



ALBANY
MEDICAL
COLLEGE

Archives

Archival Curiosities The “Stone Baby”



Once an item in the now defunct Albany Medical College Anatomical Museum, this lithopedion or “stone baby” was found postmortem by Dr. William H.H. Parkhurst.

Rebecca Smith Eddy unknowingly carried the calcified fetus for 50 years. After false labor, doctor’s believed her protruding stomach to be a “peculiar growth of the uterus.” The calcified fetus was not discovered until after its mother’s death and was removed from her in 1852.

After much sensation, Dr. Alden March inquired as to the possible relocation of the baby to the Anatomical Museum at Albany Medical College and was rewarded when Dr. Parkhurst presented the lithopedion to the College for medical study.