

**GRATWICK LABORATORY
UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO**

MR. GRATWICK DEAD.

He Passed Away This Morning After an Illness of Nearly Three Years - Sketch of His Life

William H. Gratwick, Sr. died at 2 o'clock this morning at his home, 776 Delaware Avenue, this city.

Mr. Gratwick was born in Albany, N.Y., on January 25, 1839. His parents came from England in 1830, and settled in Albany. He was educated in the public schools and the Albany Academy. Upon leaving school, he entered the office of a lumber firm as a tallyboy, thus beginning his life work at the bottom of the ladder.

The lumber output from the northern forest of this country was at that time inadequate to the demands upon it, and some farsighted men in Northern New York, seizing the combination of cheap and plentiful lumber land and water transportation to the south, made fortunes easily. With a firm of such men young Gratwick started work. He quickly showed that he possessed great ability, and in ten years he owned a half interest in the firm. A few years later he struck out for himself, organizing the firm of William H. Gratwick & Co. in Albany.

In 1877 he moved to Buffalo, and under his leadership the Gratwick, Smith & Fryer Lumber Company was incorporated, capitalized at \$500,000, with offices in Albany, Detroit and Tonawanda. This company revolutionized the lumber industry, by boldly buying up vast timber tracts and providing its own transportation and milling. That firm dissolved about two years ago. Within the last four or five years Mr. Gratwick concentrated most of his interests in lake transportation, winning great success in this line of effort. He was the managing owner of six of the largest boats on the lakes. Combining great energy with a natural aptitude for managing large business affairs, he was successful in all that he undertook.

Mr. Gratwick took a great deal of interest in public affairs, and he expended much energy in the work of municipal reform. In the liquor crusade of 1883 he was very prominent, being a member of the committee of twenty of the Citizens' Reform Association and a very energetic worker in the cause.

Mr. Gratwick served as president of the Y.M.C.A.; vice-president of the Erie County Bible Society; trustee of the Buffalo Homeopathic Hospital; trustee of the Buffalo Orphan Asylum; curator of the Buffalo Fine Arts Academy; member of the advisory board of the Women's Christian Association, and vice-president of the Liberal Club. He was very active in church and philanthropic work.

For nearly three years Mr. Gratwick battled with ill health. He is survived by his wife, who was Miss Martha Weare of Penn Yan, and by two sons and one daughter - William H., Frederick C. and Mildred M. Gratwick.

Buffalo Commercial Advertiser. August 15, 1899



Wm. H. Gratwick c.1890



Dr. Roswell Park c.1901

When William H. Gratwick died he was being treated for colon cancer by Dr. Roswell Park. Dr. Park had come to the University of Buffalo in 1883 as professor of surgery. His special interest in studying the nature of cancer led him to be among the first to acquire a knowledge of tumors. In 1898, by an act of the New York State legislature, a cancer laboratory was established at the University of Buffalo Medical School and a \$10,000 grant was authorized. The cancer laboratory was called the New York State Pathological Laboratory at the University of Buffalo. By 1900 Dr. Park's staff had increased to 15 and their extensive research had outgrown its space at the university.

In August, 1900 Mrs. William H. Gratwick donated \$25,000 to the University of Buffalo in memory of her husband to construct a freestanding building dedicated exclusively to cancer research. Public-spirited citizens of Buffalo raised the balance of the \$85,000 cost. Designed by local architect George Cary and named the Gratwick Laboratory at the University of Buffalo, the new facility was ready for use by midsummer 1901; it was located at the corner of High and Elm Streets, across from Buffalo General Hospital.



Mrs. William H. Gratwick



Gratwick Laboratory, University of Buffalo

In proposing the construction of such a laboratory, Mrs. Gatwick's son, W. H. Gratwick, Jr. wrote to Dr. Park, August 28, 1900:

W. H. GRATWICK,
881 Ellicott Square,
Buffalo, N. Y.

August 28, 1900.

Doctor Roswell Park,
510 Delaware Av. City

My dear Doctor Park,-

My mother wishes me to say that she would consider it a privilege to assume the expenses of building a laboratory, to be devoted to the investigation of cancer, such as is contemplated by you; - the expenses of such an undertaking to be about \$25,000.

And she wishes me to say that one of the strong reasons influencing her decision is that the work will be under your supervision and management.

My mother wishes to attach no conditions whatever in this matter, but she would much appreciate it if her name could be kept out of the newspapers in connection therewith, feeling averse to any publicity in the case.

Yours sincerely,
W. H. Gratwick.

