

## Medical Care in the Canal Era—MDs and IOOF.

(Sources: *History of Carroll County, 1882*, by Thomas Helm; *History of Carroll County by Odell, 1916*, and the Delphi Times, Blanchard and Webber obits, Center for Inquiry(Bateman's Drops), Free Merriam-Webster Dictionary(anodyne),Wikipedia,(spanish fly) WebMD(butternut), Wikipedia(IOOF information) and the 2005 Legacy Book---Walkers and Woods.

It will be my goal in this the third presentation to delineate the pre-Social Security and pre-health care days of the Golden Canal Era and to inform my hearers as to the lives of those without whom many would have entered the Kingdom of heaven prematurely.

In the early days of the area, medical care was almost non-existent, depending on nostrums such as "Bateman's Drops" (JHS, p. 78) which were used as an "anodyne" (pain killer), and tartar which was used an emetic (to cause vomiting), and blister flies (Spanish flies), and butternut pills (as a laxative). This was according to an account by Mrs. Thomas Sterling at one of the Old Settlers meetings where James Hervey Stewart was present as an early-day camcorder taking account of the proceedings. According to historian Thomas Helm Dr. John M. Ewing arrived in Carroll County in 1827 and became a permanent resident here. These were the primitive conditions

under which the settlers labored and carved out the wilderness to create the county in which we find ourselves today.

It is my desire to present the thesis that the Canal Era and all its implications fostered an atmosphere which was conducive not only to quality merchants arriving on the scene but those of the medical profession as well. Let us explore the lives of some of those.

Dr. Charles Angell was born in Wayne County, Indiana, October nineteenth, 1822. If that name sounds familiar it should because his father was Benjamin Angell, one of the settlers during what I am going to call the pioneer era. His education was at Asbury University(Depauw), then the Castleton Medical College at Vermont. His wife was Lucinda Holt, daughter of Ziba Holt, and sister of Vine Holt, noted merchant. Her passing took place on April twenty-sixth, 1875, and Charles' second life-time partner was Eliza Dyer whose marriage occurred September fifth of 1887, to pass away June seventeenth of 1908. In addition to his medical prowess Dr. Angell was known for financing with his own income the rails for the road which made its way through Pittsburg, as well as owning a large farm. For my listeners the home still stands at the top of the Pittsburg hill. He was also a prominent member of the IOOF. His passing took place April nineteenth of 1902, leaving one son, Charles E. Angell.

Dr. James Ralston Blanchard was in my opinion a worthy match to his fellow Lodge member Dr. Angell, having been born at Canaan, New Hampshire, October ninth, 1805, coming to Delphi October twenty-third of 1833. His parents were Simeon and Jennie Blanchard. His brother John was also involved in the medical profession. His marriage to Eliza Green took place December twenty-fourth of 1839. His training was from Dartmouth College. He was well-known for his compassion to the poor and needy, serving as a pauper doctor for indigent patients. His wife's passing caused his own demise of a broken heart December twenty-sixth of 1891. He was also a noted member of the local IOOF and the local Methodist Episcopal Church. His home stood at the corner of South Washington and Front and was a grand dwelling with four large rooms downstairs with large double doors between and a large hallway at the side with a stairway. Cooking in the early days there was done in a Dutch oven. The medical equipment and ephemeral artifacts are found in the corner of our Interpretive Center.

Our next two subjects of the medical profession shall be discussed in tandem; those being Dr. E.W. H. Beck and Samuel Grimes, due to their relationship not only to each other as in-laws but to the founder of the County, Samuel Milroy.

