Many important events related to anesthesia history have taken place in November.

Crawford W. Long was born on November 1, 1815, in Danielsville, Georgia. After receiving his medical degree in Philadelphia in 1839, he returned to Jefferson, Georgia, near his birthplace, and set up practice. In March 1842 he began using ether inhalation in several surgeries. Long died in 1878.

Crawford Long’s 1940 stamp in the “Famous American” series

Edmund Andrews published his paper proposing administration of a premixed 80/20 combination of nitrous oxide and oxygen in the November 1868 issue of the Chicago Medical Examiner. Andrews was an important figure in 19th century surgery and medical education in the Midwest.

Andrews in 1869
James Marion Sims died on November 13, 1883. Among other achievements, he convinced Long to publish his account of ether anesthesia in surgery after Morton’s 1846 demonstration. Born in South Carolina in 1813, Sims trained in Philadelphia and practiced in Montgomery, Alabama, for many years. In 1853, he moved to New York City and opened the world’s first hospital for women. He served as President of the AMA in 1876-77.

Harvey Cushing and Ernest Amory Codman, two “house pups” at the Johns Hopkins medical school, began using the first anesthetic record for their cases on or before November 30, 1894. Both men went on to long and influential careers in medicine.
Finally, November was the month for a remarkable series of events in the city of Boston in the month after Morton’s October, 1846 demonstration of anesthesia at MGH. On November 7, MGH surgeon George Hayward performed a leg amputation and a lower jaw removal under ether anesthesia. These surgeries were the third and fourth for which dentist Morton served as anesthetist. On November 9, Henry J. Bigelow, junior surgeon at the MGH, reported on Morton’s four successful ether anesthetics to a meeting of the Boston Society for Medical Improvements. On November 12, U.S. patent no. 4848, “Improvement in Surgical Operations” was issued to Charles T. Jackson and William T.G. Morton for a percentage of all profits on the use of ether in surgical operations. Because of vociferous opposition from the medical and dental communities to such a patent, Jackson and Morton quickly made their discovery known and freely available.
On that same day, Jonathan Mason Warren [1811-1867], the surgeon son of John Collins Warren (John Collins Warren was the surgeon at Morton's initial demonstration), performed the first surgery in private practice under ether anesthesia. Morton administered the ether. The younger Warren was one of the first plastic and reconstructive surgeons in the U.S., and he performed America’s first rhinoplasty. Six days later, Bigelow's account of Morton's first demonstration was published in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* and launched the spread of ether anesthesia around the world. On November 21, in a letter to William Morton, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., suggested the word "anaesthesia" to describe the mental state produced by the inhalation of ether vapor.

Bigelow around 1854

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**BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL. Vol., XXXV. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1846. No.16.**

**INSENSIBILITY DURING SURGICAL OPERATIONS PRODUCED BY INHALATION.**

Read before the Boston Society of Medical Improvement, Nov. 9th, 1846, an abstract having been previously read before the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Nov. 3d, 1846. BY HENRY JACOB BIGELOW, M.D., ONE OF THE SURGEONS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL. [Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

It has long been an important problem in medical science to devise some method of mitigating the pain of surgical operations. An efficient agent for this purpose has at length been discovered. A patient has been rendered completely insensible during an amputation of the thigh, regaining consciousness after a short interval. Other severe operations have been performed without the knowledge of the patients. So remarkable an occurrence will, it is believed, render the following details relating to the history and character of the process, not uninteresting.
On the 16th of Oct., 1846, an operation was performed at the hospital, upon a patient who had inhaled a preparation administered by Dr. Morton, a dentist of this city, with the alleged intention of producing insensibility to pain. Dr. Morton was understood to have extracted teeth under similar circumstances, without the knowledge of the patient. The present operation was performed by Dr. Warren, and though comparatively slight, involved an incision near the lower jaw of some inches in extent. During the operation the patient muttered, as in a semi-conscious state, and afterwards stated that the pain was considerable, though mitigated; in his own words, as though the skin had been scratched with a hoe. There was, probably, in this instance, some defect in the process of inhalation, for on the following day 'the vapor was administered to another patient with complete success. A fatty tumor of considerable size was removed, by Dr. Hayward, from the arm of a woman near the deltoiid muscle. The operation lasted four or five minutes, during which time the patient betrayed occasional marks of uneasiness; but, upon subsequently regaining her consciousness, professed not only to have felt no pain, but to have been insensible to surrounding objects.

Source: WLM

Every month seems filled with events important to the specialty’s history!

A.J. Wright, M.L.S.

Anesthesia History Calendar
http://ahahq.org/Calendar/Calendar.php

All illustrations from Wikipedia unless otherwise noted.