

JEFFERSON COLLEGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October 1970

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M E E T I N G N O T I C E

The next meeting of the Jefferson College Historical Society will be held in the Canonsburg Municipal Building at 8:00 P.M. Wednesday evening, October 21, 1970.

By request, our first fall program will be a repeat of one we had in January. Bring something you collect, or something of historical interest you can tell us about. We will put our chairs in a circle and have a gab-fest.

You may also bring a friend, or even a relative, to participate in the occasion.

THEM BONES - THEM BONES - THEM DRY BONES

The following notice appeared in THE DEMOCRATIC EAGLE, a Washington, Pa. newspaper, dated November 3, 1827. Both Dr. Leatherman and Dr. Stevenson were Canonsburg physicians, and both evidently resorted to the public press to present their opinions on the nature of Mr. Vaneman's injury. Dr. Stevenson's newspaper essays are not available, but we can surmise that this essay of Dr. Leatherman's, plus the exhibition of Mr. Vaneman's bone, settled the controversy for all time.

Oct '70

To The Public

It is well known to the citizens of this county, that a controversy took place some time since between Doctor Stevenson and myself in relation to an injury which Andrew Vaneman, now deceased, received in one of his legs. I asserted that it was a fracture; he, the contrary. The essays and oaths which were published in support of his opinion, and calculated to attach odium to me, and at the same time, to wound the feelings and destroy forever the reputation of the unfortunate man whose leg was broken, are yet fresh in the memory of the public and need not be repeated. A verdict of confirmation of Dr. Stevenson's opinion, it will be recollected, was also given by a number of medical gentlemen who were employed by him to examine Vaneman's leg. A number of others, at my request, examined it afterwards who concurred in the opinion which I had all along mentioned, that it was a fracture.

Now, therefore in defense of my own professional character, as well as in vindication of the moral character of the man, now beyond the reach of calumny, who was so wantonly assailed by the taunts and revilings, as well as the solemn oaths of certain persons, I have thought proper to announce to the public, that I have in my office, for the inspection of all who may wish to call for the purpose, the Bone in question, which exhibits infallible proof of an oblique fracture. And the Physicians, who after examination, published their opinion contradictory to mine, and Dr. Stevenson himself, are hereby respectfully invited to call and look at the bone. A look will suffice.

I have been at some pains thus to favor them with an opportunity of correcting past mistakes, and with furnishing them with information relative to their profession, which I hope they will not fail to embrace.

Jonathan Leatherman

We the undersigned do hereby certify, that we were present and saw part of Andrew Vaneman's leg cut off, viz: that part that had received the injury; and saw Dr. J. Leatherman, assisted by Dr. Samuel Wilson, dissect the same, and that the bones, now in Dr. J. Leatherman's possession, are the same that the above named gentlemen dissected, September 22nd, 1827.

Charles W. Kelso
William McKaleh
Wm. B. Hutcheson
John Whitehill
Gabriel Swihart
John V. Herriott

Canonsburgh