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Dermatologists in the Wild West, 1870-1900: The early pioneers from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Coast.

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Reflections on Dermatology: Past, Present, and Future

Edited by Leonard J. Hoenig, MD

1870-1900

The Early Pioneers

From The Mississippi River to the Pacific Coast

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Abstract

During the Wild West era of American history (approximately 1870-1900), at least 52 dermatologists settled between the Mississippi River and the Pacific coast. In 1870, two dermatologists began their practice in the city of St Louis, Missouri (William Augustus Hardaway and Solomon Claiborne Martin, Sr.) and one dermatologist started his practice in San Francisco, California (George J. Bucknall). By 1900, 49 more dermatologists had settled in nineteen cities located in the American West (see Tables 1 and 2 for listings). There, they established practices, initiated academic programs, and pioneered dermatology as a medical specialty in the Western United States. This contribution provides brief biographic profiles of these early Western American dermatologists. It also presents several dermatology related vignettes from the Wild West that involved such colorful personalities as Doc Holiday, Calamity Jane, and Sister Mary Joseph. From these beginnings, 150 years ago, the specialty of dermatology would further spread and develop across the American West during the 20th Century.

Key Words: Nineteenth Century American dermatologists, Wild West medicine

Dermatologists in the “Wild West”, 1870-1900

Introduction

The history of the “Wild West” has long captured the imagination of the American people. Tales of cowboys and Indians, along with gunfighters and lawmen, are still celebrated in books, films, and television shows.

The Wild West also is a story of pioneer dermatologists, physicians, Native American healers, and nurses; all struggling to treat skin ailments as best they could. They practiced their craft from the Mississippi River to the Pacific coast during the years 1870-1900. The term “Wild West” does not describe an exact geographic area or time period; rather, it is a popular phrase that conveys the enthusiasm and pioneering spirit of American people, who settled the western frontier during the last three decades of the 19th Century. Dermatologists also took part in this great western expansion, beginning in 1870.

This contribution presents, for the first time, brief biographic sketches of 34 dermatologists who settled in 17 cities, from the Mississippi River to the Pacific coast during the years 1870-1900 (**Table 1**). Their names come from the membership lists of the American Dermatological Association and from the medical literature (1). Also listed are the names of 18 other dermatologists about whom there is only limited biographic information (**Table 2**). Some of these pioneers were called “Lecturer in Dermatology,” “Lecturer on Diseases of the Skin,” or “Professor of Dermatology,” “Professor of Dermatology and Genito-Urinary Diseases,” or “Professor of Dermatology and Syphilis.” Many of them had extensive postgraduate training in Dermatology, whereas others had considerably less, if any; yet they all shared the common purpose of building the new specialty of dermatology in their respective cities on the western frontier. They gave the first lectures on skin diseases and established the first departments of

dermatology out West; many of these academic programs continue to train students of dermatology to this very day.

From these early beginnings, the specialty of dermatology continued its spread westward, across the United States, during the 20th Century. The Wild West was an exciting period in American history, one that is even commemorated in dermatology by the eponym “cowboy holster dermatitis.” This term describes a contact dermatitis that causes diaper dermatitis in the pattern of a cowboy’s gun-belt holster (2). This contribution adds to this commemoration by taking a nostalgic look at the dermatologists who practiced during the amazing times of America’s Wild West.

The Pioneering Dermatologists of the Wild West

The early history of American dermatology began during the 19th Century, first in cities east of the Mississippi River, then spreading westward. In 1836, the Broome Street Infirmary for Diseases of the Skin was opened in New York City under the direction of Henry Daggett Bulkley (1804-1872) (3, 4). By 1877, dermatologists were practicing in cities such as Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Louisville, Philadelphia and Washington, DC. The specialty of dermatology became formally established in the United States with the founding of the New York Dermatological Society in 1869 and the American Dermatological Association in 1876.

During the Wild West era, pioneering dermatologists opened practices in western cities of the United States. The following account provides brief biographic sketches for these pioneers.

1) San Francisco, California:

George James Bucknall (1836-1907) was San Francisco’s first dermatologist.

