



AMERICAN GYNECOLOGICAL CLUB



ONE HUNDRED YEARS

1911 - 2011

Washington, D. C.

October, 2011



The American Gynecological Club
at the Tower Bridge in London, 2007

History of the American Gynecological Club 1911—2011

Compiled for the
100th Anniversary of the Club

2011

Washington, D.C.

By

Howard W. Jones, III

AGC HISTORY

YEAR	PRESIDENT	MEETING LOCATION	SEC-TREASURER
1989	Luigi Mastroianni	Oxford, England	Mort Stenchever
1990	Kenneth Ryan *	Denver, CO	Mort Stenchever
1991	Carlyle Crenshaw *	Australia	Mort Stenchever
1992	Leo Dunn	Tampa, FL	Mort Stenchever
1993	David Nichols *	Durham/Chapel Hill	William Droegmueller
1994	Mort Stenchever	Seattle, WA	William Droegmueller
1995	Charles B. Hammond	Charlottesville	William Droegmueller
1996	Paul Underwood	Boston	William Creasman
1997	William Droegmueller	Chicago	William Creasman
1998	George Morley	Scotland	William Creasman
1999	John Mikuta	San Diego	Robert Resnik
2000	William Creasman	Park City, UT	Robert Resnik
2001	Fred Frigoletto	Nashville, TN	Robert Resnik
2002	Arthur Herbst	Atlanta, GA	Don Coustan
2003	Robert Resnik	Providence, RI	Don Coustan
2004	Ronald Gibbs	Aspen, CO	Don Coustan
2005	Sharon Dooley	Charleston, SC	Peter VanDorsten
2006	Donald Coustan	La Jolla, CA	Peter VanDorsten
2007	Larry Gilstrap	London, England	Peter VanDorsten
2008	John Sciarra	New York, NY	Howard Jones, III
2009	Peter Van Dorsten	Chicago, IL	Howard Jones, III
2010	Norman Gant	Boston, MA	Howard Jones, III
2011	Alan DeCherney	Washington, DC	Sandra Carson

* deceased

AGC HISTORY

YEAR	PRESIDENT	MEETING LOCATION	SEC-TREASURER
1965	Francis B. Carter		
1966	Daniel G. Morton		
1967	R. Gordon Douglas		
1968	Conrad R. Collins		
1969	Clyde L. Randall		
1970	E. Stewart Taylor		
1971	John Brewer *		
1972	Norman Thornton		
1973	Curtis Lund *		
1974	David N. Danforth		
1975	Tommy N. Evans	Detroit, MI	
1976	Howard Ulfelder		
1977	Ralph Benson		
1978	Gordon Douglas		
1979	John VanMaeck		
1980	J. George Moore	Scotland	
1981	Lawrence Hester, Jr. *		
1982	James Ingram *	Burlington, VT	George Lewis
1983	William Dignam *	Tucson, AZ	George Lewis
1984	Paul Bruns *	Charleston, SC	George Lewis
1985	Henry Thiede *	Madison, WI	George Lewis
1986	Denis Cavanagh	Boston, MA	George Lewis
1987	Roy Parker *	Los Angeles	Mort Stenchever
1988	Ben Peckham *	Rochester, NY	Mort Stenchever

The American Gynecological Club was founded by a small group of academic gynecologic surgeons and obstetricians in 1911. The original by-laws of the Club states its objectives. -

The purpose of the Club shall be the general advancement of obstetrics, gynecology, and abdominal surgery.

It shall provide for its members the opportunity of observing in institutions other than their own – whether college, hospital, or laboratory – the educational, clinical, and experimental work of fellow members and others engaged in the practice of obstetrics, gynecology, and abdominal surgery.

To the members of the Club opportunity shall be given personally to demonstrate in their own institutions, their operative methods and technique, their plan of instruction, and the results of their investigations.

The aim of the Club shall be to stimulate among its members informal discussion and a free interchange of ideas instead of formal presentations of written communications.

These goals have remained unchanged during the 100 years the Club has been in existence and still today the members meet annually to hear new results, observe new techniques, and to discuss advances or problems in clinical care, research and education related to gynecology and obstetrics. The meetings serve to foster friendships and provide time for face-to-face discussions of a wide range of topics and despite advances in communications and an ever-increasing number of professional meetings, the American Gynecological Club continue to provide an opportunity for academic leaders in the field of gynecology and obstetrics to come together in a relaxed, social atmosphere to consider advances and problems and shape the direction of women's healthcare.

There have been several histories of the American Gynecological Club compiled by members over the years. On this, the 100th anniversary of the Club we have compiled the more recent history of the past two decades drawing on personal recollections aided by meeting programs, notes, and recorded minutes of the secretary. This recent history has been combined with excerpts and references to the previously published histories.



Howard C Taylor

First President of the American Gynecological Club



Professor Alwin Karl Mackenrodt operating at his hospital in Berlin, 1912

(from Eby and Longo. Obstet Gynecolo, 2002)

Compiling the history of the American Gynecological Club has been interesting and fun. It was fascinating to read about the early years when the members of the Club included iconic figures whose textbooks I studied as a medical student and resident and who have operations or surgical instruments named after them. It is also fun to see how the topics of resident education and surgical technique keep recurring and how the advances in molecular biology and genetics continue to improve our understanding of the causes and mechanisms of disease. It is also wonderful to think back on the many and varied social events that club members have enjoyed over the years— visits to museums and navy ships from Old Ironsides to modern aircraft carriers, amazing industrial plants including Boeing and Kodak and many elegant dinners in castles, clubs and temples.

