

## THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE IN GREENVILLE COUNTY

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Prior to the Revolutionary War in the United States, there were no physicians in the Greenville District. Col. Pearis was the holder of a great deal of land and had a grist mill at the Reedy River Falls. Since he had Indian wives and children, it was certain that the Medicine Man, or Shaman, gave the only medical care in the Greenville District. Incidentally, reservation Indians continued to use the Shaman as well as more conventional medical care.

There is no formal treatise on medical care in Greenville. Dr. Warren White published a short paper in the Greenville County Medical Society bulletin, and Dr. Dickard Guess wrote an 85 page history of Greenville County medicine published by the Greenville County Medical Society in 1959. While the accounts of these two physicians were very good, a fair amount of medical history pertaining to our medical care and hospitals was omitted.

During the Revolutionary War, most of the white settlers were away from home and their families were terrorized and victimized by the Bates and Cunningham gangs who hung out in the mountains of North Greenville County. Following the war, Col. Pearis escaped to Florida and on to the Bahamas, about the same route that Judah Benjamin took in 1865. The lands that had belonged to Col. Pearis and other Torys in the area, as well as some Cherokee land, were confiscated following the war and parcelled out to the returning soldiers from the Revolutionary. Among the recipients of land was one Dr. Nelson, who received 500 acres of land and was the first physician to have an office in this area.

It should be kept in mind that prior to 1914, there were no regulations for physicians or hospitals and there were many of both that existed mainly for profits with no thought of the best interest of sick patients. Following a report of the Flexner Commission and its implementation in 1912, inspections and gradings of medical facilities were carried out and are still done

now by a Commission called a Joint Commission on Accreditation. This Commission periodically inspects all hospitals in the U. S. A. and renders their report on the facility and grades it A,B,C, etc. It is absolutely essential for a hospital to maintain accreditation or third party payors would not patronize it or pay any of the bills.

The Accreditation Committee does give institutions plenty of notice before inspection dates. The inspection checks into every detail of the hospital including the quality of every worker, housekeeper, physicians, administration staff, etc. We just had such an inspection and this was followed by a critique when all the deficiencies were aired and subsequent inspections of the exam checked to see if these deficiencies had been corrected.

In 1806, there were only a few, perhaps 6, physicians in the Greenville District at that time. During this year, a Doctor Hunter ran for Congress and lost because it was thought that people thought he could do more good at home than he could in Congress. Dr. Richard Harrison came to practice medicine in Pleasantburg, before it became Greenville, and later his nephew, James Harrison, practiced here. A political argument in 1838 caused the death of Dr. Robinson Earle by William Loundes Yancey. Dr. Guess surmises that Dr. Earle was the antecedent of the Earles who came later and were important in the medical care in Greenville County citizens. Among the early physicians in Greenville was one Dr. A. B. Crook. He likely was the most educated doctor in Greenville at that time and was liked by everyone. He and Mr. Benjamin F. Perry were fast friends. They argued at times, had friendly disagreements, but were genuine friends. When Mr. Perry was in a duel over in the Pendleton District, Dr. Crook served as his second in the contest and tended the man that Mr. Perry shot at that time. One of Dr. Crook's physician friends was wounded in Virginia during the Civil War and Dr. Crook hastened to help him and stayed on to care for the war casualties. Due to overwork, he became ill, returned to Greenville where he soon died. Greater love has no man than he who lays down his life for a friend.

Other names of physicians in the 1800's were: Ware Austins, Baylis Earle, O. B. Ervin, J. M. Sullivan, James Ware, George

Trescott, Samuel Marshall, a great grandfather of Ms. Betty Allison, Thomas Lewis, Samuel Hunter, and Benjamin Few. There were others, but these mentioned were standouts and had relatives to succeed them in the practice of medicine in the county. The exploits of these early physicians make interesting reading, but there is a paucity of information regarding their day-to-day lives. Dr. G. F. Goodlett was practicing in upper Greenville County and was a very outstanding physician and belonged to the South Carolina Medical Association.