He was born in New York and arrived in San Francisco in 1856 at the invitation of his half-brother, who had previously come to San Francisco during the 1849 gold rush. In 1858, Bucknall enrolled in San Francisco's Cooper Medical College, becoming a student in the school's inaugural class. The following year he travelled to Europe to study at l'École de Medicine, in Paris, for the next three years. He returned to New York in 1862 to serve as a surgeon in the Union Army. His regiment joined the Potomac Army, then under the command of General George B. McClellan (1826-1885). Bucknall participated in the Peninsula campaign launched in southeastern Virginia. He took ill there either from malaria or typhoid fever and was forced to resign. He continued his medical education at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University in New York, graduating in 1864. He then studied dermatology in Europe, returning to America in 1868 and proceeding to San Francisco, where he opened his practice of general medicine and dermatology in 1870. He practiced in San Francisco until 1907, although his instruments and office contents were destroyed in San Francisco's 1906 earthquake (5,6).

Alfred E. Regensburger (1851-1928) arrived in San Francisco in 1876, after receiving his medical diploma in New York (1872) and taking postgraduate study in Europe. He said that San Francisco had few skin diseases but had more syphilis than any other city in the

world (5). From 1897-1900, he was Professor of Dermatology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, San Francisco (which eventually became the dental school of the University of the Pacific)

Douglass W. Montgomery (1859-1941) (**FIGURE 1**) was one of American dermatology's most distinguished physicians. He attended the Toronto School of Medicine in Canada and then the College of Physicians and Surgeons at New York's Columbia University, receiving his medical degree in 1882. He did his training initially in New York and then visited the European centers, even being one of the first to later visit Paul Ehrlich (1854-1915) who discovered arsphenamine (606) in 1910.

Montgomery had arrived in San Francisco in 1886 and became professor of pathology at the Medical Department of the University of California in 1888, later becoming its first chairman of diseases of the skin. When he learned about Paul Ehrlich's discovery of Salvarsan, he immediately sailed to Europe to see Ehrlich (5,7).

The following is an account of Montgomery's trip by Rees B.

Rees (1909-2002), long time Clinical Professor and Chairman of the Division of Dermatology at the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine:

In 1910 Dr. Montgomery attended a dermatologic association meeting in Buenos Aires and heard of something extraordinary being developed in Germany for the treatment of syphilis. He went to Europe at once. In Paris he saw some terrible arsenical ulcers of the buttocks from salvarsan. He called on Professor Ehrlich who advised him to see a physician in Wiesbaden. There he first saw intravenous infusion by gravity of Salvarsan and marveled at the temerity of both the patient

and the doctor since fifty times the lethal dose of arsenic was infused at one time. From there he went to Magdeburg and saw Salvarsan[®] infused by syringe. It was here in the neighboring insane asylum that the drug was first used on human beings (8).

Montgomery quickly forwarded a box of “606” ampules, where San Francisco became the first American center to use Salvarsan[®]. That year, he was elected president of the American Dermatological Association. He said his favorite amusement was observing his fellow beings.

Other early dermatologists in San Francisco included: Howard Morrow (1875-1941), Harry E. Alderson (1877-1952), George Dewitt Culver (1877-1932), Ernest D. Chipman (1875-1946), Hiram E. Miller (1890-1947), and Lawrence S. Taussig (1890-1949).

2) Dallas, Texas:

Jessie B. Shelmire (1858-1931) (**FIGURE 2**) may be considered the father of Texas dermatology. He graduated in 1883 from the Medical Department of the University of Louisiana (now Tulane University School of Medicine) in New Orleans and took postgraduate training at the Skin and Cancer Hospital in New York. He arrived in Dallas, a city of approximately 40,000 people in 1894, possessing the first microscope in the city. He served for many years on the faculty of Baylor College of Medicine and from

1915 he was the chief of dermatology for many years. His son Jesse Bedford Shelmire, Jr. (1894-1981) also was a dermatologist and served as the chair of dermatology until the school moved to Houston in 1943. Two grandsons, J. Bedford Shelmire III (1926-1980) and David Sutton Shelmire (1934-) have continued the family tradition as distinguished dermatologists in Dallas (9, 10).

