

# Many Doctors Have Served This Community

## Doctor Credited With Discovering Location of City

(By Paul E. Beidler)

All through the 125 years of the history of Mount Pulaski, up to this Sil-Tennial of 1961, there has been a long list of doctors to care for the sick. In fact, in connection with the founding of Mt. Pulaski in 1836, it was a Springfield doctor, riding horseback to the Yankeetown settlement west of present location of Chestnut, to see some patients, that started the history of doctors in this community.

The doctor was Alexander Shields, and he was attracted to the big hill on the prairie and made an investigation. Returning to Springfield he told his brother-in-law, Jabez Capps, and others, what he had seen, and soon a small group came to the hill to investigate, and this is how it all started, a townsit later being surveyed and plotted.

There were members of the Buckles families living southwest of the present city of Mount Pulaski along the stream known as Lake Fork, as early as 1822, and members of the Downing families living along Salt Creek north of Mount Pulaski. This dated people living in the area before 1836. After Mount Pulaski was founded and began to grow, doctors heard about the new town, and came here to practice their profession.

### Dr. Barton Robinson

One of the first doctors to settle here was Dr. Barton Robinson of Springfield, one of the three principal founders of the new town. Dr. Robinson was born in England and studied medicine in London. After coming to the United States he located in Springfield.

From then on doctors settled in Mount Pulaski. Among the first were Dr. John Clark, coming in 1840. Dr. A. C. DeMent was also one of the early physicians. Other early doctors including:

Dr. Samuel Sargent, 1854  
Dr. Dickinson  
Dr. Mindret Wemple, 1856  
Mr. John C. Hershon, 1858  
Dr. J. N. Pumpelly, 1859  
Dr. Granville Fain, 1860  
Dr. T. C. Brien, 1866  
Dr. P. H. Oyler, 1877  
Dr. W. S. Mendenhall, 1877  
Dr. George Ebrite, 1880  
Dr. A. A. Lanphier  
Dr. A. N. Fellows  
Dr. T. C. Meade, 1881  
Dr. E. C. Nolan  
Dr. N. A. Jones  
Dr. Samuel E. Munson  
Dr. J. H. Beidler  
Dr. F. B. Bullard  
Dr. J. W. Bozarth  
Dr. H. D. Ryman. He gave up his practice in Mount Pulaski and enlisted in World War I. He was killed while on duty in France. Dr. Ryman was buried in Arlington Cemetery near Washington, D. C.

Dr. O. P. Hopping  
Dr. Harry Oyler  
Dr. George S. Connolly  
Dr. R. W. Rigg  
Dr. James R. Rigg  
Dr. Jennie N. Rigg  
Dr. Henry M. VanHook. He began practice of medicine here in 1904. Served in World War I in the Medical Corps and remained in service for many years. Now retired, he was promoted to Colonel, and later to Major. He now lives in Webster Groves, Mo.

Dr. Forrest C. VanHook  
Dr. C. E. Hildreth  
Dr. Rankin  
Dr. E. Hunter Cox  
Dr. Leland L. Cross  
Dr. James Borgenson  
**NOTE:** There may have been others, but research has only uncovered the ones listed here.

The industries of the town were the ordinary blacksmith and wagon shops, carpenter shops and small mill. Prior to the opening of the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis Railroad in 1873, mail was brought from Springfield, or from the stages on their route from Chicago and Peoria to St. Louis.

## DR. FOREST C. VAN HOOK WAS ILLINOIS' 1ST ALL-AMERICAN STAR



Dr. Forest C. Van Hook, well-known and highly esteemed Mt. Pulaski physician and one of the city's best known citizens, died at 8:40 a.m., Friday, Jan. 29, 1937 in Tucson, Arizona, following an illness of more than one year. Death resulted from diabetes and complications. Word had been received here that he was somewhat improved, and the news of his passing was a shock to his wide circle of friends. He was aged 52 years, 1 month and 26 days.

He is survived by his wife, Marie; son Harry, and three daughters, Florence, Mildred and Betty.

### SPORTS WORLD PAYS TRIBUTE (Bloomington Daily Pantagraph)

The death of Dr. Van Hook removes Illinois' First All-American football star and one of the best friends that amateur sports ever had in this state.

The good doctor probably was responsible for more fine athletes enrolling at the University of Illinois than any other Illinois alumnus, but there never was any stigma attached to any of his missionary work. He simply sold the gospel of Illinois and then proceeded to make good by finding work for the boys in Champaign-Urbana.

### Illinois State Journal, Springfield

"The University of Illinois and Logan county have lost a real booster in the death of Dr. Forest Van Hook. The first Illini gridiron star to win All-American recognition, he had done much both for his university and for his home county in recent years. Despite an illness that had kept him under treatment for nearly two years he never lost his interest in athletics."

### Decatur Morning Herald

The death of Dr. Van Hook has taken one of the finest sport followers from central Illinois athletics. His many, many friends will be grieved to learn of his death after his long fight for health, at his home in St. Louis, Chicago, Milwaukee, Rochester, Minn. and in Arizona.