There were medical texts available at this time and it is interesting to note just a few of the things that they had in them. Apoplexy, which we now call a cerebrovascular accident or stroke, was treated by bleeding the jugular and temporal artery, with cupping glasses to the neck, blisters first to the back and then to the head and then to the extremities, drastic purges, Calomel, Senna, aloes, and followed with an enema. Actually some benefit might have derived from bleeding and purging as this might have reduced some of the edema of the brain. On the other hand, it is difficult to find any merit in the blisters or the cupping. I have only seen one patient who had a mustard plaster put to the chest which caused a blister. The doctor made a poultice of mustard and water and taped this to the entire left chest wall, left it in place for 3 days. When he returned to take the poultice off, I never heard such screaming. The entire skin of the chest came away with the poultice. There was a great deal of bleeding. The entire area was second degree and some third degree burns. This large area was not well for 4 months and left pretty bad scarring of the chest. This idea of counter-irritation to pull out internal inflammation finally lost out with doctors of better reasoning ability.

Dr. Robert Hooper studied in Physics at the University of Oxford, Royal College of Physicians of London and Physicians of St. Mary's Labon Infirmary Intellectual Medicine in London. His book on medicine was published as a Philadelphia edition in the United States and received favorable attention and was used by most of the physicians of the day. One of the prescriptions and treatment there for topical bleeding came from the jugular vein with leeches to the trachea, emetics,

Ipecac, ammonia, Calomel, blisters to the neck and when the stool is green stop the Calomel.

Diphtheria was a disease that killed many children. The bacillus that caused diphtheria was not discovered until 1883 and it was not until 1913 that a vaccine was developed, 1923 before toxoid was available. Information disseminates slowly. It was 250 years after smallpox vaccination before the world was free of smallpox.

This leads me to remind everyone that physicians are the only people in the world who give the benefits of their discoveries, techniques, and new methods of every kind freely to their colleagues all over the world without thought of compensation.

In July, 1862, The War of Northern Aggression was underway and the ladies of Greenville mobilized to do their bit on the home front. They did a fine job of organizing a group from chiefs to indians. There was much discussion in their organization. Initially they discussed making the dues 20 and 5 cents. This idea was postponed but later was instituted and agreed that everyone should pay. The men were allowed to become honorary members and pay these same dues. Many men did join including physicians in the area. The ladies set up in the Academy of the Female College on College Street. They set about collecting clothing, cloth to make clothes, and they had seamstresses, packers, and boxes shipped to Virginia by train. After a short time, they learned that most of the material was stolen in route to Virginia and they began to send a guard along. Different ladies were assigned to furnish food for soldiers so they would cook in their homes. Later, a lady was hired to do the cooking at the Soldiers' Rest. Many soldiers would be put off the train because they had no money to travel any further and many were too ill from wounds and disease to travel further and the ladies took them in.

At the same time, there was a Wayside Hospital on the corner of Main and Washington Street that was run by the Confederate Government. There was one doctor there and he frequently would help the ladies with the care of soldiers at the Soldiers' Rest. After the matron was hired by the ladies and the

name of the facility called Soldier's Rest, she was full time and later a male helper was hired to help her. Shortly he had to be discharged for drunkenness. It is my estimate that about 300 volunteers were involved in running and supplying the Soldiers' Rest at the Female Academy. As soon as it came to be known, physicians who had not joined the Confederate Forces against the Northern Aggressors were always ready to help in the treatment of disabled soldiers. Throughout the south, Wayside Hospital was run by the Confederacy in an attempt to care for the countless ill and wounded. There were a number of them in Charleston, Columbia, and other places in the state, only one was here in Greenville, as mentioned above.

All trains were met and needs of the ill and wounded were cared for at Soldiers' Rest. Some needed only rest and food, others stayed for varying times. Clothing was furnished as well as money when needed to travel on to their homes in other areas.

This Soldiers' Rest and Medical Facility housed in the Academy at the Greenville College, actually was the first hospital in Greenville. It served adequately many soldiers in its period of July, 1862, to May, 1865. The War was over and I can find no excuse for the detachment of Stoneman's Calvary who came by, took what they wished, and destroyed what was left at Soldiers' Rest. They acted just like all the other Northern Aggressors who plundered, burned, and destroyed the South. There is a granite marker on College Street that commemorates Soldiers' Rest and it can be seen near the Museum on College Street. Dr. Jim McClanahan and Dr. George Trescott operated an infirmary in Greenville in 1872. It was the first hospital for civilians in the Greenville area and was closed after operating about a year.

Mr. Charles Thomas, Historiographer for Christ Church in Greenville, reports in his history of the Church. He reports that the hospital was run by the ladies of the church for 8 years, cared for 79 patients gratuitously. Obviously, they had a very low census. They likely had to close it when the total cost of care became so much for housing, drugs, food, utility, dressings, as well as nursing care.

