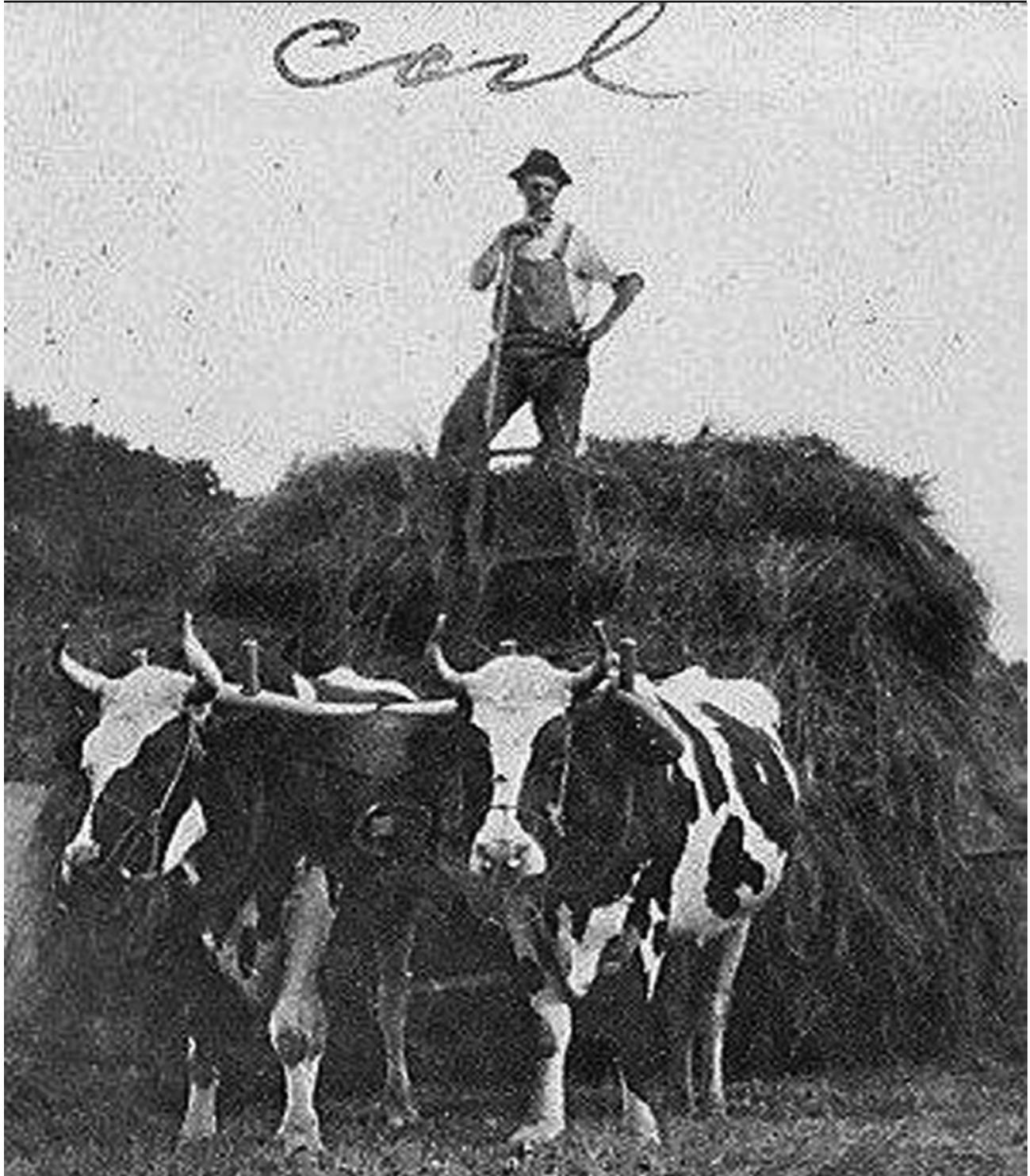


Island Pond Historical Society Inc.

2011 Newsletter

Preserving Traditions of the Past



President's Letter

Dear Readers,

The next Island Pond Historical Society annual meeting will be held August 7, 2011 at 1 p.m. in the Brighton Post 80 American Legion Hall. Our featured speaker is Tom Slayton, editor emeritus of *Vermont Life Magazine*. His topic will be "A sense of the Northeast Kingdom". Slayton served as editor-in-chief for 21 years and is a past president of the International Regional Magazine Association. He has written a number of award winning non-fiction books, and is also the author of various magazine and newspaper articles and is a regular comentator for Vermont Public Radio. Tom previously spoke at our annual meeting in 1996 and was well received.