"Doc" was as interested in sports as anyone could be. He attended high school and college games in this vicinity and rarely missed an Illinois football game at Memorial Stadium. In addition to that he was on the sidelines at many practice sessions. Always frank and outspoken, but rarely critical, Dr. Van Hook was as fine a sports-

man as we have ever known.

"A former All-American tackle in his college days at Champaign, the University of Illinois has lost one of its loyalist boosters and central Illinois one of its outstanding sport personalities."

### Howard Millard, Sports Editor of the Decatur Herald says:

Tuesday, Feb. 2, at 2:30 p.m. at the St. John's Lutheran Church in Mount Pulaski, was held services for Dr. C. Van Hook of that city, with the Rev. F. Ludwig of that church officiating.

Dr. Van Hook was one of the first great football stars to be recognized at the University of Illinois, where he was an All-Western lineman for three years. He captained the team in 1908.

Although his profession is one that calls for many hours of hard work, he never once gave up his interest in his old school and athletics in general.

While we first remember Dr. Van Hook as a player, who was secured by the Pekin White Sox to play against the Peoria Socials on Thanksgiving Day in 1908, we had since come to know him very intimately in the last 15 years.

We know of no man who got as much joy out of an athletic event involving any two groups of boys as Dr. Van Hook. You might run into him at any football, basketball, baseball, or softball game within a 100 mile radius of Mount Pulaski. He loved sports but he loved boys more, and when a man can love the other fellow's sons like he did his, then he is all man.

His death was a great shock to hundreds of friends, but we are happy in the thought that while in St. Louis to officiate at a game last winter we had an opportunity to spend a half hour or so with him at the hospital where he was confined. A great fellow, a loyal friend, was Dr. Van Hook.

Stoll Bros. (John and George) were wideawake business men in 1914 era, as they not only sold buggies and phaetons, but the newfangled horseless carriages called automobiles which were coming on the market. They sold an electric Inter-State car for \$2400; Jackson car for \$1950; Studebaker touring car, fully electrified for \$1290. Ford touring Ford car for \$600. They also received a carload shipment of buggies in 1913.

## REFLECTIONS

By H. J. Wible  
Feb. 4, 1937

"He was a Friend of Youth."

"These six words might well be the deepest and sincerest tribute one could pay—

"Van".

To have had the background and the ability to become a great surgeon,

But choosing rather to follow his innermost feelings,

He remained a humble country doctor—

Not thru lack of ability—but

Because his love for youth became such a fine and great part of his life.

His friendship for youth brought eminently in the field of athletics, did not stop there.

He followed with deep interest every school activity that brought him into the fields where youth

competed.

His friendship for youth brought not only inspiration and ambition to these young people.

But he carried in that great heart of his that true sportsman's virtue—

"Play the game fair—win or lose."

His friendship for hundreds of young people did not prevent him from being

Intensely loyal to his own children in whom he took a justifiable pride at all times.

"Van" will be missed not only by youth, but by the entire community.

Mount Pulaski has lost an outstanding character who spread good will and friendship for his hometown and its schools, wherever he journeyed.

We know of no finer inscription that mortal man could merit than this:

"He Was A Friend Of Youth."

## THE LATE DR. ELWOOD HUNTER COX



(March 4, 1954)

Again the guiding hand of the universe has seen fit to take from our midst, one who for 17 years ministered night and day, and day and night, to the physical ills and distresses of mankind in this and neighboring communities. Dr. Elwood Hunter Cox closed his earthly ministrations on last Friday in the early hours of the morning. His age was 45 years.

Death came peacefully as the result of a massive cerebral hemorrhage, at 2:30 a.m. in Decatur and Macon county hospital.

The hour of his passing was at a time which he had many many times in the past ministered to those stricken in body, serving to give them relief and restore them to a full enjoyment of health. Many times at this hour, loved ones stood by fearful but hopeful, that his skill would be sufficient. And in numerous instances it was. Or, it was at such early hours that new life came into being as he stood by waiting patiently to ease bodily pain and to give his cherry and friendly smile of assurance.

Dr. Cox was born July 15, 1908, in Hernando, Miss., a son of W. W. and Maude Shephard Cox. He spent his early life in his home community. After graduation from the University of Mississippi, he went to Chicago and attended the Illinois College of Medicine, and graduated there. He came to Mount Pulaski 17 years ago to practice his profession, and with the exception of time served in the Army Medical Corps in the Southwest Pacific during World War II, being discharged as a Major, he maintained offices in Mount Pulaski.

On Dec. 10, 1942, he was married to Virginia Clear Ey, Mount Pulaski, who survives with two sons, Jimmy and Tommy Cox, and a stepson, Richard Ey.

## AN EDITORIAL OF 1860

"You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage power. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich. You cannot establish sound security on borrowed money. You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence. You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they should do for themselves."

—Abraham Lincoln.