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## *Sylva L. Ashworth, D.C., the Grand Old Lady of Chiropractic*<sup>words:</sup>

16,356

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**Color Code:**

Red & Magenta: questionable or uncertain information

Green: to be used in "Grand Old Lady"?



bookkeeper](Who's Who in NE, 1940; 1931 family geneology compiled by Mrs. Nellie Johnson of Norwich, NY)



Sylva L. Ashworth, circa 1890

### CHRONOLOGY (1874-1958)

#### **Sylva Lula Burdick Ashworth**

-born Peru NE (Dzaman et al., 1980); she is a descendant of the Robert Burdick family of Rhode Island (1931 family geneology by Mrs. Nellie Johnson of Norwich NY)

1874 (Nov 27): born to farmers Joshua Phillip Burdick and Deborah Gray Burdick (Who's Who in NE, 1940); Sylva was one of 10 children, including (according to Schnath, 1988):

**James Wesley**; born 1/31/1854 in Barry IL (Pike County); married Myrtle Strayer

**Lucy Jane**; born 6/7/1856 in Pilot Grove KS (Brown Co.); lived in Garfield NE (Ashworth, 1991 a&b); first husband: Jasper F Brazelton; second husband: W. Jacob Miller

**Rebecca Zada**; born 7/14/1858 in Barry IL (Pike Co.); married Martin D Zinkon on 1/28/1884 in Cass Co. NE; died Lincoln NE

**Ansen Dennis**; born 9/28/1860 in Pilot Grove KS (Brown Co.); married Phoebe Dubuque on 2/22/1882 in Cass Co. NE; died 1/1/29 in Eagle NE

**Ida May**; born 3/22/1863 in Peru NE (Nemaha Co.); married George S Tappen in 1885 or 1886; lived in Tahoe CA (Ashworth 1991 a&b)

**Jerome**; born 10/3/1866 in Peru NE; first wife: Alta Palmer, married 11/18/1890 in Cass Co. NE; second wife: Jessie Grant; remembered as a "sharpshooter" (Cleveland, 1991)

**Edward Philip**; born 8/26/1868 in Peru NE; married Rosa Paddleford on 2/19/1890 in Lincoln NE; lived in Long Beach CA (Ashworth 1991 a&b)

**William Henry**; born 8/27/1870 in Peru NE; married Mrs. Bertha Mott Hill on 6/10/20 in Aberdeen SD

**Sylva Lula**; born 11/27/1874; married 8/16/1892 in Lincoln to "Charles" Pinckney Elliott Ashworth; died 6/6/58 in Kansas City MO

**John Ivan**; born 2/24/1877 in Peru NE; married to Theresa Rudolph on 12/13/01; died 1943 in Cass Co. NE  
Ivan (2nd youngest)

1892 (Aug 16): marries in Lincoln to Pinckney E. Ashworth [born July, 14, 1866 in Hillsville, Virginia; died Ft. Worth TX: Sept. 17, 1928: he was a farmer, school teacher, grocer and

-Dr. A's husband a descendant of Caleb Ashworth, D.D. (1722-75), "a celebrated dissenter who was born at Rossendale, County Lancashire, England; Henry Ashworth, 1794-1880 the friend of Cobden; John Ashworth

1892: graduate of Peru Normal College (Dzaman et al., 1980); or "PSTC"? (perhaps Peru State Teacher's College?)(Who's Who in NE, 1940); **Sylva's parents helped to found Peru Normal College [REF?]**

1892-1909: homemaker near Eagle, NE (Who's Who in NE, 1940); Eagle is in Cass County

1893 (Aug 11): **Glen Robert Ashworth** born to Sylva in Eagle NE, site of family farm; he is in laundry business in 1924 (1931 family geneology by Mrs. Nellie Johnson of Norwich NY)

1895 (Jan 29): daughter **Rose Ruth Ashworth** born in Wisner NE (1931 family geneology by Mrs. Nellie Johnson of Norwich NY); Wisner is in Cuming County (see letter of 1/29/34)



Rose Ruth (Ashworth) Cleveland, D.C.

1897 (May 1): **Allen Delbert Ashworth** born to Sylva in Auburn NE (1931 family geneology by Mrs. Nellie Johnson of Norwich NY)x

1899 (Oct 12): **Lester Burdick Ashworth** born to Sylva in Auburn NE (1931 family geneology by Mrs. Nellie Johnson of Norwich NY)

1901 (Aug 27): **Philip Burdick Ashworth** born to Sylva in Arapahoe OK. He was instructor in business Administration in Caldwell, Idaho (1931 family geneology by Mrs. Nellie Johnson of Norwich NY)

1902 (Apr 25): **Lester Burdick Ashworth** dies (1931 family geneology by Mrs. Nellie Johnson of Norwich NY)

-children include: Glen Robert, Allen Delbert, Lester Burdick, Phillip Burdick, Rose Ruth (Who's Who in NE, 1940)

-brought her children with her to PSC (Julander, 1939); "obtained results for her 'leakage of the heart, cystic tumors, and diabetes...'" (Gromala, 1983); had five children, one died at age 2.5 (Julander, 1939)

-second sec'y (BJ was secretary-treasurer) of the UCA, later she was President of the UCA (Dzaman et al., 1980)

-Carl Jr. says Sylva was first motivated to study chiropractic after being cured of diabetic gangrene by Lee W. Edwards, M.D., D.C.; however, Dr. Edwards didn't graduate from PSC until 1911 (Dzaman et al., 1980; PSC records)



Pinckney and Sylva Ashworth with 2 of their 5 children, circa 1897

1908: According to son, Phil (interviews on 8/27/91, his 90th birthday): Sylva "lost 16 lbs. in dropsy in a few days" under Dr. Olson's care; Phils remembers ankles would swell, but doesn't recall sores, but "she had bad legs"; "I was 7 yrs old when" [Sylva] took sick; Sylva took Al, Ruth and Phil to [North Platte NE/Dr. Olson]; stayed a year, mortgaged NE farm went to school in 1909 at PSC, took 2 of her children with her to Davenport

-was with Sylva during chirocare for diabetes; Dr. Olson located about 35 miles from North Platte in Lincoln County NE; Sylva and children moved back to farm (in Eagle)... "for a bit"; he recalls MDs who treated Sylva unsuccessfully for diabetes etc.: Zinkon MD, Jester MD

-Pinckney would rent farms, but Sylva owned her Eagle farm; Sylva's siblings included: Ida (lived in Tahoe CA), Ed (Long Beach CA), Jerome (NE), William, Ivan (second youngest), Lucy (Garfield NE), Hanson, Jim; Sylva was the youngest child

-according to Lillian (interviews on 8/27 and 8/31/91): Lillian lived with her husband Allen D and son Allen Jr. at Sylva's hom in the 1920s; Allen D. (her husband) "told me he was 12 yrs old when his dad [Pinckney] left him" (i.e., 1909)

1909 (May 6): Sylva enrolls at PSC (PSC transcripts; Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1910 (May 31): Sylva earns DC at PSC (PSC transcripts; Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1910 (July): *The Chiropractor* [6(7)] includes:

-letter from **Sylva L. Ashworth** DC: (p. 27)

1021 L. St., Lincoln, Neb., June 12, 1910  
Dr. and Mrs. B.J. Palmer, Davenport, Iowa.

Dear Friends: - I am now located in my new home, three blocks south of the center of the city. Have several prospective patients. I begin adjusting tomorrow. My prospects, at present, are bright in my home town, which I expect to call on three times per week. One lady in Lincoln was overjoyed to hear one of "Palmer's" graduates had come here. She was going to write for you to send one. I met one of my medical friends the other day and we were talking over the Wilson case. He said he told them they would simply give him a lot of advertising, that he was doing a lot of good and no harm, and they had better leave him alone. He said they had to appoint a prosecuting attorney, because Wilson was adjusting the attorney's family. I met Dr. Shumate. She has been having good success. Received my diploma and U.C.A. certificate all O.K. and am proud of both. I have a picture of our school on my desk. A friend on seeing it said, "My, I had no idea the school was so large." With kindest regards to the faculty and students, I am, Yours truly,

MRS. S.L. ASHWORTH, D.C. (P.S.C. "boy"). (p. 27)

1910 (Sept 2): postcard (Ashworth papers/CCC-KC) from "Hazel" at "Palmer College" Davenport addressed to "Mrs. S.L. Ashworth, 1021 L. St., Lincoln, Nebr." reads:

Got here one hr. late. Things are awful here. Loban has sued B.J. for 20,000 for calling him a murderer. B.J. expelled a student yesterday. A traitor. Lots are here and there is going to be an awful fight. Write you later about it.

Lovingly Hazel."

1910 (Dec 31): Lee W. Edwards, MD "matriculates" at the PSC according to PSC Matriculation Blank; gives his age as 40; home address is given as Antigo, Wisconsin; graduate of Omaha Medical College [which was a department of the University of Nebraska, according to article by Edwards in the **NCA Journal** in 1938] in a program of 3 years of 8 months each; is licensed to practice medicine in Nebraska and Wyoming (PSC Matriculation Records)

1910: Sylva is a pioneer chiropractor in Nebraska, began practice in Lincoln NE (Dzaman et al., 1980)

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)

1911 (Jan): *The Chiropractor* [7(1)] includes:  
-letter to BJ (pp. 30-1):

I find the bright thinking people more easily convinced of the merits of Chiropractic than the ignorant. The road was dark for me till the sunlight of Chiropractic lit up the way and made life worth living. I tell all my patients about the big school with the big clinic and the wonderful mind behind it all. Yours for the good of humanity.

MRS. S.L. ASHWORTH, D.C.

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 (March): "*Chiropractic Journal*" from Davenport, the announcement was given that the Davenport School of Palmers

would lengthen their term to 18 months in 1912" (Metz, 1965, p. 13)

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

1912 (June): NE chiro meet at Dr. A'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 A's office at 401 South 14th St, Lincoln NE, Dr. A elected to board of directors (Campbell, 9/8/13; Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1914: Dr. A treats patients in Nebraska State Prison, including several on death row (newspaper clipping, 9/22/39; Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1914 (Oct): a man "calling...himself a Chiropractor" was found guilty of practicing "medicine without a license" upon appeal to the NE Supreme Court (Walsh, 1924); soon afterwards Lee Edwards MD, DC recommended dissolution of the "NCA of Nebraska" until a satisfactory law for DCs could be enacted (Walsh, 1924)

1914/1915? (Jan 13): newspaper clipping re "Bill to License Chiropractics Is Introduced Into the Senate" (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1915: some sort of chiro law passed in NE, but it was unsatisfactory (Walsh, 1924); only partly satisfactory, provided for a Board of Chiro Examiners (Palmer, **FHN**, Nov 1, 1919[AC 25]; 9(7):2-3)

1915 (Aug 1): Dr. A delivers paper, "Typhoid Fever" to NeCA meeting in Lincoln, follow-up discussion is Lee E Edwards, MD, DC (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1915 (Sept 4): **FHN** [4(29)] prints letter from Dr. Ashworth (p. 6):  
Dear Doctor -

I have a patient, Mrs. Emily P. Hornberger, Probation Officer. She sits with the Judge in Juvenile court and has charge of the Detention Home. She is insured in the "Teachers Casualty Underwriters," of the this city. She fell down the court house steps, bruised her face terribly and threw out the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Dorsals, also subluxated the Axis, causing her to be very nervous and also caused the chest muscles to be sore and contracted. She had trouble with the heart, liver and arm - they recommended that she go to a good Chiropractor or an Osteopath, so she came to me. They sent me a 'Sugeon's report' blank to fill out. Instead of filling out the blank I wrote a letter saying that I was a Chiropractor and not a Surgeon and that I could not use the enclosed blank without legally involving me. I said I had examined the spine of claimant and had found she had badly subluxated 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th dorsal vertebrae, impinging the nerves of the arm, heart, chest and liver. At that time, she had complained of tenderness and pain in arm also inability to raise it, etc., etc., which were caused by impingement of the nerves before mentioned. One question, 'What treatment did you prescribe?' I said, 'Chiropractors do not treat effects, they remove the cause by adjusting the spine.' I gave her Chiropractic adjustments, she collected her claim.

