

The Leidy Microscopical Society

The First 100 Years

By John Ebner Jr.
8 June 1996

The society begins –1858, the union of the Philadelphia Biological Society with Biological Group of the Academy of Natural Science forming the Biological Department of the Academy.

Founders of the Section and Members At Organization, March 30 1858

Joseph Leidy, M.D.	R. Eglesfield Griffiths, M. D.
William A. Hammond, M. D.	W. D. Holt, M. D.
J. Aitken Meigs, M. D.	Charles F Beck, M. D.
J. Cheston Morris, M. D.	William Camac, M. D.
George R. Morehouse, M. D.	S. Weir Mitchel, M. D.
J. J. Woodward, M. D.	Henry Hartshorne, M. D.
Charles Stewart Wurtz, M. D.	B. Howard Rand, M. D.
Edward Mintune, M. D.	James Paul, M. D.
J. Gibbons Hunt, M. D.	W. Parker Foulke
T. M. Drysdale, M. D.	J. H. Slack, M. D.
J. M. Corse, M. D.	Edward Tilghman
T. D. Richardson, M. D.	H. D. Schmidt
Francis Gurney Smith, M. D.	

In 1866 the Academy established sections, and in 1868 the Biological Department united with the Microscopical Society of Philadelphia resulting in the formation of the Biological and Microscopical Section of the Academy of Natural Sciences.

Hall of The Academy of Natural Sciences

S. W. Cor. 19th & Race Street
Philadelphia, March 29th, 1879

The Biological And Microscopical Section Of The Academy Of Natural Sciences

This department meets on the evenings of the first and third Mondays of every month. The members of the Academy and their friends who take an interest in the subject of Microscopy are especially invited.

At the annual Exhibition, to be held April 7th, the Museum of the Academy will be lighted up at 7:30 P. M., and the valuable collections properly displayed. The doors to the Microscopical rooms will not be opened until 8'oclock.

The Director has appointed the following Committees for the occasion:

Committee on Botanical Preparations

J. G. Liunt, M. D., *Chairman*

Chas. F. Parker, Esq.

Prof. Wm. Barbeck.

Edward Potts, Esq.

J.T. Rothrock, M.D.

Committee on Histology, etc.

Jos. Leidy, M.D., *Chairman*

Carl Seiler, M.D.

Louis Zentmayer, M.D.

Jos. G. Richardson, M.D.

E.O. Shakespeare, M.D.

Committee on Mineral Preparations

Theo. D. Rand, Esq., *Chairman*

Prof. P. Frazer, Jr.

Clarence S. Bement, Esq.

Prof. Geo. Koenig

William S. Vaux, Esq.

Committee on Instruments, Etc.

Chas. Bullock, Esq., *Chairman*

Chas, Schaeffer, M.D.

Thos. W. Starr, Esq.

Galloway C. Morris, Esq.

John A. Ryder, Esq.

OFFICERS OF THE SECTION

R.S. Kenderline, M.D., Director
Robert F. Hess, M.D., Recorder
C. Newlin Peirce, D.D.S., Cor. Secretary
Isaac Norris, Fr., M.D., Treasurer
F. Gibbons Hunt, M.D., Conservator
Chas. Zentmayer, (Curator)
Carl Seiler, M.D. (Curator)

Members of the Section, 1908

Bilgram, Hugo	Palmer, J.W.
Borden, E.P.	Palmer, T. Chalkley
Boyer, Charles S.	Paul, James, M.D.
Brown, Amos P., Prof.	Rothermel, John G.
Darrach, James, M.D.	Ray, Benjamin H.
Davis, Wm. B.	Sharp, Benjamin, M.D.
Dixon, Samuel G., M.D.	Shulze, John A.
Evans, J.C.	Schumo, Silas L.
Faught, L. Ashley, M.D.	Stewart, Thomas S., M.D.
Hendley, Frank P.	Smith, Walter B.
Keelye, F. J.	Trueman, W.H., M.D.
Moore, A.	Owen, D.E., M.D.
Morris, J. Cheston, M.D.	Pennock, Edward
Morris, John T.	Van Sickel, W.H.

The Biological and Microscopical Section of the Academy continued in operation until 1912 when it became inactive due to waning interest among its members. In 1924 Sections were discontinued and the organization united with the Geological and Paleontological Section. In 1925 several of its former members, among them Dr. Frank J. Keeley, Curator of Minerals at the Academy and several other prominent scientist including Hugo Bilgram, Walter Palmer, John Shulze, and Charles S. Boyer, reactivated the group as a private, non-profit society, which they named the Leidy Microscopical Society in honor o former member and great microscopist, Dr. Joseph Leidy.

Membership was, for the most part, limited to scientists, doctors, and other wealthy professionals who can afford to purchase microscopes. Weekly meetings were held, at which members would share their finding, review slides, and donate specimens to the organization's collections.



Today, the Society continues its investigation of minute objects with a microscope (although concentrating more heavily on minerals) and sharing its findings. It is also the aim of the Society and its members to preserve older collections of slides, mounts, and microscopes.