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ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

Dr. David Crary's Calling Card



The calling card (above, courtesy of the Wood Library-Museum) features an oval-cut photoportrait pasted to card stock with calligraphy in black ink reading "David Crary, M.D./Hartford, Conn." After graduating in 1834 from the Medical College at Castleton, Vermont, David Crary, M.D. (1806–1894) practiced "tumor surgery" and then obstetrics. On January 4, 1848, in Hartford, Connecticut, Horace Wells administered nitrous oxide as Crary assisted surgeon Samuel B. Beresford in the 5-min excision of a "6-ounce" lipoma from the right shoulder area of a Nutmegger named Mary Gabriel from Bristol. Having witnessed this event— one of Wells' earliest nondental nitrous oxide anesthetics— Crary would testify on many future occasions that Wells deserved the credit for pioneering anesthesia. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image appears in color in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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