I also got a blank some time ago from the Montana Land Office - patient was a Homesteader and was applying for leave of absence - I scratched out 'practicing Physician duly licensed by the state, etc.,' and put in its place 'I am a Chiropractor.' She got her leave of absence - We are working hard on legislation. We got the Governor we want, and we expect to get legislation this winter sure. Sincerely,

Sylva L. Ashworth, D.C.

?1915 (Aug 18)?: Dr. A is incorporator? of Nebraska Chiropractic Association (Shick, 1990)

1916 (July 15): **FHN** [A.C. 21][5(22):2] notes:

#### IT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF

On May 1st, we announced that the spinogrphic and X-ray work had been divorced from the regular P.S.C. courses. It will continue to be supplied to all students who enrolled BEFORE May 1st, 1916.

AFTER May 1st, this course was a separate one and cost \$25. At that time we enrolled 5 students, viz: Drs. Markwell, Lyman, Post, Buck and Mrs. Thomas.

The \$25 rate continued until July 1st, at which time it was raised to \$50.00. To take advantage of the raise some 55 students enrolled at the \$25 rate, thus saving \$25.

Those who enrolled previous to July 1st, 1916 are:-

1. A.J. Larson, Ludington, Mich.
2. Ruth **Ashworth**, P.S.C.....
8. Carl S. Cleveland, P.S.C.....
43. Warren Sausser, P.S.C....

1917 (Jan 27): Letter from Dr. **Ashworth** to BJ **Palmer** [**FHN** AC 22; 6(20): 12] notes that she has adjusted "Sir Rabindranath Lagore, India's best loved poet and philosopher...Lagore won the Nobel prize of \$40,000. He gave all of this to his school for boys...", which helped in Lagore's recovery from pneumonia, passed patient along to Lee Edwards in Omaha

1917 (Apr 19): daughter Ruth married to CS Cleveland, Sr. at BJ's mansion (Dzaman et al., 1980; family geneology by Mrs. Nellie Johnson of Norwich NY)

1917 (May 2): handwritten letter from SL Ashworth DC in Lincoln NE to Carl & Ruth (Cleveland papers, CCC/KC):

Dear children:

I've had a hard day's work. So much sickness. My case of Renal stones is better but pretty sick yet. It seems before I came home they called Dr. Myers - He gave an overdose of morphine - Mrs. Roberts said she was going to call a Chiropractor. He tried to say Chiropractic was no good & she told him she knew it was alright - so he said he didn't want to be classed with the Chiropractors but they were getting lots of business - In less than a year Dr. Meyers will be sorry he said that.

The darkey porter on the train was real nice to me. He brought me a pillow after the berth was made up. He said do "you all live in Davenport?" I said no I live in Lincoln. I'm a chiropractor. My daughter was married last night. He said was that your daughter that came to the train with you? I said yes. He said "her husband got dare late didn't he" So I explained. He said "It's a mighty po' time to get mah'ed now 'fo livin's so high." The Star came out with quite a write up so I sent Phil down to bought a few copies will send one to B.J. - soon -

Did they kidnap that night? What did they do anyway? Write soon now. Well, must quit & go to bed - its after 12 o'clock.

???, you dont sit up till 15 till 5 any more -

With love, Mother

P.S. Allen has a habit of sleeping on a needle & sticking his arm.

1917 (May 2): newspaper clipping from Lincoln NE **Star** notes: (Cleveland papers, CCC/KC)

#### MISS RUTH ASHWORTH AND CARL CLEVELAND ARE MARRIED

Dr. S.A. Ashworth returned Tuesday from Davenport, Iowa, where she attended the wedding of her daughter, Ruth to Mr. Carl Cleveland. The marriage took place at the home of Dr. and Mrs. B.J. Palmer, president of the Palmer School of Chiropractic. Dr. John Craven read the service. The bridal gown was fashioned of white georgette and she carried a shower of valley lillies and sweetheart roses. Mrs. Palmer acted as matron of honor and Dr. Palmer attended the groom.

After the ceremony a wedding dinner was served at the Blackhawk hotel. Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland will make their home, for the present, in Davenport. The bride is well known in Lincoln. She is a graduate of the Lincoln high school and attended the Nebraska state university for one year.

1917 (May 25): Letter to Dr. A from North American Realty Company notes her purchase of property in Essex Park, Ontario (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1917 (June 23): **FHN** [A.C. 22][6(41)] notes:

-baseball game between **PSC** and **UCC** notes plays by "Cleveland", presumably this is **CS** (pp. 4-5)

1917 (July 7): **FHN** [A.C. 22][6(43)] notes:

Dear BJ

Lincoln, Neb. June 27, 1917

Am sending my photo as per your request. I am also ordering some of those little booklets 'Little Journeys in the Heart of America.' I think it is the best article I have seen and every PSC boy should have them on his table.

Sincerely your friend, DR. **SL ASHWORTH**, DC (p. 1)

1917 (Sept 1): Dr. **Ashworth**'s certificate of attendance at PSC's "Fourth Annual Chiropractic Lyceum Course" (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC); retains copy of Tom Morris' lyceum speech "Legislation - and what kind?"

#### PHOTOGRAPH



Carl S. Cleveland, Sr., D.C.

1917 (Sept 8): **Fountain Head News** [A.C. 22][6(51-52)] notes:

-**Perl B. Griffin** graduates from **PSC** (p. 9)

-**Sylva L. Ashworth** is on executive committee of Missouri Valley Chiropractic Society, which comprises DCs from a number of mid-west states (p. 17)

1917: survey of chiropractic women at PSC, Dr. A says: ...I have known women who weighed less than one hundred pounds that were good adjusters. It is not what the adjuster weighs, but the knowledge and skill possessed that is most important (Gromala, 1983)

#### PHOTOGRAPH





Sylva L. Ashworth, D.C., circa 1918

1918 (Mar 29): grandson CS Cleveland, Jr. born in Webster City IA

1918 (May 18): *FHN* [A.C. 23]; 7(36) notes:

-letter from SL Ashworth to BJ Palmer: (p. 6)

Lincoln, Neb., April 23, 1918

Dear B.J.:

Enclosed find check for inscription on chair. Thanks for the privilege. Think they will be great. I want my name, degree and address also PSC graduate or Palmer Graduate inscribed.

The health officer offered to send a nurse to dress the arm of the lady who was vaccinated. She told him she didn't need it dressed. She says "He wants the credit for helping me and he won't get it because Dr. Ashworth is the one who helped me. Sincerely,

DR. S.L. ASHWORTH (p. 6)

-(exemplary chair is pictured in *FHN* 1918 [A.C. 23] (June 1); 7(38): 4)

1918 (Aug 24): *FHN* [A.C. 23]; 7(50) notes:

-letter from SL Ashworth to BJ Palmer: (pp. 5-6)

Lincoln, Neb., June 13, 1918

Dear B.J.:

A complaint has been filed against Aerni, Edwards and I, charging that we are employing unlicensed *CHIROPRACTORS*. **Is the A.M.A. more unreasonable?** I think not. In fact I think it is a trick of the A.M.A. How some people can be deluded. I have talked with numerous politicians on this subject and they all say the same thing. Nothing will please the A.M.A. better than such proceedings. These complaints are filed with the Board, not in court.

In the Walsh case Daddy made the mistake of saying he still didn't know whether the case was smallpox or not. Dr. Chapman and Dr. Wild, City Supt. of Health and State Bacteriologist, an Assistant of the Board of Health and myself testified it was smallpox, each having examined him. But we also proved the *CHIROPRACTIC* hastened the development of the disease and sometimes obliterated the symptoms to such an extent that the eruption did not appear. Chapman testified the man looked like he had been broken out a week and a lady who had seen him three days previous to the time Chapman saw him testified that he had no eruption at that time. I also testified to the fact that doctors made mistakes in diagnosis, called Chapman's attention to a case of Small-pox which Chapman and five other doctors pronounced Chickenpox. Case was not quarantined just a card on the door. I visited the case made a friendly call. Chapman said yes he remembered the case. It was a very difficult case to diagnose. He also said he thought I had belittled myself by testifying that Smallpox could not be detected in 48 hours to several days in some cases. He said I had always reported my cases in less than 24 hours. In fact, sooner than any one else. That he had said a number of times that I was the best diagnostician in this city- and me a Chiropractor.

I must close and make some calls. Your sincere friend.

SYLVA L. ASHWORTH, D.C.

P.S. How soon we forget that we are fighting for the principals [sic] of Democracy and Universal Brotherhood. I'm sorry.

1919: Iowa State Chiropractors convention votes Dr. A second most famous woman chiropractor

1919 (Mar 8): *Fountain Head News* [A.C. 24] [8(26)]:

-letter from S.L. Ashworth DC to BJ Palmer (p. 6):

Dear B.J.:-

The Union Accident Ins. Co., of Lincoln, refused to take the statement of a *CHIROPRACTOR* in case of illness of policy holder. The Lincoln Accident, The Banker's Life and the Woodman Accident Co. My patient, Representative Anderson, of Wausau, editor of Wausau Gazette, says, "The adjuster said he was sorry I had a *CHIROPRACTOR* for they were quacks, and their company did not recognize them." I told him, "I thot more of my health than I did of their Insurance." I advised him to change his insurance to another company. He said, "No insurance company shall tell me what kind of a doctor to employ."

I first called up the office girl, who told me they did not recognize *CHIROPRACTORS*. She referred me to Mr. Hainey. I called up afterward and talked to some man who was very blunt. I told him I understood they did not recognize *CHIROPRACTORS*. He said, "Well." I said, "I just wanted to know for we report these instances to the Secretary of our Association of 7,000 *CHIROPRACTORS*, all of whom have patients and we want to know where to give our knocks and boosts." He said, "If that is your attitude, report it, I don't care, I can report to our Association of Insurance men." I said, "I hope you do." He slammed up the receiver. Perhaps if I had called on him personally he would have assumed a different attitude but I feel that we are not begging recognition - it is up to them to see the importance of it.

In a conversation with Merritt Blackburn, Secretary of the Banker's Life, he said: "I would not hesitate to take a *CHIROPRACTORS'* proof, nor his examination for life insurance, for I have seen enough of the results of *CHIROPRACTIC* in my own family to know they are competent."

In the case of Mr. Anderson, he had been under medical treatment for two months, gradually growing worse. Had been in bed a week or 10 days when I got him. I had him out of bed in three days, and he will be well enough to attend his duties at the State House next week.

I was sorry to have missed your lecture at Columbus. I was called to Webster City on account of Carl's illness. Did you know Carl Pohlson died of Flu at the S.A.T.C. at Ames, Iowa, the latter part of November?