The concept of a visiting society, traveling from one academic institution to another to interact with the local faculty, to observe and discuss their ideas of academic advances has been the guiding principle of the American Gynecological Club for the past 100 years and continues to be as valuable and relevant today as it was when the Club was founded one hundred years ago. I am confident that the next one hundred years will see many changes but I am equally sure that the members of the Club will be at the forefront of these changes.

Howard W. Jones, III

October, 2011



The 2010 annual meeting was held in Boston at the Massachusetts General Hospital with Fred Frigoletto and Isaac Schiff as hosts. The Harvard faculty once again presented an intriguing scientific program for President Norman Gant and the Club members. Presentations on various aspects of IVF including egg quality and cryopreservation, the value of aggressive surgical cytoreduction for ovarian cancer, and HPV vaccination and the development of a center for outcomes research highlighted the program. Fred's signature gourmet dining experience at the Blue Ginger in Wellesley was preceded by a wonderful cocktail party given by Mary D'Alton at her home. On Saturday afternoon the Club toured the intimate and charming Isabella Stewart Gardner Art Museum. The black tie dinner was held at the Liberty Hotel – the old converted and beautifully renovated Charles Street Jail!

Early History

Written by James M. Ingram, MD

Founded in 1911, the American Gynecological Club is the oldest organization of its kind in America. Its inception occurred among a small group of obstetricians and gynecologists around a luncheon table in Atlantic City in May of that year, at the suggestion of Dr. Howard C. Taylor of New York. The first meeting of the Club was held on May 11, 1911 when Dr. Taylor was elected chairman and the name of the Club was chosen.

Howard C. Taylor was an exemplary founding President, as he was one of the giants of his day. He served as Clinical Professor of Gynecology at Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons, and as Director of Roosevelt Hospital's Gynecological Service. At one time, his patients included the wives of three former Presidents of the United States. His equally distinguished son, Howard C. Taylor, Jr., followed his footsteps years later as Chairman at Columbia and as President of the American Gynecological Club.

The original purposes of the AGC have remained unchanged. These include the general advancement of obstetrics and gynecology, the opportunity of observing the educational, clinical, and experimental work of its members in various institutions, and the stimulation among its members of informal discussion and free exchange of ideas, rather than presentation of written communications.

In spite of its self-limited size of 40 active members, the AGC has traditionally counted among its membership a significant portion of the academic and clinical leadership in American obstetrics and gynecology. Strong bonds of friendship have grown among its members and their hosts, as the Club has visited the medical centers of the United States, Europe, and other countries. Meetings are now held annually, although in early years they were held more often. The carefully preserved history of the Club records the daily medical and social aspects of each meeting, including some interesting details of the pleasures of long transatlantic voyages in the early days.

By curious coincidence, an almost identical organization, the Gynecological Visiting Society of Great Britain (GVS), was founded in England on April 24, 1911, one month before the first meeting of the AGC. A small group of academic gynecologists was brought together for dinner in Liverpool by Professor William Blair-Bell, the foremost investigative obstetrician-gynecologist of his day in Great Britain. His life and many accomplishments are captured in the fascinating biography of William Blair-Bell, published by the Royal College in 1986, and written by Sir John Peel, who is a member of both the GVS and an honorary member of the AGC.

The GVS became a small select, close-knit group which met twice a year, with Blair-Bell as Convener for many years. With mutual interests and a common language, it was inevitable that the two societies be drawn together, despite the long interruption and hardships of World War I.

In 1926, the AGC and the Gynecological Visiting Society met together for the first time in Liverpool. A close friendship developed between the two societies, which led them to declare themselves sister societies on each side of the Atlantic. Since 1926, the two groups have met together in alternate countries at four to five-year intervals. At a joint meeting in Liverpool in 1971, the GVS graciously presented the President's Medallion to the AGC. This handsome gold medallion was designed by the noted Cyril J. Shiner, Deputy Head of the Birmingham School of Jewelry and Silversmithing. It was wrought in London by Mr. Frank James, an elderly craftsman who created many of the insignias of the Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Garter. The medallion, together with the gavel described below, are two treasured symbols of the office which are protected in the custody of the President of the AGC each year.

In 1949, the membership of the AGC was substantially enriched by its merger with the North American Gynecological and Obstetrical Travel Club, a very similar society, then 10 years old. The following year Dr. Richard W. TeLinde, who served as President of both clubs and who was instrumental in the merger, presented to the AGC a gavel unique in the history of gynecology. This gavel was fashioned from the two silver tops of an inkwell from the home of Dr. Howard A. Kelly on Eutaw Place in Baltimore. The inkwell had been presented to Howard Kelly by Dr. Henry M. Thomas, Professor of Neurology at Johns Hopkins University upon the occasion of the delivery of their second child by Dr. Kelly.