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending the annual meeting in August.

Mark C. Biron
President, Island Pond Historical Society

2010 Annual Meeting a Success

Howard Coffin's address was well received at the August 2010 annual meeting. Over fifty attendees heard this noted author's Civil War address on the crucial role Vermonters played in preserving the Union. He especially covered the important role of Northeast Kingdom troops and he noted that the Stevens family in Brighton lost three sons in this war.

Muriel O'Gorman was nominated for a three year term as Trustee and all officers agreed to serve another year. At the time of the meeting the Society's assets were \$276,579.77 .The Society has purchased much needed sound system and a projector for our computer generated slideshows.

Cover Photo - Sue Ayotte recently donated this photo of Carl Stevens atop a pile of hay towed by a team of oxen.

Please Tell us Your New Address

Our mailings all go as Post Office Bulk Mailings which are not forwardable. As many older members are moving to assisted living, we especially need their families' help! Please send your new addresses to Secretary, IPHS, PO Box 408, Island Pond VT 05846.

Local Historical Note - 150th Anniversary of the opening of Montreal's Victoria Bridge

The official opening of Victoria Bridge in August 1860 by the Prince of Wales completed the final link of the first international railway in North America when Grand Trunk trains went across it into Montreal and its link to the west. This is an important date to be noted locally. From 1853 to 1860 the Grand Trunk only reached to the south shore of the St. Lawrence River.

Final Burials - Old Protestant and Catholic Cemeteries

by John Carbonneau

The 2009 newsletter contained an extensive article on the local cemeteries. We are often asked who were the last people to be buried in them. Two revisions have recently been received and the 2009 newsletter needs to be corrected. In 2009 Bernard Wilson died and he was buried with his wife and uncle in lot 21 in the old Catholic cemetery. Previously Pauline Welch's burial in 2000 had been the last.

On May 22, 2010 Ina Worth was buried in the Old Protestant cemetery next to her husband Delmond, making her the last buried there. Clarence

Progress in Medical Education as Experienced by Three Island Pond, Vermont Physicians (1842 – 1957)

Preface By John Carbonneau

I was aware of research being done on past medical education by Dr. Dale for several years. During my last Florida visit with Dr. Dale before he returned to Montpelier two years ago he told me he had completed a study and it was ready for publication. He had several publication options, but if they failed, he recommended that it be published in the Island Pond Historical Society newsletter. Porter died several months later. I then talked with Mary, Porter's widow (who has since died) and she too felt our newsletter would be a good place for it. I contacted Chris Dale, their son, with whom the document rested. We received his approval and the document. Now we can share this outstanding work with our more than three hundred readers. No one but Porter, a lifelong dedicated physician, had the knowledge and information on these three dedicated local physicians.

Story by Porter H. Dale M.D.

Last June (2007) I attended the 60th anniversary of my UVM (University of Vermont) medical school graduation. That experience turned out to be an education in today's medical school training. In an update session for reunion alumni, faculty members reviewed the highly selective medical college admission process, e.g. the class of 2010 had 110 matriculants, but started with 5440 applicants. Innovations in instructional technology were discussed, showing the need for a laptop for every student. A novel addition, the standardized patient, could not have been imagined by my classmates. This person, a trained "patient" helps in teaching the art of interrogation during history taking. The entire session was exciting, and for me, verification that our College of Medicine is a leader in medical education.

Recently I have reviewed the medical education of three physicians who, in total, practiced medicine for over 100 years in my hometown of Island Pond, Vermont. It was my good fortune to have available the diaries of the first two doctors and detailed information regarding the third doctor from his two sons.

Island Pond emerged as an important railroad center. The Grand Trunk Railway, linking Montreal, Quebec and Portland, Maine, was completed there in 1853. Stores, hotels and churches promptly sprung up. Medical services were increasingly in demand, especially in the setting of a rail center, where accidents were inevitable and common. One of the physicians practicing in Island Pond during this period was Harvey Coe.

