

Benjamin Rush's Apprenticed Students

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INCLUDED among a number of unrelated subjects in a notebook indexed under "Facts and Observations", Dr. Benjamin Rush recorded some names and residences of medical students who received individual training in his "shop" (1).

This entry was undoubtedly made in the year before Rush's death, for it began with students who registered in 1812 and continued in a backward yearly sequence until the last page of the list contained the names of those who came under Rush's direction in 1770, the first year of the doctor's established practice.

There is a justifiable suspicion that the record is not a complete roster of Rush's apprentices, for twice there is a lapse of three years in his record. One of these intervals is between the years 1775 and 1778, and yet on July 30th, 1776, Rush wrote his wife: "I shall have a regiment of prentices, having had an application this day from a lad in the Jerseys—but the Jews house in the Alley will make an excellent Barrack for them. I am pleased with taking Jonny Pintard into the house. I suppose you told him the fee was 100 guineas. This sum with what we have by us, and what I expect soon to receive, will enable us to realize our money in a house or a plantation." (2)

Rush's apprentices lived as part of his family to the extent of the house's capacity, while the overflow lodged near by.

It is probable that some of Rush's recorded list was copied from notes in his possession, for it contains several specific dates, with comments on certain individuals that it is unlikely he could have retained in his memory. It is significant, however, that 26 of the 135 mentioned were entered without given names, while some family names were misspelled. A few of these omitted first names, as well as corrections in spelling, were found in letters among the Rush manuscript collection. Many of these communications told of difficult cases the young physicians—former apprentices of Rush—were encountering, and ended with requests for advice as to proper medicines and treatment. Others expressed discouragement and doubts as to whether they had chosen the right neighbor-

hood in which to begin practice. Many told of local opposition against the throes of bleeding their preceptor had taught them. Some were just friendly letters, inquiring for Rush's health and that of his family; asking for news of other apprentices and expressing sincere admiration and affection for their old "master". Quite a number of these epistles contain material of historical value, with possibilities of interesting articles. All these letters required, and probably received, replies, but unfortunately Rush did not retain many copies, though he always recorded his professional recommendations in notes on the back of the original inquiry. These should prove of great value to any medical man seeking information on the treatment of disease in the early days of the Republic.

Rush evidently kept informed of his old students, though they were located far and near, for on July 5th, 1800 he recorded that 22 of them had died. Six years later, he added 6 more to the list of those who had passed away, checking off their names with an 'X'.

Many letters are on file containing inquiries for Rush's terms and conditions for apprentice training, and they furnish evidence that only a small percentage of them received serious consideration. His selections were carefully made and were often from among sons of personal friends, though he seemed always willing to accept candidates recommended by his old students. Some of the men Rush received had already served an apprenticeship with a physician in their home locality and a few had even experienced a period of practice, but they seemed to reason that additional training with opportunities to attend lectures at the University of Pennsylvania and clinics in the Pennsylvania Hospital would increase their medical knowledge and prestige when they began or resumed professional activities.

A number of Rush's students continued their studies in the hospitals and universities of Europe with letters of introduction and commendations from their Philadelphia preceptor. Their letters written to Rush are full of comments on the pro-

fessional men whose lectures they were attending, with observations of some differences between American and foreign theories and practices. James Hall, one of these students, was financed in this post-graduate work by his old "master", and after obtaining his diploma at Edinburgh he returned to Philadelphia to be accepted as a partner in Rush's medical office (1).

Some of Rush's graduated apprentices sought appointments in the Medical Departments of the Army and Navy (1). At least four of them were commissioned and served with the United States fleet during the Quasi-War with France and continued in that service for the conflict with the Barbary Pirates in the Mediterranean (3). The experiences of one of these, Dr. John Bullus, have already been recounted (4), and the letters and Government records of the other three—Rush's son John, Daniel Hughes and Samuel Marshall—contain much heretofore untold history.