3) Denver, Colorado:

William Henry Davis (1848-?) received his medical training at Northwestern Christian University (now Butler College), Indianapolis and then Bellevue Hospital Medical College of New York, graduating in 1876. He arrived in Colorado in 1880, establishing a practice in Denver. In 1887, he became Professor of Dermatology and Genitourinary Diseases at the Gross Medical College, which merged with Denver University and in 1911 combined with the University of Colorado School of Medicine. He served as president of the Medical Society of the City and County of Denver and was known as “a whole-souled, generous hearted man.” (11)

James Milton Blaine (1855-1913) was born in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania. He began his medical studies at Wooster University in Cleveland, Ohio in 1878 but he left Wooster in 1879 and enrolled at Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, graduating in 1881. He practiced medicine in western Pennsylvania, until he became ill, and spent four years in recuperation and in travel. He studied at both the Philadelphia Polyclinic and New York Polyclinic in 1894, before relocating to Denver in 1894 to practice dermatology. He was appointed Lecturer on Dermatology and Clinical Professor in the University of Denver from 1894-1896 and subsequently became Professor of

Dermatology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine in 1896. The next year, Blaine left the University of Colorado, which had moved from Denver back to Boulder, and joined the faculty of the Gross Medical College of Denver. In 1903, the Gross Medical College merged with the Medical Department of the University of Denver. Blaine continued in his position as Professor of Dermatology and Venereal Diseases. He was also dermatology consultant for most of the major hospitals of Denver and at several schools. He devised a comedo expressor that he and his students favored in clinical practice in Denver. In 1899, he served as secretary of the Section on Cutaneous Medicine and Surgery of the American Medical Association. He was President of the Colorado Medical Association in 1904, and two years later, he became co-editor of *Colorado Medicine*. His last years were spent in Pennsylvania (12).

4) **St. Louis, Missouri:**

William Augustus Hardaway (1850-1923) studied medicine in St. Louis, graduating in 1870 from Missouri Medical College which eventually became part of Washington University. In 1876, he was one of the founders of the American Dermatological Association, and its president in 1884-1885 (13). Hardaway was the first to describe prurigo nodularis (1880), but the condition is often called Hyde's disease, after James Nevins Hyde (1840-1910) of Chicago. In 1877, he pioneered the use of electrolysis to remove body hair, which had previously been developed for removing ingrown lashes in 1869 by Charles E. Michel (1832-1913), an ophthalmologist, Hardaway served as Professor of Diseases of the Skin and Syphilis at the St. Louis Medical College, which also joined with Washington University to become its School of Medicine (14).

Joseph Grindon, Sr. (1858-1950) (**Figure 3**) received his medical degree also at St. Louis Medical College and began his practice in 1879. He was Lecturer on Diseases of the Skin (1886-1895) and Professor of Dermatology (1895-1900) at his alma mater (15). Grindon continued as professor at Washington University (1900-1912) and later at St. Louis University (1912-1944). He served as president of the American Dermatological Association in 1928. He had a lifelong interest in botany. At the age of 80, he taught a 6 lecture course on syphilology at St. Louis University and continued in active practice until the age of 87 years (16) (**FIGURE 4**). His son, Joseph B. Grindon, Jr. (1909-1981), also, was a dermatologist in St. Louis.

Amant Henri Ohmann-Dunesnil (1857-1919) (**FIGURE 5**) was born in Dubuque, Iowa and graduated with the class of 1880 from St. Louis Medical College, which later became part of St. Louis University (17). He became Professor of Dermatology at Marion Sims College of Medicine, St. Louis (1895-1897), which would also join St. Louis University. His publications included *Handbook of Dermatology: For the Use of Students* (1894) and *Diseases of the Skin* (1908). He served as editor for *The St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journal*, *Weekly Medical Review*, and the *Quarterly Atlas of Dermatology* (1893-1896) (18,19). He advocated fee splitting and described the eponymous double comedo of Ohmann-Dunesnil.

Solomon Claiborne Martin, Sr. (1837-1906) was born in Claiborne County, Mississippi. He received his medical degree from the Medical College of Louisiana (now Tulane University School of Medicine) (20). During the Civil War, he served in the Confederate States Army, attached to the staff of William Wirt Adams' Independent Cavalry,

attaining the rank of Major. He later was a member of General Albert Sidney Johnston's Corps and was with Johnston at the Battle of Shiloh in 1862, when the general was mortally wounded by a bullet that had penetrated his right knee. In 1870, he relocated to St. Louis, where he later became a founder of Barnes Medical College which existed from 1892 until 1918 and served as its Chairman of Dermatology until his death. He was editor of two medical journals: the *Medical Era* and the *American Journal of Dermatology and Genito-urinary Diseases*, which later became the *Urologic and Cutaneous Review*. Both his two sons, Solomon Claiborne Martin, Jr. and Clarence Martin, were physicians and editors of the latter journal, until its demise in 1952 (18, 21).