The time span covered by the three consecutive practices began at least as early as 1842 with Dr. Harvey Coe and concluded in 1957 with Dr. William McBride's retirement. The intermediate physician was Dr. Edward Norcross (M.D., UVM 1884), whose 1882 to 1926 diaries, recorded virtually daily, provided great detail of his medical training and many years of practice*. (Footnote: *The Norcross diaries were kindly loaned by Bruce and Marjorie Norcross. Bruce Norcross Ph. D., grandson of Dr. Norcross, is retired Professor of Chemistry, The State University of New York at Binghamton, N.Y. His wife, Marjorie is daughter of Mae and Lyman Rowell, former UVM Professor of Zoology and UVM President, 1965 – 1970.) The medical education of the three indicated wide diversity and notable upgrade, progressing from no evidence of pre-practice training to modern or near-modern medical education.

Harvey Coe was born in Burke, Vermont in 1807, and moved to Island Pond in 1834. Sometime after that, but before 1842, he decided to establish a medical practice in Island Pond. This decision occurred at a time when

it was possible for an aspiring doctor to commence practice without formal training or, for that matter, adherence to any enforced legal requirements. Historical sources have indicated that Coe was practicing in 1842 in Island Pond (1) and “although never receiving a thorough medical education, he became quite skillful in the use of medicines and assuming the title of M.D., he had quite an extensive practice.” (2) Benjamin Lincoln M.D., a member of the UVM medical faculty accurately expressed the status of pre-practice qualification at that time. In 1833 he wrote, “of all the methods of getting a livelihood invented by Yankee ingenuity, no one secures its object so effectually and with so little expense of Mental Labour as ‘turning doctor.’” (3)

At that time, three medical schools had just been established in Vermont within the span of a decade: Castleton Medical Academy in 1818, University Medical College in 1821, and the Clinical School of Medicine at Woodstock in 1827. All three eventually failed financially, the last to close being Castleton in 1862. Intense competition for medical students by the three colleges resulted in the lowering of admission standards and likely contributed to the failure. A subsequent need to raise these low standards then proved disastrous to enrollment. For instance, at the University of Vermont Medical College there were but 16 graduates in 1829, falling to six by 1831. The school closed in 1836. In a history of UVM Medical College, admission required only a three-dollar fee. The prospective student could then enroll in classes by purchasing lecture tickets, a set of four costing \$40, which paid ten dollars to each of the four faculty members.

In 1824, the UVM faculty developed requirements before a medical student could take the final examination for an M.D. degree. The candidate had to be of good moral character, have spent three years with a preceptor, have had two courses of medical lectures (generally three to four months each), submit a dissertation on a medical subject, and pay eight dollar graduation fee. When these prerequisites

were satisfied, an oral exam before at least two members of the UVM medical faculty was held, and if successful, an M.D. degree was awarded. There was an interesting exception. A physician who had practiced for five years had only to complete one of the lectures, submit a dissertation and pay the graduation fee, before the examination. These requirements applied only to the acquisition of an M.D. degree, in this case, from UVM. It was still possible to practice medicine by simply ‘turning doctor’ and assuming the degree.

The lack of meaningful requirements for medical school admission as well as lax attendance rules applied to most medical schools at the time. For example, Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in the 1840s annually admitted 465 applicants but only graduated 165. In essence, there was no mandatory medical education or legal requirements in Vermont as well as most other states.

In this setting, it comes as no surprise that Coe announced his availability as Harvey Coe M.D. for the practice of medicine in Island Pond. His diary indicates that he learned by on-the-job trial and error. He consulted other practitioners frequently. Cephus Adams M.D., who originally had had apprentice training, was a favorite. He often helped Dr. Coe with diagnoses, fractures and minor surgery. Diaries during Coe’s early practice years were not found. However, later diaries were revealing*. (footnote*Dr. Coe’s diaries were acquired by his brother, Abner. George N. Dale II, an Island Pond historian, borrowed the diaries from Abner’s grand-daughter, Mrs. Ernest Hill, in 1936 and engaged Darrell Morrisette to reproduce them in long-hand, which are a source for this narrative.) In 1873, a February 6, entry reported “Patsy Coffee brought home by his right hand stove to bits by the [railroad] cars. Dr. Adams, Robinson R. Brown and myself to assist, removed three fingers”. A month earlier, January 9, Dr. Coe attended an unconscious boy who had fallen out of a tree and sustained scalp lacerations. “I dressed his wound, took stitches, and put on sticking plasters and fixed