The names and records of 15 of Rush's listed apprentices may be found in the roster of medical men who served with the armed forces in the Revolutionary War (5), though one of them was included not because of professional aid but rather because of activity as commander of troops through the ranks, respectively, of captain, major, and colonel. He was John Beatty, of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. After the war, he established a medical practice in New Jersey, near Princeton, and served his adopted State in several important public offices.

James McHenry, after acting as a regimental surgeon and on the staff of an army hospital, joined Washington at Valley Forge as a personal secretary. Upon the election of Washington to the presidency, McHenry was made Secretary of War and continued in that capacity through Adams' first term.

Enoch Edwards, of New Jersey, served as surgeon of New Jersey troops; James Tate, of Pennsylvania, was surgeon of the 3d Pennsylvania Regiment, and was among those who took the Oath of Allegiance at Valley Forge. Abel Morgan, of Pennsylvania, also served at Valley Forge and likewise subscribed to the Oath required of all commissioned officers.

James Dunlap, of Pennsylvania, was a surgeon in the navy, while Andrew Leiper, also of Pennsylvania, is mentioned as having treated the wounded at Brandywine. James Finley served as medical officer in several Massachusetts regiments and remained in the army until Nov. 3, 1783. Andrew Todd, of Pennsylvania, was a navy surgeon, while Wilson Waters is recorded as a surgeon's mate in an army hospital of the Middle Division.

John Rodgers, of Pennsylvania, was attached to the 1st Pennsylvania Regiment as its surgeon. Michael Leib, of Pennsylvania, is simply mentioned as having attended sick and wounded soldiers, but it is not told where or in what capacity. John McConnell, of Pennsylvania, is listed as a surgeon in one of the Philadelphia army hospitals. Gilbert Tennent, of Pennsylvania, is known to have been attached to one of the outlying hospitals of the Valley Forge Encampment located at French Creek, while Jacob Tobin, of Delaware, served in the same hospital—both as surgeon's mate.

Rush's penmanship in this instance was often confusing, permitting two or more interpretations, and though examined under a powerful reading glass, a few errors may have been made. The list as given below records the names of the apprentices, first, in alphabetic order, rather than in the chronologic sequence used by Rush; then, in a geographic classification. The entry name is in the established spelling as known to the author. Following it appears the name as Rush wrote it, except that his abbreviations of given names have not been retained where the full name is known; names or other matter supplied by the author from other sources appear in brackets. The other data are given in a consistent order. Rush's own comments appear in quotation marks. As remarked above, he drew a cross against the names of apprentices who were known to him to be dead, sometimes adding the word "dead". Where both the cross and the word appear, only the word has been quoted; in other cases, the cross in quotation marks carries the same significance.

Notices of errors, or of omissions in Rush's list, will be welcomed by the author.

BENJAMIN RUSH'S LIST OF HIS APPRENTICES

Alexander.	Ashton Alexander.	Virginia.	Alston.	William Alston.	S. Carolina.
	April 16, 1794.			Nov., 1794.	
Alston.	John Alston.	S. Carolina.	1792.	Anderson.	Maryland.
	"Dead."				June, 1795.

