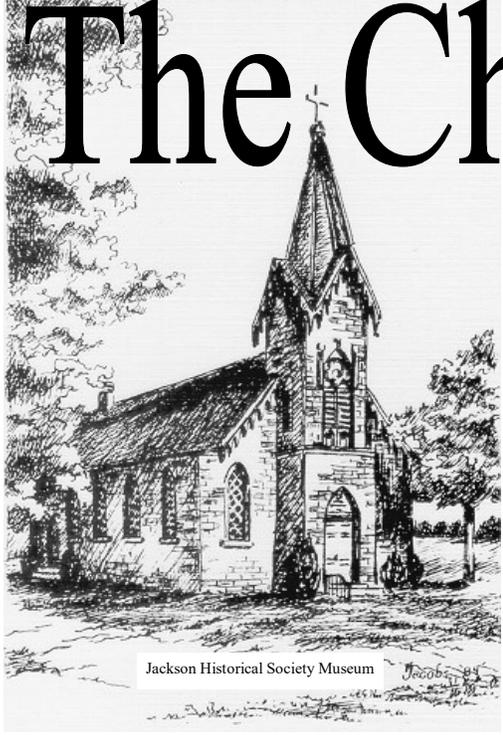


The Church Mouse



Jackson Historical Society Museum

Volume 24 Issue 1 Jackson Historical Society February 2018

MEDICAL PRACTICE IN WISCONSIN

In Wisconsin today, we are able to receive medical care from many qualified physicians, using qualified methods of care and qualified medications, in qualified institutions. It has not always been the case. A look back in the history of Wisconsin provides a rather ragged and perilous path to our current state of affairs.

When the first white men arrived in Wisconsin in the 18th century, they found about 20,000 Indians from a number of tribes. Health-wise, the Indians were in good shape, suffering mainly from war with other tribes, hunger, and exposure to the elements. At the completion of the war of 1812, the British ceded the Northwest Territory to the U.S. The area was divided into territories which with population growth became states, including Wisconsin. When Wisconsin became a territory in 1836, the white population was a bit less than 12,000 and lived mainly in the Southwest lead mining area. By 1840, the population grew over 160% and 10-fold in the next decade. However, the arrival of many Europeans with their communicable diseases proved disastrous to the Indians. Infection from measles, flu, VD, and particularly smallpox decimated the tribes. In 1832, a smallpox outbreak killed large numbers of Potawatomis, and two years later killed one fourth of the Winnebagos. The Indians had little defense against these European diseases.



However, the European immigrants not only had to contend with the diseases they brought with them, but with diseases waiting for their arrival. Throughout the early decades of settlement, no disease took a greater toll than malaria, usually called ague, a disease that causes chills, fever, and sweating and often death. Many early residents travelled on and settled along waterways which were usually infested with malaria carrying mosquitos. In 1830, 75% of the soldiers at Fort Crawford in Prairie du Chien came down with malaria. In 1841, 80 out of 600 residents of Lake Muskego died from malaria. In addition to malaria, pioneers also faced occasional outbreaks of deadly cholera, smallpox, typhoid fever, dysentery, and erysipelas. Childhood diseases included scarlet fever, measles and diphtheria. Doctors of the period knew little about the cause of disease and less about its cure. Few had been to a medical school. Many had minimal medical training through association with a practicing physician. and some had no training. Any man brazen enough to call himself "doctor" could practice with impunity. Under such



(Doctors continued on page 2)

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Your annual **\$15** dues cover a calendar year starting in **January**. The current year for your membership is shown on The Church Mouse address label to the right of the zip code.

Your dues include a subscription to the Church Mouse and help us preserve Jackson history.

JHS MEETINGS TIMES

The Jackson Historical Society meets the 2nd Monday of every other month, Jan/Mar/May/Jul/Sep/Nov, at 7:00pm.

JHS meetings are held at 1860 Mill Road, Jackson, in our restored, Karl Groth log home. Visitors are welcome.

JHS OFFICERS

- Rob Mielke—President
- Jerry Prochnow—Vice President
- Lenore Kloehn—Treasurer
- Nancy Ebeling—Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

- JHS Officers, Russ Hanson,
- Elmer Kloehn, Gordon Ziemann



(Doctors continued from page 1)

circumstances, it is not surprising that early residents often chose to treat themselves or suffer in silence. Many died.