Except for the years of World War I and II, the AGC has met annually. Since the founding of the American Gynecological Club, transportation has changed from train and steamship to jet travel. Methodology of teaching and learning has changed from direct written and verbal contact between gynecologists to telecommunications and computers. However, the members of the AGC still find that the most enlightening and enjoyable experiences, both scientific and social, are personal, first-hand communication with our colleagues in their own institutions.

There have been several published histories of the American Gynecological Club. At the thirty fifth Anniversary meeting of the club in 1947, George Gray Ward compiled a detailed history of the early years of the club including the first three European trips in 1912, 1914, 1926.



In 2007, President Larry Gilstrap led 27 members of the American Gynecological Club to London for a joint meeting with the Gynecological Visiting Society. The headquarters hotel was on the Thames adjacent to the iconic Tower Bridge. Members from both sides of the Atlantic discussed a variety of topics including "Is Menstruation Obsolete?" And "PIH – much ado without nothing", and "Why blame the obstetrician? Modern Maternal Death". We toured the Tate Gallery of Modern Art and rode the London Eye – the large Ferris wheel across the Thames from Westminster Abbey. The social highlight of the trip was an elegant luncheon cruise down the Thames to Greenwich and back. The black tie dinner will always be remembered as one of the most unusual in the Club's history. Over 100 tuxedo-clad eminent obstetrician gynecologists and their elegant ladies were taken by motor coach to the London Dungeon. Most unusual! Ask someone who was there.

Back on the other side of the Atlantic, in 2008, we met in New York for our annual meeting hosted by Stan Zinberg and Gerson Weiss; Jack Sciarra was President. Faculty members from the New Jersey Medical School in Newark presented the scientific program which covered many obstetrical topics including premature rupture of the membranes, breast feeding and Vitamin D. There was also a stimulating presentation on simulation in medical education. Shopping and sightseeing were enjoyed by all and there was a special docent-led tour of the Museum of Modern Art. The famous Rainbow Room on the 65th floor of the GE building in midtown Manhattan was the site of the Club's black tie dinner. Overlooking the colorful New York skyline, we ate, drank, and danced the night away in an evening very reminiscent of the Big Band era of yesteryear.

Returning to the heartland of America, in 2009 the AGC met in Chicago for a meeting jointly hosted by Northwestern University and the University of Chicago. President Peter Van Dorsten and local hosts including Jack Sciarra, Sharon Dooley, Sherman Elias, Cap Haney, Mike Socol, and Ralph Tamura welcomed Club members and guests at the Ritz Carlton Hotel at the Water Tower. The scientific sessions were held at the new Prentice Women's Hospital which was a return to the past when the Club regularly visited the host institution to see first-hand the facilities and meet the faculty and residents. There were many stimulating presentations including a discussion of gestational diabetes, pelvic pain, shoulder dystocia, and a special talk on "OncoFertility: the preservation of Fertility for Cancer" by Theresa Woodruff, a faculty member at Northwestern and Executive Director of the Institute for Women's Health Research. Intermittent light rain did not spoil a fascinating Chicago Architectural Society Riverboat Cruise. The food was outstanding, with dinner on Friday evening at Il Mulino, an Italian restaurant, and the black tie dinner the following evening at the very elegant Women's Athletic Club of Chicago. Thank you Carroll!!

In 2005 President Sharon Dooley, the first woman President of the American Gynecological Club convened the annual meeting in Charleston, South Carolina. During the scientific sessions, faculty from the Medical University of South Carolina presented a variety of topics including an interesting study of perinatal mortality in South Carolina which showed that increasing numbers of maternal fetal medicine specialists in an area was associated with reduced perinatal mortality. There were also talks on oocyte preservation, HPV and cervical neoplasia, and minimally invasive surgery. Our hosts Brett and Peter Van Dorsten arranged a pleasant social program including shopping and sightseeing in Charleston and a tour of the confederate submarine, CSS Hunley the first submarine to sink a warship in combat in February, 1864. The black tie dinner was held at the Charleston Yacht Club.



The Club travelled to the San Diego in 2006. San Diego is another Navy town, and one of the social events was a tour of the decommissioned USS Midway, a Vietnam War era aircraft carrier now docked in San Diego. Continuing the nautical theme, the Club enjoyed a dinner cruise around the bay on the party boat Emerald. President Don Coustan presided over the meeting which was held at The Lodge at Torrey Pines, home of the scenic Torrey Pines golf course overlooking the Pacific Ocean in La Jolla. Our host, Bob Resnik, and the faculty at the University of California in San Diego continued the longstanding tradition of discussing new innovations in surgical techniques including robotic surgery, surgery on the fetus in utero, and natural orifice trans gastric endoscopic surgery (NOTES). Kurt Benirschke gave the keynote lecture on "Secrets of the Mammalian Placenta".

The following are abstracts from that privately published monograph.

THE AMERICAN GYNECOLOGICAL CLUB

The American Gynecological Club had its inception during the meeting of the American Gynecological Society at Atlantic City, N. J., in May, 1911. A group of members were gathered around a table at luncheon when Dr. Howard C. Taylor suggested the formation of a small society interested in visiting clinics and observing their confreres at work.

Dr. Robert L. Dickinson and Dr. George Gellhorn were active in seconding the idea and with Dr. Taylor they formed a committee to further the project, which was to include visits to various European clinics.