Annan.	Robert Annan. Pennsylvania. 1787.	Edwards.	Enoch Edwards. Pennsylvania. 1770. "Idle, acute—afterwards industrious & respectable."
"	William Annan. Pennsylvania. 1787. "Dead."	"	Isaac Edwards. Virginia. Aug., 1795.
Atchinson?	Atchinson. New Jersey. 1812.		Charles Eversfield. Maryland. 1804.
Bache.	Franklin Bache. Phila. 1811. "3 years."	Eversfield.	
Barnhill.	Barnhill. Phila. July, 1811. "3 years."	Finley.	James E. B. Finley. Pennsylvania [Massachusetts?] 1775.
Bayerton.	George Bayerton. [Maryland.] 1790. "Dead."	Fisher.	Edward Fisher. Virginia. 1791.
Beatty	John Beatty. Pennsylvania. 1770. "Idle but worthy."	Ford.	George Ford. S. Carolina. April, 1795.
Bellinger.	John Bellinger. S. Carolina. June 15, 1795.	Fuller.	[Thomas] Fuller. S. Carolina. Nov., 1807.
[Birkhead.]	Solomon Birkhead [Birkhead]. Maryland. 1780.	Gauntt.	Edward Gauntt. Maryland. 1809.
[Brackett]	Bracket [Joshua Brackett]. New Hampshire, 1799.	Goldsborough.	William Tighlman Goldsborough. Maryland. 1786. "Dead."
Brown.	Thomas Brown. New Jersey. Dec., 1795.	Gough.	John Parker Gough. S. Carolina. April 21, 1796.
[Brundidge?]	Henry Brundage [Brundidge?]. Virginia. March, 1812.	Grey.	George Grey [line drawn through name]. Phila. Aug., 1810. "Went away."
Bryan.	[Guy] Bryan. Pennsylvania. 1802.	[Griffith?]	Alexander [L.] Griffiths [Griffith?]. Maryland. Nov., 1809. "3 years."
Bullock.	George Bullock. Phila. 1805.		
Bullus.	John Bullus. New Jersey. 1793.		
Campbell.	Campbell. Virginia. June, 1811.	Hadley.	John L. Hadley. N. Carolina ^a March, 1811.
Chamberlain.	Samuel Chamberlain. Maryland. 1781. "Dead."	Hall.	Elisha Hall—"son of Elisha." Maryland. 1771.
Chapman.	Nathaniel Chapman. Virginia. March-April, 1799.	"	Elisha Hall—"son of Elihu." Maryland. 1781.
Claypoole.	William Claypoole. Phila. 1778. "Dead."	"	James Hall. Maryland. 1779. "X."
Cock.	Samuel Cock. Virginia. 1797.	"	Thomas Hall. Maryland. May, 1811.
Cocke.	Charles Cocke. Virginia. 1805.		Hast Handy. Maryland. June, 1789.
Coxe.	John Redman Coxe. Phila. 1791.	Handy.	Hawkins. Maryland. 1811.
"	Swepson Coxe. S. Carolina. May, 1809. "One year."	Hawkins.	Isaac Hayne. S. Carolina. 1782. "X."
Croghan	J[ohn] Cro[?]an [Croghan]. Kentucky. Dec., 1809. "3 years."	Hayne.	John Heberton. Phila. Aug., 1810. "3 years."
Delion.	Delion. S. Carolina. April, 1810.	Heberton.	Js. Hinchman. 1775. "Died in the first year of his studies."
Dick.	Elisha [Cullen] Dick. Delaware. 1780. "Left me without leave, and went to Dr. Shippen."	Hinchman.	William Horsey. Maryland. 1801.
Dickinson.	Nathaniel Dickinson. New Jersey. Nov. 5, 1802.	Horse.	[John?] Hoskins. N. Carolina. March, 1808.
Dill.	Armstrong Dill. Pennsylvania. 1785. "Dead."	Hoskins.	Daniel Hews [Hughes]. New Jersey. March, 1797.
Dunlap.	James Dunlap. Pennsylvania. 1771.	[Hughes.]	
Earle.	Earle [son of Caleb Earle]. Phila. 1811.	[Jenks.]	Phineas Jinks [Jenks]. Pennsylvania. 1801.
Edmonds.	[Carter?] Edmonds. Virginia. 1797. "Dead."	Johnson.	Js. Johnson. S. Carolina. March, 1810.