Sincerely your friend,

S.L. ASHWORTH, D.C.

1919 (Mar 15, Saturday): *Fountain Head News* [A.C. 24] [8(27)]:

-letter to Mabel Palmer from Dr. Ashworth:

Lincoln, Nebr., Oct. 2, 1918

Dear Friend:

I have received your book on *Chiropractic Anatomy* and I am so well pleased with it. **It's merit is even beyond my expectation.** No student of anatomy can afford to be without it. It gives you much in a few words. The cuts are wonderfully clear and understandable. In fact the whole book is.

It is in every sense a *CHIROPRACTIC* Anatomy and as different from the Medical Anatomy as *CHIROPRACTIC* Philosophy differs from Medical Philosophy.

Sincerely, SYLVA L. ASHWORTH, D.C.

1920 (May 18): Dr. A receives certificate from North American Realty Company for property in Ontario

1919 (Aug 23): meeting of representatives of chiro BCEs meets in Davenport IA to endorse the recommendations of the **Federation of Chiropractic Schools & Colleges**; and issues (or recommends?) "standard of education" involving "3 years of 6 months each" to

all states having chiro licensing laws; Dr. **Ashworth**, Dr. **Lee W. Edwards**, and **Anna Foy** DC of Kansas are co-signatories (Ashworth papers, Cleveland/KC)

1919 (Sept 19): Dr. **Ashworth's** son, Allen Delbert Ashworth, has son Allen Ashworth born in North Platte NE (1931 family genealogy by Mrs. Nellie Johnson of Norwich NY)

1920: 19th Amendment to the US Constitutions becomes effective:  
The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex.  
The Congress shall have power by appropriate legislation to enforce the provisions of this article. (Sigler & Getz, 1972)

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)

1920: **Fountain Head News** B[A.C. 25] [17(7)] includes:  
-letter (retyped below and as Appendix A) from **Sylva L. Ashworth** DC to **BJ Palmer** (p. 7):

Lincoln, Nebraska, December 23, 1919

Dear "B.J.":

How small some people can be. What a little thing for one to do to recognize a travelgram and what a mean, contemptible way of asking for a petty \$2.00. The traveler's name is not mentioned. I presume he thinks his adjuster appreciates what he has done for Chiropractic and she is taking credit that is not her due. If she mentioned his name he would know she was interested in dollars and cents rather than in Chiropractic. Personally, I will never send a patient to anyone who wears a dollar mark on his nose and can't see beyond, if I know it. I think too much of my patient. This month I have paid out \$100.00 in cash for taxi service to visit patients who were unable to pay, to say nothing of my own services and my time.

Does it pay? Absolutely. Visit my offices and see. I do not think it would pay if I did it for the sake of "advertising." But, the inevitable law follows: "Cast your bread upon the waters, etc.", "As a man thinketh, so is he," therefore, he does as he thinks, hence you have an absolute assurance as to the "why" the bills are presented to you following the travelgram.

Yours for Chiropractic,  
Sylva L. Ashworth

P.S. I am adjusting two patients at the State Penitentiary and will have a third soon. Watch me. They lock me inside, but strange to say, they always let me out.

1921-22?: **MB DeJarnette** enrolls at the Nebraska College of Chiropractic in Lincoln when "The college was 10 years old"; "Many of the laboratory courses were taught to students of chiropractic at the University" (Beaumont, unpublished, p. 22)

1921 (Jan 12): PSC Dept of Publications writes to Dr. **Ashworth** to request an article for **The Chiropractor & Clinical Journal** (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1921 (June 14): PSC graduates Drs. **Ashworth**, Edwards, Walsh, Vogt and BJ Palmer walk-out of state convention in Omaha over quarrel with non-PSC grads (**FHN**, Aug 6, 1921 [AC 26]: 10[47]:5-6); **suggests NE Branch of UCA formed in 1920, but see 1923 note re: amendments to chiro law**

1921 (Sept 30): HH Harmon issues bill of sale to Dr. A for purchase of "oil property in the Holbrook field, Holbrook, Arizona - same being purchased of Dr. S. Earl Taylor, Holbrook Arizona" (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1922 (Jan 3): HH Antles, Sec'y of the Department of Public Welfare, State of NE, writes to BJ to ask for recommendation re: licensing reciprocity among states (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 NE Chiro Coll have refused to cooperate (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1922 (Feb 13): BJ returns Dr. A's letter of 2/8/22, refers to "our mutual friend, Major Antles" (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1922 (July 1): Dr. A receives letter as share-holder from the "NEBOKAR OIL & GAS SYNDICATE" ("N.O.&G.S.") of Blackwell OK and Omaha NE ("organized under the laws of the State of Oklahoma") indicating the company now owns 10K acres in Holbrook AZ and a "small holding in Oklahoma"; will issue a dividend (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1922 (Dec 22): Central Chiropractic College founded by Drs. Carl Sr & Ruth Cleveland and Perl B Griffin (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1923: the NE branch of the UCA (formed to attempt amendments to NE chiro law [in 1917, 1919 and 1921]; successful in amending the 1915 law (Walsh, 1924); **however, see 6/14/21 report in FHN, which suggests that NE Branch of UCA was formed in 1920**

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, Ostborne, Rickard, Shallenberger, Banning, etc. in her legislative battle against the Crabtrees (Cleveland papers, CCC/KC)

1923 (Apr 11): Dr. A receives letter indicating membership in Lincoln Ad Club from Charles Q. DeFrance, Secy-Treasurer of the club on letterhead of the "Lincoln Trust Company, Lincoln Safe Deposit Company" (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)



Perl B. Griffin, D.C., co-founder of the  
Cleveland Chiropractic College of Kansas City,  
December 23, 1922  
(C.S. Cleveland, D.C.'s brother-in-law)

1923 (Apr 21): **BJ** writes to **Sylva Ashworth** to congratulate her on revision of NE chiro law to ?3 years of 6 mo?; indicates that to Dr. A that "It was to YOU that we must give the lion's end of the ability, time, labor, thought and lobbying that put this amendment

across."; also notes that MN and SD still ask for "3 of 8"; Montana asks for "3 of 9" but accepts "equivalent" practice experience (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1923 (June 11): BJ writes to Sylva Ashworth to say she should not be concerned that "Lee" (?Edwards?) is taking credit for revision in NE chiro law; he and Mabel know that Dr. A did the work; Edwards is taking credit for reduction in NE law from "3 of 9" to "3 of 6"; BJ says "there are a lot of things I detest..." (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1923 (Sept 5): BJ writes to Dr. A re: letter of Aug 28 from the International Publishing Co., mentions that "....some of the Nebraska boys...your state is so badly split...I would not be justified...in either endorsing or condemning..." (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1923 (Oct 22): BJ writes to Dr. A re: "Lawrence and your opinion regarding him on the anatomical question" (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1923 (Nov 20): "Pro Forma Decree of Incorporation of CENTRAL COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTIC" issued by State of Missouri; Missouri State Anatomical Board responds (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1923?/1925? (Nov 21): NE state senator J.C. McGowan of the 11th district (Norfolk) will encourage Governor McMullen to "appoint you to the position that you now hold as Chiropractic examination board...and that I knew that if a member of the Nebr Assoc was appointed that the law would not be enforced as it was intended when passed...I have requested several prominent republicans to write to the Governor" (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1923 (Dec 3): BJ writes to Dr. A: "...We are telling all to respect the Nebr. law and its Board. I am with you folks on that all the way through. I didn't used to be under the older conditions but am now 100%..." (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1923 (Dec 19): Pinckney Ashworth writes to Ruth from Fort Worth TX (Cleveland papers, CCC/KC)

1923 (Dec 20): BJ writes to Dr. A re: her intention to run as an alternate delegate to the Democratic National Convention in NYC; discusses length of chiro college curriculum; forwards "Palmergram" (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

-Central Chiro College renamed Cleveland Chiropractic College by student request in 1924

1924: Dr. A's son, Glen Robert Ashworth, marries Pearl Wildon in Ft Worth TX

1924: "Cleveland & Cleveland, PSC" in BJ's *FHN Chiropractors' Directory*, list their address as 403 Lillis Bldg, Phone, Harrison 820

1924 (Mar 25): EA Thompson of the PSC writes to Dr. A to thank her for recommending Mrs. Elizabeth Jacobi as a prospective student; congratulates Dr. A on her election as delegate to Democratic National Convention (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1924 (Mar 27): BJ writes to Dr. A 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)

1924 (Apr 9): BJ writes to Dr. A re: "adjustment to the coccyx"; discusses his speech "VISIONS OR ILLUSIONS" (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1924 (May 3): in *FHN*, Saturday, May 3, A.C. 29 (1924), Numbers 19-20, p. 29. "PSC" indicated they had graduated from the Palmer School

1924 (May 19): James G. Greggerson DC ("Organizer and Director") of the UCA Publicity Dept writes to Dr. A, notes a favorable article on chiropractic in *Sporting Life*, requests follow-up letter-writing campaign for publicity (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1924 (May 23): BJ writes to Dr. A to say he cannot make ?NE? convention due to conflicting obligations; thanks her for report on the "Guenrich case"; agrees to "meet your Chamber of Commerce Friends" if he can get to Lincoln NE (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1924 (June 23): Dr. A listed "The World" (newspaper) as one of four female "Alternate Delegates at Large" for Nebraska to the Democratic National Convention in NYC; she will stay at the Hotel Pennsylvania; instructed to vote for Gov. Charles W. Bryan (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1924 (June 27): "Vera B" [Vera Beemer; see letter of 10/27/24] of the PSC's NCM Dept writes to Dr. A re: personal matters; also "So glad you are getting such wonderful results with the Neurocalometer, but felt sure that if you couldn't then no one could..." (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC) (a)

1924 (July): *National (College) Journal of Chiropractic* [11(11)] prints:

-J. Lewis Fenner DC, sec'y of the **ACA**, authors "Speaking of protection (pp. 20-1) re: relative merits of **ACA** vs. **UCA**

-**"Resolution Adopted by Nebraska Chiropractic Association At Its Annual Convention" (p. 23):**

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Welfare of the State of Nebraska has seen fit to reduce the educational qualifications from twenty-seven months to eighteen montand in some instances twelve months college training, and

WHEREAS, said Department has offered to license chiorpractors who have violated the law for twelve months in Nebraska by practicing without a license, thereby favoring law-breakers, and consenting that they may be licensed after having taken twelve months' course, and

WHEREAS, we believe tht the educational standard of twenty-seven months which has been maintained for about ten years is necessary for the protection of the public and should be kept without change, and

WHEREAS, the reputable chiropractors of the State of Nebraska and this Association have firmly and steadfastly refused to countenance or approve such a backward step and such favoritism.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Nebraska Chiropractic Association that it continue to to keep up the fight to prevent thus lowering the qualifications for admission to practice and that we continue the fight to prevent the licensing of incompetent, inexperienced, convicted person until the State Department shall see the error of its ways.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we lend every assistance possible in the casse now pending in the Supreme Court to the end that the Chiropractic profession may be kept upon a high plane

-Henry M. **Lindlahr**, M.D. authors "Should Iodine be Mixed with Our Drinking Water?" (pp. 24-6); reprinted from the *Lindlahr Magazine*



1924 (Sept 19): Dr. A, president of NE Board of Chiro Examiners, writes to BJ to notify of upcoming NE Board examinations

