

What's Up at Upstate

Three Pioneering Women Doctors Recognized in Public Exhibitions

Posted on [May 15, 2012](#) by [susankeeter](#)



Tom Hunter of the Onondaga Historical Association holds posters of Drs. Elizabeth Blackwell and Sarah Loguen that will be part of an exhibit.

Doctors [Elizabeth Blackwell](#) (1821-1910), Mary Walker (1832-1919) and [Sarah Loguen Fraser](#) (1850-1933) –all medical pioneers with ties to Syracuse– are being honored with new public displays in Syracuse and Oswego.

Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell and Dr. Sara Loguen Fraser are part of “Pioneering Women in Onondaga County,” an exhibition of historic and contemporary women at the [Onondaga Historical Association](#), 321 Montgomery St., Syracuse. Dr. Blackwell was the first woman doctor and Dr. Loguen Fraser was one of the nation’s first African American women doctors and the first woman doctor in the Dominican Republic. Both were graduates of the medical school now part of [Upstate Medical University](#) (Blackwell in 1849, Loguen Fraser in 1876).

Dr. Mary Walker was honored with the ceremonial unveiling of a larger-than-life bronze sculpture of her at the Oswego Town Hall, 2320 County Route 7, Oswego. A resident of Oswego, Walker is the only woman to have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, which was awarded to her by President Andrew Johnson for her service as a surgeon and Union spy in the Civil War. Walker was an 1855 graduate of the Syracuse Medical College, an [eclectic medical school](#) that was open from 1850 to 1857.

Seven of Walker’s descendants attended the May 12 celebration, as did dozens of Civil War reenactors, two Mary Walker impersonators, and lots of government officials. Speakers included Sharon M. Harris, author of “[Dr. Mary Walker: An American Radical](#)” and [Sharon BuMann](#), sculptor of the bronze statue of Walker. An armed

guard watched over Walker's Congressional Medal of Honor, which was on display.

The [Post Standard](#) and [YNN](#) covered the Walker celebration. The book, "[Three 19th Century Women Doctors](#)" has short biographies of Blackwell, Walker and Loguen Fraser.



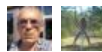
Upstate surgeon Dr. Leslie Kohman talks with sculptor Sharon BuMann at the bronze sculpture of Dr. Mary Walker.

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About susankeeter

Occasional contributor Upstate's Susan Keeter has written about and painted Upstate's Dr. Sarah Loguen, one of the first African American women physicians. Keeter created the horse sculpture in front of the Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital and illustrated a children's book on autism, "Waiting for Benjamin." She's written for Physician Practice, Upstate Alumni Journal and Outlook magazines. Reach her by email at keeters@upstate.edu or by phone at 315-464-4834.

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Susan Ozmore says:

May 15, 2012 at 1:39 pm

This posts combines two of my interests – science and women’s history. I had heard of Elizabeth Blackwell, but it seems my education in this area is definitely lacking. I definitely will look for more information on Dr. Mary Walker and Dr. Fraser. Thanks for the post and the information.

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