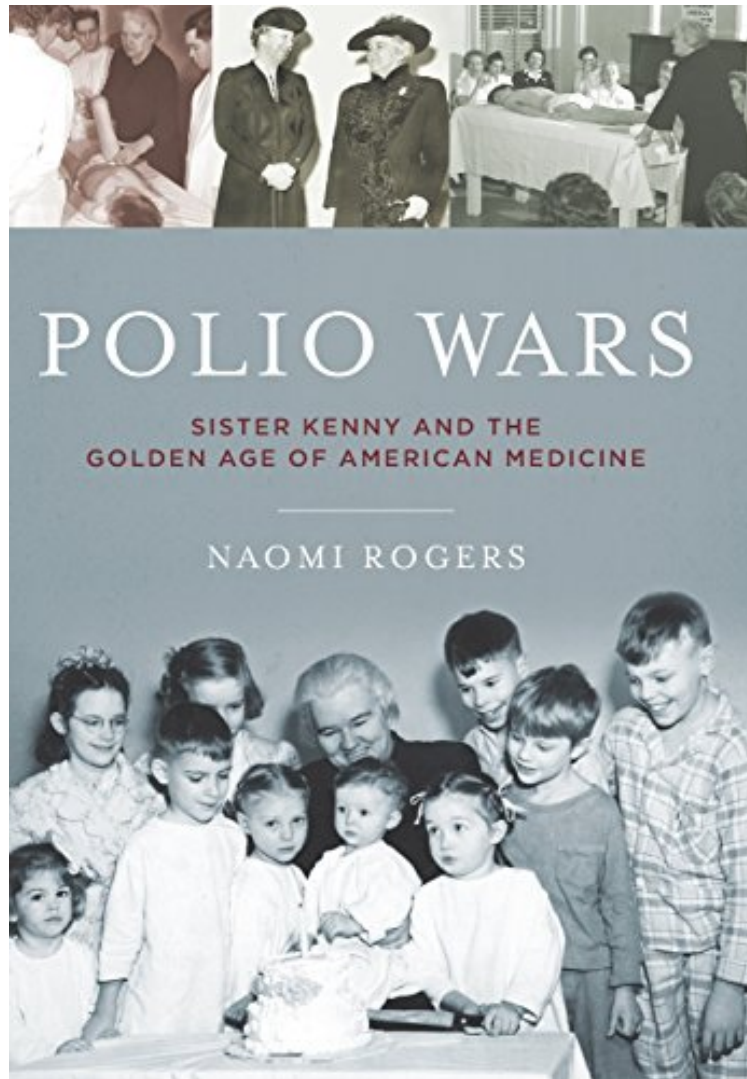


(Free) Polio Wars: Sister Kenny and the Golden Age of American Medicine

Polio Wars: Sister Kenny and the Golden Age of American Medicine

Naomi Rogers

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Naomi Rogers : Polio Wars: Sister Kenny and the Golden Age of American Medicine before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Polio Wars: Sister Kenny and the Golden Age of American Medicine:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. very informative By Mary Beth Smith My father had polio and made us watch the movie about Kenny. His physical therapists were Henry and Florence Kendall who didn't agree with Sister Kenny. Since they were so well known in the polio world this book gave me much information about them. For

example, they used open casts, not splints, and warm packs not the unbearable hot packs which Kenny used. They kept detailed records of their patients' therapy which Kenny did not do. It also gives a good description of post polio syndrome which my father had before it could be diagnosed. It gives a very complete history of Kenny's attempt to get her methods used in the USA.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. a polio victim from the past commentsBy H. Duane WadsworthI had polio in 1947 in Syracuse, NY. I was quarantined at City Hospital. I was administered the Sister Kenny method. I have lived a normal life ever since. This book is most interested as my parents considered her a saint.Ms. Rogers's book is one of the most thoroughly researched and footnoted I've ever read. A must for anyone interested in this fascinating character in history.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Answered many questions I had as a child.By JanI felt as though I knew Sister Kenny even before I read the book. It just took me back to my childhood and the fear our parents had that we would get polio. I had heard of Sister Kenny for many years but the book, to me, is a must read.

During World War II, polio epidemics in the United States were viewed as the country's "other war at home": they could be neither predicted nor contained, and paralyzed patients faced disability in a world unfriendly to the disabled. These realities were exacerbated by the medical community's enforced orthodoxy in treating the disease, treatments that generally consisted of ineffective therapies. *Polio Wars* is the story of Sister Elizabeth Kenny -- "Sister" being a reference to her status as a senior nurse, not a religious designation -- who arrived in the US from Australia in 1940 espousing an unorthodox approach to the treatment of polio. Kenny approached the disease as a non-neurological affliction, championing such novel therapies as hot packs and muscle exercises in place of splinting, surgery, and immobilization. Her care embodied a different style of clinical practice, one of optimistic, patient-centered treatments that gave hope to desperate patients and families. The Kenny method, initially dismissed by the US medical establishment, gained overwhelming support over the ensuing decade, including the endorsement of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis (today's March of Dimes), America's largest disease philanthropy. By 1952, a Gallup Poll identified Sister Kenny as most admired woman in America, and she went on to serve as an expert witness at Congressional hearings on scientific research, a foundation director, and the subject of a Hollywood film. Kenny breached professional and social mores, crafting a public persona that blended Florence Nightingale and Marie Curie. By the 1980s, following the discovery of the Salk and Sabin vaccines and the March of Dimes' withdrawal from polio research, most Americans had forgotten polio, its therapies, and Sister Kenny. In examining this historical arc and the public's process of forgetting, Naomi Rogers presents Kenny as someone worth remembering. *Polio Wars* recalls both the passion and the practices of clinical care and explores them in their own terms.

Winner of the American Association for the History of Nursing's 2014 Lavinia L. Dock Award for Outstanding Research and Writing. "With this impressive study, Yale professor Rogers brings into brilliant, uncompromising focus the politics, culture, and science behind this complicated, crippling disease... Kenny - 'an outsider with an exotic background, an Australian bush nurse who became an American celebrity' - was a confident woman in a culture that believed nurses should be doctors' handmaidens. But what she wanted - and failed to get - was a place in the scientific pantheon that included Marie Curie. Rogers's absorbing account of Kenny's medical contributions, philanthropy, and influence is a remarkable resource for students of the medical, political, and social history of the pre-polio vaccine years." -- Publishers Weekly
Thanks to *Polio Wars: Sister Kenny and the Golden Age of American Medicine*, a new biography by Naomi Rogers, a Yale University medical historian, readers can learn why [Sister Kenny] gained such fame. As Dr. Rogers shows, Ms. Kenny irked the American Medical Association and the rest of the medical establishment for reasons beyond her medical theories. But it was Ms. Kenny's fierce adherence to what she observed at the bedside that holds the most relevance today." -- Barron H. Lerner, *New York Times* Science Times
"A new look at this bold woman's work as well as a fascinating exploration of the culture of medicine and the nature of healing." -- *The Washington Post*
"*Polio Wars* provides an excellent account of the politics of gender, philanthropy, and American medicine during the mid-twentieth century, and will benefit junior and more senior scholars alike." -- *Journal of the History of Medicine*
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About the Author
Naomi Rogers, PhD, is a tenured Associate Professor in the Program for the History of Science and Medicine at Yale University where she teaches medical students, undergraduates and graduate students.