5) Omaha, Nebraska

Herbert Clayton Sumney (1870-1935) graduated from Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia in 1890. In 1893, he became Professor and Founding Chairman of Dermatology, Syphilology and Genito-Urinary Diseases at the newly organized John A. Creighton Medical College in Omaha, Nebraska. (22, 23)

Sumney was also an American golfer who competed in the men's individual golf tournament at the 1904 Summer Olympic games held in St Louis. He represented the Omaha Country Club and finished in a tie for 40th place with the American golfer Arthur Hussey (1882-1915) but neither qualified to advance to match play (24). He was also big-game hunter, often travelling to Canada to hunt moose and caribou.

George B. Ayres (1856-1890) received his MD in 1877 from the University of Michigan

Department of Medicine and Surgery in Ann Arbor (25). He served there as Assistant Professor of Anatomy from 1877-1880, until moving to Omaha, where he Served as Professor of Anatomy, Descriptive & Surgical, Cutaneous and Venereal Diseases at the Omaha Medical College from 1882-1884. The Omaha Medical College existed from 1881 to 1902, when it became the medical department for the University of Nebraska. Ayres was a member of the Nebraska State Medical Society.

Oscar S. Hoffman (1856-1926) was born in New York and graduated from the College of the City of New York. He did postgraduate work in Europe, which included studying under the noted dermatologist Moritz Kaposi (Kohn) (1837-1902) in Vienna. He settled in Omaha in 1883, becoming the city's first Jewish physician (26, 27). He taught dermatology at Omaha Medical College, serving as Professor of Dermatology from 1892-1902. He also was active in the founding of Wise Memorial Hospital, Omaha, serving as its first chief of staff, from 1899 till his death. He is remembered as "a highly educated gentleman, well read, both in medicine and outside of medicine, noted for his ready wit and fastidious appearance, he made annual trips to Europe for many years (26)".

6) Iowa City, Iowa

John Blair Kessler (1851-1942) was Lecturer on Dermatology and Clinical Dermatology at the State University of Iowa, and in 1899, he became head of its department of dermatology. A biographic note indicates that he received an MD from the school in 1877 and another MD from Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York in 1883 (28).

7) Galveston Texas

George Henderson Lee (1862-1924) graduated from Tulane University of Louisiana in 1888 and then completed a one year internship at Charity Hospital, New Orleans. He was an original faculty member of the University of Texas Medical Branch, which opened in Galveston in 1891. In 1893, he was appointed Lecturer in Dermatology and Staff Dermatologist at John Sealy Hospital. In 1897, he was awarded the title of Professor of Dermatology. In 1900, Lee then joined the faculty of the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, becoming its chairman in 1909 (29).

Another original faculty member of the University of Texas Medical Department, **Robert White Knox** (1859-1942), also was a Lecturer on Diseases of the Skin from 1891-1893. He had received his MD degree in 1882 from the Medical Department of the University of Virginia and moved to Texas the following year. He practiced both general medicine and surgery in Houston, traveling the fifty or so miles weekly to Galveston to lecture to the students on diseases of the skin (29).

8) Minneapolis, Minnesota

Max P. Vander Horck (1862-1911) studied at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University (1882-1883) and graduated from Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia in 1885, writing his thesis on locomotor ataxia (24). He also interned at the Jefferson Medical College Hospital, before pursuing postgraduate studies in Europe. In 1888, he became Professor of Diseases of the Skin, and Genito-Urinary Organs at the

University of Minnesota College of Medicine and Surgery (30). He continued in this position until his death from heart disease at age 49 (31).

The name **C. L. Wells** appears in an 1882 faculty listing for the Minnesota College Hospital, Minneapolis, founded in 1881. His title is listed as Professor of Diseases of Children and Dermatology, but information about him is limited.

9) Kansas City, Missouri

William Frick (1858-1926) graduated from the St Louis Medical College in 1884. He is recorded as Lecturer on Dermatology at the Kansas City Medical College, Missouri in his 1897 publication on eczema (32). In 1910 he was listed as Professor of Dermatology, University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City, Missouri in his contribution on dermatitis exfoliativa (33).

