

CHERRY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

First I must print a retraction. In the September newsletter I stated that John Brown was married to Mary Chesak. One of our members, John Brown (related to the folks in the story) corrected me, which I appreciate as I want the information I send to be accurate.

John Brown married Hannah Marie Packard She was born July 30, 1835 in Avon Township, Livingston, NY. She died February 17, 1923 and was buried in Cherry Valley Cemetery.

John Wesley Brown was born July 7, 1857 in Flora Township, Boone County. He died February 6, 1945. He was one of John and Hannah's seven children. He married Mary Chesak (sister to Martin Chesak) on Feb. 11, 1885 in Winnebago. They had one son, Leonard (Leon) Brown who was born in 1888 & died in 1939. Leon was young when Mary died.

On page four of the last newsletter I have some additions. William and Lillian Page lived on the John Brown farm with their children who were Lola, Romona, and Winton. Leonard & Grace Nyman's children were Ann, Mary, and Martha. Mary and Jerry Lofquist's children were Kristine and Beth.

Several of our members have rearranged our museum. It seems to free up more walking space. Several of our regular members have had health problems this fall and winter. July Slocum is one and won't be able to do the calendar anymore. So far no one has offered to take over for her. She said the Blossom will be late also.

The following have passed away since July:

Gail M. "Steve" Henry. (wife Rachel Shirley)	94	August 14
Dennis T Anderson	63	September 22 and
Delores Joesten	82	September 27.

I would appreciate a paragraph or a page about your happy or mischievous times in C. V. I have a couple from our members which I will print when I receive more.

CHERRY VALLEY DOCTORS since 1855

In the early 1800's health care was generally believed that illness and disease were caused by an accumulation of "poisons" in the body, and that if these poisons could be eliminated, the patient would recover their health. There were several main therapeutic principles for treatment of disease: bleeding by opening a vein, purging the gastro-intestinal system with laxatives, emetics (agents which cause vomiting), enemas and sweating or blistering. Gastric and intestinal disorders were an everyday occurrence in these times because of poor sanitation, and poor food handling practices.

People who lived in the 18th and early 19th Centuries were largely helpless in the matter of health. They lived in constant dread of sudden death from disease, plague, epidemic, pneumonia, or accident. Their letters always began and usually ended with assurances of the good health of the letter writer, a query about the health of the recipient and a wish for continuing good health. Most doctors during this period learned their trade through the apprentice system in which young men of about 15 years of age lived and trained with established physicians. The arrangement would last for anywhere from two to six years. A few students might continue on to a formal education in a medical school for another two to four years. However, most physicians at the beginning of 1800's opened their practices without the benefits of a degree.

State licensing of physicians was required only sporadically during the 1800's, and medical practices were never inspected. Quacks & charlatans practiced virtually unchecked. Additionally it was difficult to determine what was a quack treatment from what was useful, because even legitimate treatments were often based on ignorant notions & and hunches to begin with, and frequently did more harm than good.

Dr. L. M. Van Buren served early in Cherry Valley. Our Van Buren street is named for him.

E. T. Billmyer was born July 8, 1831 in Union Town, Carroll County, Maryland. He commenced the study of medicine under Dr. Leroy Swormsted of Westminster, Maryland. E. T. Billmyer graduated at the Physio-Medical Institute of Cincinnati in 1855. He started his practice in August the same year in Cherry Valley, Winnebago County, Illinois

He married Mary Mettler on June 2, 1858. Mary was born March 26, 1829 in Enfield, Thompkins County, New York. She came to Winnebago County in the fall of 1840. E. T. purchased 100 acres of land. He lived as a farmer and a physician. Dr. Bean took the place of Dr. Billmyer when he was away.

D. J. Hussey was listed in the History of Winnebago County, Illinois, Past and Present, printed in 1877. He was a physician and surgeon in Cherry Valley, Illinois. C. H. Nowles was another doctor in the early history of Cherry Valley before 1877. Nothing more is known about the last two physicians.

We know from an article from the Cherry Valley Courier dated September 11, 1896, that Dr. L. F. Foote was a doctor here at that time. He was also the editor of the newspaper. Since the turn of the century, references were found showing that a Dr. Sibert also served in the community.

Two references from the diary of Alchee Case Waddle serve to tell us of medical needs during the 1870s. "Concerning typhoid fever in 1875' 'The Cases had a terrible experience that winter with that dread disease for which the cause was unknown at that time. At least five members of the family had typhoid. Charles and his family who lived three miles away escaped, but David, his wife, and baby who were at the 'home place' for the winter all had it, and Mary Julia, less than two years old, was the first to succumb. She died January 29, her mother, Alchee (Cottrell) Case died February 27, and Joseph, the youngest son of Amon Case, died March 17. Amon Case contracted the disease but survived, as did David."