1924 (Sept 30): receives assessment notice for real property valued at \$200 in La Salle, Ontario (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1924 (Oct 14): BJ writes Dr. A re: her inquiry re: Psychopathic Sanitarium, he suggests that Dr. A has "control of its policy"; recommends she avoid contact with some man named Scott who may previously have been connected with the Sanitarium (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1924 (Oct 27): Vera Beemer of PSC's NCM Dept writes to Dr. A, indicates her NCM serial # is 1204, indicates Dr. A needs to be "qualified in Neurocalometer technique"; notes her disappointment that Dr. A did not attend lyceum; other personal stuff (b)

1924 (Nov 24): Congressman John H. Morehead of the 1st district of NE writes to thank Dr. A for "your assistance during the recent campaign....as my vote was a splendid one in Lincoln, and I know you did your part" (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1924 (Dec 1): Dr. A's address given as 508 Fraternity Bldg, Lincoln in *The Cornhusker Chiropractor*; "NE Chiropractors' Directory" includes Chas. N. Olson, DC of Wausa NE (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1924/25?: MB DeJarnette graduates from the Nebraska Chiropractic College in a class of 12, including 2 women; "graduated after 27 months" (i.e., 3 years of 9 months) (Beaumont, unpublished, p. 30)

1925: Basic Science Board and exam required of DCs in NE (Metz, 1965, p. 49); [but see 1929: Sawyer]

1925 (Mar 22): Dr. EC Fortin of Los Angeles cables Dr. A to recommend that emphasis in college standardization be placed on subjects rather than hours (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1925 (Mar 24): CS Cleveland writes Dr. A, who is President of the NE Board of Chiro Examiners; he indicates that he thought that "three years of six months each" was already standard among DCs (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1925 (July 13): BJ writes to Dr. A, says NCM will help to eliminate medical subjects in chiro schools; expresses "best regards to Dear, Old Daddy Walsh" and "P.S. - Lee can think what he pleases now, but there is coming a day in a short time, when he will change his thoughts very materially" (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1925 (July 15): Vera Beemer of PSC's NCM Dept writes to Dr. A re: personal matters (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1925 (Aug?): Dr. Ashworth elected Vice-President of the UCA according to letter from CS Cleveland dated 8/10/26 (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1923?/1925? (Nov 21): NE state senator J.C. McGowan of the 11th district (Norfolk) will encourage Governor McMullen to "appoint you to the position that you now hold as Chiropractic examination board...and that I knew that if a member of the Nebr Assoc was appointed that the law would not be enforced as it was intended when passed...I have requested several prominent republicans to write to the Governor" (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

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)

1925/26?: Written statement by Dr. A: "This is to certify that I consider the Cleveland Chiropractic College, one of the best in the country. Second only to the P.S.C. (Signed) Sylva L. Ashworth, D.C., President, Nebraska State Board of Chiropractic Examiners, Vice-President of the UCA" (Cleveland papers-CCC/KC)

1926 (Mar 18): BJ writes to Dr. A "I surely am glad to know that you are going to be appointed on the Board"; BJ inquires about "the Burhorn case"; alludes to an articles on the NCM and "Radionic Analysis" in the *Atlas Journal* and mentions Lee (?Edwards?) and "Maxwell" were involved in the Radionics article (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1926 (July 16): Dr. A receives letter from FG Lundy DC of LaCrosse WI, Secy, Treasurer & Business Mgr of the UCA, indicating that Dr. A, as VP of the UCA, has become president of the UCA upon the death (7/10/26) of CH Wadsworth DC; [check letterhead for BJ's name]

1926 (Aug 3): CS Cleveland writes to BJ, notes Dr. A's use of radionics, her loyalty to BJ and Mabel; notes that Lincoln College had been destined for Denver, expected it to rival "Eastern, Texas and Universal" (Cleveland papers-CCC/KC)

1926 (Aug 10): CS Cleveland writes to Dr. Ashworth, congratulates her as new president of UCA, describes her as "the best known Practicing Lady Chiropractor in America" and "the best friend BJ and Mabel have"; suggests that Drs. Lundy & Edwards "were responsible for giving you a minor office of Vice-President" in an "attempt to shelve" Dr. A; alludes that BJ has been "removed" from the UCA but is running for re-election as sec'y of UCA; describes James Firth and James Drain as BJ enemies (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC):  
Dear Dr. Ashworth:

Just a line of congratulation to the new president of the U.C.A. It is some honor to be the president of the largest Chiropractor's association in the world. While we regret the death of Dr. Wadsworth, it is for the best. One year ago, opinion was such that Lundy, Edwards etc. were responsible for giving you a minor office of Vice-President.

You have been building constructively and actively for Chiropractic and the PSC for 14 years. That policy of active and unselfish devotion to the PSC and BJ has caused you to become the best known Practicing Lady Chiropractor in America. As a supporter of that program you have steadily climbed until the fates have decreed that you be given the opportunity to serve in the highest office in Chiropractic.

To me, I believe this is a dangerous time for Chiropractic. It appears that the Profession is being torn into small groups. A few on the inside, enemies of BJ, have to a large degree removed that strong central, dynamic but benevolent power from the U.C.A. In order that they might control they are catering to those who would further tear down BJ who had been in the past, the U.C.A. I just received a copy of the UCA program in Chicago. The principal speakers are two of BJ's worst enemies, Firth and Drain. BJ made Drain's reputation, and Firth, that he might profit, now tears down Chiropractic's only really great National Asset, the P.S.C. This combined with Edwards, Lundy, and Drain's greed for gain, is tearing down Chiropractic. I firmly believe that BJ is the only one big enough to be leader. I believe that Chiropractic is dependent on the P.S.C. and that leadership. I believe that BJ has hit the bottom and is now climbing. I for one, want to be registered as his friend and hope to build independently and not from the debris of a fallen P.S.C. I believe this is the Crucial moment and



that you, the **best friend BJ and Mabel have**, have been selected to lead through the crisis. In spite of the attempt of the few to shelve you, you are in position to restore the old regime. I hope that you are successful.

Rolfing, of St Louis, has written me for my proxy as he also wants to reelect BJ, Secretary. I am going to get him several proxies if I can. I am not interested in the U.C.A. if B.J. is not re-elected. B.J. has the Brains. B.J. controls **the only investment of any size in Chiropractic, the PSC, WOC etc.** He has more to lose if Chiropractic fails than anyone else. He cant sell out.

If he is not re-elected, I believe that an Association should be and will be formed with BJ as its head. Some of these get alarmed because **we have 2 National Associations. Two Associations represent more people than one can ever hope to represent. I believe it is better for Chiropractic to have two than one, one a check on the other, and yet working side by side for Chiropractic.**

You will remember last U.C.A. Convention, fifteen or twenty Chiropractors with eight or ten knowing what was going on, railroading policies that involved thousands. Why? because the thousands were content to stay home, confident that BJ would keep things steady. I probably wont be there. Rolfing will be there with proxies for B.J. See him and he may be a big help to you in putting B.J. over.

B.J. had about four times as many Chiropractors at his talks, as the State convention had at their business session. B.J. is not dead here. He went over big.

Will close

CS Cleveland, D.C.

1926 (Sept): **Cleveland Chiropractic College Journal** (undated) [1(3)] includes:

-**photo of SL Ashworth, DC**; notes that "Dr. S.L. Ashworth, Lincoln, Nebr., Retiring President of the U.C.A. Cleveland College students have learned to love Dr. Ashworth for her wonderful talks on Chiropractic Philosophy, Prison Reform, Legislation, with which she so frequently favors us while visiting her daughter, Mrs. Cleveland" (p. 2)

1926 (Sept?): Dr. Ashworth is elected third Vice-President of the International Congress of Chiropractic Examining Boards at the Baltimore Hotel in Kansas City MO according to a newspaper clipping from something called the **Nebraska State Journal** of Lincoln; she also visited LH Trotter DC at his health home in Kansas City MO (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC; Turner, 1931)

1926 (Dec 11): CE Schillig DC is new president of UCA, Dr. A is VP, according to a letter from Douglas R Morris DC, Sec'y-Treas of UCA. Dr. Morris request that Dr. A attend semi-annual UCA board meeting in LaCrosse to discuss amalgamation with ACA; Dr. Morris is apparently the son of Tom Morris, attorney and UCA chief counsel (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1926: BJ forms **Chiropractic Health Bureau (CHB)** (Metz, 1965, p. 55)

**1927 (Jan 16): NeCA and NE Branch of UCA meet in Fremont to discuss ????**

1927 (Jan 17): letter to all NE chiros from GO Cast DC, Sec'y of NE Branch of UCA discusses basic science law; notes yesterday's meeting (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1928 (Oct 16): Dr. A writes to AW Schweitert DC re: detrimental effects of basic science law on DCs (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1928: International Chiropractic Congress (ICC) "organized, to consist of the presidents of such colleges, the State Examining Board representatives, and also representatives of State Associations" (Metz, 1965, pp. 54-5)

1929 (Feb 25): letter to SL Ashworth DC from Joseph R Ashworth DC of Alabama

1929 (Apr): **Lincoln Bulletin** includes:

-"Legislative news: Nebraska" (pp. 2-3):

In Nebraska, House Bill No. 577 was introduced, and provided that practitioners of any school of healing were privileged to care for patients in any hospital supported by state or county funds, if the patient so desired. We received information on this measure from Dr. Sylva L. Ashworth, a member of the Nebraska State Board of Chiropractic Examiners. Dr. Ashworth says:

"Your letter received and in reply will say that the House rolle allowing all physicians to practice in publicly owned hospitals was killed by the committee and could not be revived. We had a rather adverse Legislature and were advised by leaders in both House and Senate to leave the Basic Science Law alone this year and attack it next year, which we decided to do. I mean next session of the Legislature. I think the National Publicity is helping all of us."

1929 (Oct 17): Letter from Dr. A to M.B. DeJarnette: re: efforts to influence NE attorney general: (Ashworth papers, Cleveland College/KC):

....tried to convince him that you had a right to use these modalities and the Chiropractors generally were using them. He wishes the Association to bring a friendly suit which will cost about \$200 to determine once and for all whether we can or cannot do anything but adjust the spine. So far as I am concerned I can get along but do not believe we should be restricted. I told the Atty Gen. that these modalities were vibration, the same principle we use in Chiropractic, that I believed that it helped to bring up the reserve force, and that it was always used in conjunction with Chiropractic. I had quite a conversation with him....

