

KANSAS CHIROPRACTIC HISTORY: FROM CELLAR TO CYBERSPACE

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A paper entitled "Kansas Coconuts: Legalizing Chiropractic in the First State, 1910-15" was published in the 1995 Centennial Issue of *The Archives and Journal of the Association for the History of Chiropractic*. The paper, authored by William S. Rehm, D.C., discussed the first D.C. to begin practice in Kansas in 1906, the arrest and court trials of the early Kansas chiropractors, the 1911 founding of the Kansas Chiropractic Association (KCA), and the 1913 passage of the first chiropractic licensing law in the world. (1)

Until that article was published, most current Kansas doctors of chiropractic knew precious little about our heritage and the chiropractic pioneers who made it. It quite frankly shocked most of us to learn of the proud chiropractic history that Kansas enjoyed. It is safe to say that until we read Dr. Rehm's article, very few of us even knew that Kansas passed the first chiropractic licensing law.

Dr. Rehm's paper whetted our appetite for more information and started an intensive process of recovering Kansas chiropractic history. Now that much of that history has been rediscovered, it has forever changed the way Kansas D.C.'s view their chiropractic heritage and has instilled a new pride in who we are and the "stock" we came from. It has also insured that the recovered data and our historical artifacts will never be "lost" again.

Treasures from the Cellar

The first piece of the recovery puzzle occurred by finding the remaining copies of the book *Fifty Years of Chiropractic Licensed in Kansas* (2) which was referenced in Dr. Rehm's article as the source for much of the historical data. Only a few loose copies remained in the KCA basement since a prior Executive Director had ordered that a full case of them be discarded!

The next step was to uncover the historical documents and artifacts which had been "buried" in the KCA basement. This project was accomplished with a cleaning day with the author examining all items before any were discarded. The primary focus of the basement search was to find the first chiropractic license issued in Kansas. Although the original license was not found that day, a single copy of it was discovered and now hangs proudly in the KCA office lobby.

The biggest surprise "find" was the *1924 International Blue Book - Kansas State Issue*. Fortunately, a single copy was found in the bottom of a box as it was being taken to the dumpster. The book contains photos and brief biographical sketches of eighty-five Kansas doctors of chiropractic from the early 1900's. The *International Blue Book* also contains photographs of early Colorado, Iowa, and Nebraska doctors which were made available to their state associations.

Another benefit of the *International Blue Book* discovery was its identification properties. The KCA has had a large wide angle photograph from the 1923 KCA Convention hanging in its offices for twenty-five years. That photograph shows over one

hundred doctors who until the Kansas Blue Book discovery, remained totally nameless. The Blue Book allowed us to identify over thirty doctors in the photograph including Willard Carver, D.C., Hugh B. Logan, D.C. and KCA Founder and first Kansas licensee Anna M. Foy, D.C.

It is difficult to express the feeling one got after each of the doctors was successfully "brought back to life" through the identification process. Today, the 1923 photograph hangs next to a "legend" which identifies each doctor.

Another important job was organizing and placing many of the rare objects into the fireproof filing cabinets. Those cabinets now contain all the old issues of the *KCA Journal*, many photographs of KCA members from the fifties forward, and two Kansas Chiropractic Auxiliary scrapbooks which were created by its members.

The Search Widens

After the in-house recovery was completed, attention was turned again to finding the original first Kansas chiropractic license. The search led to the Kansas State Historical Society's Center for Historical Research in Topeka where not only was the first license was located, but other documents and photos from the 1911 era were found. (3)

After completing two days at the Center locating and viewing all the chiropractic historical artifacts, the following inventory list with locator numbers was compiled:

- Kansas chiropractic license number "1" issued to Dr. Anna M Foy in 1915 (Red Manuscripts Section: Misc -- Foy, Anna -- Oversize)
- An article by Dr. Anna Foy which describes the founding of the KCA and a legislative summary of how the first chiropractic licensing law was passed in 1913 (Red Manuscripts Section: Misc -- Gabriel, Madge)
- Letters from Kansas governors and legislators which discuss chiropractic (Red Manuscripts Section: Misc -- Gabriel, Madge)
- A listing of Kansas women doctors of chiropractic and their leadership positions (Red Manuscripts Section: Misc -- Gabriel, Madge)
- The actual 1913 "Roll Call" tally sheet from the Kansas House of Representatives when the chiropractic licensing bill was passed (Red Manuscripts Section: Misc -- Gabriel, Madge)
- Letters from world renowned *Emporia Gazette* publisher William Allen White discussing chiropractic leaders (Red Manuscripts Section: Misc. --Gabriel, Madge)
- A portrait of Dr. Anna Foy (Green Photographs Section: B -- Anna Foy)
- The first chiropractic licensing law (Blue Kansas Section: K -- 615.82 -- C446 -- Pam. v.)
- A brief history of chiropractic in Kansas by Dr. Madge Gabriel (Blue Kansas Section: K -- 615.82 -- C446 -- Pam. v.)
- A second copy of the *1924 International Blue Book - Kansas State Issue* which contains photos and brief biographical sketches for many of the chiropractors practicing at that time (Blue Kansas Section: K -- 910.3 -- B62)
- Numerous newspaper clippings discussing the fight for licensure and the problems incurred in getting the first examining committee appointed (Blue Kansas Section: K - - 615.82 -- C446)
- A portrait of the first Kansas chiropractic examining board members Dr. Foy and Dr. H. A. Post meeting in Iowa with Dr. B. J. Palmer and examining committee members from other states. (Green Photographs Section: RZ -- Chi.1919 -- FK2.3 -- Chir Anna Foy)

Note: A copy of this photograph was donated to Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards (FCLB) and is now displayed in their offices in Greeley, Colorado. In May, 1997 the FCLB voted to change their date of inception from 1933 to 1926 as a result of licensing board information Kansas discovered in the 1930 text, *History of Chiropractic*.(4)

The author was absolutely thrilled to find the documents and was equally thrilled to see the beautiful facility where the documents are permanently stored. The Center for Historical Research is the newest of the four buildings in the Kansas History Center complex and cost \$12 million to build. The 7,500 square foot public research room joins two storage bays measuring 30,000 square feet each. The research room is an open, two-story space bordered by a mezzanine and topped with skylights and clerestory windows and exposed wooden trusses. The center is fully environmentally conditioned to meet preservation standards.

