

MEMORIAL

R. CARMICHAEL TILGHMAN
1904–1999

Dr. R. Carmichael Tilghman died on September 23 at his home, Wye House, in Talbot County on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, not many miles from Centerville in Queen Anne's County where he had been born in 1904. He was descended from Dr. Richard Tilghman, a surgeon who came to the colonies in 1661 from Kent, and was described as the "leading physician in the province."

Mike Tilghman remembered first hearing of Johns Hopkins Hospital when, as a small boy, he was on the deck of a Chesapeake Bay steamship traveling from the Eastern Shore to Baltimore. His grandmother called his attention to the dome of the Hospital and told him, "That is where they do miracles." He entered the Johns Hopkins University in 1921 and graduated with an AB degree in 1925. After two years as a graduate student in chemistry, he entered the Medical School and received the MD degree in 1932 along with membership in Phi Beta Kappa. After serving as intern and assistant resident on the Osler Medical Service at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and as a Fellow at the Thorndike Laboratory in Boston, he returned to Baltimore to become the chief resident physician of the Osler Medical Service in 1936 and 1937 under Dr. Warfield T. Longcope. He was recognized as a dedicated, careful physician, a good teacher and admired as a leader. There was also another side to Mike Tilghman, who during his years as a student and member of the resident staff was known for his love of a good time. He was an enthusiastic participant in the annual rite of spring known as the Turtle Derby and, in the words of one admirer, had a "special flair for high nonsense."

In 1937 he entered the private practice of internal medicine in Baltimore and maintained close ties with Johns Hopkins as a valued teacher of medical students. His patients were devoted to him because of his attention to every detail and, above all, for his compassion and understanding. He became expert in the management of pregnant women with heart disease, and held an appointment as a medical consultant to the Department of Obstetrics for many years. He was active in the Baltimore City Medical Society and served as its President in 1962.

In 1942 he joined the 18th General Hospital, a Johns Hopkins-affiliated unit in the Army Medical Corps. The unit was overseas for three years in the South Pacific and later in the China-Burma-India Theatre of Operations. Dr. Tilghman was Chief of Medicine and Executive Officer of the Hospital with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He

was also the historian of the 18th General Hospital and later wrote and published the history of the unit.

In 1946, he returned to Baltimore and reestablished his practice of internal medicine with a strong connection to Johns Hopkins. He continued to teach but was given additional responsibilities in administration, serving as Associate Dean of the Medical Faculty, Director of the University Health Service, and Editor of the *Johns Hopkins Medical Journal*. For over forty years (1937 to 1977) he was the driving force behind the Johns Hopkins Medical and Surgical Association and was responsible for the great success of that organization as a spirited, vibrant alumni group which is the envy of many other medical schools. He served as President of the Association in 1977 and was honored for his leadership in 1983 by the award of the Distinguished Medical Alumni Service Award of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. In 1970 an auditorium was named the Tilghman Room and his portrait hangs in that room.

He enjoyed the good fellowship of other physicians at meetings of two medical dinner clubs, the Caduceus Club and the Baltimore Monthly Medical Reunion. The Tilghmans' Christmas party for the Baltimore Monthly Medical Reunion was a memorable example of gracious Maryland hospitality at its finest.

Mrs. Tilghman was a full partner in all his endeavors. The Tilghmans were gracious hosts who provided a warm welcome to new faculty coming to Johns Hopkins. Many members of the faculty remember the hospitality of the Tilghmans as contributing to the friendly ambience which made the Johns Hopkins medical community so attractive to them.

Dr. Tilghman was active in the American College of Physicians, serving in numerous posts including that of member of the Board of Regents and Secretary General. He was made a Master of the College and received the Albert Stengel Award for "outstanding service and achievement." He was acutely interested in medical history, especially of Johns Hopkins, and was a member of the American Osler Society and the Johns Hopkins Medical History Club. He provided a valuable view of Hopkins' history as a bridge between the early days and the present. His teachers and senior colleagues were Osler's disciples and Mike captured the spirit of that first faculty and transmitted it with enthusiasm to his students and associates.

In the account of his life prepared for the 50th reunion of his medical school class he wrote, "Because of my ancestors' choice of Maryland as a place to live, I have been active in the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities and the local historical societies, as well as the

hereditary patriotic societies such as the Society of Cincinnati, Society of Colonial Wars, Sons of the Revolution and Descendants of the Lords of the Maryland Manors." This list of societies tells much about the man and his interest in the history of colonial America.

The American Clinical and Climatological Association was very important to Mike Tilghman. He was elected to membership in 1958 and was President in 1980. He attended every meeting from his election through that of 1988. He did not attend the 1989 meeting, but was present in 1990, 1991, and 1992. Thus, he attended a total of 33 meetings, the first 30 of which were consecutive. This must be a record. His great love of history came into play in his selection of a subject for his ACCA Presidential Address: "Captain James Cook (1728–1779), Explorations and the Conquest of Scurvy." This address is a well-documented account of Cook's voyages with special attention to the treatment and prevention of scurvy, which was largely responsible for the success of his expeditions.

Mrs. Tilghman shared the Eastern Shore colonial heritage and, hence, the interest in colonial history, furniture, customs and traditions. They have two daughters and two sons who share the interests of their parents. In recent years the Tilghmans have devoted their attention to the preservation, restoration and improvement of Wye House, the ancestral home of Mrs. Tilghman's family, the Lloyds. Mike derived great pleasure from this magnificent property and its history.

His last few months were spent at Wye House and after a funeral service in Baltimore, he was buried in the private family cemetery at Wye. The first grave in the cemetery is dated 1684. It was a rainy day as the friends and family gathered under umbrellas, but as the last prayer was finished, the sun came out and the honking of Canada geese could be heard in the distance.

Richard S. Ross