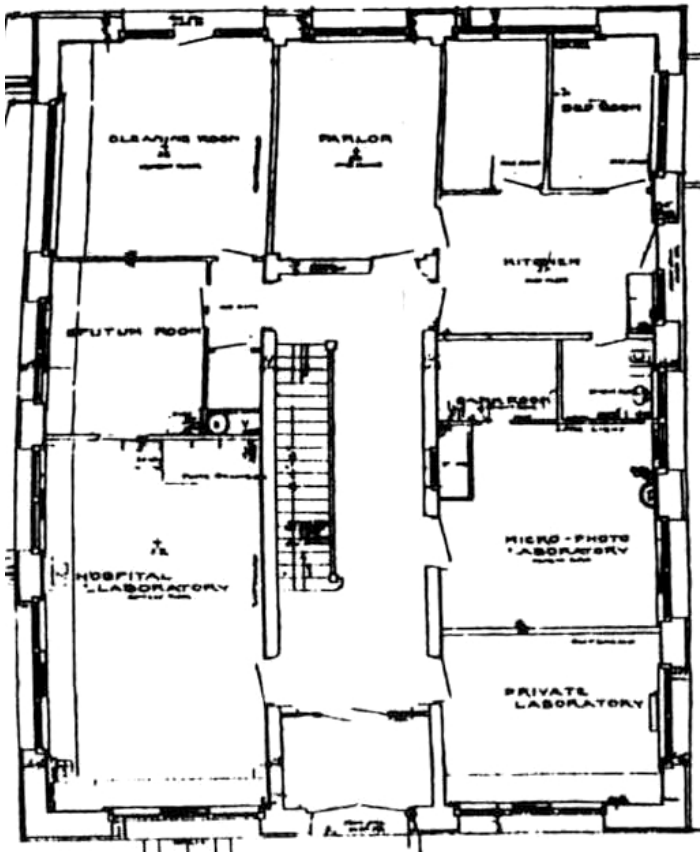
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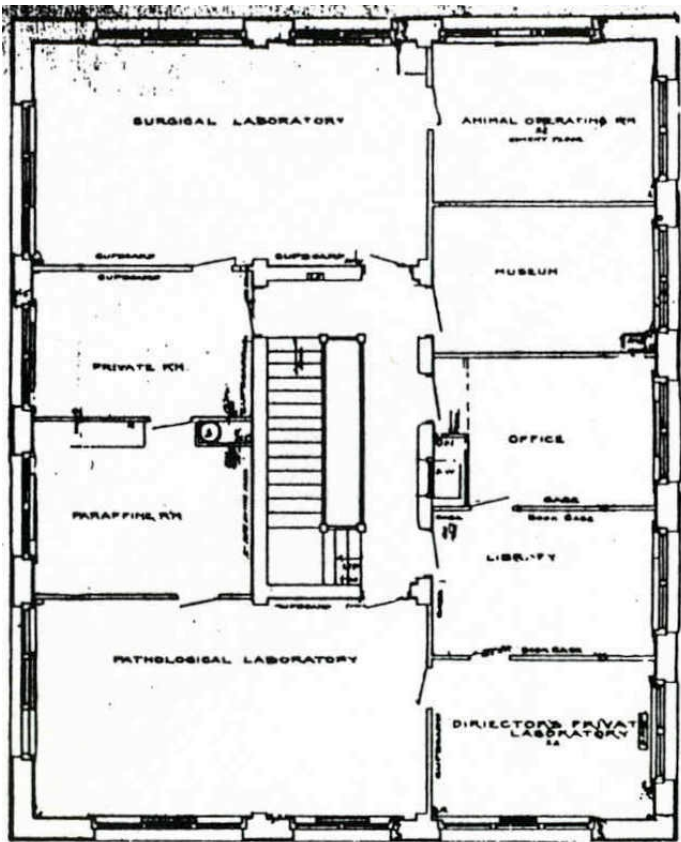
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Yours sincerely,
W H Gratwick