Recognizing Kansas Pioneers

When long time KCA Director Dr. H. W. Craig of Lawrence, Kansas died in 1964, the KCA Convention program for that year contained a wonderful tribute to him which concluded as follows:

There must be a special Valhalla somewhere for the great leaders of chiropractic who have given their all for this profession. Dr. Craig will be at home with that group and shall have a place reserved for him as one of the great warriors. (5)

Since 1976, the KCA membership has annually elected a doctor as its "Doctor of the Year." In an unprecedented move to show gratitude to our earlier heroes, the KCA Board of Directors in February, 1997 elected sixty-five KCA "Doctors of the Year" for the years 1911-1975. The KCA board also authorized the author's appointment as KCA Archivist. (6)

Included among the new honorees were six Kansas doctors who were arrested and tried for practicing medicine, four doctors who were elected to the Kansas Legislature and the nine doctors who founded the Kansas Chiropractic Association on January 28, 1911. (7)

The KCA Board of Directors also authorized the author to have photographs and brief career summaries for the eighty-six "Doctors of the Year" from 1911-1996 to be framed and displayed in the Steven M. Dickson Conference Center. (6) That process took approximately 200 man hours and was completed in April, 1997. The truly remarkable aspect of this "Hall of Honor" is that we were able to obtain photographs for eighty-three of the eighty-six honorees!

Today, the walls of the conference center are completely covered with beautifully framed presentations of our chiropractic forebears. The room has a "presence" that can only be experienced in person. KCA board members now conduct the profession's business with these great pioneers and warriors "looking down" on them. Suffice it to say, it puts many of our contemporary issues in the proper historical perspective.

As a result of the research performed and in an effort to further remember our Kansas chiropractic ancestors, the KCA board of directors has named four KCA awards in honor of persons who did so much for chiropractic in Kansas.

- The retiring director's award was named the "Dr. H. W. Craig Director's Service Award" in honor of Dr. Craig's record twenty-three years of service as a KCA Director.
- The past president's award was named the "Dr. Joe Fallot Presidential Service Award" in honor of Dr. Fallot's record six years of service over four different decades as KCA President.
- The "Foy-Wright Healing Arts Board Service Award" now honors Anna M. Foy, D.C. who served twenty-seven years on the Kansas Board of Chiropractic Examiners and Rex Wright, D.C. who served twenty-six years on the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts.
- And finally, the Kansas legislator of the year award was named the "Frank A. Hines Legislator of the Year Award" to honor him for his work in securing the 1913 Kansas chiropractic licensing law.

Chiropractic Pioneers in Cyberspace

After the "Hall of Honor" was completed, attention was turned to sharing this information with the rest of the chiropractic profession. *Chiropractic First Source*, the award winning KCA internet web site was a natural vehicle for making the data available from anywhere in the world.

The first page of *Chiropractic First Source* gives visitors the opportunity to enter a section entitled "A Proud Look Back." This area allows the visitor to view the FIRST license issued under the FIRST licensing law in the world. In addition, the internet visitor can also view a listing of all members of the Kansas State Board of Chiropractic Examiners (1915-1957), all members of the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts from 1957 to the present and can access a list which contains the name of every single KCA officer and director from 1911 to the present.

But, the most outstanding aspect of *Chiropractic First Source* is the section about "KCA Doctors of the Year." Every honoree has his or her photograph (except three) and a brief summary of his or her career accomplishments on behalf of this profession. Again, it is difficult to describe the feeling one gets watching these great pioneer faces magically appear on a computer screen after traveling through cyberspace. To have been "forgotten" for so many decades, and to now be receiving their "due" is gratifying to the author beyond words. You are urged to visit this unique section of the KCA web site which can be accessed at the following internet address: www.kansaschiro.com

The Kansas Chiropractic Association web site received "Best Association Web Site" from the American Chiropractic Association in 1997, 1998 and 2000. There is little doubt that the unique historical sections had a great deal to do with winning these honors.

A Lead to Follow

It is hoped the successful efforts by the Kansas Chiropractic Association will prompt other state chiropractic associations to look and see if historical treasures are "buried" in their basements. Although other states may have not been "first," their chiropractic history is no less important and their pioneers are no less deserving of the same respect and recognition for what they accomplished.

REFERENCES:

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- (2) Metz, M. *50 Years of Chiropractic Recognized in Kansas*. Shadinger-Wilson, Inc., Abilene, Kansas, 1965
- (3) Edwards, JD and McKenzie, ED. "Original First Kansas License and Other Priceless Chiropractic Documents Located!" *Journal of the Kansas Chiropractic Association*, March-April, 1997 p 38
- (4) Gallaher, H. *History of Chiropractic, A History of the Philosophy Art and Science of Chiropractic and Chiropractors in Oklahoma*, 1930 p 102
- (5) KCA Convention Program, Kansas Chiropractic Association, May, 1964
- (6) Couch SS. "KCA Board of Directors Preserves KCA History." *Journal of the Kansas Chiropractic Association*, May-June, 1997 p. 30-31