him up comfortable as I could. I was assisted by William Brown the Dentist." Four days later the diary sadly recorded, "the young man... is dead and buried today." Later, on March 9, A.C. Palmer was seen for "collick spells" and gallstones. Dr. Coe requested Dr. Adams to counsil (sic) in the case. He did not approve of my proceedings with the case." No explanation followed, but Dr. Coe always showed high regard for Dr. Adams' opinion. Two weeks later, Dr. Adams was again summoned by Dr. Coe, who was attending Mr. and Mrs. Crop, both seriously ill with typhoid fever. Mrs. Crop succumbed two days later and Mr. Crop was "dangerously sick with typhoid pneumonia. I was with him all day." Succeeding entries described the patient as unconscious, feverish, delirious, and then with intractable hiccoughs, finally checked with chloroform. Three days later he "had a sore break in his head discharging from his left ear." Numerous house calls were recorded during the 19-day ordeal. Diary comments eventually showed improvement and finally recovery.

In Dr. Coe's era, his potential to alter the course of most medical illnesses had to have been frustratingly limited. Morphine could alleviate pain. Surgery and splints could help to repair trauma. However, his journal revealed that his greatest service to patients most of the time was an abundance of compassion, concern and attention, especially attention. Spending hours with an acutely ill patient was not unusual. On a Sunday, which happened to be Christmas Day in 1870, he attended Mr. Mosher. "I fixed myself for church. At half past 10 o'clock Mr. Mosher sent for me to come and see him. I went and found him hard up, he was sick with an erysipelas sore on his left hand. I stayed with him most of the day. I took Christmas supper with the family. At 4 o'clock I came home took care of my horse, I then went back and stayed til almost 10 o'clock... I left him more comfortable." During the next three days Dr. Coe made six more visits. On December 28, he recorded that Mr. Mosher was doing "quite well". No specific therapy was

mentioned. Another patient with erysipelas of the finger worried Dr. Coe when on February 8, 1873 he saw Harriet Rosebrook. "Very sick. I stayed all night with them."

Dr. Coe practiced medicine as late as two weeks before he died on June 8, 1879. He had complained in his diary of stomach pain and weight loss during the preceding weeks and was seeing Dr. Adams professionally.

After UVM Medical School closed in 1836, several frustrated attempts to revive the school were made. Finally, in February 1854, a faculty of six began the first term of the re-born UVM College of Medicine with an enrollment of 20 students. The school stuttered through fiscal problems, cadaver shortages and University trustee versus faculty conflicts, but eventually emerged a viable medical school. By the late 1890s the College was well established. Enrollment was high, and the faculty was experienced and dedicated." (5)

It was the 1880s, during the transition to a successful institution, that Edward F. Norcross, a native of Derby, Vermont, attended UVM Medical School and received his M.D. on June 23, 1884. His diary provides a fascinating and probably not unique story of medical training at the time. After a basic education at Derby Academy in Vermont and Worcester Academy in Massachusetts, he taught school. He quickly decided to study medicine, and did so by a combination of apprenticeships with practicing physicians in Vermont and attendance at two medical schools.

His first apprenticeship was with Dr. E. H. Belyea in Westfield, Vermont, beginning in January 1882. In August of that year Dr. Belyea became ill and the apprenticeship terminated. In the following month Norcross traveled to Washington, D.C. He took a preliminary examination, was successful for a \$25 fee matriculated at Howard University College of Medicine. This school had opened its doors in 1868, following the Civil War with a mission to prepare prospective doctors interested in delivering competent and compassionate health care to medically under-served communities.

The College has always been open to all races. Historically it has had nearly 70% black students and the largest percentage of foreign students of any U.S. medical school. (6)

Training for Norcross at Howard, even as a beginning medical student, included attending hospital clinics, observing surgical operations, working in the dissecting room, viewing autopsies, and attending lectures. Teachers were paid fees directly by the students for instruction and for administering exams. For instance, on January 17, 1883, Edward Norcross noted in his diary that he "paid \$8.00 to Dr. Ballock, our demonstrator."

