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**Color Code:**  
**Black:** information has been used in a manuscript  
**Red:** questionable or uncertain information

**Chronology**

Year/Volume Index to the *Journal of the National Chiropractic Association* (1949-1963), formerly *National Chiropractic Journal* (1939-1948), formerly *The Chiropractic Journal* (1933-1938), formerly *Journal of the International Chiropractic Congress* (1931-1932) and *Journal of the National Chiropractic Association* (1931-1932):

Year	Vol.	Year	Vol.	Year	Vol.	Year	Vol.
		1941	10	1951	21	1961	31
		1942	11	1952	22	1962	32
1933	1	1943	12	1953	23	1963	33
1934	3	1944	14	1954	24		
1935	4	1945	15	1955	25		
1936	5	1946	16	1956	26		
1937	6	1947	17	1957	27		
1938	7	1948	18	1958	28		
1939	8	1949	19	1959	29		
1940	9	1950	20	1960	30		

was relieved of his duties as an officer in the Montgomery County Chiropractic Association.

The first class consisted of one white and two blacks, a ratio that was to continue during the six years of its existence. Since Dr. Reaver felt that segregation exploited blacks he promised to close his school when other chiropractic schools would accept black students. When the International College opened in Dayton around 1950, it was approved for the G.I. Bill and drew several students from Reaver's school. The Reaver School closed in 1951 after having graduated an estimated 166 students, two-thirds of whom were black (Westbrooks, 1982, 50).

**c1945:** catalog of the Reaver School (undated; in my files) indicates tuition is \$550 for "Regular 18 months' course" with a \$50 discount if tuition paid in cash upon enrollment; "philosophy" is taught by CE Reaver DC

1946 (Feb): **Chirogram** [14(4)] includes:  
 -"News release" (p. 16):

Enrollment at the Reaver School of Chiropractic, 148 Salem Ave., Dayton, Ohio, was greater than expected at the close of the first semester of the school's existence, according to Dr. C.E. Reaver, president and founder. The enrollment is made up largely of Negro students.

"Applications and inquiries indicate that we will have between 50 and 60 students attending this year," Dr. Reaver says. "At present two-thirds of the student body are Negroes.

"Chiropractic has been one of a very few professions closed to Negroes and we are receiving an encouraging response from prospective students who have become indoctrinated with the theory and principles of chiropractic, and have desired for some time to embrace it as a profession.

"Chiropractors having contact with Negroes can help the school by making the fact of its existence known to prospective students."

1951 (Dec 28): letter from Paul O. Parr, D.C., president of Carver Chiropractic College, on college stationery; this will lead to the formation of the NAACSC (in my Carver files):  
**TO ALL CHIROPRACTIC SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES ON THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT:**

After considerable discussion with the heads of other schools at the last several State Association meetings and much correspondence in the last sixty days, it seems to have fallen my lot to extend to you an invitation to attend a meeting, the date for which is tentatively set as March 8, 1952, the location for which is tentatively set for Chicago, since it is centrally located and has excellent transportation possibilities.

The purpose of this meeting is the discussion of school problems by school men. You are cordially invited to be represented by any or all bona fide representatives of your school. We urge that you be represented by at least one of your clear-thinking, forward-looking authorities.

1941: Clarence E. Reaver graduates from PSC (Westbrooks, 1982; Wiese, 1994)

1945-1952: Reaver School of Chiropractic operates in Dayton OH (Ferguson & Wiese, 1988)

1945-51: according to Wiese (1994):

...The Palmer School's refusal to accept blacks was inconsistent with B.J. Palmer's public statements of racial tolerance. According to Dr. Clarence Reaver, who graduated from the Palmer School in 1941, B.J. felt that discrimination was detrimental and often lectured at the PSC, "Give me a spine, not a color of the skin, but give me a spine, and I'll set the world on fire" (Westbrooks, 1982, 50). Accordingly, the Palmer School maintained a separate clinic to treat people of color.

Dr. Reaver recounts that he tried to convince B.J. Palmer to accept a promising young black woman, Dorothy Clark, at the school in 1944. B.J. replied that he would put it to a vote of the student body. When the southern bloc of the student body threatened to walk out en masse, B.J. told Reaver, "We just cannot accept Negro students" (Westbrooks, 1982, 50). Since the Palmer School, like most chiropractic schools at that time, was almost totally financially dependent on student tuition, the students' threats were not to be taken lightly. In earlier correspondence with a would-be applicant, B.J. Palmer had reiterated his abhorrence of discrimination, but maintained that to accept blacks would drive away his southern students and put his school out of business.