John Harris Duncan (1852-1919) received his MD at the University of Missouri (1874) and a second MD from Bellevue Hospital Medical College (1875). From 1883-1893, he became Professor of Dermatology and Physiology at the University Medical College at Kansas City, Missouri and in 1893 moved to St. Louis as Professor of Dermatology and Physiology in the College of Physicians and Surgeons. In 1900, he became Professor of Dermatology and Syphilis in the Marion Sims Beaumont College, St Louis. In politics, he was a Democrat (34).

Johann Philipp Kanoky (Knoche) (1859-1939) (**Figures 6**) was born in Jackson County

Missouri. He received his MD from Kansas City Medical College, Missouri in 1881 and did post graduate studies at the University of Vienna from 1883-1886. He was Professor of Dermatology at the University Medical College in Kansas City, Missouri, which existed from 1881-1913 (35). His contribution on icteric pruritis appeared in the Journal of the American Medical Association in 1907 (36). A caricature of him (**Figure 7**) was drawn by Archibald B. Chapin (1875-1962), a noted cartoonist for the *St. Louis Republic* newspaper (37). Kanoky also co-authored papers with his illustrious Kansas City colleague Richard Lightburn Sutton (1878-1952) who would later become Chairman of the Dermatology at the University of Kansas School of Medicine (38-39).

10) St. Paul, Minnesota

LeGrand Norton Denslow (1852-?) (**FIGURE 8**) received his M.D. degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York (1876). He pursued post-graduate study in Vienna, Berlin, and London (1877-1878). Denslow began the practice of dermatology in New York in 1880 and was elected a member of the American Dermatological Association in 1884. The next year found him in Minnesota, first in Minneapolis for a short time before moving to St. Paul. He became Professor of Diseases of Skin and Genito-Urinary Surgery, and Secretary of the St Paul Medical College from 1885-1888, when the College was absorbed by the Medical School of the University of Minnesota (40, 41). He served as treasurer for the American Dermatological Association (1886-1887) and as vice-president (1890-1891). He left St. Paul around 1890 and spent time in Los Angeles (1893) and also New York, at least until 1908. The next year found him at Charcot's Clinic at the Salpetriere Hospital in Paris, after which he was practicing in London at least from 1910 until 1912. It is not known when and where he died.

Burnside Foster (1861-1917) (**FIGURE 9**) was a prominent physician and medical writer in St. Paul for more than 25 years. He was born in Worcester, Massachusetts and was a graduate of Yale (Class of 1882) and Harvard Medical School, receiving his MD in 1885. He subsequently won an eighteen month internship at Massachusetts General Hospital, after which he studied in Dublin and Vienna where he became interested in dermatology. In 1888, Foster chose Minneapolis to begin his practice but moved to St. Paul three years later. In an 1894 paper that he published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, his academic titles were listed as Surgeon to the Skin and Venereal Department of the St. Paul City and County Hospital; Dermatologist to St. Luke's Hospital; Dermatologist to St. Joseph's Hospital; and Visiting Physician to the St. Paul's Free Dispensary. He was also Clinical Professor of Dermatology and Lecturer on the History of Medicine at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul (42-44). In 1898 Foster became editor of the St. Paul Medical Journal, a position he held for the next eighteen years.

11) New Orleans, Louisiana

Henry William Blanc (1859-1896) was born in Louisiana and received his medical degree from the Medical University of Louisiana (now Tulane University). He spent two years in Europe studying dermatology in Vienna, Hamburg, and Paris (45). He became Lecturer on Dermatology at his alma mater as early as 1886 and dermatologist to the Charity Hospital and Touro Infirmary. He was founder of the New Orleans Polyclinic and Associate Editor of the *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal* (46). He moved to Tennessee in 1892 to become Dean of the new medical school at the University of the

South, Sewanee where he was also Professor of Materia Medica, Therapeutics, and Dermatology in the Medical Department (**Figure 10**).