But never discount the power of women. The sewing circle at The Christ Church was enlarged and other members of the community were taken in and the sewing circle began in earnest to get funds for a community hospital. They sewed regularly, held a bazaar annually where they sold hundreds of articles, even marketed a newspaper in order to aid and raise funds. There is a bronze marker with some of the names of these people on it; it hangs inside the storm entrance at Greenville General Hospital on Mallard Street and many of the names are well known Greenvillians whose relatives are living here to this day. A stranger was visiting in Greenville in 1896 when he became ill and died. Help had been given him by the Rowena Chapter of the Knights of Pithias. Following his death, they began to campaign to get funds for a municipal hospital. After a time, the interest flagged and it was not for some time that these efforts were taken up again.

In the 1890's, Drs. Tete, Kern, and Dr. Joe Earle, operated a general hospital on Richardson Street. Mrs. Alester Furman, Jr. states that when a circus came to town, a midget from the circus had to be admitted for emergency delivery of a baby. Dr. Furman, Mrs. Furman's father, borrowed Mrs. Furman's child's chair for the lady midget to use as she could not get into the large hospital chair. Another private hospital that was opened about the same time as the Earle's was Dr. W. C. Black who had a general hospital for private patients in a large frame house on the corner of Church and East Washington Streets. Later Dr. J. W. Jervey opened an ENT Hospital on Church Street for the practice of his own private patients.

In 1897, prior to Christmas, rumors were received that smallpox had broken out in Rock Hill and Atlanta. City Council pondered a quarantine of both cities. No results of this quarantine were ever reported and it is difficult to know just how it might have been carried out. A few days later, a case of smallpox was discovered on Echol Street and then one on Washington Street. An argument ensued between two physicians as to whether the case might be chickenpox or smallpox. This was finally settled by calling in a specialist from Atlanta who agreed that it was smallpox.

Mass vaccination was begun. First the members of the Police Dept. and other City officials, then schools, Chicora, Furman, Female College. They all let out for the holidays and a pest house was opened by the City on Stone property just past the City Limits on Chick Springs Road. The City also opened a house by the Rock Quarry at the foot of Paris Mt. and here contacts were quarantined for several days. The two doctors who were involved were quarantined in the hotel. In trying to decide what to do, they first decided that they would burn the house on Echol Street; then they changed their minds and said they would just burn the contents. In vaccinating the people, the City bought the vaccine, paid two physicians 50¢ per vaccination. The newspaper said the doctors had a regular klondike.

It is interesting that 100 years prior to this outbreak, Dr. Jenner first discovered smallpox vaccine. Dr. Simon Baruch stated that only about 8% of the South Carolinians were vaccinated by 1890, about 100 years after it was invented and it took another 100 years for smallpox to be eradicated from the earth. By late January, 1898, 30 cases of smallpox had been treated with no fatalities and things returned to normal. Everyone in quarantine was out and the post Christmas sales were held.

For a time after 1900, the City paid for a free clinic on Broad Street and interest in a community hospital was heightened. Led by the Ladies Sewing Circle, Captian James Mackey, Mr. Sirrine, and the Knights of Pithias, funds were solicited from all of the City and surrounding areas. Dr. David Furman and Mr. Goldsmith bought the Corbett Hospital and furnishings on Arlington Street, and they had the ladies then furnish money to furnish this hospital. The Earle and Black's Hospital were closed and they gave their furnishings to the new Greenville City Hospital. The City took over the hospital and people who had bought shares in it were repaid and that, with the \$10,000 from the Sewing Circle ensured the hospital's opening. There were many delays, but it was finally opened on January 12, 1912, and started with 83 hospital beds. The private hospitals closed and referred their private patients to the City Hospital in order to help them get started.

Other private hospitals were run in the county over the years: Coleman Hospital in Travelers Rest, Tyler Hospital on North Street, Chicks Spring Hospital with Drs. Steely and Zimmerman, Stroud's Hospital at Marietta, Gaston Hospital at Travelers Rest, and the McLawhorn Hospital at Fountain Inn, S.C. The McLawhorn Hospital closed after the Hillcrest Hospital was opened at Simpsonville. Dr. J. W. Jervey's Hospital was on Church Street and Dr. Steel Denny had a clinic in Pelzer where he practiced for his entire life.

Growth of the City Hospital, later General Hospital, now the Greenville Hospital System with its many components, was steady and now we have a facility that is marvelous and outstanding. The Medical Staff numbers about 600 with dentists, house staff, interns and residents.