Immigrants flooded into the Territory of Wisconsin until statehood was achieved in 1848. Health conditions improved as the population grew.

During the Civil War, doctors made few medical breakthroughs. Communicable diseases were prevalent in the unsanitary field encampments, and soldiers recovered from sickness more by chance than a physician's skill. No surgeon developed ingenious procedures to treat battlefield injuries. With injuries from gunshot and shrapnel, and with broken bones piling up, surgical techniques remained crude and postoperative infections deadly. However, physicians did obtain knowledge into clinical conditions along with organizational skills in treating the millions of sick and injured soldiers. Physicians with minimal background in treating complex medical problems gained a lifetime of experience treating the troops. The war created surgeons out of physicians. The country's doctors obtained managerial skills not available elsewhere. The U.S. Sanitary Commission and similar organizations worked to improve conditions in medical facilities. Doctors began to realize that a patient's well-being depended on measures such as cleanliness, nutrition, and ventilation. Mental health became important as a part of overall health. The war brought the medical profession together, leading to medical uniformity on a national scale. The war established medicine as socially acceptable and surgical operations as a therapeutic necessity.



From 1850 to 1900, Wisconsin's population expanded from near 300,000 to over 2 million. Malaria cases decreased as farmers drained the mosquito-infested wetlands and turned to dairying. However, with more than 35% of the population living close together in the cities communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, dysentery, typhoid fever, and others, increased. Milwaukee's population grew to over 285,000 during this period.

In 1867, Milwaukee, filthy, smelly, and congested, created a board of health to fight disease by cleaning the streets, providing pure water, and getting rid of waste. It took some years, but by 1910, Milwaukee was highly ranked as a city with a low death rate due to disease. By 1930, Milwaukee was ranked as the healthiest city in the U.S. The City of Milwaukee had become as safe as Wisconsin farms.

After the war of 1812, protective forts were built by our military at Green Bay, Portage, and Prairie du Chien that included a hospital, a first for Wisconsin. The first non-military hospital was St. John's Infirmary, created in Milwaukee in 1848. By 1900, there were over 50 general and 20 mental hospitals in Wisconsin. This period also saw the development of new medications and vaccines, medical instruments and techniques which provided more precise diagnosis and brought respectability to the medical profession. Hospitals, the telephone, and automobiles revolutionized medicine. The lessons learned by the medical establishment during the Civil War were being followed. Wisconsin medicine was better organized and moving forward.

WHO WERE WISCONSIN'S DOCTORS?

The mid to late 1800's saw Wisconsin become home to many different medical philosophies. Sectarian appeal during the early years of statehood rested largely on the inadequacies of regular medicine, or allopathy, as it was commonly called. At times, these "regular" doctors or allopaths were forced to contend with homeopaths, hydropaths, herb-using eclectics, and various other self-styled doctors. The state was recognized as accepting of these practitioners and many flooded in from other states. Where other states nearby had already created medical societies and regulations, Wisconsin was late to the game.

Homeopathic medicine was originated by a German physician and was based on twin principles of drug reaction: a drug that produces a certain symptom in a healthy person will alleviate the symptom in a sick person; drug potency increases as dosage decreases. To many Americans, these small, harmless doses of drugs produced no harsh effects and were preferable to allopathic cures, which at the time could be aggressive. By the early 1870's, homeopathic physicians accounted for about 15% of doctors practicing in Wisconsin with most in the larger communities. Wisconsin had the most homeopathic physicians of any state in the union.

(Doctors continued on page 3)



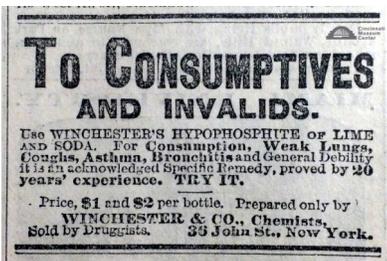
PATENT MEDICINES

QUACK! Came from Kwakzalver (Dutch) KWAK means to shout. SALVER was a salve. Selling of this patent medicine was done loudly by street peddlers.