In response to Palmer's rejection of the black student, Dr. Reaver established the Reaver School of Chiropractic in 1945 in Dayton, Ohio. Reaver recounts that the Palmer School cooperated in the formation of Reaver's school, even to the extent of exchanging faculties for a period of thirty days. Reaction from Ohio chiropractors to the integrated school was negative. Reaver

In recent correspondence with deans and presidents of chiropractic colleges I have made many suggestions as to possibilities of organization of schools, etc. I had thought at first that I would include in this invitation a proposed outline for a school organization. I had even thought of stating my position as to having **another accrediting association**, but I have been advised by the president of one of the chiropractic colleges that this might be taken on the part of some of you as meaning that decisions have been made, when they have not. Should like to quote three sentences from this great educator's letter to me:

"I feel the only thing that is needed is an invitation to the schools to attend a called meeting, which would contain a designated place and time to consider mutual problems for the benefit of all. At the conclusion of such a meeting an association of chiropractic schools and colleges might be formed if that was the consensus of opinion of those in attendance. By this I mean that any action that might be taken and the nature of any association that might be formed would entirely depend upon those attending the meeting."

It is a little difficult for me to inculcate in this letter the urgency I feel without discussing some of the problems of endangering the proposition by giving the impression that conclusions have already been formed. So, again let me invite you and even strongly urge you that in the interest of unity and advancement of our profession and toward the goal of better health services for our people, please, let us once get the brains of the school business into a close-harmony meeting.

Sincerely yours,...

POP:bp

-attached is a list of chiropractic schools and addresses:

ATLANTIC STATES CHIROPRACTIC INST., 699 Ocean Ave., Brooklyn 26, N.Y.  
 BOOKER T. WASHINGTON INSTITUTE, 1803 Prospect, Kansas City 1, Missouri.  
 BEBOUT CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE, 1718 North meridian St., Indianapolis 2, Ind.  
 CALIFORNIA CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE, 1916 Broadway, Oakland, California.  
 CANADIAN MEMORIAL CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE, 252 Bloor St., West, Toronto, Ont. Can.  
 CARVER CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE, 521 West 9th Avenue, Oklahoma city, Oklahoma  
 CHIROPRACTIC INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK, 152 West 42nd St., New York 18, N.Y.  
 CLEVELAND CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE, 3724 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri.  
 COLUMBIA COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTIC, 119 West Franklin ST., Baltimore, Md.  
 COLUMBIA INSTITUTE OF CHIROPRACTIC, 261 West 71st Street, New York, New York.  
 CONTINENTAL CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE, 2024 West 6th Street, Los Angeles, Calif.  
 INTERNATIONAL CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE, 336 North Robert Blvd., Dayton, Ohio.  
 INSTITUTE OF THE SCIENCE AND ART OF CHIROPRACTIC, 55 W. 42nd St., New York, N.Y.  
 KANSAS STATE CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE, 1502 East Central, Wichita, Kansas.  
 LINCOLN CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE, 633 North Pennsylvania, Indianapolis, Indiana.  
 LOGAN BASIC COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTIC, 7701 Florissant Road, St. Louis, Missouri.  
 LOS ANGELES COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTIC, 920 E. Broadway, Glendale, California.  
 MISSOURI CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE, 3117 Lafayette Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

NATIONAL COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTIC, 20 North Ashland Blvd., Chicago, Illinois.  
 NORTHWESTERN CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE, 2422 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota.  
 O'NEILL-ROSS CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE, 412 East Berry Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana.  
 PALMER SCHOOL OF CHIROPRACTIC, Brady Street, Davenport, Iowa.  
 RATLEDGE CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE, 3511 West Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles, California.  
 REST VIEW UNIVERSITY OF CHIROPRACTIC, 416 West 125th St., Seattle, Washington.  
 REAVER SCHOOL OF CHIROPRACTIC, Albuquerque, New Mexico.  
 SAN FRANCISCO CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE, 1122 Sutter Street, San Francisco, Calif.  
 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTIC, 1609 W. 9th St., Los Angeles, Calif.  
 TEXAS COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTIC, 618 Myrtle Street, San Antonio, Texas  
 UNIVERSITY OF NATURAL HEALING ARTS, 1600 Logan Street, Denver, Colorado.  
 WESTERN COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTIC, 1419 Stout Street, Denver, Colorado.  
 WESTERN STATES COLLEGE, 4525 S.E. 63rd Avenue, Portland, Oregon.

1982: **Chiropractic History** [14(1)] includes:

-Bobby Westbrooks DC's "The troubled legacy of Harvey Lillard: the black experience in chiropractic" (Westbrooks, 1982) includes:

...Dr. Clarence E. Reaver, the founder of The Reaver School of Chiropractic in Dayton, Ohio is now retired in Pass Christian, Mississippi. His taped remembrances of the events which led to the founding of the school sheds light on the seeming inconsistency between B.J. Palmer's refusal to admit Blacks to the Palmer School and his public statements of racial tolerance. For example, B.J. was quoted by Dr. Marcus Bach as saying, "The color of a man's skin does not in any way detract from his creative contribution, nor does it devalue his social service." And according to Dr. Reaver, B.J. felt that discrimination was most detrimental and often lectured at the Palmer School, 'Give me a spine, not a color of the skin, but give me a spine, and I'll set the world on fire.' The Palmer School also maintained a "negro" practice in the Student Clinic, a clinic where Dr. Reaver treated patients as a student doctor.