1929: NE Chiro College of Lincoln closes (Mawhiney, 1984, p. 247)

**1929: Basic science law passed in NE (Sawyer, 1991a or 1991b); [but see 1925: Metz]**

1929-1950: No DC takes and passes the NE Basic Science exam (Metz, 1965, p. 100)

1930 charter member of NCA (Who's Who, 1980)

1930: AB Cochrane DC, president of ACA and LW Edwards MD, DC, president of the UCA "stepped aside in order that Lillard Marshall might be the first president of the merged, unified national association, the NCA" (Edwards, 1938)

1930 (July 8): newspaper clipping notes Dr. A met with International Chiropractic Congress; other attendees were Anna Foy DC, John A Ohlson DC, Nephi Cottam DC, etc. (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1931 (Sept 18): Dr. receives letter from brother, Phil in Miles City, Montana; notes severity of the economic depression (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1930 (Nov): UCA and ACA "merged to form the National Chiropractic Association" (Metz, 1965, p. 55)

**1931 (Dec 28): BJ writes to Dr. A, urges her to come to lyceum (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)**

1932 (Jan 1,8,11,14): Dr. A writes to "Carl, Ruth & Max"; Dr. A's letterhead lists her as:

-ex-VP of UCA,  
-member of NeState Brd of Chiro Examiners,  
-2nd-VP of Int'l Congress of Chiro Examiners,  
-member of the Council of the Int'l Chiropractic Congress  
-"Palmer Graduate"; Dr. A notes

-address: 402-408 Brownell Bldg, Lincoln

-Dr. A sends "Max" more stamps for his collection; can get Glen some work in Lincoln, will attend dinner of "Business & Prof Women" on evening of 1/8; practice has been busy, made 6 house calls the day before; Phil is in CA; Lee & Grace Edwards visited on 1/13, Grace just graduated from National College and took the IA board; James Slocum (of the IA Board?) threatened Palmer graduates with failure in future exams because they knew nothing of palpation and nerve tracing (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1932 (Oct 19): C.S. Cleveland writes to S.L. Ashworth, D.C. (Cleveland papers, CCC/KC):

Dear Doctor Ashworth:

I wonder if you could get Governor Bryan to lecture before the next annual Convention of the International Chiropractic Congress, Sunday Evening, November 13th., as our Banquet Speaker. We would be glad to have him and pay his expenses if he will do it. He could be back at the State House Monday morning, and not be a single day away from his work. As Chairman of the Program Committee, and as you know Governor Bryan personally, I am asking you to please extend our invitation to the Governor.

Thanking you most sincerely, I am, Very truly yours...

1933 (Feb 24): US Rep. John H Morehead (1st district of NE, Falls City) writes responds to Dr. A's request for work for Raymond J Latrom, is uncertain what will happen when FDR becomes president (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1934 (Jan 2): Dr. A writes to CCC/KC students to thank them for their gift (flowers) while she was in hospital over Christman (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1934 (Jan 29): Dr. A writes to Dr. Ruth on NeCA stationery, which lists her as President; Dr. Ruth's 39th birthday (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)

1935 (Aug-Sept): Dr. A attends NCA convention in Hollywood, photographed among the Pioneers Club (NCA photo collection)

1935 (Oct 11): JA Markwell DC of Omaha forwards Basic Technique notes to Dr. A

1936 (Jan 17): Chas W. Bryan, Mayor of Lincoln [and former Governor of NE], writes to Dr. A...trivial (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1936 (May 25): Wilmer N. McKibben of the NE branch of the New York Life Insurance Co. writes to Dr. A [at #304 Kresge Bldg, Lincoln] to ask for recommendation of person to fill sales staff position (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1936 (June 4): AT Holmes of NCA writes to Dr. A re: basic science laws; indicates that Dr. Ashworth will go to the Democratic National Convention; suggests Roosevelt's re-nomination is a foregone conclusion (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1936 (Sept 4): BJ writes to Dr. A to ask about questionnaire from Council of Chiro Examining Boards (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1936 (Oct 3-4): program for CCC/KC convention & homecoming lists Dr. Ashworth, who will speak re: "Chiropractic in Tumors" [see 1938 publications] (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1936 (Oct 20): James C Quigley, Chairman of NE State Democratic Committee, writes to Dr. A to thank her for her political activities (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1936 (Nov 9): James C Quigley, Chairman of NE State Democratic Committee, writes to Dr. A again to thank her for her political activities; notes successful elections; invites her to attend State Committee meeting (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1937 (July): copy of "The Herald of the Kolar Health Clinic" [in Witchita, KA] features article on John D Rockefeller's care by Wm Jensen DC of Daytona Beach FL (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1938 (July 25): Dr. Ashworth is incorporator of ICC [her name is misspelled "Sylvia"]; Fellow #5 of Int'l Coll Chiro (FICC) (Who's Who, 1980); Articles of Incorporation of the ICC1938 (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1938?: receives award at NCA convention for best scientific paper [according to *Lincoln Sunday Journal & Star*, 8/3/42]; award given at 1938 NCA convention in Toronto according to *Who's Who in Nebraska, 1940* (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1938: publishes "Tumor absorption" in *NCA Journal* and "Chiropractic in tumors" in *Associated Chiropractic Colleges of America News*

1938 (Nov): LW Edwards MD, DC publishes "How far we have come? A pioneer looks back through the years" in *The Chiropractic Journal* [NCA 1938 (Nov); 7(11):11-2]; credits Tom Morris with formulating "a philosophy and science of Chiropractic in order that he might" win acquittal in the Morikubo case

1938 (Nov 21,26): Dr. A and James C Quigley exchange letters re: recent elections (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1938 (Oct 18): James C Quigley writes again to Dr. A (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1939 (Jan 9): Lillard T. Marshall DC sends Dr. Ashworth copy of charter and by-laws of the ICC, notes that she, as a member of the NCA's Gavel Club, is also a member of the board of trustees of the ICC (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1939 (Aug 27): newspaper clipping re: Dr. Ashworth notes she served as president of Logan Basic technique class, etc. (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1939 (Sept 14): JC Quigley writes Dr. Ashworth for recommendations for stenographers and clerks for NE State Democratic Committee (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1939 (Sept 22): newspaper clipping from *The Chiropractic American*, Frances Julander DC, PhC notes Dr. A's activities 25 years before: adjusting patients on death row; based on interview while Drs. A and Julander attended Missouri State Chiro Convention in Jefferson City; Dr. A's son, Allen, is president of the Lincoln Optimist Club; youngest child, Phil, is graduate of NE State university and Lincoln Business College, taught Business Administration for several years and is now attending the Univ of California;

-Dr. A is member of the M.E. church,  
-member of the Eastern Star,

- member of business & Professional Women's Club,
- member of American Legion Auxilliary,
- member of Royal Neighbors,
- only woman member and vice-chairman of the Gavel Club of **NCA**,
- treasurer of the Council of Chiropractic Examining Board of the US and Canada
- says Dr. A: "we are all humble children of God" (Julander [1939] in Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1939 (Oct 6): newspaper clipping (Star) re: Frank Zehrung, former mayor of Lincoln; Silva notes that Zehrung knew DD Palmer, and introduced DD at Silva's request when DD made speech (apparently in Lincoln); notes Zehrung was in sympathy with DCs' campaign for licensure in NE (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1939 (Oct 7): newspaper clipping from *Nebraska State Journal*. "Dr. **Ashworth** is on Chiropractor Board" (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1939 (Oct 7): newspaper clipping from *Lincoln Star*. "Chiropractors Elect Jackson; Beatrice Doctor Chosen President; Dr. Sylva Ashworth on Board" (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1939 (Oct 20): *The Chiropractic American* reports Dr. A was elected in early October to executive board of NE Chiro Assoc at annual state meeting where Cash Asher spoke; Dr. **Ashworth** has been involved with Logan Basic organization (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1939 (Nov 7): Dr. **Ashworth** receives postcard from LM Hill of Little Rock thanking her for donation to "Supreme Court fund" (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1940: Dr. **Ashworth** is VP of Belmont Community Center

1940 (Jan 15): Keith Neville of North Platte NE writes to Dr. **Ashworth** to ask support of his bid for governor (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1940 (Apr 25): Lewis F Downs DC, Exec Secy of Council of Chiro Examining Boards, writes Dr. A, discusses Dr. John Nugent, notes Dr. A's new offices at 306 Lincoln Liberty Life Bldg, Lincoln NE, looks forward to seeing Dr. **Ashworth** at **NCA** convention in Minneapolis [see 8/9/40] (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)



Sylva L. Ashworth, D.C., circa 1939

1940 (May 1): AT Holmes writes Dr. **Ashworth** re: his letter to attorney Charles Dafoe of Tecumseh NE re: who may be considered an "expert witness"; Dafoe also writes to Dr. A this date (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1940 (Aug 9): Alma Cox DC, sec'y-treasurer of NCA's National Council of Women Chiropractors (NCWC) writes to Dr. A, notes their encounter at recent convention [see 4/25/40], notes Dr. **Ashworth's** recent re-appointment as "Legislative Chairman of our N.C.W.C." (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1940 (Aug 22): Dr. **Ashworth** continues on Executive Comm of NE Chiro Assoc (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1940 (Aug 25): *Lincoln Sunday Journal & Star* notes "Mother and Daughter, Chiropractors," Dr. Ruth Cleveland has joined Dr. A in practice in Lincoln NE (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1940 (Nov 15): JC Quigley writes to Dr. **Ashworth**; notes his letter to Gov. Cochran of NE in support of her appointment to NE Board of Chiro Examiners; Quigley also writes to Governor Cochran this date, noting Dr. A's appointment to state Board of Chiro Examiners (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1940 (Nov 19): GB Kirk writes to Governor Cochran in support of Dr. **Ashworth's** appointment to state Board of Chiro Examiners [see 11/27/40] (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1940 (Nov 26): CE Spangler (of Woodmen Accident Company of Lincoln) writes to Gov Cochran in support of Dr. A's appointment to state Board of Chiro Examiners (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1940 (Nov 27): Governor Cochran responds to Spangler's letter 1940 [see 11/19/40] (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1940 (Dec 5): Harold J. Requarte writes to Governor Cochran in support of Dr. **Ashworth's** appointment to state Board of Chiro Examiners (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1940 (Dec 6): LM Rogers of NCA writes to Dr. **Ashworth** to congratulate on appointment to NE state Board of Chiro Examiners (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1941 (Jan 28): EL Michaelson DC (& "basic technician") writes to Dr. **Ashworth** to congratulate her on appointment of NE state board; refers to her as "**GRANDMA OF CHIROPRACTIC**"; wants to learn about Dr. **Ashworth's** technique of abdominal adjusting (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1941 (Apr 12): Mrs. EE Scott, social director of the Hotel Cornhusker in Lincoln, writes to Dr. **Ashworth** to congratulate her on election as president of Lincoln's Business & Professional Women's Club; notes Dr. A will organize 1942 state convention in Lincoln (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1941 (Apr 12): Dr. **Ashworth** notes in letter to Dr. Ruth that even nurses voted for her as president of Lincoln's B&PW Club; warns Dr. Ruth re: passage of basic science legislation in various states, including Missouri; notes that Dr. Ruth, since separation from CS Cleveland, is being courted by many suitors (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1941 (Apr 14): Dr. **Ashworth** writes Dr. Ruth re: suitors; notes new Chiro Board in CA and Dr. Ruth should apply for license right away, info from Lee Edwards MD,DC now in CA; strategies for



- defeating basic science legislation emphasize recent AMA losses (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)
- 1941 (May 24): Dr. **Ashworth** lectures at IL state convention in Chicago on Abdominal Technique (see letter of 6/3/41) (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)
- 1941 (May 28): thank you letter to Dr. **Ashworth** from AG Eichel DC, president, Illinois Chiro Society for her lecture (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)
- 1941 (May 29): thank you letter to Dr. **Ashworth** from MC Carlisle DC, sec'y, Illinois Chiro Society for her lecture "Abdominal Technique", according to a newspaper clipping possibly sent by Carlisle: she suggests that "reflexes in this area have been very beneficial"; AB Cochrane DC introduces her as the "Grand Old Lady of Chiropractic" (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)
- 1941 (May 29): letter to Dr. A from US Rep. Oren S Copeland (1st distric, NE) re HR 1052, mentions Dr. [Emmett?] Murphy (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)
- 1941 (June 3): thank you letter to Dr. **Ashworth** from Albert B Cochrane DC, chairman of board of directors, Illinois Chiro Society for her lecture on Abdominal Technique at state convention in Chicago on May 24, advises her about requesting honoraria (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)
- 1941 (July 10): Dr. **Ashworth** invited by Joe W Seacrest, president of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, to attend opening of new Post Office in Lincoln (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)
- 1941 (Aug 24): newspaper clipping in Lincoln Sunday Journal & Star: "Heads Business Women" notes Dr. **Ashworth** is presient of B&PW Club in Lincon, etc. (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)
- 1941: Chiropractic Health Bureau (CHB) becomes International Chiropractors' Association (Metz, 1965, p. 55)
- 1942a (Mar 22): Harley D Scanlan DC, President of IA Chiro Assoc, invites Dr. A to demonstrate her "technique" at state convention at Arnolds Park on June 28-30 (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)
- 1942 (May 13): James C Quigley of NE/National Democratic Committee writes to Dr. **Ashworth** to agree to find work for Gladys E Bradley, recommended by Dr. A (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)
- 1942b (July 25): Harley D Scanlan DC, President of IA Chiro Assoc, thanks Dr. **Ashworth** for her appearance at state convention (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)
- 1942 (Aug 30): article in *Lincoln Sunday Journal & Star* notes that Dr. **Ashworth** is past president of Lincoln B&PW Club, and received prize for best scientific paper presented at the 1934 [or 1936?] NCA convention (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)
- 1943 (Mar 1): letter to trustees of the ICC re: list of Fellows and non-responsive nominees for FICCs (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)
- 1944: **Ashworth** is founding co-incorporator of CRF (now FCER) (Schierholz, 1986)
- 1944 (Apr 24): Willard E. Townsend, chairman of the Lancaster County Democratic Central Committee (Lincoln) informs Dr. **Ashworth** she has been elected delegate to county convention on 4/27/44 at Hotel Lincoln (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)
- 1944 (Aug 9): Dr. **Ashworth** writes to Kleanthes A Ligeros MD, of Sherican, Wyoming, author of "How ancient healing governs modern therapeutics", re: mention of his pamphlet in the "Nebraska State Journal"; notes she will attend the Democratic Convention in Omaha on 8/1/44 (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)
- 1944 (Aug 30): Dr. **Ashworth** writes to Dr. Ruth, notes her anger that CRF's Rogers and Sweitert are pressuring her for \$1,000 contribution, notes she has given \$50K to chiro over the years, describes previous loan to Int'l Congress of Chiro, money was misspent by Harry Gallaher DC; notes purpose of **CRF** is to improve the schools [rather than research, per se], but doesn't want to throw cold water on project because it will "help the schools equip for a longer and better course"; notes "Bonesetter Richter" will lecture at state convention in October; notes that Mabel Palmer had snubbed her during last visit to Davenport and the PSC seems deteriorated, low student count; mentions surprise picnic for Lee and Grace Edwards, who will be moving to California (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)
- 1944 (Sept 27): Willard E Townsend, county chairman, and John O Chapman, campagin mgr for Lancaster County Democratic Central Committee writes to Dr. A in her capacity as State Committeewoman to attend meeting on 10/2/44 at Lincoln Hotel for FDR's re-election (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)
- 1945 (Mar 23): list of "Licensed Chiropractors in the State of Nebraska" (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)
- 1946: Laws and Regulations Governing the Practice of Chiropractic in Kansas
- 1946 (Jan 26): tax receipt to Dr. **Ashworth** for property in City of Lynn Haven, Bay County FL (20 lots) (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)
- 1946 (May 16): receipt to Dr. A for subscription to NCA's *HEALTHWAYS Magazine* (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)
- 1946 (July 11): receipt for dues to Lincoln B&PW Club (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)
- 1946 (Aug 21): receipts for two \$10 donations to CMCC (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)
- 1946 (Oct 1): malpractice liability payment due (\$10), notice from LM Rogers, Sec'y-Treas, NCIC [now NCMIC] (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)
- 1946 (Oct 7): great grandson CS Cleveland III, DC born in Kansas City MO
- 1946 (Nov 6): paid receipt for taxes (\$94.47) on property ("Hillsboro Tract") in Los Angeles (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)
- 1947 (Jan 8): letter to Dr. A from First Trust Company of Lincoln indicating they will terminate farm mgmt service on property owned in Otoe County NE per her request (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)
- 1947 (Mar 1): letter from OA Ohlson DC, sec'y-treasurer of the **CRF**, writes to Sylva Ashworth, "Executive Member" in Lincoln NE; letterhead indicates officers of **CRF** (in my FCER file; from Ashworth papers, CCC/KC):
- \*Harry K. McIlroy DC, **President**, Indianapolis
  - \*George E. Hariman DC, Vice-President, Grand Forks ND
  - \*Arthur M. Schwietert DC, **Director of Promotions**, Sioux Falls SD
  - \*EA Thompson DC, Director, Baltimore

\*Ford L. Bailor, Executive Director, Chicago

- "Executive Members" of CRF are:

\*Sylvia Ashworth DC, Lincoln NE

\*Albert B. Cochrane DC, Chicago

\*Floyd Cregger DC, Los Angeles

\*Lee W. Edwards MD, DC, Omaha

\*Cecil E. Foster DC, Jacksonville FL

\*Gordon M. Goodfellow DC, ND, Los Angeles

\*EM Gustafson DC, Washington DC

\*Craig M. Kightlinger DC, New York City

\*Charles C. Lemly DC, Waco TX

\*Frank O. Logic DC, Iron Mountain MI

\*Lillard T. Marshall DC, Lexington KY

\*WH McNichols DC, Omaha

\*Waldo G. Poehner DC, Chicago

\*Cecil D. Strait DC, Marietta GA

\*Chas. L. Tennant DC, Detroit

\*F. Lorne Wheaton DC, New Haven CT

\*Loran M. Rogers DC, Webster City IA

-letter indicates:

Dear Doctor:

We have worked another man too hard. Each of us is guilty in "letting John do it" instead of hoisting the load on our own shoulders.

Schwietert is down in bed - seriously ill - for a long time to come. A copy of his letter to me is enclosed.

I think it would be the height of folly to accept his resignation. He may be so completely beaten physically at this moment that the feels one more responsibility will finish him. One the other hand, we men on the Board might help him by refusing his resignation, reaffirming our confidence in his ability to make a comeback and at the same moment attempting to take on the additional load Dr. Schwietert has carried.

Probably no other man has done, nor is doing, so much toward the success of the CRF program.

We must not, of course, ask him to do a single thing for the moment which might still further endanger his health.

If the Board thinks wise, then, I should like to have an expression from you that I use my judgement in writing him officially expressing somewhat the same thoughts as I have given above.

Please write Dr. Schwietert a note expressing your wish for a rapid recovery. Also give me your reaction to my suggestion. Sincerely yours,...

1947 (Aug 6): Dr. **Ashworth** presided at Chiropractic Pioneer Club as Vice-President, Noon Luncheon (Official Program, 1947)

1948 (July 1): presided at Chiropractic Pioneer Club as President, Noon Luncheon (Pioneer Club, 1948)

1948 (Sept): *National Chiropractic Journal* [18(9)] notes:

- "BOTH STILL GOING STRONG! From Dr. **Albert B. Cochrane**, 39 South State Street, Chicago, Illinois" (p. 63):

Dear Dr. Rogers: In the August issue, bottom of page 22, you published the picture of Little Eileen Ohlson, Dr. **Sylvia Ashworth** and myself with the comment in parenthesis (both past 80).

Correction Please

I was born January 19, 1873, which makes me 75. I still practice six days a week, by appointment only, have a good income from practice without working too hard. I love my work, feel good and look in the mirror occasionally to remind myself that I am past 70.

A letter from Dr. **Sylvia Ashworth** states that she got a good laugh out of the Journal saying we were both past 80. Dr. **Ashworth** was born November 27, 1874, and I was born January 19, 1873, so she is 74 years old and I am 75.

It was very remarkable how much benefit **Sylvia** received attending the convention.

1949: Dr. **Ashworth** is honorary citizen of Father Flanagan's Boys Town (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1949: (July 28): presided at Chiropractic Pioneer Club, Noon Luncheon (Official Program, 1949)

1950: Leonard Shuster DC of Ellis, Kansas is first person to take and pass the NE Basic Science exam since 1929 (Metz, 1965, p. 100)

1951 (Mar 5): Dr. **Ashworth** is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Chapter 275, Lincoln NE (Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)

1951 (June): *Journal of the National Chiropractic Association* [21(6): 5] includes article by George A. Smyrl of Springfield, Massachusetts, President of **NCA**, who notes: "When Dr. **Lee Edwards** passed on I did not feel anyone could take his place presiding over the Pioneer Club. Dr. Sylvia **Ashworth** changed my mind quickly. Her keen mind and wit has kept the attendance at Pioneer Club luncheons right up on top. I am sure everyone looks forward each year to this splendid affair."

1951: (July 25): Dr. **Ashworth** presided at Chiropractic Pioneer Club, Noon Luncheon (Official Program, 1951)

1954: Dr. **Ashworth** moves to Kansas City, according to newspaper obituary

1954: (July 21): Dr. **Ashworth** presided at Chiropractic Pioneer Clubas President, Noon Luncheon (Official Program, 1954; Achenbach, 1954)

1958 (June 6): Dr. **Ashworth** died in Kansas City MO, age 83 (Who's Who, 1980); funeral is held at Wadlow Mortuary in Lincoln; Rev. Walter Jewett officiates; buried in Eagle Cemetery; **Drs. BJ and Dave Palmer and Dr. LH Burdick** of Falls City are "honorary pallbearers" (newspaper obituaries; Ashworth papers-CCC/KC)



Carl S. Cleveland, Sr., D.C.

1958 (Aug): *JNCA* [28(8)] notes:

- "In memoriam: DR SYLVIA L. ASHWORTH" (p. 50)

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Friday, June 6, at the Wadlow Mortuary in Lincoln, Nebr. Dr. **Ashworth** died at the age of 83, Wednesday, June 4, in Kansas City, mo. Burial was in Eagle, Nebraska.

Dr. **Ashworth** was born in Peru, Nebraska, and came to Lincoln in 1910. She went to Kansas City in 1954 to make her home with her daughter. Dr. **Ruth R. Cleveland**. During these last years, Dr. **Ashworth** was bedfast, but never did she lose that spirit that had carried her

through the difficulties of life, and for which she was admired by all who knew her.

She was a graduate of Peru Normal College, and started her practice as a chiropractor in Lincoln in 1910, following her graduation from the Palmer School of Chiropractic. Dr. Ashworth was a member of the National Chiropractic Association and was past chairman of the Chiropractic Pioneer Club. She was past-president of the Universal Chiropractic Association; past member of the Nebraska Board of Chiropractic Examiners; past chairman of the Democratic Women's Club of Lancaster County; past-president of the Lincoln Business and Professional Women's Club; past chairman of the board of directors of the Belmont Community Center; member of the Order of Eastern Star; Royal Neighbors; the American Legion Auxiliary, and of the Methodist Church.