A preliminary meeting was held in the parlor of the Hotel Traymore, Atlantic City, N. J., on May 11, 1911. Those present were:

DRS. HOWARD C. TAYLOR, NEW YORK, N. Y.
 ROBERT L. DICKINSON, BROOKLYN, N. Y.
 JOHN OSBORNE POLAK, BROOKLYN, N. Y.
 WALTER W. CHIPMAN, MONTREAL, CANADA
 FRANK FARROW SIMPSON, PITTSBURGH, PA.
 RICHARD R. SMITH, GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN
 JOHN A. SAMPSON, ALBANY, N. Y.
 J. WESLEY BOVÉE, WASHINGTON, D. C.
 BROOKS H. WELLS, NEW YORK, N. Y.
 WILLIAM E. STUDDIFORD, NEW YORK, N. Y.
 EDWARD REYNOLDS, BOSTON, MASS.
 WHITRIDGE J. WILLIAMS, BALTIMORE, MD.
 FRANKLIN H. MARTIN, CHICAGO, ILL.
 GEORGE GELLHORN, ST. LOUIS, MO.
 GEORGE GRAY WARD, NEW YORK, N. Y.

Dr. Howard C. Taylor was elected Chairman, and Dr. George Gellhorn as Secretary. The society was named the "American Gynecological Club" and the membership was limited to forty. An Executive Committee consisting of the Chairman and Secretary, and three Members, to be appointed by the Chair, was ordered. This committee was to have full power to organize and manage the affairs of the club for the first year, and were authorized to draw up a constitution and by-laws which were to be submitted to the members at the first clinical meeting.

On August 8, 1911, a letter was sent by the Secretary to a number of gentlemen inviting them to join the club, and the following were elected as Charter Members:

DRS. B. M. ANSPACH, PHILADELPHIA, PA.
 W. E. ASHTON, PHILADELPHIA, PA.
 J. W. BOVÉE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

JOSEPH BRETTAUER, NEW YORK, N. Y.
 LEROY BROUN, NEW YORK, N. Y.
 W. W. CHIPMAN, MONTREAL, CANADA
 J. G. CLARK, PHILADELPHIA, PA.
 T. S. CULLEN, BALTIMORE, MD.
 R. L. DICKINSON, BROOKLYN, N. Y.
 GEORGE GELLHORN, ST. LOUIS, MO.
 J. R. GOFFE, NEW YORK, N. Y.
 B. C. HIRST, PHILADELPHIA, PA.
 F. H. MARTIN, CHICAGO, ILL.
 F. S. NEWELL, BOSTON, MASS.
 C. C. NORRIS, JR., PHILADELPHIA, PA.
 R. C. NORRIS, PHILADELPHIA, PA.
 REUBEN PETERSON, ANN ARBOR, MICH.
 J. O. POLAK, BROOKLYN, N. Y.
 E. REYNOLDS, BOSTON, MASS.
 H. ROBB, CLEVELAND, OHIO
 F. F. SIMPSON, PITTSBURGH, PA.
 R. R. SMITH, GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.
 W. E. STUDDIFORD, NEW YORK, N. Y.
 H. C. TAYLOR, NEW YORK, N. Y.
 G. G. WARD, NEW YORK, N. Y.
 T. J. WATKINS, CHICAGO, ILL.
 B. H. WELLS, NEW YORK, N. Y.
 J. W. WILLIAMS, BALTIMORE, MD.

Pittsburgh, Pa., was selected for the first clinical meeting of the Club to be held in January, 1912, with Dr. Frank F. Simpson as the host, and plans were made for a trip to Europe in July, 1912, to visit clinics in Holland, Germany and Austria.

The first meeting of the club was held in Pittsburgh, Pa., on January 26 and 27, 1912, with headquarters at the Hotel Schenley. The following members were present: Drs. Taylor, Davis, Ward, Clark, C. C. Norris, Cullen, Polak, Martin, Dickinson, Watkins, Wells, Chipman, Simpson, Newell, Brettauer, Reynolds, Broun and Gellhorn.



The American Gynecological Club embarks on its first European trip in 1912 aboard the S.S. Rotterdam.

In 2003, the American Gynecological Club assembled in Providence, Rhode Island. We were welcomed by Don Coustan and his faculty at Brown University who presented an excellent scientific program including a discussion of the modern management of pelvic inflammatory disease, an update on perinatal screening, and the telomerase theory of reproductive senescence. President Bob Resnik presided over the business meeting in which several minor by-laws changes were adopted, the most significant of which was a change to the calendar year for the Club. The 25 members and their guests were treated to a wonderful social schedule which included visits to various art locations in and around Providence, and an outing to the Tennis Hall of Fame and the New York Yacht Club in Newport – the home of the America's Cup for many years.



Aspen, Colorado was the site of the 2004 meeting and the Club again welcomed our colleagues from the Gynecological Visiting Society of Great Britain. President and host Ron Gibbs announced that there were 32 members of the AGC and 12 GVS members present. The scientific sessions were led by the University of Colorado faculty at the Aspen Institute, a world famous academic retreat. There were presentations on first trimester prenatal diagnosis – the FASTER trial, screening for cervical cancer, and the management of ASCUS Paps, as well as a comparison of resident education on both sides of the Atlantic. The weather and the mountains were great and both clubs enjoyed a barbeque dinner and square dancing at the T Lazy 7 Ranch. The Saturday evening dinner was held at the historic Jerome Hotel in downtown Aspen. It was a great Rocky Mountain Experience.

John Rock and Ira Horowitz welcomed the AGC to Atlanta and Emory University in 2002. This was a joint meeting with the Obstetrical and Gynecological Travel Club. Arthur Herbst was President. The scientific sessions featured discussions on vaginal hysterectomy, elective induction of labor and resident work hours. The social program was equally interesting with a visit to the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library where we were treated to an inspiring talk by none other than first lady Rosalyn Carter! The dinner at the exclusive Piedmont Driving Club was enhanced by an appearance by Scarlett O'Hara and Rhett Butler.



FIRST EUROPEAN TRIP

On July 2, 1912, the American Gynecological Club sailed from Hoboken on the Holland-American Line S.S. "Rotterdam" for its first visit to European clinics. The following twenty-four members and guests were on board: Drs. Boldt, Brinsmade, Broun, Dickinson, Gellhorn, Goffe, McMurtry, Martin, Polak, Simpson, Smith, Studdiford, Taylor, Ward and Watkins; Miss Brinsmade, Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. and Miss Polak, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Watkins.

The voyage was delightful, with pleasant weather; shuffleboard, and games of cards, checkers, and dominoes were indulged in. Each afternoon an hour was spent together discussing the clinics we were to visit and the special attainments and contributions of our various hosts. Dr. Richard Smith acted as our photographer throughout the trip.

On July 10th we touched at Plymouth, and July 11th we proceeded up the channel to Rotterdam, stopping *en route* at Boulogne, arriving late at night. The next morning we had breakfast at sunrise and were met by Mr. Mantelli, our Cook's courier. A carriage drive through Rotterdam and a train ride to Amsterdam, *via* the Hague and Harlem, followed.

Then followed operation and clinical demonstrations by Prof. Treub in the Wilhelmina Hospital in Amsterdam. Prof. Treub was our host at a luncheon in the Hotel de l'Europe. A visit to the Ryks Museum and a tour of Amsterdam filled the time until the late afternoon when we took the train for Bonn *via* Cologne. Drs. Chipman and Hirst, and Dr. Eden of London joined us in Amsterdam. Drs. Williams and Robb met us in Bonn.



Professor Schauta operating in his clinic in Vienna. 1912

The morning of July 25th was spent with Prof. Schauta in his clinic where he demonstrated his vaginal operation for carcinoma of the cervix. In the afternoon we visited Prof. von Noorden's internal medicine clinic. The claims of the "Raths Keller" as a wine restaurant were thoroughly tested. In the evening we were honored by a "smoker" tendered us by the "American Medical Association of Vienna," a student organization, where we had a gay time with speeches by all of us.

On July 26th we visited Prof. Wertheim at his clinic where he demonstrated several operations for cancer with his celebrated "Wertheim" technique. The afternoon was spent with Prof. Latzko who operated for us. The next day was spent partly in Schauta's and Wertheim's clinics and we also witnessed operations by Prof. Halban.

During the second European trip in 1914 the Club members were touring Germany when Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated. Dr. Ward's description of these events follows -

July 25th—Prof. Krönig having kindly invited us to repeat our visit of two years ago, we then went to Freiburg. Prof. Krönig and Prof. Gauss operated for us and we were able to observe the application of “twilight sleep” which they had developed.

In the evening they gave us a delightful party at a resort in the Black Forest. After dinner we were startled when one of the men present jumped upon a table and waved a telegram that he had received announcing the declaration of war with Serbia by Austria as a result of the assassination of the Austrian Crown Prince.

Great excitement followed, the party broke up, and the students present sang patriotic songs with enthusiasm as it meant that Germany would also go to war, for which they had been preparing.

July 26th—Next morning we made an early start to motor out of Germany through the Vosges Mountains via Strasburg to Nancy.

July 27th—We visited Prof. Frederick Goss at his clinic in the morning. We took an afternoon train for Amiens, arriving in the evening.

July 28th—Dr. Victor Pauchet gave us an operative clinic and we left for England at 4:55 P.M. via Boulogne and Folkestone, arriving in London at 10:45 P.M.

The next days were hectic as war was in the air and was declared on August 1st. Our elaborate plans for clinics in London were of course abandoned, and everyone was endeavoring to get passage home and to find the necessary money for their travellers checks.

A meeting of the Clinical Congress of Surgeons had been arranged to meet in London from July 27th to August 1st. Some 1,100 doctors were thus stranded in London.

Dr. Franklin Martin's niece, Miss Inez Stone, was one of our party who had left us *en route* to visit Munich. No word was received from her, and Dr. Martin decided to go to Germany to bring her out. His experience in motorino

across France into Germany and return with Miss Stone was remarkable. With an American flag on his motor, and with a bold front, they managed to cross frontiers in the midst of mobilization for war with all its excitement and uncertainties.

Our party broke up and found transportation home in various ways during the following month. Unfortunately Dr. Richard Smith's camera with his films of our trip was lost, so that no book of our tour was published. This account therefore has been compiled from a printed itinerary and from memory.



The 2001 annual meeting was complicated by the terrorist attack on the twin towers and the Pentagon which happened only three weeks before the scheduled meeting in Nashville. President Fred Frigoletto and local host Howard Jones decided to go ahead and the meeting was a success for the 27 brave members who decided to travel. There were presentations from the Vanderbilt faculty on stem cells, gene therapy for ovarian cancer, and the mid-urethral sling for urinary incontinence. Music City lived up to its name with a visit to the Country Music Hall of Fame and a visit to a recording studio where the Club recorded “On the road again” and “I’ve got friends in low places”. The black tie dinner was held at the Parthenon, the only full scale replica of the ancient Athenian Temple. On Saturday the Club visited the Hermitage, President Andrew Jackson’s plantation, and attended the world famous Grand Ole Opry.



The tenth joint meeting of the American Gynecological Club and the Gynecological Visiting Society was held in October, 1998 in Scotland. President George Morley and fourteen other AGC members were welcomed by David Boyle, the GVS convener and local hosts Peter Howie and Naran Patel. The group stayed at the Dunkeld House Hotel, a historic "country house" on the Tay River with spectacular scenery and salmon fishing. The scientific sessions featured discussions of medical education, assisted reproductive technologies and safety in minimal access surgery. Although the titles were medical, the relaxed atmosphere, warm friendships, and abundant supply of good scotch whiskey, made for some very entertaining sessions. The group saw St. Andrews Golf links and toured Scott's South Pole historic research ship Discovery – as well as a few trips to the many distilleries in the area. The evening gala may have been one of the most elegant among many elegant evenings in the Club's history. It was held in Blair Castle which dates from 1269. Many kilts were in evidence (including Bill Creasman) as the guests were piped into the castle which has hosted royalty. The magnificent ballroom with its marble fireplace and frescoed ceiling was the site of many toasts that evening. The warm friendships between the two historic visiting societies were renewed and strengthened during this wonderful meeting of the two organizations.

In 1999, the Club's annual meeting was held in San Diego with John Makuta as President. Although Gloria Sarto from New Mexico was the first female active member of the American Gynecological Club, two more women were finally added to membership in 1999 – Sharon Dooley and Carolyn Runowicz. The scientific program featured a presentation about diabetes mellitus including the genetic and molecular basis of this common obstetrical co-morbidity. A trip to the San Diego Wild Animal Park and a memorable dinner at the beautiful New Stephen Birch Aquarium overlooking the sparkling Pacific Ocean were highlights of the social program. Although there was discussion about the merger of the American Gynecological Club with the Obstetrical and Gynecological Travel Club, this proposal was discussed again the following year and was finally voted down in 2001.

The University of Utah hosted the 2000 meeting at the Stein Erickson Lodge in Deer Valley. Bill Creasman was the President and Jim Scott was the local host. There was a very interesting presentation on genetics which used to advantage the meticulous record keeping and common intermarriage of the state's Mormon population. Dr. William Orrison, Professor and Chairman of Radiology presented some fascinating data on imaging of the brain in action -- amazing! The Club toured the 2000 Winter Olympic bobsled and ski jump sites and was treated to some freestyle ski acrobatics. The next day we boarded the historic Heber Valley steam train for a trip among the mountains to Robert Redford's spectacular and secluded Sundance Resort. The next day we awoke to snow! It was only September, but Jim Scott went all out to show us the beauty of the Rocky Mountains!

In 1926 the American Gynecological Club took its third trip to Europe aboard the "Resolute". During their visit to Liverpool Professor Blair-Bell, original convener of the Gynecologic Visiting Society held the first joint meeting of these two sister societies.

We left Glasgow that night by sleeper for Liverpool where we were met next morning, August 5th, by several of the associates of Prof. Blair-Bell, who conducted us to our headquarters at the Midland-Adelphi Hotel. An elaborate program had been arranged for the conjoined meeting of our Club with the Gynecological Visiting Society of Great Britain. We were thus enabled to meet our British colleagues from London, Glasgow, Belfast, Cardiff, Manchester, Edinburgh and several other English cities.

In the morning operative clinics were held at the Shaw Hospital by Mr. Leyland Robinson, and at the Northern Hospital by Dr. Leith Murray. At the Shaw Hospital the service is gynecological with 56 beds, and four abdominal and one vaginal operation were performed by Dr. Robinson. At the Northern Hospital of 10 beds Dr. Leith Murray operated on four cases. Luncheon was at the Midland-Adelphi Hotel on the invitation of the local members of the British Visiting Society, after which we adjourned to the Royal Infirmary where Prof. Blair-Bell conducted an operative clinic. He used two operating rooms alternately, doing four cases, three abdominal and one vaginal plastic.

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The American Gynecological Club on the "Resolute"

In the surgical department of the hospital operations were likewise done by Prof. R. E. Kelly and Mr. Woolfenden.

In the evening a dinner was given to our Club by the Gynecological Visiting Society of Great Britain at the Midland-Adelphi Hotel. The customary formal toasts to the King and the President were given by the toastmaster, Dr. McFarland, followed by speeches and responses made by Dr. Comyns Berkeley, Sir Ewen Maclean, Dr. Russell Andrews, Dr. R. W. Johnstone, Dr. Barton Cooke Hirst, Dr. Cleland and Dr. George Gray Ward.

