

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THE FOUNDERS OF
THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF LOUISIANA

Thomas Hunt:

To Thomas Hunt must go the credit for conceiving the idea of creating a Medical College, organizing a group of doctors into a faculty, and writing the *Prospectus*.

Born of a prominent family in Charleston in 1808, he was first educated in the Law, but at the age of twenty-one he received a medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He then studied in Paris for a year and a half. In the new Medical College of Louisiana, he served as first Dean and as Professor of Physiology and Pathological Anatomy. He also served as President of the University of Louisiana from 1865 to 1867, during the trying years that followed the Civil War.

In 1860, his brother, Theodore Hunt, served as President of the Board of Administrators of the University of Louisiana. Another brother, Randell Hunt, was Dean of the Law Department from 1850 to 1862 and served as President of the University of Louisiana from 1867-1884. Thomas Hunt's son, Carleton, also served as Dean of the Law Department from 1872 to 1883.

John Hoffman Harrison:

Born in Washington, D. C. in 1808, Harrison was the son of a United States Naval surgeon. Harrison received his medical training at the University of Maryland, graduating in 1831. From 1833 to 1836, Dr. Harrison was residing surgeon at Charity Hospital in New Orleans, having replaced Thomas Hunt when Hunt resigned. Harrison was the originator of the *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal* and editor from 1843 to 1849. At the Medical College he served as Professor of Physiology, Anatomy, Materia Medica, and Pathology. He was Dean of the College from 1842 to 1844 and died in 1849.

Charles Aloysius Luzenberg:

Dr. Luzenberg was born in Verona, Italy while his father, an Austrian Army officer, was stationed there. He went to Weissemberg College in Alsace. He and his father moved to Philadelphia in 1819. He received his medical degree from Jefferson College in 1829 in that city, after which he departed for New Orleans and was immediately attached to the staff of Charity Hospital. He, along with Hunt and Harrison, was twenty-six years old when the College was founded. Many of Dr. Luzenberg's descendents have graduated from Tulane and Newcomb, including the family of Mrs. Eleanor Luzenberg Pratt of New Orleans.

James Monroe Mackie:

A pioneer in medicine, James Monroe Mackie was born in Charleston, South Carolina in 1808 and graduated from the Medical College of South Carolina in 1830. At the new Medical College of Louisiana, he was Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine, Materia Medica, and Therapeutic Medicine. He resigned in August 1838.

Augustus Cenas:

Dr. Cenas was born in New Orleans of Spanish descent, thus being the only Creole on the faculty of the new Medical College. He was awarded his medical degree by the University of Pennsylvania. A man of great reputation in the city as a successful practitioner, he served on the faculty for twenty-seven years as Professor of Midwifery (Obstetrics) and was Dean of the College in the 1844-1845 session. He died in 1875.

Thomas Ingalls:

Little is known regarding Dr. Ingalls, who was one of the signers of the *Prospectus*. He was a member of the first faculty of the Medical College, serving as Professor of Obstetrics, Diseases of Women and Children, and Chemistry. He was not a native of Louisiana.

Edwin Bathurst Smith:

As in the case of Dr. Ingalls, little information is available regarding Dr. Smith, other than the fact that he, too, was a young man who was not a Louisiana native. He resigned before the College opened and was replaced by Dr. Edward H. Barton, a native of Virginia and a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Barton is said to have been a pioneer in medicine.

Dr. Warren Stone:

(not one of the seven physicians who founded the College but an important individual in its founding)

For some unknown reason, Stone's name does not appear on the *Prospectus* nor does it appear among the original teachers of the College. It is on record that Dr. Harrison was unable to undertake his first year's work by reason of ill health and that his duties were taken over by Stone, who remained on the faculty until the middle of the 1836-1837 session. Although Stone was not a founding father of the College, he was an outstanding faculty member and was the first doctor in New Orleans to use ether as an anesthetic. He must, most importantly, be credited with influencing young Thomas Hunt to venture to New Orleans and to found a Medical College.