

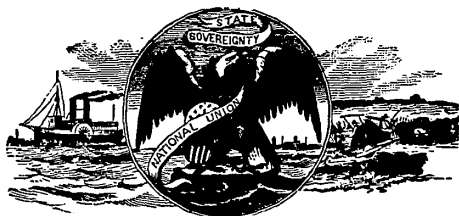
ILLINOIS

HISTORICAL

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WABASH COUNTY

BIOGRAPHICAL

Editor:

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improved in 1907. The present rector is the Rev. Fr. T. W. C. Cheeseman, M.A., D.D. Services are held every Sunday and Friday, and on holy days. Fr. Cheeseman has also charge of St. John's Church at Albion, in Edwards County.

OTHER CHURCHES.—There are two Baptist Churches in Mt. Carmel, with small congregations and one Free Methodist Church.

Wabash County has one church to every 400 inhabitants, a proportion which, we believe, at least equals that of any other county in Illinois.

CHAPTER XV.

SCIENTIFIC AND FRATERNAL SOCIETIES.

EARLY PHYSICIANS IN WABASH COUNTY—FIRST MEDICAL SOCIETY—LATER ORGANIZATIONS—MT. CARMEL SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY—SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION—SECRET AND FRATERNAL SOCIETIES.

Among the early physicians and surgeons of Wabash County, some have been almost forgotten, with the generations they served, but there were many of the early practitioners who will long be remembered by the people, not only because they prolonged human life and relieved suffering, but as well because of their friendship, integrity and moral worth to the community. The first physician to practice in Wabash County was a Dr. Norton, who commenced his professional career at Palmyra in 1816, and he was followed by Dr. Reuben Baker at Mt. Carmel in 1818. From that time down to 1850, the most prominent physicians who practiced in the county were Drs. Allison, Trall, Fithian, Anderson and James Harvey.

MEDICAL SOCIETIES.—The first Medical Society was organized in the 'sixties, and prominent among its members were Paul Sears, William Graham, Francis P. Manley, Andrew Maxwell, T. J. Rigg, Jacob Lescher, James Leeds, James Strahan and T. J. McLain. The society had a brief career and there are no authentic records of its proceedings.

The records of the present society, as furnished by its secretary, Dr. J. B. Maxwell, show that it was organized July 26, 1880. Dr. William

Friend of Lancaster, was elected President; Dr. Jacob Schneck, Vice-President; Dr. P. G. Manley, Secretary; Dr. J. C. Utter, Assistant Secretary; Dr. H. M. Leeds, of Allendale, Treasurer. The following signed the constitution and by-laws as members: William Friend, Thomas J. Rigg, Fay K. Wallar, Paul G. Manley, J. Schneck, William N. Nanney, Nat C. Lewis, R. J. McMurray, G. C. Kingsbury, E. D. Biddle, Paul Sears, J. C. Utter, N. Bristow, A. W. Messick, E. McJilton, James Harvey, A. J. McIntosh, H. M. Leeds, M. E. Warner and F. S. Gray. This society met at intervals until 1885, when its meetings were discontinued. It slumbered for five years when some new and enthusiastic men came into the county and then the physicians sent out a call for a meeting of the physicians of the county for the purpose of reorganizing the society. Accordingly on May 27, 1890, such a meeting was held. Dr. L. J. Leshar was elected temporary chairman, and Drs. J. Schneck, J. H. Tanquary and R. J. McMurray were appointed a committee on permanent organization. They reported as follows: Dr. James Harvey for President, R. J. McMurray for Vice-President, G. C. Kingsbury for Secretary, and W. C. Ridgway for Treasurer.

The following persons signed the constitution and by-laws of the reorganized society: G. C. Kingsbury, J. Schneck, J. H. Tanquary, J. B. Maxwell, Fay K. Wallar, H. M. Leeds, R. J. McMurray, James Harvey, J. T. Legier, John McClurkin, P. G. Manley, J. D. Kingsbury, Dr. Kelso, William Friend, C. G. Smith, Norman Leeds, C. C. Craig, L. C. Lukenmeyer, W. M. Friend, J. C. Utter and S. W. Schneck.

Since that period nearly every regular physician who has practised medicine in the county has belonged to the society. It has maintained its meetings for more than twenty consecutive years, seems to have passed through all the danger periods and reached a mature growth, and it is to be hoped that it will yet survive many years to keep alive the spirit of harmony and unity, which ought to exist between members of one of the noblest professions. Dr. C. E. Gilliatt, of Allendale, is President of the society. The various schools of medicine are well represented throughout the county by capable and popular physicians.

MT. CARMEL SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.—For many years the Mt. Carmel Scientific Society has been recognized as the most prominent and successful