Dr. Reaver graduated from Palmer in 1941 and set up an integrated practice in Dayton, Ohio. One of his Black patients, a young woman he had successfully treated for a spinal curvature, expressed a desire to become a chiropractor. Dr. Reaver tried to get the young woman admitted to the Palmer School in 1944, but B.J. wrote back and said that "we just cannot accept negro students." After some "hot and heavy" correspondence, Dr. Reaver reports the B.J. said "Clarence, I will put it to a vote of the student body. If they say 'All's well,' we will accept Dorothy Clark." The vote was taken at a student assembly and the southern bloc of students which was the majority, voted that they would "walk out, en mass," if Negroes were entitled to enroll in the school.

Since Palmer, like most schools at that time, was financially dependent on student tuition, the threat by the students was not to be taken lightly. This dependence on student support has been cited as one of the factors impeding the expansion of curriculums at chiropractic schools. So it can be assumed that the proprietary nature of the leading schools was equally a factor in retaining racial restrictions on enrollments.

Dr. Reaver's response to this rejection of a Black enrollee by the Palmer School was to establish the Reaver School of Chiropractic in 1945 in Dayton, Ohio. The school had an eighteen-month curriculum and was open to all races. The first group of three students consisted of one white and two Blacks, a ratio that was maintained during its six years of existence. An integrated student body was a deeply held principle with Dr. Reaver. He felt that segregated schools were an exploitation of the Black race, a "reverse discrimination." The Reaver School opened with the promise that it would close when other chiropractic schools would accept Black students.

Dr. Reaver estimated that 166 students were graduated from his school. He credits the Palmer School with full cooperation in the formation of the school, even to the extent of exchanging faculties for thirty days at a time. During the relatively short life of the school, Dr. Reaver taught "straight" chiropractic, and perfected the techniques outlined in his book *Fifth Cervical Key*, published in 1950 and re-issued in 1977.

The Reaver School closed in 1951 due, according to Dr. Reaver, to two factors: the restrictive Ohio laws on chiropractic and the competition of the newly opened International College of Chiropractic. The licensing laws at that time required Ohio chiropractors to take a medically-oriented basic science examination. Because of his refusal to take the examination, Dr. Reaver was arrested five times between 1947 and 1951. The last arrested resulted in a thirty-day sentence in the workhouse and several suspended sentences that would be enforced if he attempted to practice in Ohio. The second factor, the International College of Chiropractic, was opened in competition to the Reaver School around 1950 by a former Reaver student. Dr. Reaver speaks disdainfully of the academic quality of the International College, but lost a large number of his students and faculty to the school. The International College offered a twenty-four month curriculum and was approved under the G.I. Bill of Rights. The Reaver School did not have G.I. Bill approval, although its founder says that veterans applying to his school were admitted free of charge. This combined loss of students and the financial drain of his legal battles forced Dr. Reaver to close his school in 1951.

1994 (June): cover of *Chiropractic History* [14(1)] shows **photo** of adjusting class at Reaver School of Chiropractic

1999 (Mar 25): Memo from Teddee Grace, CCE Coordinator: Council & Committee Services to Alana Holmes re: Reaver School of Chiropractic

Dear Ms. Holmes: You were e-mailed some time ago by our staff regarding your inquiry about the Reaver School of Chiropractic, but apparently this message did not reach you.

The Reaver School was never accredited by CCE. It was before our time. We also have been told there is no mention of the school in the surviving minutes of the NCA/ACA Council on Education for 1948-1968. This ACA Council accredited some colleges prior to CCE's existence. Finally, we have not been able to determine where the records of this school are kept. I have found that it operated in Dayton, Ohio, between 1945-1952 and I have talked to Dr. Herbert Reaver, Sr., the brother of the founder, Dr. C.E. Reaver. He says both his brother and his brother's wife are deceased and he has no idea where the school's records are. He has indicated he will attempt to contact some of Dr. C.E. Reaver's children to determine if they may know. Until then, I am afraid we can be of little assistance.

Dzaman, Fern et al. *Who's who in chiropractic*. Second Edition. Littleton CO: Who's Who in Chiropractic International Publishing Co., 1980

Ferguson A, Wiese G. How many chiropractic schools? An analysis of institutions that offered the D.C. degree. *Chiropractic History* 1988 (July); 8(1): 26-36

Mohan P, Isaacsen K. *A man worth knowing: Herbert R. Reaver, D.C., a chiropractic visionary*. San Lorenzo CA: Life Chiropractic College West, 1997

Rebel with a cause: Dr. Herbert R Reaver, chiropractic pioneer. *Chiropractic Achievers* 1989; Mar/Apr:13-9

Westbrooks B. The troubled legacy of Harvey Lillard: the black experience in chiropractic. *Chiropractic History* 1982; 2: 46-53

Wiese G. Beyond the "Jim Crow" experience: blacks in chiropractic education. *Chiropractic History* 1994 (June); 14(1): 14-21

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#### Sources:

Herbert Reaver Sr., D.C.; 8077 Meadowview Drive, Pigsah OH 45069 (513-777-5923)

Herbert ("Chap") Reaver, Jr., D.C.; 627 Cherokee Street N.E., Marietta GA 30060 (404-424-9948) [DECEASED]

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**Telephone interview** with Herb Reaver Jr. on 10/26/91; requests contact with his dad re: historical biography

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#### References: