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Chronology of NEBRASKA CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE

Chronology

1911 (Feb 28): Andrew Foy DC (husband of Anna Foy DC) writes to BJ and Drs. Owen and Brown re: a "decoy letter sent to H.C. Crabtree, and a reply from Crabtree to the effect that he could probably graduate this party in three months" (Metz, 1965, p. 12); Metz says "The Crabtree 'school' had been located in Coffeyville, and an equally scandalous school existed in eastern Oklahoma run by a medical 'wolf in sheep's clothing' that brought disrepute upon the chiropractic cause in that unlicensed state, also" (Metz, 1965, p. 12)

1911 (May 1): Sylva **Ashworth** buys one share (\$1) in Lincoln Hospital Association (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1911: HC Crabtree MD, DC and wife Rosalie Crabtree DC "and her brother Dr. John Calamore, all three Carver graduates, started the Nebraska Chiropractic College in Lincoln, Nebraska. It was unable to keep up with the necessary changes in the academic field and had to close in 1929." (Mawhiney, 1984, p. 247) [but see Foy's letter, 2/28/11]; Crabtree sold the Nebraska College to Drs. H.L. Hanthorne and Dorothy Crane (Beaumont, unpublished)

1912 (June): NE chiros meet at Dr. Ashworth's office to form the "N.C.A. of Nebraska"; Dr. Lee Edwards was absent (Walsh, 1924)

1913 (Aug 4): annual meeting of the NE Chiro Assoc (NeCA) held at Dr Ashworth's office at 401 South 14th St, Lincoln NE, Dr. A elected to board of directors (Campbell, 9/8/13; Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1915 (Sept): **The Chiropractor** [11(9)] includes: -"New chiropractic board organized" (p. 24):

The first meeting of the board of Chiropractic examiners, recently appointed by Governor Morehead under the new law recognizing that profession, was held today at Lincoln. A conference with the governor at his office preceded the business meeting. F.E. Edgerton, legal representative for the Chiropractors' association, was present.

H.C. Crabtree, of Lincoln, was made chairman; H.J. Foster, of Hastings, secretary, and J.R. Campbell, of Norfolk, treasurer. The board began the preparation of a letter and blank form which will be sent to all the Chiropractors of the state, about 100 in number, informing them what the law's requirements are. An examination for licenses will be held within the next month or six weeks. - Lincoln (Neb.) Star, July 17, 1915.

1915 (Nov): **The Chiropractor** [11(11)] includes: -reprint of speech, "Nebraska," by Lee W. Edwards, M.D., D.C. at UCA convention (pp. 55-61); includes:

In October 1914, we had a meeting of the Nebraska Chiropractors Association, whose membership comprised Chiropractors from various schools. When the legislative committee was called on for a report, one member read the Col. Long bill and another read the Morris and Hartwell bill, but they had made absolutely no

preparations for a legislative campaign. A new committee was appointed, one member being from the old Michigan school, another connected with a small school in Nebraska, and myself as the representative of The P.S.C. (The P.S.C. is always represented in everything, you know.) I was chairman of the committee and I took the Morris and Hartwell bill to my attorneys in Omaha, who looked it over carefully, having in view whether any changes would be necessary to make it constitutional and legal in Nebraska. They made a few minor changes. Our bill was a short, simple one, containing only two features - a straight Chiropractic board and a straight Chiropractic license for those who could qualify. Our bill, as drawn, exempted those who had the requisite training and had practiced for three months in the state. The legislature saw fit to increase that time to two years. In drawing the bill **we sought to keep the requirements down as low as possible**, because you can bank on the legislature raising them, no matter where you put them to begin with. They raised the standard for schooling after 1916 to three school years of nine months each. Now, there are no schools teaching three years of nine months each, so after the first of next January Nebraska will be closed until the next meeting of the legislature. At that time we hope to get through an amendment to our bill which will reduce this time and put our requirements in conformity to those in Kansas, North Dakota and the other states which will undoubtedly have Chiropractic bills by that time. We killed a lot of amendments which would have nullified the effect of the bill, but we had to yield on this point. However, by the next meeting of the legislature we will have more Chiropractors in Nebraska, and they will be licensed, and we think we can put up a successful fight on this point...

