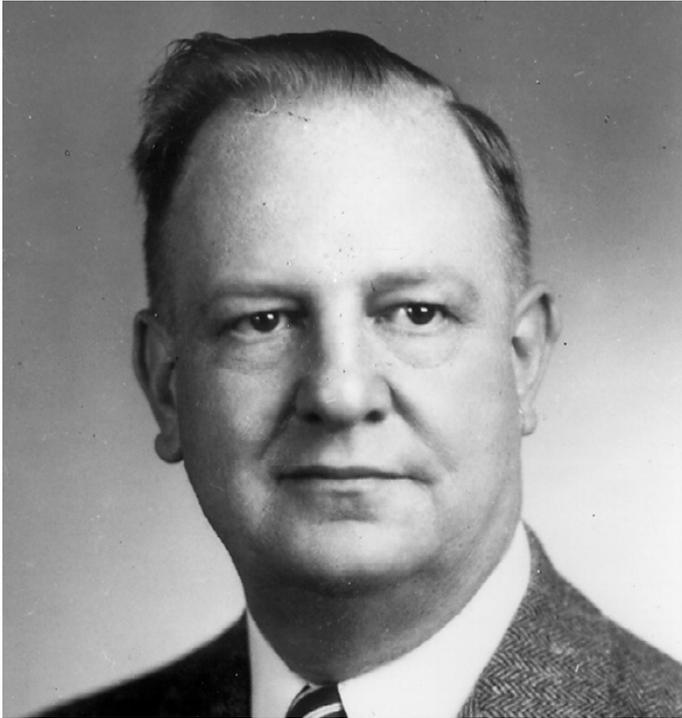




Daniel Hertz Funkenstein



Born in Atlanta, Dan Funkenstein grew up in Athens, Georgia. He earned a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Georgia at age 20. In 1934 he received the Medical Degree from Tulane. He completed a one year rotating internship at Cincinnati General Hospital, then a two year general surgical residency at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis under Dr. Evarts Graham; then a fellowship in plastic surgery at Barnes under Dr. J. Barret Brown.

In 1937, having completed formal training, Dan married Hannah B. Harris (Hannah Bessie) of Jacksonville, Florida, and pursued the private practice of plastic and general surgery with board certification as a surgical subspecialist. He and Hannah produced two children in Jacksonville:

Harris in 1939 and Danny in 1942.

World War II then interrupted both his career and family life for four years while he volunteered as a flight surgeon in the US Army Air Corps in the Pacific Theatre. Highly decorated as a combat hero, he participated in long range flights with the 23rd Bombardment Squadron in the engagements with China, the Western and Central Pacific: New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, the Philippines, Luzon, and the Bismarck-Archipelago. He was deservedly awarded the Air Medal (Three Oak Leaf Clusters), the Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation (Oak Leaf Cluster), four overseas services bars, and the Philippines Liberation Ribbon (Bronze Star). On frequent flying missions with his troops he could observe directly what they endured. These experiences involved noting of the emotional reactions to continuous stress of pilots and air crews; also the surgical treatment of horrific burns that ensued from munitions and aviation fuel. As a flight surgeon he was also involved in sanitation and treatment of tropical infectious diseases, which, before the advent of antibiotics, caused many more deaths and disability than actual combat.

On return from the wars, he never spoke of his bravery, only that his flight experiences had led him away from trauma surgery, into an interest in the emotional reactions of human beings to stress. Thus, after the war he chose to retrain in psychiatry, in 1946 accepted as a resident at the Boston Psychopathic Hospital (later the Massachusetts Mental Health Center). This training led to a 30 year association with the Harvard Medical School, from which he retired as full professor 18 years before his death. He was director of Clinical Psychiatry and Research, at MMH, he also became a senior psychiatrist at the Harvard University Health Service, and served on the medical school Admissions Committee. He served on the Advisory Board for the Graduate School of Education, the Radcliffe Institute, and the Department of Social Relations; and served the University on the Committees to activate the Harvard-MIT Program in Health Sciences and Technology. Also for almost 40 years he was associated with the Veterans Administration, and retired as Chief of Staff at the Brockton VA Hospital in 1979. While conducting active research projects and clinical practice he authored five texts and over 300 articles. As a Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, he held office in practically all of the psychiatry and mental health societies, worldwide.

He participated for Harvard Medical School in many committees of the Association of American Medical Colleges; and his mastery of "The Stress Interview" was an annual feature of the 2nd Year Medical School Student Show. Colleagues and friends included many with whom he did research and served on committees: Harry Solomon, Milton Greenblatt, Stanley King, Dana Farnsworth, Stanley Cobb, George Berry, Herman Blumgart, Perry Culver, Bradford Cannon, George Vaillant, A.Clifford Barger, Leon Eisenberg, Osler Peterson, David Reisman, Robert Glaser, Oliver Cope, George Thorn, Richard Warren, T.B. Quigley, Judah Folkman, Samuel Bojar, and Leroy Vandam. During his career, and subsequent to retirement, he was a visiting professor at about 40 universities throughout the world.

Dan was also an accomplished pianist, supporter of the performing arts, gourmet chef, and advocate for students throughout the many departments in the University. He survived to see both his children graduate from the Medical School with honors and also to develop careers in the neurosciences. He lived to see his children happily married, and to produce three grandchildren, three great nephews and great nieces. None of this could have been possible without his spouse's 55 years of love, support and devotion. He suffered many things, particularly the loss, four years before his own death, of his older son, H. Harris Funkenstein, Associate Professor of Neurology at the Brigham. He did not live to see his granddaughters fully grown, and he was unable to revisit all the battlefields of the Pacific. A lifelong Red Sox fan, he never could see his team win a World Series.

In 15 years of retirement he maintained a keen interest in world events, theater, opera, travel, cooking and professional sports. He and Hannah spent summers on the Cape, winters in Sydney, Australia, and the fall and spring in Boston. He had a unique personality, a brilliant intellect, and an insatiable curiosity. Nonetheless he was reserved in the public expression of private feelings. but was deeply proud of the accomplishments of his extended family.

In recent years he was well aware that body and mind were slipping. He was particularly affected by two back surgeries in 1980, and the tragic death of Harris in 1990. Always he bragged that he swam every day, had the lowest blood cholesterol level, the lowest blood pressure, and aunts who lived to be over a hundred years of age; everyone assumed he'd outlive them all. But, it was not to be so for he died quickly and mercifully on January 28, 1994 at the age of 83 years and 8 months. He and Hannah were as usual avoiding the Boston winter in Sydney, where he suffered an acute dissection of the thoracic aorta, and died within 48 hours. His remains were buried on February 27, 1994 in his wife's family plot where the four prior generations of her family repose.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel L. Funkenstein