

## Little Known Facts about Dr. Eugene A. Stead, Jr.

by Reginald Carter

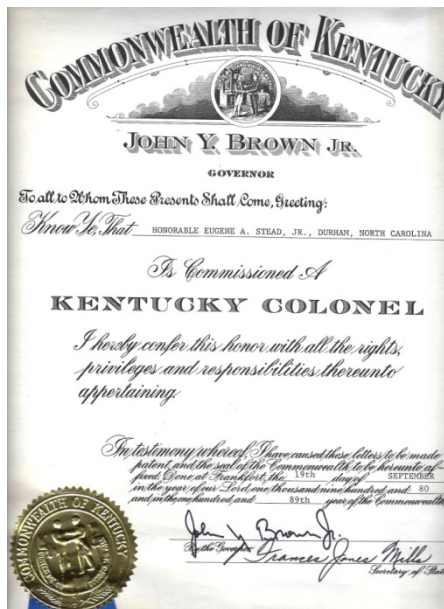
It is always exciting when the Society comes across new items that shed light on Dr. Stead's professional and personal life. Here are a few new facts about Dr. Stead that were found recently in a set of scrapbooks donated to the Society by the Stead family.

### Lt. Col. Dr. Eugene A. Stead, Jr.

Dr. Stead did not get to serve as an active-duty military physician during the Second World War. The government needed him to remain at Emory University to fast-track the education of physicians for military service. Dr. Stead had few faculty and house staff left to teach medical students and take care of patients at Grady Hospital. His solution was to have students learn in the classroom in the morning and attend clinical rounds and take care of patients in the afternoons and evenings. It was this experience that gave him the confidence in 1965 to launch his 24-month curriculum at Duke University to educate physician assistants. He knew that he could educate highly motivated students in two years to do many of the tasks performed by physicians.



According to a newspaper clipping and a photograph found in a family scrapbook, Dr. Stead eventually got his chance to serve in the Army. He enlisted as a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserves when the 65<sup>th</sup> General Hospital Unit was reactivated at Duke University in 1947. The unit, staffed primarily by Duke nurses, physicians and clinical support personnel, had served in England during the Second World War. It was disbanded at the end of the war but reactivated several years later to provide backup support for the Fort Bragg Military Base, NC. The newspaper clipping indicated that the unit had left Duke for two weeks active duty at Fort Bragg on July 27, 1952. The unit included 39 individuals. The



above photograph is dated July 1952 when the unit was on maneuvers at Fort Bragg. Dr. Stead served in the Army Reserves between World War Two and the Korean War.

### Kentucky Colonel Dr. Eugene A. Stead, Jr.

Dr. Stead got a promotion in rank when on September 19, 1980 he was commissioned a **Kentucky Colonel** by then Governor John Y. Brown, Jr. In an accompanying letter, Secretary of State, Frances Jones Mills, said that he was sure Dr. Stead was aware of the proud significance of the certificate shown here. He reminded Stead of the great heritage that he now shared with the great state of Kentucky by becoming "a member of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels." Who nominated Dr. Stead for this honor is not mentioned, most likely one of his former house staff.

Resources:

Author Unknown. (1952, July 27). 65<sup>th</sup> Hospital Unit Scheduled For Duty on Ft. Bragg Staff. Durham Herald.

Frances Jones Mills, letter to Eugene A. Stead, Jr., 2 Oct. 1980. TS.

Photograph: Dr. Stead in Uniform. Dr. Eugene A. Stead, Jr. Collection. Physician Assistant History Society, Johns Creek, GA.

Document: Kentucky Colonel Certificate to Dr. Eugene A. Stead, Jr. Dr. Eugene A. Stead, Jr. Collection. Physician Assistant History Society, Johns Creek, GA.