

DR. GEORGE S. CONNELLY SERVED HUMANITY OVER 40 YEAR PERIOD



Dr. George S. Connelly, one of Mount Pulaski's best known and beloved residents, died at 11:55 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 25, 1952, in St. Clara's hospital, Lincoln, Ill., where he had been a patient for over two weeks. He had been in failing health for many months.

Dr. Connelly was aged 73 years, 2 months and 22 days.

He was born Sept. 3, 1879, in Harristown, Ill., a son of Dr. John Julian Connelly and Nancy Lewis Bedford Connelly. He spent his boyhood days in Harristown and attended grade school there. After graduating from the Decatur high school he went to St. Louis, Mo., where he attended the Barnes Medical School, graduating in 1909.

He began the practice of medicine in Latham, remaining about

one year. In the fall of 1910, Dr. Connelly located in Mount Pulaski and for a few years was in partnership with Dr. James R. Rigg.

In Normal, Ill., May 22, 1912, he married Miss Ada Shanklin, who was teaching in the old Mt. Pulaski school in the east part of the city at that time.

Dr. Connelly was a member of the Mount Pulaski Masonic Lodge, and the Ansar Shrine Temple of Springfield. He also belonged to the American Medical Association, the Illinois Medical Association and the Logan County Medical Association.

He is survived by his wife and two sons, John Harold of New York City, and George, of Mundellin, Ill., and one daughter, Dorothy Palmer, of Decatur.

REFLECTIONS

(By H. J. Wible)

DR. GEORGE S. CONNELLY

The Great Physician of the universe has "retired from service", another of his earthly ministers, who devoted his life to the physical welfare of those He created after His own image.

He has called him from our midst to eternal rest to where no tinkling bell in the middle of the night can rouse his weary body and mind.

Where he had dropped for a brief rest after a day and night of service to his fellowman.

Striving to the best of his ability to alleviate the suffering of pain-racked bodies as well as to give words of encouragement to those who stood helplessly by.

This was his particular mission in life—ministering to the physical needs of his friends and neighbors.

With an ever good-natured smile and a bit of banter, that perhaps did more at times to give the sickbed patient that needed "lift" in spirit.

Than did the sugar-coated pills with their medical preparation.

A "country doctor" — and we say that with all the reverence and affection we know the entire community shares—

Has left us, and we are much the poorer for his going. For he will be missed not only for his services to humanity, but for his own loveable personality.

When we think of a country doctor, we think of the men who began their ministrations back in the horse and buggy days.

Back when travel was slow and the calls far apart. Back when muddy, or snow-blocked roads taxed not only the physical strength of the good old country doctor,

But snapped at his spirit as well.

He had to smile and joke even though his own morale was at a low ebb, and it was he who needed that spark.

However, that was a part of his dedication to the needs of his fellowmen.

But these were only a part of his deep responsibility to his community, for to him came the greater privilege.

Of bringing new life into this world—and "his babies" are legion—to safeguard them and help bring them to manhood and womanhood.

That they too, might beget life in the never-ending pattern of human destiny.

Like a river, constantly passing away, and yet constantly coming on.

There have no doubt been many heartaches when the Grim Reaper invaded his community-wide domain and prematurely took one of his tenants to that other clime.

However, many bright memories must have come to him, like sunshine breaking across the hills at the close of a stormy day.

For in the light of that ray, the very clouds that made the day dark, grew gloriously beautiful.

So, we salute you, Doctor, in that Great Beyond, and join in humble homage for a life gloriously spent in our service.

"Think not the good,
The gentle deeds of mercy
thou hast done,
Shall die forgotten all;
The poor, the prisoner,
The fatherless, the friendless,
and the widow,
Who daily own the bounty of thy hand,
Shall cry to Heav'n and put a blessing on thee."—Rowe.

DR. PHILLIP OYLER FIRST PRACTISED HERE IN 1878

A native of Pennsylvania, Dr. Phillip Oyler was born in Carlisle, Oct. 13, 1846, the son of George and Sarah (Hickman) Oyler.