First Floor, Gratwick Laboratory

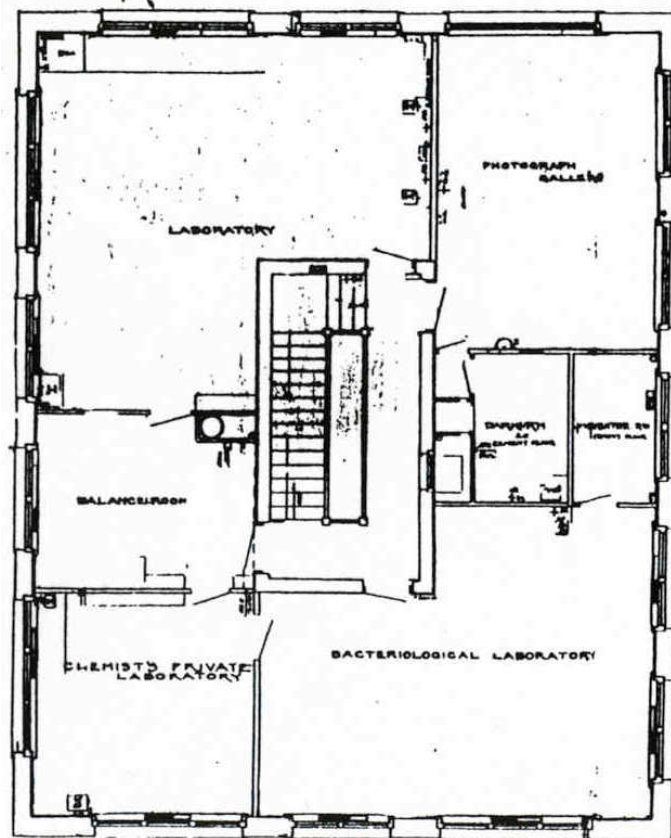


Second Floor, Gratwick Laboratory



LABORATORY FOR THE EXPERIMENTAL STUDY OF CANCER, CONTAINING 5,000 WHITE MICE AND WHITE RATS IN SEVERAL STAGES OF THE DISEASE

From "What We Know About Cancer." Burton J. Hendrick. *McClurg's Magazine*. July, 1909 p.256



Third Floor, Gratwick Laboratory

Dr. Harvey R. Gaylord, appointed director of the Laboratory in 1898, was instrumental in helping organize the first International Cancer Conference held in Paris in 1910. At this conference a medal was awarded to the Gratwick Laboratory for their outstanding, cutting edge research in immunology, chemotherapy and the biology of cancer

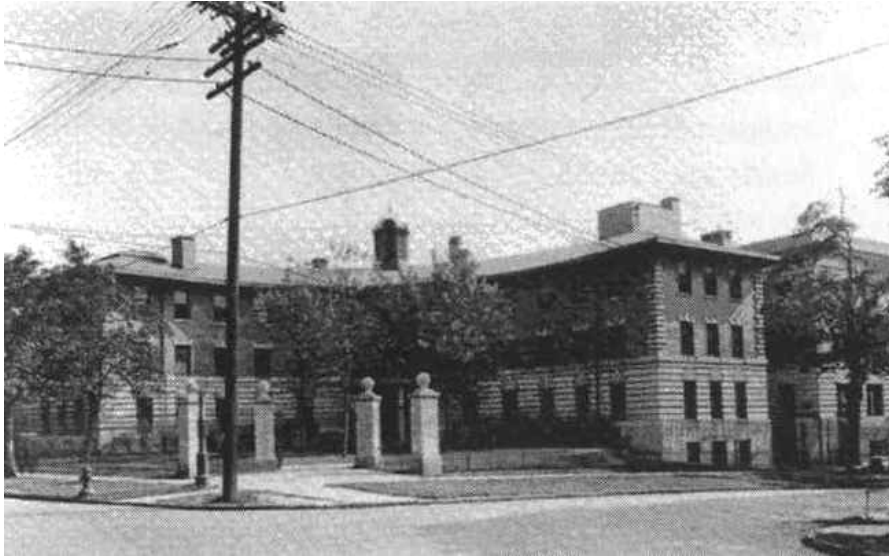


The artist who created the medal, Tony Szirmai (1871-1938), born in Banat, Hungary, worked in Paris during the second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th. He was a prolific sculptor and medalist. In addition to numerous portrait medals of European Royal Houses, he produced medals for the International Congress Against Tuberculosis (Copenhagen, 1906), Congress of the International Association Against Tuberculosis (the Hague, 1906), International Congress of Medicine (Lisbon, 1906), 6th International Conference Against Tuberculosis (Vienna, 1907), 11th International Congress Against Alcoholism (Stockholm, 1907), International Conference for the Study of Cancer (Paris, 1910), Sanitary Conference (Paris, 1911).



In 1912 the University of Buffalo officially transferred the Gratwick Research Laboratory to New York State. The Gratwick Research Laboratory was renamed the New York State Institute for the Study of Malignant Disease.

In 1913 Mrs. William H. Gratwick and her sons - Frederick C. Gratwick and William H. Gratwick, Jr. – were among the citizens who contributed money to purchase land on Oak and Carlton Streets for the Cary Pavilion, the Institute's first hospital. [The thirty-bed facility was named for Dr. Charles Cary, one of the first trustees of the Institute; it was designed by Dr. Cary's brother, George.]



The Cary Pavilion. Gratwick Laboratory at far right.

While the Cary Pavilion marked the beginning of the Institute's clinical program, the research program was also expanding in 1913. Ten local citizens, among them William H. Gratwick, Jr. and Frederick C. Gratwick, purchased an experimental farm near Springville, New York.

Frederick and William H. Gratwick served as members of the Board of Trustees and Board of Visitors at the Institute from 1907 to 1933.

The Gratwick Laboratory building was demolished in 1959 to accommodate the Gratwick Basic Science Building which was completed in September, 1961 - thus perpetuating the Gratwick name within the Institute complex.

THE
GRATWICK
SOCIETY



Today, the Gratwick name identifies a group of distinguished donors who contribute \$1,000 or more annually to Roswell Park Cancer Institute to support areas of research, education, and patient care in the same generous spirit of the Gratwick family's original gift in 1900.