The inadequacies of medicine and medical technology in nineteenth and early twentieth century spawned the patent medicine industry. Before government regulation, companies were free to manufacture and sell medicines and medical devices that claimed remarkable curative powers.

The lack of regulations also



allowed the addition of all sorts of questionable ingredients in these products including opium, alcohol, morphine, and cocaine. Some of these products were well intentioned, others outright quackery. Sadly, many of these “quack nostrums” actually caused harm to the unwary user including intoxication and addiction. The advertisements for these compounds and devices may seem humorous today, but were deadly serious at the time.

(Doctors continued from page 2)

Eclectic medicine arrived in Wisconsin in the 1840's, and its practitioners were the second largest sectarian medical group with about 10% of doctors following the practice. Eclectics simply replaced the medicines and practices of allopaths and homeopaths with botanic preparations and were most popular among Wisconsin's rural population.

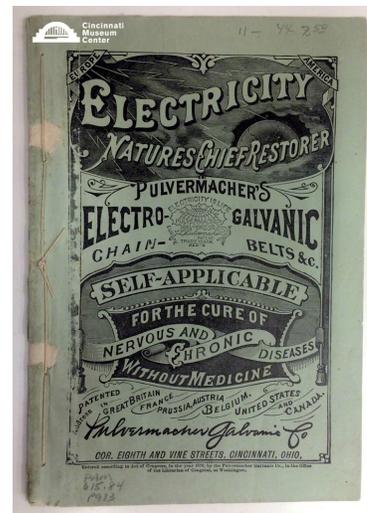
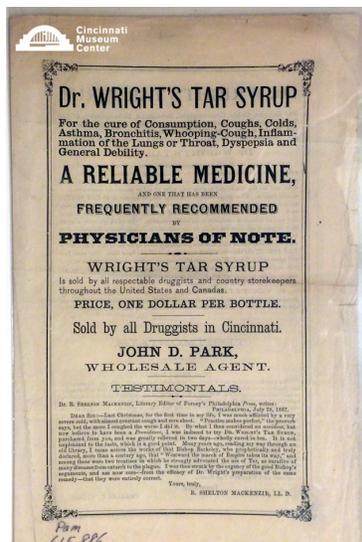
Hydropaths, Wisconsin's third largest group of sectarian physicians, treated their patients with water. Ill patients were treated using baths, compresses, douches, etc., along with exercise and special diets. Facilities called water cures were established at Kenosha, Madison, Berlin, Janesville, Kilbourn City, Palmyra, and Sheboygan. The water cure in Madison on the south side of Lake Monona had accommodations for over one hundred patients.

Wisconsin in the early 1870's also provided employment for an assortment of other medical practitioners who had little or no formal training. Some may have been quacks who were legally free to practice medicine in Wisconsin. Surprisingly, the group amounted to about 12% of the state's medical practitioners.

In the last quarter of the 1800's, representatives of the sectarian groups began requesting legislation to prevent unqualified persons from practicing in the state and to solidify their position in the medical community. They enjoyed mixed results.

As the early sects gave way to scientific medicine, new alternative methods of healing came along to replace them. Christian Science, Osteopathy and Chiropractic arrived. These 20th century sectarians, however, faced barriers not known to early homeopaths, eclectic, and hydropaths, who often started practice with little more than a saddlebag full of medicines, an instruction book, and an excess of self confidence. Unregulated practice in Wisconsin ended in 1897 with the creation of the state board of medical examiners, which required aspiring physicians to present a diploma from a reputable medical school or pass an examination in medicine and surgery. The practice of medicine in Wisconsin was moving forward, professionally.

Material from Wisconsin Medicine, Historical Perspectives, UW Press; Bleeding Blue and Gray by Ira Rutkow; plus other internet sources.



From the history collections at Cincinnati Museum Center



A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE

A Walk Down Memory Lane



Come and take A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE to the "Good Old Days" of the 1930's, 40's, and 50's with author Rochelle Pennington. Her historical, light-hearted program will detail everyday life during the bygone years of corner phone booths, party lines, hand-me-down clothes, doctors who made house calls, wringer washing machines, marble matches, Howdy Doody shows, and outhouses.