"An incident with Charles Case in 1879 -- Father visited the Cherry Valley doctor, and got a prescription. He took it to King's Drug Store, and had it filled. Then he drove home by way of grandfather's home. Grandmother insisted on father having a mid-day meal before he went on home. He said he might as well begin taking his new medicine and measured out a teaspoonful according to directions."

"Before he had finished his lunch he complained of feeling sick, and his mother assisted him to the living room lounge. He complained of being partially blind and grandmother called grandfather in from the barn. He asked immediately for the bottle of the medicine. He leaped on his horse and raced to the drugstore. Upon examining the bottle, the druggist admitted there had been a mistake, and that it was belladonna, a powerful poison."

"Grandfather ordered the two or three Cherry Valley doctors (?) out to the farm, telegraphed to Dr. Fitch of Rockford who came as quickly as he could cover the ten miles. They gave father full doses of whiskey and awaited results. The doctors attributed the miracle to the fact he had never touched intoxicating liquors, so the whiskey took its full effect, 'one poison against another'."

Dr. W. P. Woodard also served in the community. On June 16, 1905 Mildred Luhman caught the fleshy part of her left arm on one of the hooks in the mill and tore it so badly that Dr. Woodard was obliged to take several stitches in the wound. Dr. Shambough was another doctor in Cherry Valley for a short time.

Dr. Charles Edward Klontz was our next doctor. He was the son of farmer John Klontz and Lavina Reedy Klontz. They had come from Pennsylvania and Ohio. They were parents to four children: Edward Case born in 1908, a daughter Gladys, who died at the age of five of pneumonia, David Leroy born in 1912, and Charles Edward, Jr. born in 1916.

Dr. Klontz came to Cherry Valley in 1904 after receiving his M. D. degree from Northwestern University Medical School. He married Elizabeth Wilmira Case, a graduate of Knox College Conservatory of Music, and the daughter of David and Emma Case.

The medical practice of Dr. Klontz was of a type which has virtually disappeared from the American scene. His practice extended to the rural areas several miles in every direction, with some patients in Belvidere, Rockford, & nearby towns. His mornings were spent on house calls or visiting the occasional patient hospitalized in Rockford, usually at St. Anthony's Hospital. Night calls were not infrequent, and were accepted as a service to be expected. He held office consultation hours each afternoon, Sundays excepted, from 1-3 pm and each evening from 7-9 pm.

Medicines were included as a part of the office or home visit. The equipment was modest: a cabinet of instruments, a large diathermy machine and an ultraviolet lamp suspended from the ceiling, urinalysis and hemoglobin tests were the only ones done at the office.

An office ledger from about 1930 shows office call charges, including medicine, of \$1, \$1.50, & \$2, and home visit charges of \$3 & \$4. The charge for home delivery with pre & post-partum care at the time of that ledger was \$35. During his first 20-25 years of practice, Dr. Klontz kept a horse, "Mac", with a buggy and also a sled for inclement weather and appropriate road conditions, but he relied on the automobile throughout most of his period of practice.

Charles Edward Klontz, Jr. attended the University of Illinois, College of Medicine. He received his internship at the Research and Educational Hospital in Chicago. June, 1943 marked the receiving of M. D., M. S. degrees, and his marriage to Lucile. Four children were born to the Klontz's: David Stephen (1949), Elizabeth Ann (1951), Jonathan Charles (1952), and Karl Case (1954). He never doctored in Cherry Valley.

There are six pages written by Dr. Charles E. Klontz in Our Memories Are Warm book. He lived a very interesting, fascinating, & worth-while life. He died in his Washington, D. C. home on March 19, 1976. Dr. Wellman was Cherry Valley's last doctor.

This true story is from Winton Page (member): "Winton told me that his father William Page owned a horse named Pearl & a pony. He & other farmers took their horses to a fenced-in field (Bauman Park area now) in Cherry Valley years ago so they could graze and stretch their legs. His dad heard that some kids had got inside of the fence and were riding the horses.

Winton's dad went there and started riding the horse back home. He forgot that the top of the fence was still there, and he cut his arm deeply from his shoulder to his elbow as he tried to jump over the fence. Pearl went under the wire.

William went to Dr. Klontz. The doctor told him to hold his arm over the wastebasket, and he opened a large bottle of iodine and poured it all over the cut. They didn't stitch anything back then!! The scar he carried all his life was quite noticeable.

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