The ladies of our party were graciously entertained at dinner at the same time by Mrs. Blair-Bell, Mrs. Leith Murray and Mrs. Leyland Robinson.

The next morning we assembled at the University where Prof. Blair-Bell and his associates gave us a complete exposition of the research work that the Liverpool Cancer Committee were carrying on in relation to the treatment of cancer with lead, which Prof. Blair-Bell had instituted. We then inspected the work of the department of physical chemistry under Prof. Lewis and his associates where the preparation of the colloidal lead was demonstrated.

After this we adjourned for luncheon at the Exchange Station Hotel on the invitation of the Liverpool Cancer Committee, where Dr. Ward expressed to Dr. Blair-Bell and his associates the appreciation of the members of the Club for the many courtesies shown us.

In addition to Scotland and England the Club also visited Scandinavia .



Charlottesville, Virginia was the site of the annual meeting in 1995. Hosts Peggy and Paul Underwood welcomed the members and their guests at a lovely outdoor reception in the garden of their home. The scientific sessions featured talks on AIDS and endometriosis. President Chuck Hammond led the Club on a tour of Monticello and Thomas Jefferson himself put in an appearance at our black tie dinner in the University of Virginia's historic Rotunda.

The following year, 1996, the Club, led by Paul Underwood as President, met in Boston at the Massachusetts General Hospital. This meeting was hosted by Fred Frigoletto, Isaac Schiff, and David Nichols. There were many excellent scientific presentations including in-vitro fertilization and introduction of the electronic medical record. Club members toured the MGH including the historic Ether Dome where 150 years earlier inhaled Ether was first used as a surgical anesthetic. After a wonderful lunch at the Museum of Fine Arts, the members and guests boarded World War II vintage amphibious "ducks" for a city tour including a duck ride on the Charles River. The next day's social program included a gourmet lunch at Olive's and a tour of Old Ironsides and the traditional black tie dinner at the Somerset Club on Beacon Hill.



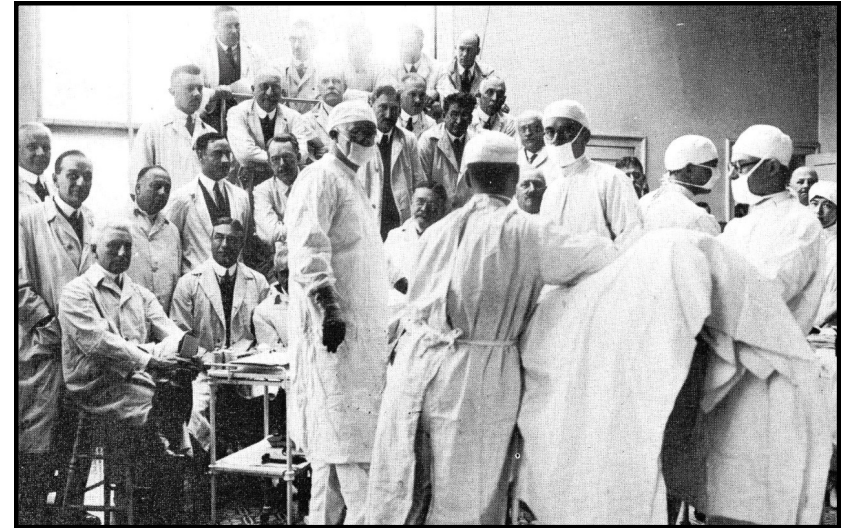
In 1997, President Droeguemueller convened the annual meeting in Chicago where we were hosted by Arthur Herbst and Seb Faro, Jack Sciarra and Don Sherline. The scientific sessions were held at the Drake Hotel and included talks on gestational trophoblastic disease by John Lurain. Indications for screening in obstetrics by Sharon Dooley and neuromuscular assessment of the urinary sphincter by Linda Bruebaker. There was a wonderful cruise on the Chicago River which included lunch and a very entertaining and informative discussion of the architecture and construction of the major buildings in downtown Chicago as we floated along. A breathtaking view of the nighttime Chicago Skyline greeted us at the dinner that evening on the 80th floor of the AMOCO building.

The University of South Florida in Tampa, and Denis Cavanagh hosted the 1992 meeting with interesting presentations on the Ingram bicycle seat dilator for vaginal agenesis and the use of ultrasound for the post-menopausal palpable ovary. President Leo Dunn presided over the formal dinner which featured a talk by one of the astronauts from nearby Cape Kennedy.



