

The Farrior Lineage

Opening Address Given at the First Annual Richard T. Farrior Course on Facial Plastic Surgery

John Ferguson, MD

REUBEN SEARCY was born in North Carolina in 1805, and his family moved to Alabama when he was 1 year old. As a young adult, he worked on steamboats prior to pursuing his medical education at Transylvania University. He spent his entire career in and around Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where he was active in the local medical societies. For 30 years, he served as the president of the board of trustees of the Alabama Insane Hospital.

His oldest son, James Thomas Searcy, excelled at the New York University medical department, winning 2 of 6 prizes awarded to the graduating students. He returned to Tuscaloosa and joined his father's practice. Like his father, he was active in medical societies, serving as the president of the American Medico-Psychological Society, the predecessor to the American Psychology Association. He, too, served as president of the Board of Regents of the Alabama Insane Hospital. In recognition of his leadership, the Mount Vernon Branch of the Alabama Insane Hospital was renamed the Searcy Hospital. Of his 12 children, 4 became health care professionals and 2 married physicians.

Reuben Martin Searcy was an assistant professor of chemistry at University of Virginia prior to attending Georgetown Medical College. Unfortunately, he died soon after receiving his degree.

Battle Sorsby Searcy graduated from the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery. In addition to his prominent Tuscaloosa dental practice, he served as president of the Alabama Dental Association. His grandson, Battle Sorsby Searcy III was killed in an automobile accident while in his psychiatry residency.

George Harris Searcy received his medical degree from the University of Michigan in 1901. He accompanied Dr William Gargas to Panama to inspect for the Canal Commission, but soon returned due to malaria. In 1907, he published an article in *JAMA* correlating pellagra with dietary intake 6 years before Goldberger's work. For 26 years, he led an active private practice in Tuscaloosa except during World War I, when he served as the commanding officer of the Army hospital at the Panama Canal Zone.

Harvey Brown Searcy, the youngest son of James T. Searcy, received his medical degree from the University of Michigan in 1903. Prior to World War I, he joined S. L. Ledbetter's ophthalmology and otolaryngology practice but returned to Alabama after his tour of duty, where he established his own ophthalmology and otolaryngology practice. Throughout his career, he developed many instruments still used today and was actively involved in medical education in Alabama. In recognition of his service, a laboratory at the University of Alabama at Birmingham was named in his honor. His grandson is currently a practicing physician.

James Searcy's second daughter, Abbie Fitch, married Henry Adams Snow. Their son, James Searcy Snow, had a distinguished career in dermatology.

James Searcy's third daughter, Evelyn Gray Searcy, married J. Brown Farrior, Sr, in 1909. Joseph Brown Farrior was the son of Dr Joseph R. Farrior, a country physician in western Florida. After receiving his medical degree from Tulane, he joined his father's practice; however, he soon went to Chicago for advanced training in ophthalmology and otolaryngology. He came to Tampa in 1912. His impact on the quality of medicine in Hillsborough County has been far reaching. He spearheaded the creation of a hospital to provide better care for all citizens. As chairman of the Committee for the Construction of Tampa Municipal Hospital, now Tampa General Hospital, he fought city hall and the local business community to realize this dream. Legend has it that while playing golf with Mr James Swann, Mr Davis of Davis Island, and Mayor Chancy, Mr Davis drew an outline of his proposed island in a sand trap and asked Dr Farrior where he would like the hospital to reside. The idea was for a central location in a setting that would facilitate the recuperation of its patients. Due to these efforts and his understanding of public health, Dr Farrior was elected president of the Hillsborough County Medical Association.

In 1933, a portrait of Dr Farrior was placed in the lobby of the Tampa Municipal Hospital. A passage from the acceptance of the memorial painting by James Swann, chairman of the Board of Directors for Tampa Municipal Hospital, read. On November 15, 1927, when the first patients were transferred from Gordon Keller to the Tampa Municipal Hospital, Dr Farrior had seen his dream come true. I believe, in material things, that day was the happiest of his life. Throughout the remainder of the few short years that were to be his, he constantly sought to develop the institution along the lines of service and sympathy for the suffering. The thousands of sick who have been benefited by its administrations and have gone forth well and strong again, owe a deep debt of gratitude to the faith, persistence, energy, and idealism of Dr J. Brown Farrior. The thousands, who in the future shall come forth restored to health, should be acquainted with the unselfish part he played in the rebuilding of their minds and bodies.

The legacy of Dr J. Brown Farrior, Sr, lives on not only in Tampa General Hospital but also in his family. J. Brown Farrior, Jr, his oldest son, received his medical degree from Tulane University and pursued his otolaryngology residency at the Roosevelt Hospital in New York City. He returned to Tampa in 1948 and established his otology practice. His work in otology is well known, as are his contributions to general otolaryngology. He received many awards, including the Billings Gold Medal from the American Medical Association. Dr Farrior also started the first approved residency training program at Tampa General Hospital.