There were so many wonderful people who made large contributions to the furthering of medical care in Greenville County. To prevent this discourse from being too lengthy, I will make brief remarks of some that I consider outstanding in the last 75 years. Dr. T. R. W. Wilson, a pathologist, trained at the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins Hospital, married a Greenville nurse, and spent his entire professional life, 1912 to 1943, in Greenville. He was probably the best trained doctor in South Carolina at that time. He was a real gentleman, gave of his time freely, never was paid more than \$350.00 per month, never owned a car, walked or rode the trolley from the Poinsett Hotel where he lived simply with his wife Lil. He was probably the best loved and admired physician who lived in Greenville. Dr. W. C. Black, a surgeon, was a gruff, colorful character who did a great deal of surgery in the home, often in the yard under the shade of a tree. Dr. Hunter in Simpsonville relates that he often assisted Dr. Black, or gave anesthesia for him. Dr. Hunter said that the practice of medicine was too hard and he finally abandoned it and became a cotton business man and acquired 3,000 acres of land. He was not unusual in this regard.

The physician who achieved world-wide notoriety and acclaim was Dr. Max Davis. He was an inventor as well as a physician. The prostate operation was performed with electric current and was associated with a great deal of bleeding and a



high mortality. Dr. Davis added a coagulation current to staunch the bleeding and this one thing assured him an important niche in medical history. The world beat a path to his door here in Greenville. His early retirement in 1935 for health reasons was unfortunate. Dr. George Wilkinson, Sr., took care of the medical side of Dr. Davis' patients and this was a help and kept their mortality very low.

Dr. E. W. Carpenter trained with world famous physician Dr. Chevalier A. Jackson of Philadelphia who invented the bronchoscope. The bronchoscope allowed for the first time the removal of foreign bodies from the lungs. Dr. Carpenter was not only adept in removing foreign bodies from the lung, but he also was able to take a Baker lite tube and place between the vocal cords in Children with diphtheria and saved their lives from choking. During diphtheria epidemics, Dr. Carpenter traveled over a wide area in North and South Carolina intubating children with diphtheria, allowing them to breathe and recover. He had so much traveling to do that he was forced to teach some family physicians to do the procedure. Dr. Thomas Brockman, family physician in Greer, was one of those he taught who later became a proctologist, a City Councilman in Greenville, and he is the one who told me about some of Dr. Carpenter's work. Other distinguished doctors were Dr. J. W. Jervey, Sr., the first ENT specialist on the hospital staff; Drs. Earle and Black, surgeons; and Dr. Davis Furman, family physician.

A nurse was placed in charge as Administrator of the first Greenville City Hospital and twice Dr. T. R. W. Wilson was Acting Administrator during his tour as pathologist at the Greenville Hospital. Dr. J. W. Jervey, Jr. made an outstanding contribution to medicine when he began the early ambulation of patients after cataract surgery. Prior to his taking this method of treatment, patients had to be kept in bed for 2 weeks. His method ensured an earlier recovery and fewer complications and was an important contribution to medicine.

Ms. Byrd Holmes had been a very successful Administrator at the Shrine Hospital in Greenville and was employed in the late

1920's to run the Greenville City Hospital Nursing School. She did a fantastic job, was placed as Administrator of the Hospital and Nursing School, and as Administrator she added construction to the Hospital at a time when the economy was in a very poor state. I saw that the room rent on the best room in the house was \$3.50 per day. At the same time, salary for graduate nurses was \$50.00 per month and they were given 1 meal each day.

On Mallard Street, center wings were added in 1952. There were 2-3 other Administrators before Mr. Peter Terringio was hired from the Roosevelt Hospital in New York to be the Administrator and he was brought in about the time the center and Mallard Street wings were added. After a time he was recalled to Roosevelt Hospital and he had brought Mr. Bob Toomey as his assistant. Mr. Toomey had finished Hospital Administrative studies at Harvard College and was a very capable man and the Hospital made great strides under his leadership. Mr. Toomey brought Mr. Jack Skarupa along as an assistant and he became Chief Executive after Mr. Toomey's retirement. There is no doubt in my mind that these men have made a superlative Hospital System. At the critique following the 3rd exam by the Joint Commission on Accreditation, many deficiencies were pointed out but they were very minor and the plaudits from the Commission far outweighed the deficiencies. So the Hospital System stacks up mighty well with any Medical Center across the country. I would be remiss if I did not point out that we have a very competent staff composed of all the specialties and assisted by a fine group of interns and residents.