

Thought I'd share a family story so you gents understand my newfound interest in supporting Scottish Rite after learning about their history...

My grandfather Thomas Harrison Hunter fell ill with polio when he was 7 years old in 1922. His family moved from Niles, Michigan to the Boston area so he could be treated by the same Dr. that treated President FDR. Their family was not wealthy by any means so I have to assume he received a great deal of charity treatment. He was given leg braces and was on crutches for the rest of his life. However he was very determined and had a special charm with people.

He earned a scholarship to Harvard where he studied Psychology and Philosophy. He then received the Henry Fellowship at Cambridge (England) and traveled by sea to study pre-med for 4 more years. He was the coxswain on their champion crew team (he didn't weigh much from the waist down but had a very strong upper body which was ideal for the position). He went back to study at Harvard Med School during WWII. He financed his entire education through scholarship and employment.

After earning his M.D. he started his career at Presbyterian Hospital in New York and later worked at Walter Reed Hospital, Columbia University, and Washington University. He went on to become a pioneer in patient ethics and the use of penicillin. He later became the long time Dean of Medicine at the University of Virginia and was attributed to "putting the School of Medicine on the Map." I'm told he was a great one-handed golfer; he used one arm to prop himself up with a crutch. He passed in 1997 when I was 15 years old. He and my grandma had five kids, my dad being the oldest, and 13 grandkids.

Needless to say, we are thankful for the early charity treatment Grandpa Tom received as a young child. An untold amount lives were impacted by his work and family.