After five months at Howard, Norcross returned to Vermont, and continued medical study at UVM Medical School in March 1883. It was then possible and indeed easy to move from one medical school to another without an elaborate admission or transfer process. Actually this was a common practice. Medical colleges at that time required two courses of lectures for graduation, each being three to four months in duration. Schools often planned their courses so students could transfer from another college to take immediate advantage of a second course without waiting. It is likely that Edward Norcross transferred from Howard to UVM Medical School in March 1883 to take advantage of this convenience.

The Norcross diary indicated that there were about 200 students at UVM Medical School in 1883. He pursued medical studies there for ten weeks to May 11, 1883. He was planning to be in the next graduating class but learned from Dr. Ashbel P. Grinnell, a favorite professor and later Dean of the Medical School, that "I could not enter the graduating class and I immediately decided that I would leave." No explanation was offered.

Norcross then visited practitioners in and around Orleans County, Vermont, where he grew up and had previously apprenticed. He worked with Dr. Corey, Dr. Templeton and eventually formally apprenticed with Dr. Fairman, (found with the EFN diaries, documents this period of apprenticeship from June 1 to

October 1, 1883). During that time he saw many patients on house calls with Dr. Fairman, covering several towns.

By September 1883, Norcross had decided to continue his pursuit of an M.D. by returning to medical school. As of October 4, he was again attending lectures at Howard College of Medicine after a brief interim at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City. He attended classes there, at Bellevue Hospital, for two days, but was "discontent," so moved on to Howard University. He simply visited several of his former professors, "stood the quiz alright," and matriculated.

Five months later, on February 29, 1884, at a class meeting, Norcross received notice that he had graduated. His diary entry the next day recorded "when I awoke this morning I tried to realize that I am an M.D. but could discover no great change." He did not wait for the commencement ceremony and instead took the train to Burlington, Vermont, on March 3, staying at Hotel Van Ness that night. He received his M.D. diploma from Howard University in the mail several days later.

Even though Edward Norcross, now Dr. Norcross, had received a medical degree from Howard University, he wanted the same degree from the University of Vermont in his native state and the state of his ancestral practice. In less than a week after qualifying for his degree at Howard, he had traveled to Burlington, paid a five-dollar matriculation fee and started attending lectures at UVM Medical School on March 7, 1884. He was a candidate for another M.D. He was living in Winooski and "engaged board at the Stevens Hotel at four dollars per week."

Having no income but possessing a medical degree, he decided to practice medicine in addition to pursuing another M.D. On April 2nd he paid \$1.50 for a sign, which he "hung out to the public." On April 7th he was called to attend a man with a serious blow to his head, his first patient in private practice. Dr. Norcross wrote on the following day, "I didn't

sleep much as I had considerable anxiety about the patient. Called on patient a.m. and p.m. today. Seems much improved." On the next day, "I visited patient for last time. He paid my bill of one dollar."

As a medical student, he studied, attended lectures and clinics at Mary Fletcher Hospital and took an occasional quiz. As a physician in practice, he saw a few patients, extracted teeth, removed foreign bodies such as a piece of steel from an eye, and kernel of corn from a child's nose.

His final hurdle before graduation from UVM was an examination in mid-June 1884. He went before Professor Little, Professor Grinnell, Dr. Richardson and others. He was successful and became one of one-hundred graduates in medicine. On the evening of June 23, 1884 he "had a splendid time at Commencement. Took my second diploma this evening."* (Footnote:* Both of his M.D. diplomas are certificates entirely in Latin. They were found unframed and are currently in the possession of his grandson, Bruce Norcross.) The aggregate time spent in formal training for his two M.D. degrees totaled two and one-third years, consisting of medical school attendance and apprenticeships. This was a far cry from a half-century earlier when Dr. Coe entered practice in Island Pond with virtually no formal training.

After receiving his UVM degree in June 1884, Dr. Norcross continued to practice briefly in Winooski, then in Wolcott with his former preceptor, Dr. Fairman. At the same time he was earnestly casting about for practice location in northern Vermont. His search led him to Island Pond. On November 12, 1885 he "commenced boarding at the Stewart House at five dollars per week." On November 17th he saw his first two patients in Island Pond, Mrs. James Lyons, whom he charged seventy-five cents and Albert Palmer, for a fee of fifty cents.