In 1993 the Club was hosted by Chuck Hammond and Bill Droegemueller in Durham, North Carolina. We were joined by the Australian Gynecological Travellers Society. Dr. Skipper from Adelaide introduced the use of trans-rectal ultrasound to evaluate rectal sphincter dysfunction and there were discussions about ovarian hyper-stimulation and indications for laparoscopically assisted vaginal hysterectomy as opposed to simple vaginal hysterectomy. Dr. David Nichols was President and the Club was headquartered at the Washington Duke Inn. Social highlights included a tour of the Duke campus including the chapel and Duke Gardens. In Chapel Hill we visited the Dean Smith Basketball Center. At the black tie dinner in the Kenan Center, the Club was enchanted by the Loreleis, a wonderful undergraduate female a cappella chorus

In 1994 the AGC traveled to Seattle for a joint meeting with the Gynecological Visiting Society of Great Britain. The meeting was hosted by President Mort Stenchever and the University of Washington faculty. Among the excellent scientific presentations were a report on patients treated with periurethral injections for stress urinary incontinence and a review of a large British study of ultrasound screening for fetal anomalies. The social program featured a visit to the large Boeing plant north of Seattle where the 747 and new 777 were built. There was also a wonderful late afternoon ferry ride across Puget Sound to Kiana Lodge where there were demonstrations of Northwest Indian culture and handi-crafts followed by a dinner of fresh caught salmon cooked on cedar planks over an open wood fire. The ferry ride back across the Sound to the gleaming lights of Seattle brought the curtain down on a spectacular great day.



Howard C. Kelly operating at Johns Hopkins for the American Gynecological Club in 1922.

SCHEDULE OF CLUB MEETINGS

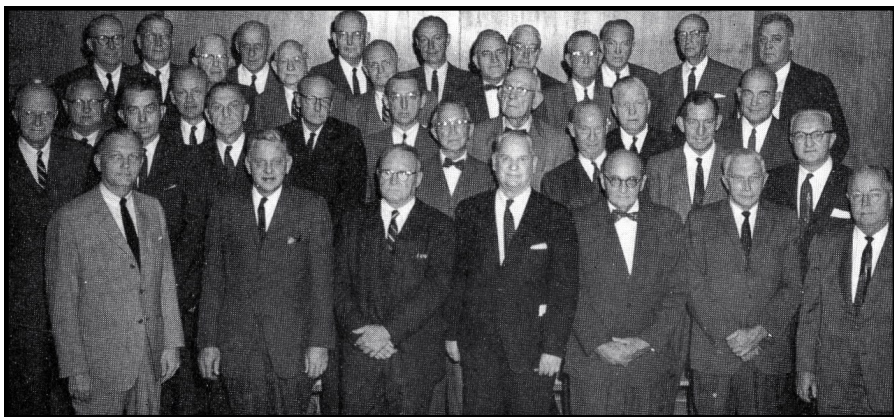
Meetings of the Club have been held since its organization in 1912 in February of each year with the exception of 1918 and 1919, due to World War I, 1942 and 1943 due to World War II. Three trips abroad have been taken, in 1912 to Germany and Austria, in 1914 to England, Scotland and France, and in 1926 to Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Scotland, and England. The schedule of the Club meetings is as follows:

1912—Pittsburgh
Trip to Germany. (Book prepared by Drs. Gellhorn & Smith)
1913—Montreal
1914—Cleveland and Mayo Clinic
Trip to France and England
1915—St. Louis
1916—New Orleans
1917—New York
1918—War, no meeting
1919—War, no meeting
1920—Toronto
1921—Philadelphia
1922—Baltimore
1923—Chicago
1924—Boston
1925—New York
1926—Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids and Battle Creek
Trip to Scandinavia, Denmark, Scotland and England. (Book prepared by Drs. Kosmak, Dickinson and Smith)
1927—Montreal
1928—New Orleans
1929—Chicago
1930—St. Louis
1931—Mayo Clinic (Feb. 20 & 21); also Chicago (Feb. 19)
1932—Philadelphia
1933—New York
1934—Boston
1935—New Orleans
1936—Chicago

1937—Montreal
 1938—Minneapolis and Mayo Clinic
 1939—Baltimore
 1940—Ann Arbor
 1941—New York
 1942—Cancelled on account of War
 1943—Cancelled on account of War
 1944—Philadelphia
 1945—Baltimore
 1946—New York

The American Gynecological Club has existed for thirty-five years and is the senior Gynecological Visiting Club in America. This is proof of the great value that it has been to its members. The intimate friendships that have been developed by the close relationship of its members, the knowledge we have gained by actually seeing our confreres at work, and the many charming friends we have made in distant clinics have amply repaid us by broadening our scientific outlook and making us appreciate the viewpoint of others.

April, 1947.



The American Gynecological Club 50th Anniversary Meeting was held in Pittsburgh, PA, the site of the first meeting of the Club.

There is little information available regarding the meetings held from 1930 through 1990, although Eby and Longo published a history of the early years of the Club in the Green Journal in 2002 (Obstetrics and Gynecology. 2002;99:308-315.)

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN GYNECOLOGICAL CLUB

1990-2010

Over the last two decades the American Gynecological Club has continued the tradition of visiting member's academic institutions to meet the faculty, see the facilities, and learn about the clinical and academic activities of the hosts. These annual meetings have been interspersed with occasional trips abroad to visit our sister society, The Gynecologic Visiting Society of Great Britain, and they, in turn, joined us in the United States every few years.

In 1990 the Club met in Denver hosted by Stewart Taylor and Ed Makowski. The scientific program was highlighted by the very interesting work on maternal-fetal interactions by Fred Battaglia and the Colorado faculty. The social events were highlighted by a trip to the Coors brewery and lunch at the Denver Country Club. The Petroleum Club provided a panoramic view of the Rocky Mountains as the back drop for the annual banquet.



President Carlyle Crenshaw led the Club to Australia in 1991. No records are available from that trip.