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The Association for the History of Chiropractic (AHC) is a non-profit membership organization committed to preserving and disseminating information on the history of the chiropractic profession. The society was founded at Spears Hospital in Denver, 1980, and held its first annual Conference on Chiropractic History at the Smithsonian Institute in 1981. Each year since the AHC has co-sponsored its annual Conference in conjunction with one of the chiropractic colleges.

Twice per year the AHC publishes the scholarly journal, **Chiropractic History**, which is indexed by the National Library of Medicine in its *Bibliography of the History of Medicine*. Membership in the AHC includes a subscription to **Chiropractic History**; members also receive the AHC's quarterly newsletter. Membership dues are \$50 per year (individual) and \$20 per year (students). Institutions may also become members of the Association; for information about institutional membership, please contact the Executive Director.

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The Short Life and Enduring Influence of the American Chiropractic Association, 1922-1930

A Presentation to the Association for the History of Chiropractic at the
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ABSTRACT

The American Chiropractic Association (ACA) of the 1920s is an ancestor of today's ACA. Established in 1922 as an alternative to B.J. Palmer's protective society, the Universal Chiropractors' Association (UCA), the ACA floundered under its first administration, but found its way when Frank R. Margetts, D.D., LL.B., D.C. was elected its second president in 1923. A skilled orator, Margetts toured the nation to rally support for the new society's policies and programs: independence from any school, higher educational standards, opposition to basic science legislation, national publicity, a clinical research program, and malpractice insurance and legal aid for its members. The ACA accepted straight and mixing chiropractors, but rejected applicants with only correspondence school diplomas. The ranks of the ACA grew after Palmer's 1924 introduction of the neurocalometer and the consequent decline in UCA

membership. Following BJ's ouster from the UCA, the two societies commenced the lengthy negotiations for amalgamation which produced the National Chiropractic Association (NCA) in 1930. The NCA became today's ACA in 1963; the enduring influence of the 1920s ACA upon the present day ACA are considered.

Figure 1: Sequence of organizations that became the International Chiropractors' Association (ICA) and today's American Chiropractic Association (ACA)



Figure 2: John P. Phillips, D.C., first president of ACA, 1922-23

Figure 3: Frank R. Margetts, D.D., LL.B., D.C., second president of the ACA, 1923-29



Figure 4: Craig M. Kightlinger, M.A., D.C., former vice-president of the UCA

Figure 5: Benjamin A. Sauer, D.C., second secretary of the ACA, 1923-30

Figure 6: F. Lorne Wheaton, D.C. of New Haven CT, vice-president of the ACA for Connecticut

Figure 7: Ruland W. Lee, D.C. of Newark NJ, Director of the ACA

Figure 8: Albert B. Cochrane, D.C. of Chicago, ACA President, 1929-30

Dr. Frank Margetts' reply to B.J. Palmer, the NCM and "The Hour Has Struck":

Does Chiropractic Need a Saviour?

In all generations in every worthwhile movement there have been well meaning individuals who have constituted themselves saviours of something which they deemed needed saving. Much of the misunderstanding that has arisen in the profession of chiropractic has come about through the misdirected zeal of those who have believed that chiropractic needed to be saved, and that it could survive only in the event that they did the heroic thing of playing the role of saviour.

Chiropractic needs neither a saviour, a guardian, nor a nurse. It is true that it is menaced by foes within and foes without, but it cannot be destroyed. Its worth has been proven in hundreds of thousands of cases, and, if every friend it has were to repudiate it tomorrow, it would survive in spite of all.

Those who believe that its existence is dependent upon some saviour may be thought of in terms of the Scripture, "Oh, Ye of little faith." I have more confidence in its vitality. For chiropractic has decisively proven that it is healing truth, and truth once revealed so thoroughly can never again be hidden, much less destroyed...

Neither does chiropractic need a guardian, nor nurse. It requires no coddling. It is not a weak, puny infant. It is in sturdy manhood.

Chiropractic leaders may come and they may go, but chiropractic will survive them all. If we need decisive, conclusive evidence of its vitality, all we need to do is to remember the fanaticism, bigotry, intolerance and malignancy that has existed in chiropractic circles almost from its birth, and yet today it is stronger than ever...

So let us eliminate one of the prolific causes of factionalism and animosity in our profession, by discontinuing the assertions that we are doing this thing or that thing with the motive of saving chiropractic [Margetts FR. *Bulletin of the American Chiropractic Association* 1924(Sept); 1(4):1].