King.	Thomas King. Maryland. 1797.	Proudfit.	James Proudfit. New York. 1787.
Lehman.	Lehman. Phila. 1808.	Pugh.	Whitman Pugh. Virginia. 1802.
Leib.	Michael Leib. Phila. 1778.	Ramsay.	William Ramsay. Maryland. 1775.
Leiper.	Andrew Leiper. Maryland. 1771. "Dead."	[Rees?]	Reece? [John T. Rees?]. Maryland. 1802.
Luffland.	James Luffland. Delaware. 1810. "3 years."	Reynolds.	John Reynolds. Pennsylvania. 1806.
[McClellan?]	John McClelland [McClellan?]. Pennsylvania. 1785.	Rice.	John Rice. Ireland. 1810. "4 months."
McClen.	Joseph McClen. Virginia. July, 1809.	Roan.	Thomas Roan. New Jersey. March-April, 1799.
McConnell.	John McConnell. Pennsylvania. 1782. "Dead."	Robinson.	Robinson. S. Carolina. May, 1811.
McHenry.	James McHenry. Ireland. 1771.	Rodgers.	John Rodgers. New York. 1775.
[McLane.]	[Allen] McClane [McLane, Jr.]. Delaware. Nov., 1807.	Rudder.	Philip Rudder. Barbadoes. 1795.
Manners.	John Manners. New Jersey. 1808.	Rush.	James Rush. Phila. 1805.
Marshall.	[Samuel] Marshall. Barbadoes. 1796.	[Sammer?]	[Sammer?]. Pennsylvania. Nov., 1807.
May.	Alexander May. Pennsylvania. March-April, 1799. "Dead."	Sayre.	Francis B. Sayre. New York. 1787. "Dead."
Mayo.	[Robert?] Mayo. Virginia. 1802.	"	[John] Sayre. New York. 1802.
"	" " " 1807.	Slaughter.	Slaughter. Virginia. Nov., 1810.
Mease.	James Mease. Phila. 1789.	Smyth.	Leopold Smyth. Georgia. July, 1798. "Dead."
Miram?	Miram?. Delaware. 1805.	Sommerville.	George Sommerville. Maryland. 1775. "X."
[Mitchell.]	Edward Mitchill [Mitchell]. S. Carolina. July 19, 1809. "For one year."	Stall.	John Stall. Pennsylvania. 1792. "Dead."
Montgomery.	William Montgomery. Pennsylvania. 1779. "X."	Stevenson.	John Stevenson. Phila. 1771.
Morgan.	Able [Abel?] Morgan. Pennsylvania. 1771. "Dead."	Stock.	John Edmonds Stock. England. 1797.
Morris.	Cadwalr. Morris. Pennsylvania. 1779. "Dead."	Stockett.	[Richard Galen] Stockett. Maryland. July 26, 1797.
"	Morris. Pennsylvania. March, 1812.	Sutherland.	Joel B. Sutherland. Phila. Aug., 1810.
Mosely.	Mosely. Virginia. 1803.	Tate.	James Tate. Pennsylvania. 1771. "Idle—but successful."
"	Mosely. Maryland. March, 1808.	Tennent.	Gilbert Tennent. Pennsylvania. 1775. "Drowned in the gen. Sinclair in the year 1780."
[Muhlenberg?]	[Frederick A.?] Muhlenburg [Muhlenberg?]. Lancaster, Pa. Oct., 1811. "3 years."	Tindall.	[P. B.] Tindall. [Virginia.] 1810.
[Murdock]	Jonathan Murdock [Murdock]. Pennsylvania. 1802.	Tobin.	Jacob Tobin. Delaware. 1775. "Dead."
Murray.	George W. Murray. Pennsylvania. 1808.	Todd.	Andrew Todd. Pennsylvania. 1775.
Otto.	John [C.] Otto. New Jersey. 1792.	Tongue.	James Tongue. Maryland. 1799.
Peachy.	John Peachy. Virginia. 1780. "Dead."	Tucker.	Edmund Tucker. S. Carolina. 1806.
Porter.	John Porter. Phila. 1778.	[Van Brakle.]	Samuel [H.] Van Brakle [Van Brakle]. St. Croix. 1807.
Potter.	Nathaniel Potter. Maryland. 1790.	Washington.	Warner Washington. Virginia. 1790. "Dead."
Poyntell.	George Poyntell. Phila. 1804.	[Waters?]	John [Waters?]. Maryland. Nov., 1799.