Isadore Dyer (1865-1920) (Figure 11) was born in Galveston, Texas and received his MD degree at Tulane University in 1889 (47). He interned in New York's Skin and Cancer Hospital (1890-1892) and then spent a year visiting noted skin departments in London and Paris. He returned to New Orleans where, in 1894, he founded the Louisiana Leper Home and became an international authority on leprosy. In 1896, he was appointed editor of the *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal*. In 1908, he became Professor of Dermatology at Tulane and Dean of the Medical Department. He was president of the American Dermatological Association (1912-1913) (48). The Dyer family were among the early Jewish settlers to Galveston (1840) and the city's first Jewish religious services were held at the Dyer home in 1856 (49, 50).

Edward A. Blount, Jr. (1874-1930) received his MD degree from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York in 1896 and did postgraduate work in Paris and Germany. He became instructor in dermatology in Tulane University and Chief of Clinic in the New Orleans Polyclinic, serving there from 1898-1900 (51, 52). The Polyclinic was absorbed by Tulane in 1907 and ended in 1937. Blount moved to Texas in 1901. He was Professor of Dermatology at Baylor College of Medicine from 1903 to 1908 (9).

12) Portland, Oregon

The first medical school in Oregon was Willamette University College of Medicine

founded in 1867. In 1878, the medical school moved the 45 miles from Salem to Portland. Among the listed faculty members was **E. P. Frazer (or Fraser)**, Professor of Hygiene and Dermatology. No further information could be found on him except that he was later listed as Professor of Diseases of Women and Children and Dean of the faculty (53).

There was another medical school in Portland, The Medical Department of the University of Oregon, established in 1887. Among its faculty members was **Andrew Jackson Giesy** (1853-1933), Professor of Dermatology and Hygiene (1887-1895). He studied medicine at Willamette University (1876) and practiced in Aurora, Oregon for five years (24). He did further studies at Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, before resuming practice first in Salem and then in Portland, Oregon in 1885. He served as President of the Oregon Medical Society and was described as “a man of kindly feeling.” (54-55) (**FIGURE 12**)

13) Los Angeles, California

Davis Granville MacGowan (1857-1935) received his M.D. degree at the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania in 1879. He did postgraduate work in Berlin, Vienna, and Paris, before settling in California in 1886, where he developed a large general practice in Los Angeles. MacGowan was appointed Professor of Dermatology and Genito-urinary Diseases at the College of Medicine, University of Southern California (1887-1905). In 1907, he served as Vice-President of the Section on Dermatology and Syphilology of the American Medical Association (56).

Ralph Rowlett Williams was born in Memphis, TN in 1871 of American Revolutionary descent. He received his M.D. degree from the College of Medicine, University of Southern California in 1893. From 1893-1905, he was Assistant Professor of Genito-Urinary and Skin Diseases at the school. In 1905, he became Professor of Dermatology and Syphilology (56).

Anstruther Davidson (1860-1932) was born in Scotland and received his medical degree from the University of Glasgow in 1887. He emigrated to the United States two years later to practice medicine in the new city of Los Angeles, becoming an associate professor of dermatology at the University of Southern California.

Davidson was fascinated by his avocations and published papers on botany and entomology. He was especially interested in the weeds of the Los Angeles area and wrote about the flora of Southern California, as well (57).

Alfred Guido Rudolph Schloesser (1851-1933) arrived in California in 1895 not to practice dermatology but in search of his fortune. He was born in Chicago from a prominent family in Germany and America. After graduating from Rush Medical College in 1871, he toured the clinics at the Universities of Wurzburg, Heidelberg, Berlin, Vienna, Paris, and London (58). While in Vienna, in 1873, he assisted the physicians at The Allgemeines Krankenhaus during a cholera epidemic. Returning to Chicago, practiced both laryngology and dermatology while in Chicago.

Schloesser was a world traveler and on one tour came within 700 miles of the North Pole. In 1894, he purchased a mining prospect in Lassen, California for \$10,000. The mine soon produced a profit of \$25,000 per month, making him extremely wealthy.

He then moved to Los Angeles in 1909, building a 23-room home in Tudor-Gothic style in the newly developed Hollywood Hills. Castle San Sousi, as it was named, was extensively decorated with art treasures collected from Europe. The pioneer filmmakers made use of the Schloesser home when they needed a set deserving of a millionaire (**FIGURE 13**).

