The son of a ship’s captain from North America’s Great Lakes, Frank Burr Mallory came to Boston in 1882 where he worked his way through Harvard College and Harvard Medical School. It was a time when tuberculosis, diphtheria, typhoid, scarlet fever, and other infectious diseases were only just being fully understood.

As noted by pathologist Dr. William Freeman, “Scientific medicine, so-called, was in its infancy. Illness was treated primarily according to symptoms, and there was little knowledge regarding the cause of the symptoms. Practically nothing was known about the common changes occurring in disease.”

Dr. Mallory joined Boston City Hospital pathologist Dr. William Councilman in 1881, and they along with Dr. James Homer Wright and Dr. Simon W. W. Wallach developed their medical specialty into a critical scientific tool in the understanding of human disease. From 1908 on, Dr. Mallory would build a well-recognized Department of Pathology at Boston City Hospital.

For nearly 40 years, Dr. Mallory worked in the Boston City Hospital’s first building,—erected in 1895,—devoted exclusively to the study of pathology. When the trustees of the hospital decided to honor Dr. Mallory with a name-sake pathology institute in 1935, Dr. Mallory was at the mandatory retirement age of 70. He continued to do his research and teaching at the new institute while his hand-chosen successor, Dr. Frederick Park, became the Mallory Institute’s first director.

“Don’t absolutely take any man’s word on anything—have some study, some things work for yourself and be very sure of your facts. If my facts were not convincing I went to work to find others that were.”

—Frank Burr Mallory

Dr. Frank Burr Mallory died in his Brookline home on September 27, 1941. His two sons Tracy and George Kenneth would continue their father’s dedication to the study of pathology. Tracy was the Chief of Pathology at Massachusetts General Hospital and Kenneth was second director of the Mallory Institute of Pathology.

Dr. Mallory had turned 70 the year before the opening of the Mallory Institute of Pathology which continues to this day. The “Mallory Institute” is named after the department that was named after him. He is remembered for his contributions to the field of pathology, and his name lives on in the Mallory Institute of Pathology.