The doctor was beloved by many patients in the city of Lincoln, and in the entire countryside. She is survived by a daughter, Dr. Ruth Cleveland, of Kansas City, Mo., two sons, Allen, of Beatrice, and Phillip, of San Diego, California, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Nothing which can be written can, even in a small way, say what should be said of the selfless life that Dr. Ashworth gave to the service of others - her interest and service to the poor, her long hours of devoted service during the 1918 flu epidemic, her stand for what she believed to be right, and for her wonderful service to her profession. What more can be said than that she expressed the ultimate in motherhood, in patriotism, in devotion to others, and as a doctor in her chosen profession. - L.H. Burdick, D.C., Falls City, Nebr.

#### NO DATES:

-chair of Chiropractic Pioneer Club (Who's Who, 1980)

-encourages Carl Jr's interest in chiropractic (C2, personal communication, 1990)

-member of first NE Board of Chiropractic Examiners (Who's Who, 1980)

**Table 1:** Sylva Ashworth's professional (chiropractic) positions\* and honors

1913	Member, Board of Directors, Nebraska Chiropractic Association (9/18/13)
1915	Incorporator, Nebraska Chiropractic Association (Shick, 1991)
1919	"Second most famous woman chiropractor in the country," <b>?Illinois Chiropractic Society?</b> (Who's Who in NE, 1940)
1925	Vice-President, Universal Chiropractors' Association (8/25)
1925	President, Nebraska Board of Chiropractic Examiners (Cleveland, 1925)
1926	President, Universal Chiropractors' Association (7/16/25)
1926	Re-elected Vice-President, Universal Chiropractors' Association (12/26)
1926	Vice-President, International Congress of Chiropractic Examining Boards (9/26)
1927	Vice-President, Nebraska Branch of the Universal Chiropractors Association
1930	Charter Member, National Chiropractic Association (Who's Who, 1980)
1932	Member, Nebraska Board of Chiropractic Examiners (1/14/32)
1932	Vice-President, International Congress of Chiropractic Examiners (1/14/32)
1934	President, Nebraska Chiropractic Association
1936	"Best Scientific Paper," National Chiropractic Association convention (8/3/42)
1938	Incorporator and Member, Board of Trustees, International College of Chiropractors (7/25/38)
1939	Vice-Chair, Gavel Club of the National Chiropractic Association (9/22/39)
1939	Treasurer, Council of Chiropractic Examining Boards of the United States and Canada (9/22/39)
1939-40	Member, Executive Board, Nebraska Chiropractic Association (10/20/39; 9/22/40)
1940	Legislative Chairman, National Council of Women Chiropractors of the National Chiropractic Association
1940	Re-appointed Member, Nebraska Board of Chiropractic Examiners (12/5/40)
1944-47	Founder and Executive Member, Chiropractic Research Foundation (today's FCER/Foundation for Chiropractic Education and Research) (Schierholz, 1986; 3/1/47)

\*Dates indicate minimum terms; actual terms may have been longer

**Table 2:** Sylva Ashworth's business, political and philanthropic memberships, positions\* and honors

1924	Alternate Delegate at Large, Democratic National Convention, New York City (World, 1924)
1936	Delegate to the Democratic <b>?National?</b> Convention (6/4/36)



- 1940 Vice-President, Belmont Community Center
- 1941 President, Lincoln Business & Professional Women's Club (4/12/41)
- 1944 Delegate, Nebraska Democratic Convention (8/9/44)
- 1944 Nebraska Democratic Committeewoman (9/27/44)
- 1949 Honorary Citizen, Father Flanagan's Boys' Town
- 1951 Member, Order of the Eastern Star, Chapter 275, Lincoln Nebraska

\*Dates indicate minimum terms; actual terms may have been longer

**INTERVIEW with Sylvester Shick, D.C.** (5145 "O" St, Lincoln NE 68510 [402-486-1910]) by telephone on 11/19/90; J. Keating, interviewer

- purchased home of Al Ashworth (Sylvia's son), who had owned a Dodge/Plymouth agency
- Dr. A recalled as incorporator of Nebraska Chiropractic Association on 8/18/15
- there once was an "Ashworth Special," a train which brought patients to Lincoln
- she treated as many as 800 patients per day; her associate Dr. Burdick and she would line up 20 patients in chairs in a row, and move down the column; some patients adjusted 2-3 times/day
- son, Al Ashworth continued to receive payment on Dr. Ashworth's accounts receivable after her death
- Dr. Shick will try to locate other doctors or patients who may recall Dr. Ashworth

**INTERVIEW with Carl S. Cleveland Jr, D.C.** in Kansas City MO on 6/9/91; J. Keating and CS Cleveland III, interviewers

#### **Tape 1, Side B**

- unaware that Sylva's kids had come with her to PSC during her studies; acknowledges they might have
- remembers ("what Dr. Ashworth told me"): Sylva had diabetes, diabetic ulcers on legs, which she kept wrapped in gauze (produced fetid odor-quite distressing to Sylva); on one foot had 3 toes turned purple; had made arrangements for leg amputation above the knee (since most ulcers were in "a-pop-liteal" space"); went to hospital....doctors decided she had only 3-4 months to live, ergo no point in amputation
- owned farm just outside Eagle NE; divided farm among family members and arranged homes for her children; someone recommended chiropractor in Omaha (Dr. Edwards); Sylva asks "What on earth is a chiropractor?"
- rents rooms within walking distance of Dr. Edwards' clinic in Omaha, he treats her twice daily for ?how long? after finding "problems" in her mid-dorsal area which he believes affects her pancreas; Edwards unsure of pancreas' role in diabetes; Sylva does her own urinalyses, notes urine gradually becoming clearer and ulcers healing, toes gradually "pinkening up"; she can eat whatever she likes; this inspires her to go to PSC, become DC
- CS, SR. noted 2 office girls with megaphones summoned Dr. A's patients into waiting and adjusting areas of her clinic; Carl Jr. is sure she often saw >100 pts. per day; he remembers 100+ per day
- during 1918 flu epidemic "she lived practically in her automobile and hired a driver to take her from house to house...she would sleep right in the car....she went for days and days and days that way"
- Phil Ashworth: her son (now lives in San Diego); Phil was Superintendent of Schools for San Diego School District
- Lillian Ashworth (daughter-in-law, married Sylva's son Allen) now lives in Los Angeles
- Sylva had "stroke of apoplexy and was paralyzed on one side"; she quit practice and moved to KC; Dr. Ruth adjusted her, which improved her ambulation and also altered her vision: she began to get headaches when she used her glasses (suffered "presbyopia"), so discarded glasses and no more headaches

#### **Tape 2, Side A**

- Dr. A practiced from early morning to late in the evening
- Dr. A was controversial figure in Lincoln; she was warned repeatedly to stay out of the Univ of NE's college infirmary: "She would push doctors and nurses aside and say 'I have patients in here who have asked for my service, and I'm going to go in and adjust them,' and she did! It's kind of hard to stop a woman with a made up mind."; she was a doctor when it wasn't fashionable for ladies to be doctors."
- "I think she had the first automobile in Lancaster County....one of the first." Auto noise scared the horses; women weren't supposed to drive autos
- Dr. A visited "prison in Lincoln at least once a week, maybe more, even though she was busy with her office. She donated her time to adjust inmates."; people of Lincoln thought this was "unlady-like"; Carl Jr. accompanied her many times to prison (he was age 4-6 yrs); prisoners whittled him wooden gifts
- Dr. A was "first woman chosen" to attend Democratic National Convention [**probably incorrect**]; papers made a big deal about a woman attending; "there was a Governor Bryan in NE...she was very close to him; they had their offices in the same building, and this is the brother of William Jennings Bryan....he appointed her to the state board [of chiro examiners]....I've been there when he would call her and say 'Sylvia, it's time for me to appoint a board, again; now who do you want on this board?'; and he would appoint whomever she recommended. "She was interested in politics"
- Carl III: Sweitert (secy) of FICC has a lot of info**
- Carl Jr.: she was president a number of times of the Gavel Club, which was made up of [NCA? UCA?] past-presidents; "she used to love to go to NCA meetings because of that."
- Query re: Sylva's early life; Carl Jr. doesn't know much, but noted: "large book on the family history of the Burdicks" [Carl Jr. may have]**
- son Phil Ashworth would know about Sylva's college training at PSTC/PNS**
- Carl III: Pinckney Ashworth abandoned family, "went south"; Dr. A was not a widower-Carl Jr. surprised...didn't know this-Phil Ashworth later met Pinckney, who had remarried
- Sylva's siblings: Jerome Burdick; Carl Jr. recalls he was from Oklahoma or Texas; Dr. Ruth considered Jerome a bad influence on Carl Jr., because he was a sharpshooter
- Carl Jr. unsure when Sylva met Dr. Lee Edwards**
- Dr. A told Carl Jr.: "BJ did not hit DD Palmer with the automobile....because she said she was there....and that she testified or told BJ, and she says that the old man jumped, and the car did not hit him at all, that he just jumped out of the way and lost his balance and fell. And, she helped him up."
- Carl Jr. heard no other DD stories from Dr. A
- PSC transcript seems to reflect an "A" average: 91 and 6/19 %; she graduates May 3, 1910
- Carl Jr.: "I've always heard her referred to as Sylvia"
- Sylva "liked to study spiritualism...and toward the last she was thinking along the lines of Unity Church of Christianity" which is headquartered in Lee's Summit, Missouri

#### **Tape 2, Side B**

-Dr. A believed in spirits; believed Universal Intelligence was God, Innate was spirit; Unity Church: "Jesus was son of God, but everyone else are also children of God"; she went to seances "for a lark"

**-Phil Ashworth can talk about Sylva's farm, which was 15 miles from Lincoln**

-Lincoln is 250 miles from KC; 6 hour drive in those days

-"She drove fast, extremely fast, and she had powerful cars....an ordinary car wouldn't do....her first car was a lemon yellow car with black fenders....seems like it was a Star."

-"...some smooth salesman had sold her an airplane"; the family talked her out of flying it; Carl Sr. said "You've been flying low for years in your Buick - you ought to be satisfied with that"

-family meals spiced with friendly controversy; "She was NCA and my father was ICA. She liked BJ as an individual, she was really sold on him. She didn't like the milking cow speech and concept....she felt that the NCA was the better organization...she was a straight chiropractor."