Our bill was introduced in the Senate and in the House at the same time - two bills exactly the same in wording. We did this for the purpose of forestalling trouble. If either the Senate or the House tried to sidetrack or pigeon-hole our bill, we still had another one to fall back on, and that is exactly what the Senate committee did do...

We gave the members of the legislature adjustments "free-gratis, and a divvil a cint to pay." And, by the way, we had a fine illustration of what good Chiropractic adjustments will do. There was one man in the legislature who, during all his service in that body, had never made a speech and never raised his voice except to vote "aye" or "no." He was one who was given some adjustments. And when the fight came on in the House, and Dr. Hoffmeister got up to talk against the bill, this little fellow got up and said: "It did me good," and he was so much in earnest he shook his fist at Hoffmeister and drove him back into his seat. He created quite a sensation, and one of the legislators said: "Well, if it can make Kime talk it must be good!"...

After passing both houses the bill went to the governor, who signed it, and the bill became a law. On the 8th day of July the governor appointed three Chiropractors from the state to assist in carrying out the law. Now, the laws of Nebraska are peculiar, in that no new boards can be created, so really these men are not state board examiners. The governor is technically the examiner for all boards, but he can appoint certain persons as his secretaries to do certain work, so these three men are really secretaries to the governor, to act for him in examining applicants for Chiropractic licenses...

One great trouble is that after we have been out in the field awhile we lose the "pep" we get at The P.S.C. In fact, we are nothing but storage batteries anyhow. You know we learn in cycles that man

possesses an Innate Intelligence which draws its supply of energy from the universal supply, which we speak of as "U.I." Now, B.J. is to the individual Chiropractor what U.I. is to the individual. We are storage batteries and we have to come back to get a little of that electricity from our universal source of Chiropractic thought – B.J. Palmer. If we didn't do anything more than get recharged with enthusiasm for Chiropractic during our stay at these lyceums, the home-coming would be well worth while. If the fellows would come back to The P.S.C. oftener there wouldn't be any compromise bills.

According to our bill, Chiropractors who have practiced for two years in Nebraska, and who have the requisite schooling, will **get their licenses without examination**. Then we have a state board which will hold examinations for Chiropractors who have a diploma from a chartered school teaching two school years of six months each. The fee charged must accompany the application. Dr. H.J. Foster, of Hastings, Nebraska, is secretary of the board.

I think I have talked to you long enough on legislation – probably long enough on anything, but Dr. Fisher's talk this morning gave me an idea which I want to pass on to you. I was very much interested in his account of the results he gets in diphtheria and typhoid. Dr. Fisher said he could feed typhoid fever patients in ten days. He hasn't been in Chiropractic quite as long as I have. I feed typhoid fever patients right from the start. Of course, Dr. Palmer does not believe in diet, and neither do I, but there is one thing to look out for, and that is not to irritate the ulcerated portions of the intestine, and to avoid fats. I presume that Dr. Vedder has explained to you the physiology of digestion. The carbohydrates and the proteids are largely digested in the earlier stages of digestion – in the mouth, stomach and upper intestine – while fats are not acted upon till they reach the lower intestine. So, while as Chiropractors we do not believe in diet, still I think it would be a bad thing to allow your typhoid patients to eat a lot of fat meat. At least, I never take any chances on it. I am registered to practice medicine in Nebraska, therefore I can sign death certificates, but I haven't signed one in the four years I have been practicing Chiropractic, and I don't want to spoil that record. Dr. Fisher told you he had progressed from medicine through all the stages of mixing till now he is a real Chiropractor. I made the break from medicine to Chiropractic all in one jump, but I want to tell you, boys, the farther I go, the stronger I get for Chiropractic.

