

# Chronology of Charles E. Caster, D.C. & Family

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1870: autobiography by Paul Caster (*Life and Practice of Dr. Paul Caster*) indicates he is located in Ottumwa Iowa (Caster, 1870; **Palmer Archives?**; in my Magnetism folder)

1874: **Andrew T Still** "flings to the breeze the banner of osteopathy"; item in *Fountain Head News* (1924 (Sept 13); 14(2):13) notes:

### Interesting History

An extract from the history of Wapello County, Vol. 1, page 238, Harrison L Waterman, supervising editor, 1914.

As a matter of history it might be well to state by way of parentheses that Dr. Andrew T. Still, founder of the Osteopathic college at Kirksville, Mo. was one of Dr. (Paul) Caster's patients. It was soon discovered that Dr. Still possessed the same magnetic virtues as Dr. Paul, who advised Dr. Still to start in the practice, and shortly thereafter he began treating patients according to his preceptor's system. He finally founded the school at Kirksville, which now has the national reputation as the leading college of Osteopathy in the country.

Additional information: Dr. Still first considered locating his school at Bloomington, Iowa, but he found there was another sanatorium there, so decided on Kirksville, Mo.

1915 (Oct 9): *Fountain Head News* (4[33]) includes:  
-mentions Caster the magnetic healer (p. 2)

### PHOTOGRAPH



Front row, L to R: "A.V. Coble of Woodbine, president and candidate for re-election; L.M. Rogers of Webster City, candidate for president; H.A. Reiners of West Union, running for director from the northeastern division; Charles E. Caster of Burlington, secretary and candidate for re-election. In the rear row, they are, left to right: L.L. Dolson of Cedar Rapids, running for director from the east central division; C.H. McClure of Rock Rapids, candidate for vice president; E.L. Michaelson of Glenwood, candidate for vice president, and Jerry Bruner of Des Moines, candidate for secretary"; from *The Hawkeye Chiropractor* 1927 (Dec); 3(1): 7; Charles E. Caster, D.C. is Editor of *The Hawkeye Chiropractor*



"Leaders of the Iowa Chiropractors association opened the organization's annual convention here this morning. Among early arrivals were: Helen L. Hamilton, assistant secretary, and C.E. Caster, Burlington, secretary; R.L. Sheeler, Council Bluffs, vice president, and A.V. Coble, Woodbine, president." *The Hawkeye Chiropractor* 1927 (Dec); 3(1): 10; C.E. Caster is Editor of the *The Hawkeye Chiropractor*

1939 (Dec 1): letter from Cash Asher, Public Relations Director for the CHB, to CS Cleveland; John H. Stoke DC, PhC of Roanoke VA and **Charles E. Caster**, D.C., Ph.C. of 203 Kresge Bldg, Burlington IA are on the **ICA Board of Control** (Cleveland papers, CCC/KC)

1942 (Sept): *The Chiropractor* [38(9)]: includes (from Cleveland papers, CCC/KC; in my Palmer box) many articles about the war, also:

-Radio Directory of chiropractic broadcasts, including those of **Charles E. Caster** DC who speaks on Burlington IA's KBUR and **J.N. Haldeman** at 614 Broder Bldg., Regina, Sask., who speaks on Station CKCK on Wednesdays at 4:15 PM (pp. 25-6)

1951 (July): *ICA Review* (6[1]) includes:

- "I.C.A. celebrates silver anniversary" (p. 4) notes that **Charles E. Caster** DC was a member of the first Board of Control of the Chiropractic Health Bureau (CHB), later the ICA

1951 (Sept): *ICA Review* (6[3]) includes:

- "A Tribute" (p. 8) notes that **Charles E. Caster** DC was a member of the first Board of Control of the Chiropractic Health Bureau (CHB), later the ICA

1953 (Nov): *ICA Review* (8[5]) includes:

- "Laymen's Page: They said they were crazy" by **Charles E. Caster** DC, PhC; editor notes that "Dr. Caster is adviser for International Chiropractic Laymen's Society No. 2 of Iowa, located in Burlington. This article shows the Chiropractors viewpoint of the I.C.L.S. and its work." (pp. 14, 32):

### THEY SAID THEY WERE CRAZY

When Alexander Graham Bell talked to someone in another building by means of a wire, people said he was crazy. When some men put a cable under the Hudson River for a telegraph line to Washington, people said they were crazy and were going to put them in an asylum. Such great people would have been committed to mental

institutions had it not been for two things: they had the conviction that they were doing the right thing and they had the fortitude to carry on in spite of those who told them, "It can't be done," simply because those critics, themselves, could not understand, could not envision it.