Over the next two years, in spite of a growing practice and his credentials, Dr. Norcross decided to add to his knowledge in dentistry and pharmacy. On October 2, 1887, he returned to

Howard University in Washington and matriculated as a dental and as a pharmacy student, quite likely the only M.D. in either course. On March 1, 1888, he graduated from Howard with two additional degrees. His professional card, obviously printed years later, listed his three degrees. Both new degrees were earned by a total of five months of study beyond his previous M.D. degrees. After completing his studies in Washington, Dr. Norcross returned to the Stewart House in Island Pond. One week after receiving his new degrees he was seeing patients again.

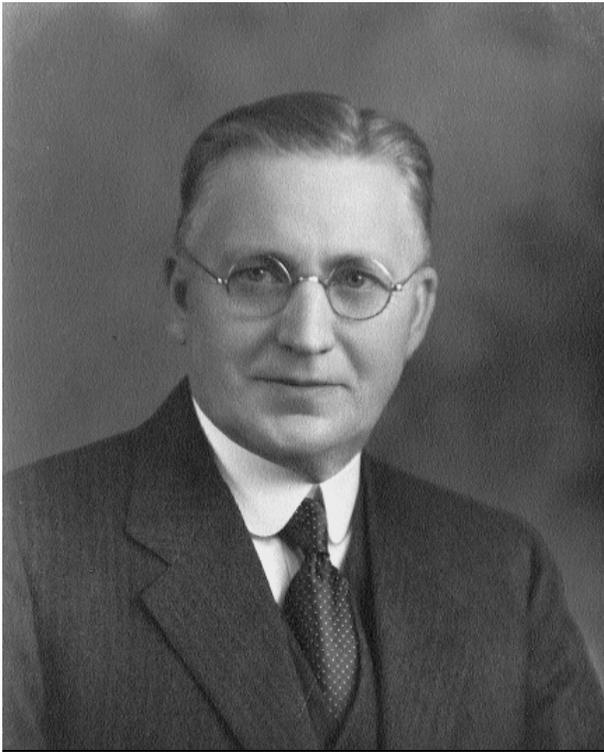
In contrast to Dr. Coe, there is evidence of continuing medical education by Dr. Norcross. During the first decade of the 1900s, he was Health Officer for the Town of Brighton, in which the village of Island Pond resided. As such he attended at least four educational courses consisting of three to four days each, held in Burlington or Montpelier, specifically for Vermont town health officers. On several occasions, he consulted Dr. Stiles, a member of the Vermont Board of Health, especially during small pox outbreaks. The discovery of a case was generally followed by quarantines, a flurry of vaccinations, and occasionally disinfection ("purification") of a residence.

In September 1892 he was appointed Inspector of Immigrants for the Island Pond Port. The position required inspection of immigrants, presumably for infectious diseases, crossing the Canadian border into the United States by railroad. From time to time he received special instructions from Washington regarding medical aspects of his duties and disinfection of baggage.

There were at least three other physicians practicing in Island Pond when Dr. Norcross died in 1926. Two years later one of these practitioners, Dr. Amos Parlin, decided to semi-retire and move to the adjacent town of East Charleston. Dr. Parlin sold his combination home and office to Dr. William McBride, who had just completed a surgical residency at Sherbrooke, Quebec.

Dr. McBride was to conduct a busy general

(



practice in Island Pond from 1928 to 1957, much of that time as the only physician in town. His medical education, completed 44 years after Dr. Norcross completed his, represented a significant advance in training, totaling six years. It included four years of medical school, a one-year internship and a one-year hospital residency, which added up to more than twice as much time in formal as Dr. Norcross. Two sons of Dr. McBride, Bruce (now deceased) and Dalton, survive their father, who died in 1987. Their accounts of their father's education provide the details.

At 17 years of age, William McBride graduated from Carp High School in Carp, Ontario. He soon thereafter enlisted in the Canadian Army and spent three years in France during World War I. After discharge he enrolled in a pre-medical program and for a year attended McGill University in Montreal. According to his son Dalton, he received extra credit as a veteran, and was able to enter McGill Medical School in 1920, after one year of pre-medical study. In 1924 he received the McGill equivalent of an M.D., i.e. M.D.C.M. after four years

of medical school.

Dr. McBride then served a one-year internship at Montreal General Hospital. As was common at that time after internship, he established a practice in 1925 in the community of Ahuntsic, at the northern fringe of Montreal. After a year in practice, he decided on more surgical training and in 1927 became a surgical resident at Sherbrooke General Hospital. In 1928 he purchased Dr. Palin's home/office in Island Pond and moved his family 60 miles to the south to commence the practice of general medicine.