Dr. E.W.H. Beck was born in Lewiston, Mifflin County, PA, on January eighteenth of 1822. (Odell) In September of 1834 he migrated to Pickaway, Ohio where he remained three years and six months as a farmer. He then lived in Covington, Miami County, Ohio, and on the tenth of October, 1838 he moved to Monticello and constructed a hotel. He also diversified to the professions of farming and trapping furs. In 1840 he manned the first flatboat loaded with flour and bacon on the Tippecanoe River on the chain of rivers to New Orleans, selling the entire cargo. Returning to Monticello, Indiana he studied medicine under Dr. Brearly. His formal medical training was gained by attending medical lectures at the Ohio Medical College of Cincinnati. He then returned to his home due to lack of funds residing in the office of Dr. Culbertson. His partnership with Dr. Samuel Grimes came after returning to Monticello in 1845. Further medical experience was gained with Robert Milroy and William F. Persons in the Mexican War where he was commissioned Assistant Surgeon of the first Regiment, Indiana Volunteers. His M.D. degree was earned at the University of New York on May first of 1849, entering into full partnership with Dr. Grimes. On March fourth of 1850 he crossed the plains with an ox-team to practice medicine in California for four months, only to return to Delphi in the spring of 1851. (Helm). He was commissioned a surgeon in the Third Regiment of the Indiana Cavalry on the fifth of October, 1861.

His wife was Frances M. Milroy, and their marriage took place October twenty-second of 1848. His death took place on October sixth of 1888.

One of the more unique and eccentric members of the medical community of Delphi, Indiana was Dr. Samuel Grimes, husband of Almira Milroy, sister of Frances. Grimes was born in Maryland and came to Delphi in 1835. He was the state agent for several years when a fire destroyed the office and records. His “Grimes Additions” to Delphi came in the form of two parcels of land added to the city’s holdings. He was well-known for erecting a structure in the vicinity of where the former Monon Depot was located, then a wind-storm demolished it, only to have it relocated to the general area of the canal not too far from the Spears, Case, and Dugan warehouse. His expectations of a large sum of income to be garnered from this weren’t realized, thus the building’s term of derision –“Grimes’ Folly.” The Harley Lime firm later repurposed this into a cooper shop to convey their burned lime to the corners of the earth.

Another eccentricity of Dr. Grimes was in drafting a will in which he stated his desire not only to leave certain items to children of his brother-in-law Dr. Beck but to the “Orthodox Clergymen of Delphi for the benefit of colored children.” Due to the general vagueness of this request nothing transpired. One of Grimes’ more redeeming attributes was in involving himself

in the affairs of the Underground Railroad in this area. Grimes had his fingers on the pulse of the citizenry in the north end of Delphi, one of whom was Sarah Beetle, a black lady, who would inform Grimes as to the traffic of slaves in the area. Grimes would in turn alert Reed Case of the Spears, Case, and Dugan banking firm who would meet the slave with a stipend for passage north. This is recorded in Sarah Smith Pratt's *The Old Crop*.

Dr. Edward Walker was another unique practitioner of the medical profession, having been born in Erie County, Ohio on March fourth of 1829. After spending a period of time on his father's farm, he took up school teaching, to be followed by a stint at Oberlin College where he studied under R.L. Hill. Further study was under R.L. Hill, and a subsequent internship was undertaken under Horace Austin of Richland County, Ohio. Final graduation was accomplished at the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati on June eighth of 1849. As a participant in the Gold Rush, he practiced at Diamond Ridge and Hang town until 1853.

Fraternally he was a grand priest of the Indiana Lodge of Freemasonry in 1880 and 1881, and also as a member of the local IOOF. Politically, his service came as Clerk of the Carroll Circuit Court in 1898, serving two terms. He was mayor of the

City from 1877 to 1883, and served as President of the School Board for six years.

His marriage was to Jane Riley March twelfth of 1854, and that union produced two sons and one daughter. His wife passed away soon after his death and his son, Earl followed her in 1914. If the name of Walker sounds familiar it should because Robin Allbaugh as well as all of her siblings is his great-grandchildren. The family's legacy was later found in the Carroll Telephone Company, managed first by Dr. Walker and his son Earl B. Walker, and Miss Mary B. Walker, and later their descendant John Earl Walker and his Wood cousins Robert and Charles.

