Selected Sources for Biographical Information about 17th – Early 20th Century American Physicians

1. General Dictionaries, Directories, and Indexes


- **Cleaves Biographical Cyclopaedia of Homoeopathic Physicians and Surgeons.** Philadelphia, Galaxy, 1873. NLM Call Number: WZ 140 AAI C6b 1873


- **Index Medicus 1879-** The standard bibliography of medicine, 1879–1927. Biographical articles and obituaries indexed.

• *The Medical Register and Directory of the United States*, by Samuel W. Butler. Office of the Medical and Surgical Reporter, 1874-77; 2d ed., 1878. Arranged by state with names of more than 50,000 physicians. Lists medical societies, colleges, hospitals, and medical laws of each state. NLM Call Number: W 22 AA1 B985m 1874


• *Polk's Medical Register and Directory of the United States and Canada*. (Title varies). Polk, 1886, 1890, 1896. First national directory with an index. NLM Call Number: W 22 DA2 P769

2. Military Medicine Sources


• *Doctors in Blue: the Medical History of the Union Army in the Civil War*, by George Worthington Adams. LSU Press, 1996. NLM Call Number: UH 215 AA1 A1d 1952a

• *Doctors in Gray: the Confederate Medical Service*, by Horace Herndon Cunningham. LSU Press, 1958. NLM Call Number: UH 215 AA1 C9d 1958

• *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army, from Its Organization, September 29, 1789 to March 2, 1903*, by Francis B. Heitman. Pub. under act of Congress approved March 2, 1903. 2 vols. Washington, Govt. print. off., 1903 NLM Call Number: U11 AA1 H4h 1903
• *The Medical Department of the United States Army in the Civil War*, by Captain Louis C. Duncan, Medical corps, U. S. Army. Washington, 1910.
NLM Call Number: UH 215 A2 D9m 1910

Barnes was U.S. Army Surgeon General during the war.
NLM Call Number: UH 224 1861/1865 A31870a


### 3. NLM Databases

• **MEDLINE/PubMed**
To search for articles about a person, enter last name, initials (optional) and [ps] (personal name as subject) in the query box. For example, for William S. Halsted, enter halsted ws [ps].

For journal articles in the history of medicine that were published after 1964, click Limits on the PubMed homepage and select Subset History of Medicine. For articles published from 1958 through 1965, select Subset OLDMEDLINE for Pre1966.

• **Images from the History of Medicine (IHM)** Database of images in the NLM's Prints and Photos collection. Includes portraits.

• **IndexCat**
The online version of the *Index-Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office*, U.S. Army (61 volumes in 5 series, 1880-1961). IndexCat is a comprehensive subject catalog of books, pamphlets, dissertations, reports, and journal articles published from the 17th-20th century and held by NLM. Researchers will find material in IndexCat that is not in the Library catalog (LocatorPlus).

• **Directory of History of Medicine Collections.**
Descriptive and contact information for U.S., Canadian, and overseas history of medicine collections. Free print copy available at History of Medicine Reference Desk.

### 4. Pictures and Portraits

• Union Catalog of Portraits. A card catalog of historical portraits found in published sources. Located in NLM’s History of Medicine Reading Room.

5. Other Sources

• Bibkit: History of the Health Sciences, compiled by Stephen J. Greenberg and Patricia E. Gallagher. Medical Library Association, MLA Bibkit #5. A bibliographic resource for librarians and their patrons, Chapter 3, Secondary Sources in the History of the Health Sciences, includes biographical sources. NLM Call Number: ZWZ 40 G798h 2002


Prepared by Elizabeth Tunis
History of Medicine Division
National Library of Medicine