During his nearly 30 years of practice in Island Pond, Dr. McBride was fully involved as an active member of the medical staffs of Orleans County Memorial Hospital and later Broadview Hospital, both in Newport, 22 miles west of Island Pond. These associations provided daily contact with other physicians. He performed surgery, commonly appendectomies, hernia repairs, cholecystectomies and trauma repair. He was also active in obstetrics, accomplishing 2000 deliveries during his practice years. His son, Bruce, estimated that his hospital daily census averaged three to five inpatients. Such frequent professional interactions,



whether by formal consultation or, surgical assistance or hallway conversation, had to be a constant form of continuing education that his predecessors, Drs. Coe and Norcross rarely experienced. Easier mobility by virtue of improving roads and automobiles permitted his attendance at Tri-county (Caledonia, Orleans, and Essex) Medical Society meetings. His son, Dalton, also recalls his father attending a two-week continuing medical education course in 1935 in Boston, sponsored by Harvard University. These many opportunities of exposure to medical updating clearly were easier and more frequent for Dr. McBride than for his predecessors.

The stepwise advancement in medical education of the three doctors demonstrated a century of major improvement. If UVM's faculty member Dr. Benjamin Lincoln were alive now and wished to update his 1883 appraisal of the then simple act of 'turning doctor', he would cite and be proud of today's compulsory and high quality education of physicians, now requiring a great deal of time and "expense of Mental Labour" to become a doctor.

Sources

- (1) Hemenway, Abby Maria. 1868. The Vermont Historical Gazetteer, Volume I. Burlington, Vt.: A.M. Hemenway. Pg. 960
- (2) Child, Hamilton. 1887. Gazetteer of Caledonia and Essex Counties, Vt., 1864-1887. Syracuse, N.Y.: the Syracuse Journal Publishing Co. Pg. 407



Porter H. Dale M.D.
1922 - 2008

Island Pond's Encounter with the Ku Klux Klan - Now It Can Be Told!

by John Carbonneau

The Klan has been around for over a century but most of its activity was centered in the South against the blacks, Catholics and Jews. In the 1920s it exploded nationwide. Large groups were organized and recruited especially in the Midwest and the Northeast. Units were organized in Vermont and this was ably described in a book written by Maudean Neill, "Firey Crosses in the Green Mountains - The Story of the Ku Klux Klan in Vermont." It was sold by the Vermont Historical Society but is now out of print. I purchased and read this descriptive book. Yes, the Klan was organized locally and showed up in robes and hoods. I only knew of one alleged leader but these folks kept well hidden (but with much speculation as to who they were). They made few public appearances.

With the 1928 election featuring Herbert Hoover, the Democrats nominated popular Alfred Smith, Governor of New York. He was Roman Catholic, the first one ever nominated for president. The Klan had a ready target so their family rallies drew hundreds of people. Up here blacks and Jews were scarce so they targeted a heavy Anti-Catholic Appeal.

One cross was burned on the side of Bluff Mountain, I don't recall the second one's location, but the third one was on the ice at the big rock in the frozen lake. Our home had a front row seat in this one and I remember vividly watching it. Mother got us to the front windows and described what it meant. The burners left the burning cross and trudged back across the lake toward us. They came on land between our cottage on the lakeshore and our home on Birch Point. It was too dark to see if they were robed or not. Mother moved us to the upstairs bedroom window overlooking Guy Frazier's field. Up the bank they came visibly outlined against the snow and the lights of Pleasant Street, then hiked across to Fitzgerald Avenue and were gone.

The purpose of the cross burnings was to spread fear to their enemies and rally support for their cause. The lady's book reported huge rallies with whole families present in the Northeast Kingdom but to my knowledge none were held in Island Pond area.

It upset Catholics and some local Protestant citizens who did not support the group. They got their opportunity to help with the Klan's local demise which I will relate later.

Our neighbors Charles and Ada Maw once related to us an incident involving the Klan. They were returning from North Stratford by car and were going up French Hill in the Wenlock woods. It was both curvy and steep, when they rounded a curve in a lower gear where, standing on both sides of the road in robes and hoods were several Klansmen. They had no signs and said nothing. They were making a visible presence for their cause. The Maws drove by and Mrs. Maw recounted that the encounter frightened her. They along with many frightened local Catholics and Protestants who were not in sympathy were concerned.