Typical of the versatility of those of the medical profession was the person of Dr. Robert Webber, who was born at South Moulton, Devonshire County, England, April second, 1804, and when fourteen years old with his father John Webber came to America in 1818 and settled in Pennsylvania. He was graduated from the Washington Medical College at Baltimore, Maryland in 1832. His was first married to Eliza Bowen and in 1835 came to Carroll County, Indiana and immediately diversified in the publication of the Western Banner, the first newspaper published in the county. His previous journalistic experience involved publishing the Columbian Star in Washington, D.C. then going to Culpepper Court House and engaged in the same

business with his brother, after which he went to Mercersburg, PA where his father had established the family home. Following the death of his first wife he was married to Nancy Bowen, in Ohio on February 1855. His death took place April eighteenth of 1885, leaving a wife, three daughters, and three sons. One of his daughters, Jennie, was married to Cameron Moore, merchant. His other two daughters at his passing included Mrs. Aiken of Pella, Iowa, and Miss Maggie. He was baptized at the foot of Wilson Street in the Deer Creek by Rev. William Pratt, now of Louisville, KY, on January first of 1843.

### IOOF in Delphi and Surrounding Areas

The earliest expression of Odd Fellowship was in the Delphi Lodge, which initially met in a structure in the corner of Washington and Main, commonly known as the "Dewey Block" erected by Noah Dewey, then the "Moore Block" constructed by Cameron and George Moore as a dry goods store. After the organization of the Carroll Lodge the two groups rented a hall on the northeast corner of Main and Washington where each held its regular meetings on separate evenings for a number of years. Prior to the construction of the grand structure on the corner of Main and Washington which is now characterized by the Flower Shop II, the Delphi Lodge rented a room in the Holt and Rinehart Block on Main Street. The present structure was erected in 1880 for a grandiose sum of \$27, 167. 86 and

dedicated on Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 1881 with the Honorable Will Cumback, Grand Master of the State, present.

More specifically, the Carroll Lodge, which is presently undergoing a nice facelift across the street, had its inception on May nineteenth of 1857, signed by James Hervey Stewart. Their first meetings were held over the Citizen's Bank, on the corner of Main and Washington, formerly the Spears, Case, and Dugan Bank, and then a room was rented in the Bolles building (Antique Mall). Ground was purchased for this structure for an expense of \$1,000, and late in April of 1874 the building was begun, and on the fourth of July the cornerstone was laid, with C.W. Curry of Indianapolis present. On the eighteenth of February the new hall was open with a banquet. This lodge hall was erected for a sum of \$6, 600. William Bradshaw, W.F. Lytle, and Charles Brough were the driving force behind this edifice.

Lodges of the same persuasion were organized at Bringham on July second of 1874(459), Burlington in January tenth of 1860(77), Burrows on November thirteenth of 1875(493), Cutler on April eighteenth of 1879(571), Flora on March seventeenth of 1876(526), Rockfield on November twentieth, 1867(301), and Deer Creek(Morse Lodge), December thirty-first, 1914(477).

There have been encampments around the county as well at Delphi(April twenty-third, 1850, Carroll Encampment—22),

Delphi(No. 127, June third of 1875), Deer Creek(No 364), Flora(378), Jackson(135—instituted June eighth of 1875), and Rockfield(263).

The distaff side of the IOOF has always been represented by the Daughters of Rebekah at various sites, i.e. Adina Lodge at Delphi(79), Camden(29), Deer Creek)(625), Flora(280), Rockfield(48), and Victoria Lodge(154) at Delphi. Vice-President Schuyler Colfax both drafted and crafted the ritual for this faction of the Lodge.

To conclude my monologue and to blend both the sketches of the various professionals of the medical profession and also the backgrounds of the diverse lodges here, I shall say that the original Odd Fellows lodge was organized in eighteenth century England, being imported to the New World and chartered on April 26<sup>th</sup> in Baltimore, Maryland by Thomas Welday from the Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows in England. This new organization was entitled the Washington Lodge number one.

To further target the role of health care during the Canal Era, I will state that the four principal concepts of the Lodge revolve around “visiting the sick, relieving the distressed, burying the dead (in an honorable fashion), and educating the orphan. Thus it was that during the period in discussion that it was taken for granted that the burden of medical bills and

nursing care would be lifted by the local IOOF Lodge and that such expenses could be faithfully submitted and relieved, thus the title of my presentation----“Medical Care During the Canal Era---MD’s and IOOF. Thanks for coming.