

## AROUND THE CIRCLE

News of CWRU's University Circle Neighborhood

### THE SAGE OF ROCKPORT

**I**t could be fairly said that in 1793 Jared Potter Kirtland was born into fortunate circumstances. Even so, who could have predicted that he would take the advantages given him and put them to such good use for a frontier society?

In his eighty-four years the physician, teacher, legislator, naturalist, horticulturist, prison and public health reformer, and author influenced all manner of civic developments in Ohio.

Two University Circle institutions benefited from his talents. In 1843 Kirtland joined with John Delamater and other physicians to become the founding faculty of the Medical Department of Western Reserve College, now the School of Medicine of Case Western Reserve. An admired professor, Kirtland served on the faculty until 1863. In 1845, he founded the Cleveland Academy of Natural Sciences, a forerunner of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (CMNH) in the Circle.

Two hundred years after his birth, Kirtland still has admirers. The Kirtlandia Society, established in 1976 at CMNH, presents monthly talks on scientific topics. The society also sponsors activities to benefit the museum and is commemorating the bicentennial of Kirtland's birth in November. "This

is a generalist group," says society recording secretary Ted Ganger (ADL '44), a retired manufacturer and museum volunteer.

Growing up in Connecticut, Kirtland had a peerless mentor in his maternal grandfather, Jared Potter, reputed to be the best physician in Connecticut, taught his namesake about the natural sciences and the need for careful observation. Kirtland lived with him while his parents forged ahead to the Western Reserve in northeastern Ohio. His father was the general agent for the Connecticut Land Company's sale of parcels in the three-million-acre territory.

At seventeen, Kirtland was teaching at the village school in Poland, Ohio, where his family had settled. The inheritance left by his

grandfather enabled him to attend Yale University's medical school. After graduation in 1815, the energetic young man entered into medical practice and politics in Connecticut, becoming an elected judge in 1816.

The death of his first wife brought the despondent young widower back to Ohio for good. Kirtland planned to take over his father's business. But there was great need for physicians on the frontier, and soon he had an extensive practice. And politics beckoned again—Kirtland served three terms in the Ohio legislature and led the state's program to build a new prison.

His medical practice, teaching, and work in state politics made Kirtland a man of parts among Ohioans. As a scientist, his reputation extended across the ocean. Kirtland published prolifically on medical topics, and in Europe was known for his work in horticulture and zoology.

For most of his adult life, Kirtland maintained a fruit farm in Rockport (now Lakewood), west of Cleveland. He stayed productive into a hale old age. In the 1850s, he was the most active member of a committee working to secure a municipal source of clean water from Lake Erie. During the Civil War, he served as an examining physician.

The Kirtlandia Society honors the Sage of Rockport, as his neighbors dubbed him, by contributing to CMNH's research and education programs. Among its efforts on behalf of the museum, the society contributes stipends for students



The good doctor: Jared Potter Kirtland, the inspiration behind the work of the Kirtlandia Society at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

(over)

who, as summer interns, assist museum curators in environmental research, and financially supports the journal *Kirtlandia*, a scholarly publication written by the museum staff and contributors worldwide.

The society's lectures and field trips help its members to do what Kirtland did: explore the sciences throughout their lives. "I'm interested in learning," says Mr. Ganger, "and that's why I like the society." Anyone who shares that curiosity is welcome to attend monthly Kirtlandia Society meetings and marvel at the mysteries of stars and sea shells. The good doctor would approve.

*Historical information was provided by the Bulletin of the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland.*

#### DR. ANNY

Chance brought one of the founders of child psychoanalysis to Cleveland. Vienna-born Anny Katan spent the greater part of her career in University Circle—on the faculty of the School of Medicine, and as a catalyst for the Cleveland Center for Research in Child Development and the Hanna Perkins School, which helps young children with psychological problems. Last December, when "Dr. Anny" died at the age of ninety-four, the children's champion had been retired from working with patients for only a few years.

Today scholars have access to Dr. Katan's collected papers and to a fascinating hodgepodge of rare books and memorabilia. Housed at the Hanna Perkins School, the Katan papers are a recent gift from Anny Katan's daughter. The collection includes documents from the work of Dr. Katan's husband, Maurits, also an analyst. Robert Furman, the collection's curator, has plans for *Child Analysis*, the center's annual journal, to publish something from the archives in each issue. Dr. Furman is director emeritus of the



**Children's champion: Anny Katan, whose collected papers are housed at the Hanna Perkins School. She's shown with her husband, Maurits, in 1951.**

center and the Perkins School.

In Vienna, Dr. Anny's pediatrician father, Ludwig Rosenberg, and her uncle were Sigmund Freud's partners in card-playing. Born in 1898, Anny Rosenberg was two years younger than Freud's daughter Anna, one of the chief proponents of the discipline of psychoanalysis pioneered by her father, and a specialist in the treatment of children. It would have been natural, says Dr. Furman, for Anny Rosenberg to desire a career like those of Anna Freud and others in the Freud circle.

The Katans, both Jewish, spent World War II working for the Resistance, with Maurits doing his work while in hiding in Holland. Anna Freud was behind the Katans' 1946 move to Cleveland. She had been impressed with Douglas Bond, whom she met while he served in the Air Force during World War II. After the war, Dr. Bond took on the charge of starting a department of psychiatry at the Western Reserve University School of Medicine. At Anna Freud's urging, the Katans joined the faculty. They were among the first professors of psychoanalysis in the country. On the faculty from 1946 to 1966, they

helped to build Dr. Bond's department.

Anny Katan and Anna Freud kept in touch through their lives, and the archives contain 162 letters from Freud's daughter and copies of Dr. Anny's letters to her. The archives also contain unpublished papers that Anna Freud delivered when visiting Cleveland, case discussions of Maurits Katans, who died in 1977, Dr. Anny's published scholarly writings, photographs, and signed first editions of Freud's work. There is a rare first-edition copy of

Freud's dream book, and a moving letter from Freud to the writer Stefan Zweig, written not long before Vienna fell to the Nazis and Zweig committed suicide. Freud offered Zweig his support and looked back on his own work, reflecting: "...I have surely not discovered more than a small fragment of truth. The immediate future looks grim for psychoanalysis."

Anny Katan's ideas have influenced our ways of relating to children. In 1961, for example, she published a paper discussing the efficacy of teaching very young children to use language to convey their emotional states. And she worked hard to help children caught in the scary circumstances of hospitalization. "She fought desperately for visiting hours for the parents of pediatric patients," says Dr. Furman. The Katan archives offer eloquent testimony to one woman's lifelong devotion to those who are just finding their voices.

*Some of the information in this article was taken from a story in the Cleveland Plain Dealer.*

*Around the Circle was written by CWRU editor Roberta Hubbard.*