

## Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine

# More Unusual Stories From The 1920s: A British Woman Gets a Veterinary Degree!, Part II

**Editor's Note:** This is a continuation of the series of unusual and occasionally humorous stories drawn from the New York Times and the JAVMA in the 1920s. The first part of this set of two appeared here on December 22, 2013.

Donald F. Smith

By Dr. Donald F. Smith  
December 26, 2013

### **A British Woman Graduates with Veterinary Degree**

#### **Woman Takes Degree in Plus Fours**

*London (England) – Wearing plus fours and a Norfolk jacket, Miss Edith Gertrude Knight took today the Degree of Bachelor of Veterinary Science at Liverpool University. She is the first woman to gain such a distinction. She has worn men's clothes for the last eleven years.*

Special Cable to the *New York Times*, Dec. 17, 1926

### **Scientific Article by a Professor Who Later Resigned Because of Anti-Semitism**

#### **Arteriosclerosis in Domestic Animals**

*By S. A. Goldberg*

*New York State Veterinary College, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.*

*In the human subject, as a result of variations in blood-pressure and continuous work, there develop sooner or later a wearing-down of the elasticity and changes in the caliber and the strength of the vascular walls. These changes are considered partly as a physiological process and partly as a pathological affection, since they are said to be due to various toxic products. ...*

*JAVMA*, p 31, 1926



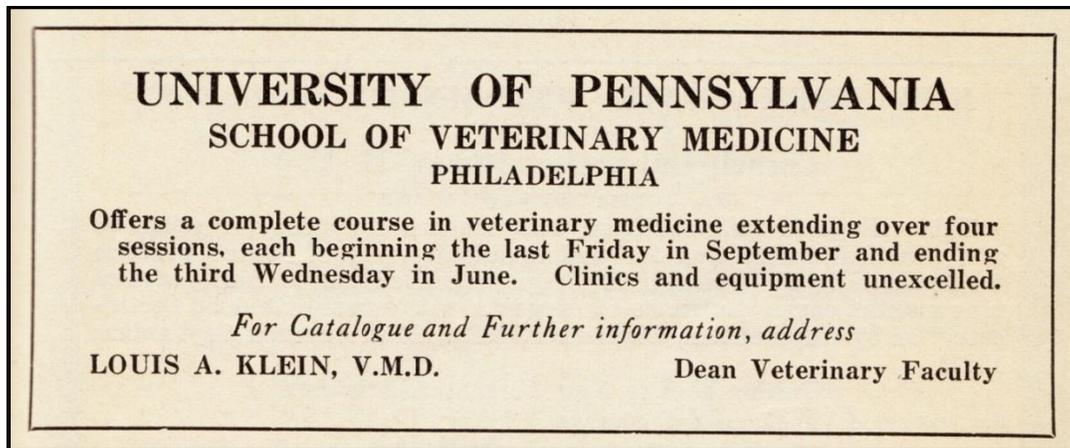
*Samuel A. Goldberg, DVM 1914*  
*Assistant Professor of Pathology and Bacteriology,*  
*New York State Veterinary College, 1926*  
(©New York State Veterinary College)

The author, Samuel A. Goldberg, DVM '14, was appointed graduate assistant and instructor of pathology and bacteriology at Cornell, and later assistant professor. This paper and others resulted from his scholarly efforts. When advised by the college administration that he would not be promoted and granted tenure unless he changed his name to a "less Jewish-sounding name" (allegedly to appease members of the New York State legislature, which provided base support for the college), Goldberg resigned. He became a physician (MD, New York University, 1930), and Director of the Department of Laboratory Medicine at The Presbyterian Hospital in Newark, NJ. He was a Founding Fellow of the American College of Pathologists. His son, Edwin, became a veterinarian (Cornell '43) and changed his surname to Gilbert. One of his two daughters, Emilie, married Tevis A. Goldhaft '35.

## **University of Pennsylvania Advertises for Students**

### **The AVMA Journal was a Venue for Attracting Veterinary Students**

Though a modern veterinary college today might not consider advertising for students in the professional journals, the practice was common in the 1920s. In the 1921 journal, for example, the appeal for students to join the University of Pennsylvania is printed just below that of the New York State College of Veterinary Medicine (not the state school at Cornell, but the "other" state college in New York City). The following advertisement is from 1926.



*University of Pennsylvania advertisement in  
JAVMA 1926*

(Photo from the AVMA journal, 1926, p 12)

To conclude these gems, I add a notation describing the state of the veterinary workforce in the mid 1850s. This sounds very much like what is the prevailing theme in some circles today. And so, from the March 1946 (Volume 108, page 147) issue of the JAVMA, appearing as an editor's "filler" as was common in that era, comes a brief description of:

***The Very First Step in American Veterinary Education***

*When Robert Jennings chartered the first veterinary college in North America in Philadelphia in 1852, the number of graduate veterinarians in the United States (pop. 25,000,000) totaled around 50, all in the larger cities of the East. Its name was "Philadelphia Veterinary College." The project did not long survive, **because practitioners protested against making more veterinarians on the familiar ground that there were already too many.** (Emphasis added)*

Happy Holiday Season to All,  
Donald F. Smith

---

KEYWORDS:

History of Veterinary Medicine  
Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association  
Samuel A. Goldberg  
Tevis Goldhaft  
University of Pennsylvania  
Veterinary Workforce

TOPICS:

Ephemera

LEADING QUESTION:

Did you know that veterinary colleges advertised for students in the 1920s?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Dr. Donald F. Smith, Dean Emeritus of the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, had a passion for the value of the history of veterinary medicine as a gateway for understanding the present and the future of the profession.

Throughout his many professional roles from professor of surgery, to Department Chair of Clinical Sciences, Associate Dean of Education and of Academic Programs and Dean, he spearheaded changes in curriculum, clinical services, diagnostic services and more. He was a diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons and a member of the National Academy of Practices. Most recently he played a major role in increasing the role of women in veterinary leadership.

*Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine* is one of his projects where he was able to share his vast knowledge of the profession.