Smith lost the election which took away one of the problems for the Klan. A major scandal involving national Klan leaders destroyed the group's

influence nationwide. But a letter surfaced in Island Pond, allegedly listing local Klansmen who had not paid their dues. The night staff at the station and a crew who worked at the local Post Office at night were the sources of obtaining the letter. It was copied, and the names were circulated among many Catholics in town. Dad knew of the list and although he never had one himself, he knew several people who did. They surprised many locals by mentioning to individuals listed, "by the way, pay your Klan dues!"

I never saw the list until it came to me about a year ago. I knew all but one or two of those named and all on the list have died. I have never shown the list to anyone and by the time you read this it will have been destroyed.

I am happy to relate this story that I have known and witnessed since I was a child without using names. That could have been an embarrassment to some of the Klan members' survivors; some who had become Catholic through marriage.

My only regret is that no local Klansman has donated an official outfit - robe and hood - to the Historical Society for its Museum. What a unique item to add to Island Pond's local history!

What would those Klansmen have thought to

Recent Deaths

Life Members

Phyllis Bailey
 June Barnes
 Mildred Heath Coe
 Mary Westover Dale
 John B. Egan
 Lois Mcenaney Foss
 Thomas Gemski
 Nelson R. Lay Jr.
 W. Bruce McBride
 Evelyn Allyn McDonand
 Lillian F. Potter
 Dr. Brian M. Riggie
 Lawrence Walker

Members

Harold James Cahill
 Anne Tenney

Non-Members

Sharyn Wing Esmond
 Rev. Roger E. Fletcher
 Lila Mae Paradis Gardner
 Gordon Ladd
 Paul Lucas
 Walter Dick Melcher
 Cecil Ray O'Keefe
 Victor Pond
 Kenneth Rice
 Milton Wing

Memorial Gifts

The Society acknowledges with thanks three memorial gifts:
 A Memorial for Gwen Bailey Osborne Hunt by her husband Reginald Hunt;
 A Memorial for Nancy Pentz by Mike and Peggy Pentz;
 A Memorial for Mary Westover Dale by James and Robin McCann.

see that Americans have grown up to not only elect its first President of Catholic background but also in the first decade of the 21st century, to elect a President with a black parent!

Any comments, corrections or suggestions welcomed!

Local Railroad History... and the Aroostook County Maine Potato

by John Carbonneau

A daily habit since childhood, due to the Lindbergh child's kidnapping, I read The Boston Post bought for two cents at Kane's Store on Cross street and the weekly Essex County Herald. Prior to moving to Florida, I observed daily the long freight trains resting in the yards from Portland always

had twenty or more red, white and blue Bangor and Aroostook Railroad freight cars loaded with potatoes going all over the nation. These trains were our local livelihood and helped employ hundreds locally.

At age 87 I continue this childhood newspaper reading habit (Tampa Tribune, St. Pete Times, and the Wall Street Journal). An October 7, 2010 front page article in the Journal caught my eye: "Debate Boils Over as Harvest Break, a Maine Potato Tradition Fades" Maine's potato harvest is nearly gone and the public demands students no longer need to be dismissed from school to dig potatoes.

In half a century, the local long freight is gone, all the colorful potato cars are scrapped and so is the BAR railroad. The Idaho potato has replaced Maine's around America as watering the lands allowed vast fields of potatoes to be grown there. A

Island Pond Historical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 408

Island Pond, Vermont 05846-0408

Application or Membership Renewal for Memberships ending August 31, 2012.

Mail to: Island Pond Historical Society, P.O. Box 408, Island Pond, VT 05846-0408

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Memberships \$8.00 Regular (), \$15.00 Contributing (), \$50.00 Life Member* ()
Husband and wife may jointly share all memberships.

Mail Your Renewal Today!

Special notice

Membership cards mailed to those enclosing self addressed stamped envelope.

*Life memberships include automatic listing on Memorial Roll of Honor for individuals and/or both parties of shared life membership. Others may be listed on the Memorial for a donation of \$50.00 per person.

Please place Memorial Roll information on a separate sheet of paper.



Howard and Harold Stevens on the snow roller which was used to pack down the snow on the roadways used by horse and sleighs. Photo recently donated by Sue Ayotte.

**Island Pond Historical Society
Inc.
Box 408**

