ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS FROM THE WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM

Painter, Poet, and Penultimate Daughter of Etherist Crawford Long: Emma Mitchell Long

The sixth of seven daughters among the dozen children fathered by ether pioneer Crawford W. Long, M.D., Emma Mitchell Long (1859 to 1935) was among the lucky seven Long children to survive childhood. Following Dr. Crawford Long’s death, Emma fearlessly and poetically advocated on behalf of her father’s claims as the world’s first surgical etherist: “Father, thy tender voice will never cheer / Our home again, / No more its tones will soothe our fear / Or chase away our pain…. Though known to few, thy unrewarded fame / Was truly won. / Some day thy Nation’s heart shall proudly claim / Her gifted son.” An artist as well as a poet, Emma Long painted an oil portrait (left) of her father that is proudly displayed at his namesake museum in Jefferson, Georgia. Represented on the WLM’s Liaison Committee, the Crawford W. Long Museum is only a 70-minute drive from Atlanta’s Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists’ Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology)

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