Waters.	Nath. Waters. Maryland. 1807.	Woodhouse.	James Woodhouse. Phila. 1787.
"	Wilson Waters. [Maryland.] 1775.	Young.	Benjamin Young. Pennsylvania. 1784. "X."
Watson.	Gilbert Watson. Pennsylvania. 1793. "Dead."	"	John Young. Phila. 1787. "X."
Williams.	Williams. Pennsylvania. 1812.		

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Dick, Elisha.
Luffland, James.
McLane, Allen, Jr.
Miram ?
Tobin, Jacob.

Georgia

Smyth, Leopold.

Kentucky

Croghan, John.

Maryland

Anderson, James.
Bayerton, George.
Birkhead, Solomon.
Chamberlain, Samuel.
Eversfield, Charles.
Gauntt, Edward.
Goldsborough, W. T.
Griffith, A. L.
Hall, Elisha (son of Elisha).
" " (son of Elihu).
" , James.
" , Thomas.
Handy, Hast.
Hawkins.
Horsey, William.
King, Thomas.
Leiper, Andrew.
Mosely.
Potter, Nathaniel.
Ramsay, William.
Rees, J. T.
Sommerville, George.
Stockett, R. G.
Tongue, James.
Waters (?), John.
Waters, Nath.
" , Wilson.

New Hampshire

Brackett, Joshua.

New Jersey

Atchinson.
Brown, Thomas.
Bullus, John.

Dickinson, Nathaniel.
Hughes, Daniel.
Manners, John.
Otto, J. C.
Roan, Thomas.

New York

Proudfit, James.
Rodgers, John.
Sayre, Francis B.
" , John (?)

North Carolina

Hadley, John L.
Hoskins, John (?).

Pennsylvania

Annan, Robert.
" , William.
Bache, Franklin.
Barnhill.
Beatty, John.
Bryan, Guy.
Bullock, George.
Claypoole, William.
Coxe, J. R.
Dill, Armstrong.
Dunlap, James.
Earle, (son of Caleb).
Edwards, Enoch.
Finley, James E. B.
Grey, George.
Heberton, John.
Jenks, Phineas.
Lehman.
Leib, Michael.
McClellan, John.
McConnell, John.
May, Alex.
Mease, James.
Montgomery, William.
Morgan, Abel.
Morris, Cadwalr.
Morris.
Muhlenberg, F. A. (?)
Murdock, Jonathan.
Murray, George W.
Porter, John.
Poyntell, George.

Pennsylvania—Cont.

Reynolds, John.
 Rush, James.
 " , John.
 Sammer(?)
 Stall, John.
 Stevenson, John.
 Sutherland, Joel B.
 Tate, James.
 Tennent, Gilbert.
 Todd, Andrew.
 Watson, Gilbert.
 Williams.
 Woodhouse, James.
 Young, Benj.
 " , John.

South Carolina

Alston, John.
 " , William.
 Bellinger, John.
 Coxe, Swepson.
 Delion.
 Ford, George.
 Fuller, Thomas(?)
 Gough, John P.
 Hayne, Isaac.
 Johnson, Js.
 Mitchell, Edward.
 Robinson.
 Tucker, Edmund.

Virginia

Alexander, Ashton.
 Brundidge, Henry.
 Campbell.
 Chapman, Nath.
 Cock, Samuel.
 Cocke, Charles.
 Edmonds, Carter(?)
 Edwards, Isaac.
 Fisher, Edward.
 McClen, Joseph.
 Mayo, Robert(?)
 Mosely.
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