His son has continued in his footsteps. J. Brown Farrior III is an otologist in Tampa and is actively involved in the education of the residents at the University of South Florida Department of Otolaryngology. I owe my own otology skills to his endless patience.

The youngest son of J. Brown Farrior, Sr, was born in Tampa and graduated from H. B. Plant High School, where he lettered in football. After finishing his premedical training at the University of Miami, Richard Farrior attended Duke University School of Medicine, after which he took a surgical internship at the University of Michigan. On completion of his residency in otolaryngology and maxillofacial surgery at the University of Iowa, he served as chief of otolaryngology and maxillofacial surgery at the US Army Hospital in Munich and Augsburg, Germany. After his tour of duty, he accepted a fellowship in plastic and reconstructive surgery with Dr Claire Straith in Detroit. Following his training, he returned to Tampa and joined the Farrior Clinic with his brother, J. Brown Farrior, Jr. In addition to his busy private practice, Dr Farrior is an active teacher. He has served as senior attending physician in plastic surgery, otolaryngology, and maxillofacial surgery at Tampa General Hospital and Saint Joseph's Hospital. He is a clinical professor at the University of South Florida and the University of Florida in Gainesville. He has been a consultant in head and neck surgery to Bay Pines and James Haley Veterans Affairs Hospitals. He has been an essential part of the training of otolaryngology residents in Tampa since the program's inception. Dr Farrior established one of the first preceptorships in facial plastic surgery, before the establishment of accredited fellowship programs by the American Association of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. His prodigious literary output includes more than 60 scientific articles and chapters. He has served at innumerable meetings and courses at the national and international levels, including sponsoring the first otolaryngology course in Tampa with his brother. Dr Farrior is a member of every major medical and otolaryngology society, many of which he has served as an officer or committee member.

Dr Farrior's legacy continues in his son, Dr Edward Farrior. After completing medical school at the University of Virginia and his otolaryngology training at the University of Michigan, he took a fellowship with his father. In addition to developing a successful private practice, he has been active in medical education and chairs the fellowship committee of the American Association of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. He continues to teach courses and will carry on the fellowship established by Dr Farrior. He is actively involved in the Spring of Tampa, a local shelter for abused women and children, and donates his time and skills to the Face to Face Organization, which helps severely abused women apply for free reconstructive surgery. These efforts were recently honored when he was given the Physician Humanitarian of the Year award in Tampa.

There is yet another generation of physicians. Dr Daniel Vincent recently returned to Tampa after completing his residency at the University of South Carolina and a laryngology fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine in Texas. He is the grandson of Evelyn Polk, Richard Farrior's sister.

I would like to return to one Dr Farrior in particular. There are many ways Richard Farrior has contributed to the field of otolaryngology. His leadership has been invaluable to our cause. However, his role as leader did not start with facial plastic surgery. He served as student council president in high school,

president of the freshman class at the University of Florida, president of the student body at the University of Miami, and class president at Duke School of Medicine. Dr Farrior was one of the founding members of the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. His unique training in otolaryngology and general plastic surgery as well as his diplomatic skills helped legitimize the subspecialty in the eyes of other physicians. As the fourth president of the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, he began holding meetings at the same time and in the same hotels as other otolaryngology groups to gain recognition for his group from the established societies. This culminated in his tenure as president of the American Academy of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery 20 years later. He was a founding member of the American Society for Head and Neck Surgery and served as southern section vice president of the Triologic Society.

Dr Farrior's contributions to medical education are unsurpassed. In addition to his literary achievements, Dr Farrior's courses have received national and international accolades. He was named president for life of the Croatian Sercer Society and had a lecture hall named after him in South America. Dr Farrior's medical knowledge and surgical skills have benefited not only his personal patients but countless numbers through the fellows he has trained, many of whom have gone on to train others. The gifts he has given them is reflected in the gift that he received from his former fellows in 1998—the limited edition Ray Cook putter, which they presented to him at the academy in San Antonio.



Speakers and program directors for the First Annual Richard T. Farrior, MD, Lecture Series in Facial Plastic Surgery. Back row (left to right): Dean Toriumi, MD, Corey Maas, MD, Stephen Park, MD, Edward Chang, MD, DDS. Front row (left to right): Edward Farrior, MD, Richard Farrior, MD, Ted Cook, MD.

Last, I would like to mention the contributions Dr Farrior has made to us, the residents in Tampa. Dr Farrior, thank you for the time, energy, and patience you have given us. It has truly been a privilege to work with you. I hold dear every moment I have spent learning from you, and I hope to spend many more. Please help me in honoring the physician, the teacher, the leader: Dr Richard Farrior.

Author/Article Information

*John Ferguson, MD
Department of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery
University of South Florida College of Medicine
12902 Magnolia Dr, Suite 3057
Tampa, FL 33612-9497*