

INTRODUCTION

The Commonwealth of Virginia has a diverse and interesting history in regard to ocular prosthetics. This rich history ranges from German glass blowers, early military pioneering to the eye fitters of today. In this pamphlet, I hope to introduce you to the art of eye making and detail the significant institutions and individuals who have influenced and treated the needs of the monocular patients in Virginia.

Having an ocular prosthesis made is a very personal and emotional experience, especially the first time. Most individuals have vivid memories of the "first" time, and they usually have fond memories of the first individual who fit them with a prosthesis. Many patients, when recollecting who made the original prosthesis, ask: "What ever happened to..." or "Have you ever heard of ..."

While this is a good, comprehensive account of eye makers (ocularists) and fitters (usually opticians), there may be a few omissions due to the obscurity of the work. I have tried to include, to the best of my knowledge and resources, those individuals who did significant work with ocular prosthetics.



The glass scottish terrier shown was created by a German ocularist for Mr. Carroll Simpson of Gretna, Virginia, after having created his glass ocular in 1960. Mr. Simpson is pictured with Langdon Henderlite (above) and Michael Hughes (below). Opposite: Galeski stock oculars prior to shaping.