"We won't compromise" is a good motto. Apply it to legislation, and apply it to your application of Chiropractic. Don't compromise and don't mix!

1920: Crabtree and Crabtree are operating the **Nebraska Chiropractic College** in Lincoln; they offer a course of 3 years of 9 months each; publish **The Chiropractic News** (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1922 (Feb 9); BJ writes to HH Antles, Sec'y of the Department of Public Welfare, State of NE; BJ notes that the **National Board of Chiro Examiners** (NBCE) has representative visiting various schools, but Crabtree & Crabtree of Nebraska Chiropractic College have refused to cooperate (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1923 (Mar 19): Dr. A writes to Ruth & CS, warns them about someone names Anderson; hopes "we lick the Crabtree outfit - good & hard" referring to battle in NE over required length of chiro curriculum; she is receiving assistance of NE senators Anderson, McGowan, Osborne, Rickard, Shallenberger, Banning, etc. in her legislative battle against the Crabtrees (Cleveland papers, CCC/KC)

1924 (Mar 27): BJ writes to Dr. Ashworth to express his distaste for the Ku Klux Klan as not "Americanism"; discusses "U.C.A. Model Bill"; suggests "I don't think you need to worry about Crabtree [Ne Coll Chiro]. He is a dead one to begin with." (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1924 (Apr 4): reprint of article from the **Herald**, Lincoln NE re: **HC Crabtree**, MD, DC, president/founder of the **Nebraska Chiropractic College**, who is running for election to the state legislature; newspaper criticizes his persecution of PSC grads (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

PHOTOGRAPH



Major B. DeJarnette, D.O., D.C., graduate of the Nebraska Chiropractic College

1925 (Nov 28): EJ Spirk of Wilber NE, who was as state senator was "one of the men who made a fight for the Chiropractic Bill in 1915" according to Dr. **Ashworth**, writes to Dr. A to say that "I shall...take up your case with the Governor in person. I certainly would regret to see the Crabtree faction win out" (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1935 (Aug 31): **JP Rossie of Omaha is now president of NeCA, HC Crabtree of Lincoln is VP**; Rossie writes to Dr. A to ask that she speak on "A broader scope of practice, including obstetrics, and a higher standard for the Chiropractic profession" at the state convention on 9/26-9/27 (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

Telephone INTERVIEW with Major B. DeJarnette, D.O., D.C. on 6/27/91 by J. Keating (H:402-873-5722; W:402-873-6769; visits office on M,T,ThF, 9:30-10AM)

- Dr. DeJarnette practiced in Nebraska City NE
- recalled Sylva as "Palmer Ambassador"; she was instrumental in change in NE chiro law requirements from 27 months of schooling to 18 months
- recalled Crabtree and Crabtree's Nebraska College of Chiropractic; noted he (DeJarnette) was on the Crabtrees' "side"
- recalled Dr. Lee Edwards as a "large man" who was drunk on whiskey much of the time

Telephone INTERVIEW with Ned Heese, D.C. on 7/11/91 by J. Keating; P.O. Box 9242, Kansas City MO 64168 (816-741-9004)

- Lee Edwards (was dean at Palmer?)
- HC Crabtree MD, DC sold Nebraska Chiropractic College to Drs. HL Hanthorne & Dorothy Crane **WHEN?**
- Dr. Heese recommends contact:
- Dr. Borgerson (DC; 82 years old); 2006 Sherwood Court, Council Bluffs IA 51503; (712-323-9722); Dr. Borgerson will know much about Lee Edwards

-Rex Heese, DC (Ned's father); 814 N. Main St, Carroll IA 51401;
Logan grad, 1951; Dr. Rex will know much about continuing
struggle over licensure in NE in 1950s and after

References:

Heese, Ned. Chiropractic innovator: Dr. Major B. DeJarnette. *Today's Chiropractic* 2000 (Sept/Oct); 29(5): 60-2, 64, 66
Metz, Martha. *Fifty years of chiropractic recognized in Kansas*. Abilene KS: Shadinger-Wilson, Inc., 1965