What: Our FREE program is a story of the "Good Old Days" when percolating coffee pots, mothers in aprons, flour sifters, home-baked bread, and suppers prepared from canning jars lining the pantry shelves were part of everyday life.

Who: Join award-winning newspaper columnist and author Rochelle Pennington for **A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE**.

Where: Jackson Room—upper level
Town Hall—Town of Jackson
3146 Division Road

When: Thursday, April 5th, 2018, at 7:00pm, Doors open 6:30pm

Cost: FREE **Information:** jhsheritage@sbcglobal.net

Sponsored by **THE JACKSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

*Jackson Town Hall is south of Highway 60 on Division Rd. (CTH. G)

A Walk Down Memory Lane

The weather on April 5th should be just right, so let's plan on taking a *Walk Down Memory Lane* with Rochelle Pennington.

We should probably meet at the Jackson Town Hall about 6:30pm, as the "walk" will begin at 7:00pm. After the *Walk Down Memory Lane*, coffee and cookies will be served for those who may want to hang around and chat.

Rochelle Pennington is an award-winning newspaper columnist and bestselling author of ten books including *Highlighted in Yellow*, *The Historic Christmas Tree Ship*, *An Old-Fashioned Christmas*, and more. Her work has been included in multiple bestselling series over the past two decades.

She is both a lively storyteller and an entertaining lecturer. Her popularity as a presenter to schools, libraries, historical societies, corporations, hospitals, retirement facilities, and civic organizations is evidenced by the many invitations she receives to return and speak on further topics, ranging from history's most memorable stories, complete with fascinating trivia, to motivational engagements highlighting courage, determination, and personal strength. She expertly weaves the perfect balance of humor, charm, and riveting facts into her captivating performances which focus on "the best of humanity."

So please plan on taking that *Walk Down Memory Lane* with Rochelle Pennington. We'll be looking for you at the Jackson Town Hall on the 5th of April about 6:30-7:00pm. It should be a nice evening.





PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION GET A BOOST FROM CIVIL WAR

Before the Civil War, most physicians and their local medical communities demonstrated little personal or collective professional interest in matters of public health and sanitary reform. This was due to a combination of factors, especially a lack of understanding of the relationship between germs and diseases. Without knowledge of this interdependence, the public and medical professionals believed that disease was caused strictly by dirt. Therefore, there was little reason to teach public health in the era's medical schools. Without knowledge of the basic science of public health, physicians could not become advocates for improved sanitary and public health standards. As a result, cities and other communities became smelly, unhealthy places, and diseases flourished.

It was during the 1850's, in response to the evils of poor personal hygiene, harmful odors and unpleasant or unhealthy smells, that an informal sanitarian movement evolved. The initiative, championed by reform-minded physicians and supported by a nationwide cadre of civic leaders, lobbied for the creation of a more structured organization. At the start of the Civil War, the United States Sanitary Commission was formally established, with improvement of military sanitary conditions as one of its prime objectives. The U. S. Sanitary Commission felt that every Army surgeon should make this his religious duty to comprehend and control such diseases and causes of disease as are prone to hover about encampments that secretly break down the strength of armies.



Other Sanitary Commissions such as the privately sponsored Western Sanitary Commission which pursued healthy conditions west of the Mississippi River during the war, and the Christian Sanitary Commissions, were also active during this period.

Declaring battle on filth and odors and maintaining faith in fresh air and sunlight, the Sanitary Commissions played a leading role in attending to the overall health needs of Union troops. While also regarding themselves as defenders of the public's health and welfare, commission members promulgated exacting principles for both camp sanitation and public hygiene. Through its involvement in the political maneuverings to restructure the U. S. Army's Medical Department, this civilian relief agency would have a decided influence on the daily work experience and professional thinking of tens of thousands of physi-

cians. And as a result, it would help shape American medicine for decades to come.

Material from Wisconsin Medicine, Historical Perspectives, UW Press; Bleeding Blue and Gray by Ira Rutkow; plus other internet sources.

LOST CEMETERIES

As I drive through Jackson and surrounding areas, I often catch a glimpse of a small cemetery with a few monuments, often not very well maintained, sometimes in a wooded area, and I wonder about it's history. Who is buried there? When? Family cemetery? Church cemetery? Has it been abandoned or is it still maintained? What is the rest of the story that is buried there?