Dr. Oyler was the sixth of 11 children. He acquired his early education in Carlisle, Penn.

Dr. Oyler began his study of medicine with Dr. Keifer, of Carlisle, and later in order to meet his expenses while preparing for his profession, went to Indianapolis, Ind. in 1867, and engaged in the manufacture of the Sarven Patent Buggy Wheel, by which means he accumulated over three thousand dollars. Later he entered the Louisville Medical College of Louisville, Ky., where he was graduated in the Class of 1878.

Returning to Mount Pulaski, where he had first located in 1878 he resumed active practice. He was a surgeon for both divisions of the Illinois Central railroad passing through Mount Pulaski.

In November, 1868, at Indianapolis, Ind., Dr. Oyler and Miss Sarah Westover, daughter of Jonathan and Mary (Bean) Westover, the former a native of New York, and the latter of England.

He was on the city council and during his term of office he did the preliminary work and helped get the water works established.

DR. RICHARD RIGG OPENED PRACTICE HERE BACK IN 1887

Dr. Richard W. Rigg, a successful and prominent physician and surgeon of Mount Pulaski, was a native of the state, his birth having occurred in Mt. Sterling, Brown County, Aug. 5, 1856.

Dr. Rigg acquired his primary education in the public schools of Illinois, and attended State Normal School at Normal.

In 1883, he took up the study

of medicine with his uncle, Dr. B. P. Watts, at Camden, Ill., and later attended lectures at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Keokuk, Iowa, where he graduated in 1887, with an MD degree.

He opened his office in Mount Pulaski in April, 1887.

In 1884, Dr. Rigg was united in marriage with Miss Ida Bank, of Farmington, Iowa, a daughter of Wm. and Catherine (Heinberger) Bank, and had two children, Harry Edward and James Reuel.

DR. L. L. DENISON, 94, PHYSICIAN FOR PERIOD OF 61 YEARS

Lake Fork's No. 1 Citizen, Dr. Lee L. Denison, passed to his eternal reward, January 11, 1960, at 6:30 p.m. in his home when he failed to recover from a stroke suffered on Thursday. He was 94 years of age.

Dr. Denison's passing from the life of his community, which is a few miles southwest of Mount Pulaski, was a distinct loss not only to the residents of Lake Fork but for folks from a wide area.

Dr. Denison was born Jan. 6, 1866, in Burnsville, Braxton Co., West Virginia, a son of James and Rachel Herring Denison.

After graduating from Louisville Medical College in Louisville, Kentucky, he came to Lake Fork in 1898 and began the practice of medicine, that being 61 years ago. He retired from active practice, three years ago, at the age of 91.

Besides his wife, the former Lucy Zelle, he is survived by her daughter in law, Mrs. Helen Denison of Springfield; two sisters, Mrs. Viola Gerwig and Mrs. Estelle Cunningham of Frametown, West Va.

The Bank of Scroggin & Son was formerly conducted by Scroggin & Sawyer, who began business in 1872.

There were four houses of entertainment for the traveler—the Scroggin Hotel, Logan House, Mt. Pulaski House and Palace Hotel.



DR. JAMES R. RIGG PRACTICED HERE FROM 1898 TO 1916

Dr. James R. Rigg practiced medicine in Mt. Pulaski from 1898 to 1916, when he retired and moved to Bloomington, Ill.

He graduated from the College of Physicians & Surgeons in Keokuk, Iowa, where for many years he owned and operated a drug store.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons was at that time the medical department of the Iowa State University.

In 1905, Dr. Rigg entered the New York Post Graduate medical school, where he completed a full course in the study of eye, ear, nose, and throat, becoming a specialist.

During the time he practiced in Mt. Pulaski his father, Dr. John J. Rigg was associated with him for a period of three years.

The late Dr. George S. Connelly was associated with Dr. Rigg at the time of his retirement.

Dr. and Mrs. Rigg, the former Bessie Wacaser, now live in California. Their daughters, Emily (Mrs. Arthur Scroggin) lives in Washington, Ill., and Adelaide (Mrs. Earl M. Rieck), lives in Berkeley, Calif.

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