of lacerations of childbirth.

Julius H. Jacobson of Toledo presented a paper in 1910 titled "Recent Advances in the Technic of the Radical Abdominal Operation for Cancer of the Uterus." He was speaking about cancer of the uterine cervix. Jacobson's radical hysterectomy was not the extended radical surgical procedure as introduced by John Clark of Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1895 or the procedure later advocated by Wertheim; it was a total abdominal hysterectomy and bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy with removal of some upper vaginal tissues. Sixty-five percent of the cases of cancer of the cervix that he had seen were operable and the primary surgical mortality was 20%. The cure rate two to six and one-half years after surgery was 21%.

James W. Kennedy of Philadelphia became a fellow of the Association in 1910 and was one of its most active and distinguished members. He died in 1957 and was by then the oldest fellow, both in age and term of membership, in the Association. His initial paper was entitled "The Pathological Era Versus the Physiological in the Surgical Treatment of Intraabdominal Infections." Kennedy was espousing the teachings of his mentor Joseph Price, whose assistant he was for 11 years. The thesis of Kennedy's paper was that in cases of peritonitis the abdomen should be opened, the diseased part should then be removed, the exudate drained, all abrasions carefully sewn, and the entire peritoneum completely cleaned.

James Kennedy was born in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, in 1869; when he was two years of age his family homesteaded a farm near Junction City, Kansas. The house on the farm, a beautiful two-story house with a long porch, was named Liberty Hall. Kennedy left the farm to attend the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Chicago, now the Abraham Lincoln Medical School of the University of Illinois, but he soon transferred to Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, from which he was graduated in 1899. James Kennedy established a remarkable student and mentor relationship with Joseph Price, a relationship that never faded. Kennedy never tired of praising the professional accomplishments and personal qualifications of Joseph Price. Kennedy became chief surgeon in charge of the Price Memorial Hospital after the death of Joseph Price, a position he held until his retirement in 1950 when the city of Philadelphia purchased and razed the hospital to make room for a freeway. This last act is of some significance to the Association for the city paid a considerable sum of money to James Kennedy for the hospital building and its site, and most of this sum was eventually bequeathed to The American Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Foundation, Inc.

Kennedy was well-known for his clamp method of performing vaginal hysterectomy, an operation that he could complete in 10 minutes. The technique involved use of the famous Kennedy clamps, which he placed on the broad ligaments on either side of the uterus; he then cut the uterus free and finally packed the

vagina with gauze, but left the clamps in place. The next day he removed the pack and the clamps and placed a light fresh pack in the vagina. No sutures were involved and the patient experienced a remarkably benign course.

Kennedy did not marry until he reached age 65, when (1934) he married his operating room nurse, Jean C. Kennedy, who was 40 years younger than he. In 1950, the Kennedys moved from Philadelphia to his boyhood home, Liberty Hall in Kansas, to retire. They hired a farmer and stockman to supervise the activities of the farm, which both James and Jean Kennedy pursued with keen interest. In 1927, James Kennedy established the Joseph Price Oration in memory of his beloved preceptor. Not only was James Kennedy's purpose to honor Joseph Price's memory, but he was eager that members of the Association meet leading clinicians, teachers, and investigators from abroad in order that they might have friends and colleagues in foreign countries. The Joseph Price Oration has been an outstanding feature of the annual scientific program and has fulfilled the hopes of its founder in introducing members of the Association to outstanding leaders from abroad. The Price Oration continues through funds provided by James Kennedy and his estate. Price Orators have each been elected to honorary fellowship in the Association, an honor that has added to the prestige of the invitation. The president of the Association has the privilege of choosing and inviting the Price Orator each year. James Kennedy and his wife were faithful attendants at all meetings of the Association. He was a tall, thin, handsome athletic man. Mrs. Kennedy was small, demure, attractive. She was soft-spoken and rather timid. Until 1960 when he died, Herbert Schmitz of Chicago was Mrs. Kennedy's gynecologist, after which Mrs. Kennedy became my patient, partly because Denver was a direct train ride from Junction City and partly because I was at that time secretary of the Association. In the next few years Mrs. Kennedy experienced two serious illnesses for which she had to be hospitalized in Denver. My wife and I came to know her quite well during the period of 1957 to 1966, the latter being the year she died. She would take a drawing room on the train, come the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver, engage a room, see me as her gynecologist, and see any other physicians I would refer her to. She would entertain us at dinner in a private dining room at the Brown Palace Hotel and talk to us about James Kennedy and their plans for giving their estate to the Association through the Foundation. In 1960, Mrs. Kennedy established the James W. Kennedy Memorial Travel Fellowship, which continued for three years. The James W. Kennedy estate willed \$2,036,120.59 to the Foundation in 1966. For the Kennedys, the Association was their entire life. They had no children of their own, Mrs. Kennedy told me that James Kennedy had provided financial sponsorship for two students at Jefferson Medical College each year when they lived in Philadelphia. The Kennedy funds have been used by the Foundation for support of the Joseph Price Orations and for workshops for the improvement of undergraduate education in obstetrics and gynecology. Mrs. Kennedy was elected to honorary fellowship in the Association in 1962 in recognition of her great contribution to the Association. Unfortunately, she died in her home, Liberty Hall, on February 5, 1966. She was devoted to the memory of her husband and determined in every way to carry out his wishes concerning his estate and the Association. Soon after James Kennedy's death in 1957, the Council of the American Association voted to change the name of the Joseph Price Oration to the Joseph Price-James W. Kennedy Oration. Mrs. Kennedy would not permit this change, her reason being that "her Jim" wanted to honor Joseph Price through the lectureship he had established.



HISTORY OF THE  
AMERICAN GYNECOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
1876-1981  
AND  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS  
1888-1981



EDWARD STEWART TAYLOR  
Denver, Colorado

The C. V. Mosby Company

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