JHS Board Member, Gordon Ziemann wonders as well and will begin a series of articles in a future Church Mouse exploring the history of Lost Cemeteries. We look forward to the start of this series.

If you have information on our area's Lost Cemeteries and would like to share it with him, please send an e-mail to Gordon Ziemann <gordyoz@att.net> so he can discover the rest of the story. Thanks.

FAMILY GENEALOGY BOOK DONATED

Royal Natzke, past JHS President, continues his good work producing historical reference books. His book, *Pioneer Church Records Speak* remains a popular seller for the Jackson Historical Society, along with *The History of Jackson, Wisconsin 1843-2001*, both available through the society.

His latest book is a family genealogy covering the Michael Natzke and Bertha Wilke families. Royal has donated a copy to JHS.

AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES EVENTS

RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY Program- Kissel: Wisconsin's Luxury Automobile by Dawn Bondhus Mueller, Feb. 22nd, 7:00pm, Richfield Fire Hall, 2008 State Rd. 175, Richfield, WI. Please Contact www.richfieldhistoricalsociety.org for more information.
GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY Please contact the Germantown Historical Society at germantownhistoricalsociety.org for information on future events.
POMMERSCHER VEREIN FREISTADT "Moving from Europe to America" March 9th, 7:00pm, Lindenwood Community Center, Mequon. A talk by Antje Petty, Max Kade Institute, exploring transportation changes over two centuries. Info-contact Pommerscher.org.
THE HISTORY CENTER West Bend High School Band Concert, February 28, 7:00pm—9:00pm, Old Courthouse Museum, 320 S. 5th Ave., West Bend, WI 53095. Contact www.historyisfun.com for more information on this and future programs.



The Editor welcomes comments on the newsletter. Please mail all suggestions for articles, etc., to The Church Mouse, 1921 State Road 60, Jackson, WI 53037, or phone (262) 677-3888, or e-mail jhsheritage@sbcglobal.net. Russ Hanson, Editor

JACKSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE CLASS VISIT

For many years, school was taught in one-room schoolhouses throughout Washington County

Let your students experience school as it was for their grandparents and great-grandparents

Arrange a class visit to the Jackson Historical Society's fully restored one-room schoolhouse

Contact the Jackson Historical Society at jhsheritage@sbcglobal.net or Royal Natzke at (262) 334-9811 or rdnatzke@yahoo.com

Jackson Historical Society, 1860 Mill Road*
 *On the Hwy. 60 round-about at Division Road (G), go south to Mill Road, turn west to site.

TODAY WILL BE HISTORY TOMORROW!

HELP THE JACKSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESERVE YOUR YESTERDAYS.

DONATE YOUR HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS

SHARE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

Please Contact The Church Mouse

HELP! VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED!



We're a couple of months away from the start of the 2018 lawn mowing season and your Jackson Historical Society would appreciate help mowing the lawn next summer. We'll provide the riding lawn mower. If you can occasionally volunteer a couple of hours to help mow our lawn, please contact Jerry Prochnow at 262-338-8867, or Elmer Kloehn at 262-377-2142 and sign up. Our e-mail is jhsheritage@sbcglobal.net. Thanks.

FACEBOOK

Check out the Jackson Historical Society's Facebook page for what's happening at JHS.

HELP NEEDED

The Jackson Historical Society could use some help putting our office in better order. If you'd like to give us a hand, we would appreciate it. Please e-mail us at jhsheritage@sbcglobal.net. if you're able to volunteer some time. Thanks.

Russ Hanson—Editor

REFERENCE

The Jackson Historical Society has available for reference in our museum, a number of family histories/genealogies.

We also have copies of Land Patents for land purchased within the Town of Jackson from the Federal Government.

If you feel that this material may be of help with your family research, please send us an e-mail at jhsheritage@sbcglobal.net and let us know what you're looking for. We may be able to help.

JACKSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

If you have historical items you'd like to donate to the Jackson Historical Society or have old photographs or a family history you'd like to share with us, Please contact JHS at:

jhsheritage@sbcglobal.net
 or

Russ Hanson—Church Mouse Editor at 262-677-3888.