Starting a laymen's society is no different. There are several essentials. You must, yourself, be sold on the idea, know that it has worked for others and will work for you. You must have the fortitude to carry through that which you start...even if people tell you that you're crazy. You must be big enough to carry through the layman's idea - a Laymen's Society is a laymen's job, not yours; they, not you, must run the show.

You are the adviser to the organization. Don't *tell* the laymen what to do...*suggest* to them what to do and how to do it. Watch closely to see that everything you do is in line with their objectives. Don't veto their ideas...suggest alternatives. Be firm...but be gentle. Such a policy produces results. I know from my many years experience with laymen's groups.

There is one thing any American will not put up with and that is being told that he *can't* do something. Do't say, "I can't get started." And don't let your laymen say, "We *can't* do anything." Capitalize on this trait of Americans...make them prove tht they *can*.

The first step is to get a group of your key patients together at your office. Don't preach, don't lecture, but instead talk to them as friends, as one man to another, and then ask them:

"How would you like to be deprived of the right to go to a Chiropractor? There are forces at work right now to try to take that right away from you, that is why we are here tonight. If you were taken to a hospital you would be deprived of the right to Chiropractic care. Laws are being considered to compel you to be vaccinated, inoculated and to use your school children for experimentation with new drugs, even though some of them - perhaps your own - will be rendered cripples or even killed."

The reaction from your patients will probably be something like this: "What can we do about it? We are only a few."

Well, who makes compulsory laws? Elected representatives. Who elects such representatives? You do. If there are but 25 in your group, each one can influence at least 10 votes - that totals 250. That is 250 probably added to those who would vote on your side already. If you have 100 laymen you could have well over 1000 votes lined up. Such power, rightly used, can keep compulsion out of the laws of our country, states and cities.

Remember, fire spreads and so will this spark which you kindle in your laymen spread. They will take that spark and build it into a flaming torch and carry it on. Your real job, as adviser to the Society, will be to keep your members, in their enthusiasm, from letting the fire get out of control...you must keep them at the right job, see that they use their fire to light the way, not to start a conflagration.

Do not start on too wide a scale. It is better to have a small beginning with steady growth than an impressive start which will dwindle to nothingness. Remember, too, that your officers must grow, must become acquainted with their jobs, gain experience in conducting meetings, learn to plan enjoyable and entertaining as well as fruitful meetings, and most of all, learn to work together. All this takes time...but it can be done.

Great men have been called "madmen" in their time...but they have proven themselves. You can do the same for Chiropractic by organizing a unit of the international Chiropractic Laymen's Society...be the spark that kindles men to action.

1981 (Oct 8): letter to Glenda Wiese MA from Cynthia Short, 682 32nd St, Des Moines IA 50312 (H: 515-279-8130; O: 515-226-9001); Ms. Short is Paul Caster's great-great granddaughter; she reports:

...Jacob Sylveseter Caster, born in 1860, was one of Dr. Paul's sons, the only who was reported to have his fther's gift of magnetic healing.

As an aside, J.S. Caster carried on the magnetic healing business in Burlington IA, starting in 1889. He was elected as mayor of Burlington in 1904. One of his patients was Iowa Governor and Senator John Gear, who attracted several political friends to Dr. J.S.

Caster's practice. I hope to sen you a copy of the obituary of Dr. J.S., contained in the *Burlington Hawkeye*, dated July 12, 1914 (he was also elected President of the Iowa League of Municipalities in 1905).

Dr. J.S. had a son, **Charles E. Caster**, D.C., who graduated from Palmer College, and practiced in Burlington, IA. I do not know when Dr. Charles graduated from Palmer - he may have been one of the first students there. Is there a way to check through your College's records? Dr. Charles Caster was Secretary/Treasurer of the Iowa Chiropractors Association in 1926, when an annual convention was sponsored in Des Moines on November 14-15, 1926. I have reference to a section of the *Des Moines Sunday Register*, dated October 31, 1926, concerning chiropractic and this convention, with Dr. Charles pictured with Dr. B.J. Palmer and other Iowa chiropractors. Mrs. Ludwig has a photo depicting the three generations of "magnetic" healers - Drs. Paul, J.S. and Charles E. Caster - which I hope to obtain and share with you, along with many interesting newspaper clippings on articles their healing practices. There may have been some close ties between the Palmer and Casters in those days.

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