-"She lived and breathed chiropractic...she would explain chiropractic to everyone..." (such as streetcar conductors); when she "heard someone had cancer and was given up to die....she would call them on the telephone and she would say 'I think that you can be helped through chiropractic, and you should come to my office and let me examine you and see if there's anything that can be done.' She would call them long-distance, too." Sylva would send them money and put them up in her home. "She had 4 or 5 patients living in her home; different ones would come and go." Terrible smell in her home from the cancer patients

-"She was afraid of x-ray; she had an x-ray machine but she was afraid to use it"; Carl Jr. would x-ray her cancer patients [while he was a student at U of NE...late-1930s]

-in one case wife of MD had breast cancer, a hard tumor (not fluid-filled) caused breast-enlargement to size of a small watermelon (9x11 inches); she carried packages to hide disfigurement; after 3 months of Dr. A's care the x-ray and visual inspection revealed reduction to size of a small walnut (1 inch). Pt's MD-husband said "keep on doing it"; Sylva had solicited her as pt; Sylva continued to adjust patient for 9 months after initial tumor-reduction, but no further reduction in size, contrary to Dr. A's expectations; photos of tumors in jars in **NCA Journal** and **ACCA News** based on this case; Sylva won NCA research award

-Dr. Ruth was executress of Dr. A's estate

-"CS said she belonged to a mixer organization, because they wanted to get more into medicine and away from chiropractic, and that the ICA was keeping it pure....He would kid her about belonging to a pro-medical organization"; but CS attended NCA conventions, sometimes took Carl Jr. along with him; Sylva went primarily because "She enjoyed the NCA Gavel Club meetings more than anything"

-"She became interested in something called radionics - it was some kind of a modality. I remember she had one of those machines." Sylva saw radionics as "just a supplement to chiropractic"

**Tape 3, Side A**

-BJ apparently didn't invite Dr. A to speak at the PSC, but "she was a supporter of Palmer College. She sent money, and I know that she has a chair with her name on it." Carl III: a stately wooden chair with cushions

-Sylva had no official role at CCC/KC, but she guest-lectured (talked about her cases) and sent money

-Sylva though NCM was "a gimmick that BJ was using to make money," but thought that radionics "had some merit"; CS and Dr. Ruth noted "no evidence that the heat from the neurocalometer was caused by the bombardment of impulses at the occlusion of the foramen." But CS allowed that the NCM might be viable, if properly researched

**Telephone INTERVIEW with Russel Sawyer, Jr, D.C.** of 2506 N 72 St, Omaha NE 68134 (H: 402-496-9503; W:402-397-3339) on 6/27/91 by J. Keating

-Dr. Burdick had been sec'y of NE state association for 16 years (when Russ began practice?)

-Basic science law introduced in 1929

-Russ will provide addresses of NE Dept of Health and NE Board of Chiro Examiners

**LETTER from Russell Sawyer, Jr, D.C., 7/3/91**

-Nebraska Department of Health, 301 Centennial Mall South, P.O. Box 95007, Lincoln NE 68509

-Russell Sawyer, D.C., President, NE Board of Chiro Examiners; contact Becky Wisell, P.O. Box 95000, Lincoln NE 68509 for info and old records; **ask for history of NE law: 1915 -> 1923? -> 1927/29?**

-Raymond Stover, D.C., 836 N. Lincoln St., West Point NE; [letter sent 7/7/91]

-Walter (Abie) R. Cane, Box 237, Culbertsen NE 69024 (308-278-2138); [letter sent 7/7/91]

**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

**Telephone INTERVIEW** with Lillian Ashworth (33831 Camino Capistrano #49, San Juan Capistrano CA 92675) and Allen Ashworth Jr. (23722 Whale Cove, Laguna Niguel CA 92677; 714-249-1269) on 8/13/91 by J. Keating and Carl Cleveland III

-Sylva's father, Joshua Burdick, willed his farm to his children; Sylva got 80 acres of "bottom land"; Jerome Burdick received 100 acres of less valuable property

-LH Burdick, DC of Falls City NE (and later in practice with Sylva according to Sylvester Schick, DC) was not related to Sylva

-Lillian doesn't recall "Ashworth Special" train

-Lillian recalls that Sylva went to see some chiropractor in western NE for treatment of her diabetic gangrene (rather than to Omaha and Lee W Edwards); Sylva's sister Ida lived in western NE, so Sylva may have gone west at Ida's suggestion

-Pinckney Ashworth didn't like farming; according to Lillian he "left her when she was sick" and she encountered Pinckney again circa 1925 in Fort Worth TX where he operated a laundromat with son Glen Ashworth; Sylva apparently had no sweethearts after Pinckney

-Allen Delbert Ashworth drove Sylva to her patients during the flu epidemic

-Lillian recalls Sylva as "a wonderful person," that she (Lillian) got along remarkably well with her mother-in-law and that Sylva was quite popular: people loved to talk to her

-Sylva was good friends with Governors Bryan and Cochran of NE; Governor Bryan's private offices were across the hall from Sylva's in the Kresge Building

- Sylva got along well with several MDs in Lincoln NE
- among Sylva's chiropractor friends were Drs. Rankin of Lincoln, Rignetts from Tecumseh NE (her dad locum tenens work for Sylva) and a Dr. Jackson
- Lillian recalls Lee Edwards
- Allen Jr. (?) noted that Sylva had a house in Long Beach which he (?) rented for a while
- Sylva's son, Allen Delbert Ashworth, renamed himself Arthur (not a legal name change)
- "Arthur" lived with Sylva when Allen Jr. was born
- Allen Jr. moved to CA in 1947

**Phillip B. Ashworth**; 3060 Sixth Street #32, San Diego CA 92103-5854

**Interview** with Phil Ashworth, Lillian Ashworth & Allen Jr. Ashworth in San Diego on Phil's 90th birthday (8/27/91) by J. Keating & CS Cleveland III

#### Tape 1

Phil: Sylva "lost 16 lbs. in dropsy in a few days" under Dr. Olson's care; Phils remembers ankles would swell, but doesn't recall sores, but "she had bad legs"; "I was 7 yrs old when" [Sylva] took sick; Sylva took Al, Ruth and Phil to [North Platte NE/Dr. Olson]; stayed a year, mortgaged NE farm went to school in 1909 at PSC, took 2 of her children with her to Davenport

Phil: was with Sylva during chirocare for diabetes; Dr. Olson located about 35 miles from North Platte in Lincoln County NE; Sylva and children moved back to farm (in Eagle)... "for a bit"; he recalls MDs who treated Sylva unsuccessfully for diabetes etc.: Zinkon MD, Jester MD

Phil: Pinckney would rent farms, but Sylva owned her Eagle farm; Sylva's siblings included: Ida (lived in Tahoe CA), Ed (Long Beach CA), Jerome (NE), William, Ivan (second youngest), Lucy (Garfield NE), Hanson, Jim; Sylva was the youngest child

Phil: Sylva bought house in Long Beach across the street from brother Ed; she intended to retire there, but never lived in the house; Allen Jr. and wife later rented

Phil: Sylva's clinic had a room with cots for patients to "rest on" after adjustment; she treated patients with diabetes, cancer, epilepsy; he would drive Sylva to penitentiary and on house calls

Phil: "She was a *powerful* Democrat...they counted on her for 40,000 votes"; she met FDR and Eleanor briefly in Lincoln during train stop during 1932 presidential campaign

Lillian: Lillian lived with her husband Allen D and son Allen Jr. at Sylva's hom in the 1920s

Lillian: Allen D. "told me he was 12 yrs old when his dad [Pinckney] left him"

#### Tape 2

Lillian: Sylva and Dave Palmer were penpals during the 1930s

Lillian: "She was always talking about him" (i.e., Sylva talking about MB DeJarnette DO,DC)

Lillian: "she only lost 2 patients....babies....in the flu epidemic" [of 1918]

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## L.H. Burdick, DC

Letter to C3, 7/29/91

Dear Carl,

I keep running across Dr. L.H. Burdick of Falls City, Nebraska who:

- a. practiced with Dr. Ashworth in Lincoln
- b. was a pallbearer at Sylva's funeral,

- c. had been secretary of the Nebraska Board of Chiropractic Examiners for 16 years when Russ Sawyer DC started in practice

I've also identified ten articles published by L.H. Burdick, D.C.:  
Cervical adjusting. *The Chiropractic Journal* 1937 (May); 6(5):11

Ten most potent factors. *The Chiropractic Journal* 1937 (Nov); 6(11):21

Ten most potent factors. *The Chiropractic Journal* 1937 (Dec); 6(12):17

The forgotten coccyx. *National Chiropractic Journal* 1940 (Oct); 9(10):19

A science was born. *National Chiropractic Journal* 1941 (June); 10(6):17

An NCA member speaks. *National Chiropractic Journal* 1944 (Sept); 14(9):53

The forgotten coccyx. *National Chiropractic Journal* 1940 (Oct); 9(10):19

Reflections of the chiropractic mirror. *Journal of the National Chiropractic Association* 1951 (July); 21(7):14

The care of poliomyelitis. *Journal of the National Chiropractic Association* 1952 (Dec); 22(12):9

Professional terminology. *Journal of the National Chiropractic Association* 1953 (Dec); 23(12):14

Nebraska -- land of opportunity. *Journal of the National Chiropractic Association* 1956 (Apr); 26(4):16

Obviously, I need to be sure to take a look at that "large book on the family history of the Burdicks" that was mentioned by you or Carl Jr. during the interview in June.

## Sylva L. Ashworth, D.C., the "Grand Old Lady of Chiropractic"

Professional Positions\* and Honors

1910	Doctor of Chiropractic awarded, Palmer School of Chiropractic	1934-38	President, Nebraska Chiropractic Association
1913	Member, Board of Directors, Nebraska Chiropractic Association	1938	"Best Scientific Paper," NCA con-vention, Toronto
1915	Incorporator, Nebraska Chiropractic Association	1938	Incorporator and Member, Board of Trustees, International College of Chiropractors
1919	"Second most famous woman chiropractor in the country," Illinois Chiropractic Society	1939	Vice-Chair, Gavel Club of the NCA
1925	Vice-President, Universal Chiropractors' Association	1939	Treasurer, Council of Chiropractic Examining Boards of the United States and Canada
1925	President, Nebraska Board of Chiro-practic Examiners	1939-40	Member, Executive Board, Nebraska Chiropractic Association
1926	President, Universal Chiropractors' Association	1940	Legislative Chairman, National Council of Women Chiropractors of the NCA
1926	Re-elected Vice-President, Universal Chiropractors' Association	1940	Re-appointed Member, Nebraska Board of Chiropractic Examiners
1926	Vice-President, International Congress of Chiropractic Examining Boards	1944-47	Founder and Executive Member, Chiropractic Research Foundation (today's FCER/Foundation for Chiro-practic Education and Research)
1927	Vice-President, Nebraska Branch of the Universal Chiropractors Association	1947	Vice-President, Chiropractic Pioneer Club (NCA)
1930	Charter Member, National Chiropractic Association (NCA)	1948	President, Chiropractic Pioneer Club (NCA)
1932	Member, Nebraska Board of Chiropractic Examiners	1954	President, Chiropractic Pioneer Club (NCA)
1932	Vice-President, International Congress of Chiropractic Examiners		

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**Appendix A:**

From: *Fountain Head News*, January 10, 1920 (A.C. 25), Number 17, p. 7

Lincoln, Nebraska, December 23, 1919

Dear "B.J.":

How small some people can be. What a little thing for one to do to recognize a travelgram and what a mean, contemptible way of asking for a petty \$2.00. The traveler's name is not mentioned. I presume he thinks his adjuster appreciates what he has done for Chiropractic and she is taking credit that is not her due. If she mentioned his name he would know she was interested in dollars and cents rather than in Chiropractic. Personally, I will never send a patient to anyone who wears a dollar mark on his nose and can't see beyond, if I know it. I think too much of my patient. This month I have paid out \$100.00 in cash for taxi service to visit patients who were unable to pay, to say nothing of my own services and my time.

Does it pay? Absolutely. Visit my offices and see. I do not think it would pay if I did it for the sake of "advertising." But, the inevitable law follows: "Cast your bread upon the waters, etc.", "As a man thinketh, so is he," therefore, he does as he thinks, hence you have an absolute assurance as to the "why" the bills are presented to you following the travelgram.

Yours for Chiropractic,

Sylva L. Ashworth

P.S. I am adjusting two patients at the State Penitentiary and will have a third soon. Watch me. They lock me inside, but strange to say, they always let me out.