14) Little Rock, Arkansas

Roscoe Green Jennings (1833-1899) was born in Maine and in 1856 graduated from the Medical School of Maine. He practiced in several cities eventually making his way to Camden, Arkansas. In 1861, he entered the Confederate Army as Surgeon of the 12th Arkansas Regiment. He was involved in treating hundreds of soldiers during a measles epidemic and in establishing hospitals in Vicksburg, Mississippi. His regiment was captured on April 7, 1862 but Jennings escaped. He later developed camp fever (usually caused by typhoid fever or typhus during the Civil War), requiring a long recovery. Jennings then settled in Little Rock, Arkansas and in 1865 was placed in charge of a smallpox hospital, becoming an expert in treating that disease.

In 1879, Jennings joined with seven other physicians in founding the School of Medicine of Arkansas Industrial University, now the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. He appointed Professor of Clinical Surgery and Dermatology, while also serving as Secretary of the medical school (59).

15) Des Moines, Iowa

Robert McNutt was a member of the class of 1851, Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia. He began the practice of medicine in Alabama. With outbreak of the Civil

War, he was confronted with a significant problem. He was loyal to the Union, subjecting him to great persecution. He eventually succeeded in escaping to Federal lines, where he was appointed surgeon of an Iowa regiment. After the war, he remained in Iowa to practice. In 1883, McNutt was elected Chair of Fevers, Dermatology and Clinical Medicine at the Iowa College of Physicians and Surgeons in Des Moines, which had opened the previous year. In 1886-1887 this school became the Medical Department of Drake University. (60-61).

16) St. Joseph, Missouri

George Nash is listed in 1883 as a faculty member in dermatology at St. Joseph Medical College, Missouri (62), which would be reorganized as Ensworth Medical College. In 1890, he became Treasurer of the Northwest Missouri Medical Society (63).

17) Sioux City, Iowa

Edwin Daniel Frear (1854-1934) was born in Beaumont, Pennsylvania. He received his MD in 1882 from the State University of Iowa College of Medicine in Iowa City and began his medical practice in Sioux City, Iowa (64). He served as Professor of Hygiene and Dermatology at the Sioux City College of Medicine, which existed from 1890-1909. His daughter, Cora Frear Hawkins (1887-1985) wrote a touching account of her father's country medical practice in the prairies of Iowa, entitled *Buggies, Blizzards and Babies* (65). In it, she describes his journeys to his academic position:

After the founding of the Sioux City College of Medicine in 1891, Father became professor of dermatology and hygiene and went to the city weekly; about fifteen years later he established an office there and commuted daily by train – about twenty-one miles (65).

Other Names

The following are some names of dermatologists that appear in Keil's 1895 edition of the *Medical, Pharmaceutical and Dental-Directory and Intelligencer* (66) but for which biographic information is lacking. Perhaps, readers might shed light about these physicians and any other "Wild West" dermatologists who may have escaped our attention:

- **L. Phelan**, M.D. Professor of Physiology and Dermatology, Sioux City College of Medicine, Iowa
- **E.T. Twining**, M.D. Professor of Genito-Urinary Diseases and Dermatology, Iowa College of Physicians and Surgeons, Des Moines, Iowa
- **George E. Ricker**, M.D. Professor of Clinical Medicine and Dermatology, College of Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- **I.K. Maxson**, M.D. Professor of Dermatology and Venereal Diseases, Cotner University, Lincoln, Nebraska
- **G.C. Potter**, M.D. Professor of Pediatrics and Dermatology, Central Medical College, St Joseph, Missouri
- **G.H. Eiskamp**, M.D. Professor of Pathology, Dermatology and Venereal Diseases and Demonstrator of Microscopy, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Keokuk, Iowa
- **F. Eliseu**, Ph. G., M.D. Professor of Venereal Diseases and Physical Diagnosis, Central Medical College, St Joseph, Missouri.
- **George W. Davis, M.D.** was Professor of Genito-Urinary, Venereal and Skin Diseases, University Medical College of Kansas City, Missouri. An article by him entitled "Syphilitic Epididymitis" was published in 1889 (67).
- **M.M. Hamlin**, M.D. Professor of Venereal Diseases of Skin, American Medical College (Eclectic), St. Louis Missouri, organized in 1873. He served as Dean of the school (68)

A physician named **S.S. Wentworth** is listed in 1883 as a faculty member in dermatology at the Minnesota College Hospital, Minneapolis but biographic information about him is lacking (69).

Another professor of dermatology, **John Wilson** was an original faculty member of the University Medical College of Kansas City, Missouri, which was organized in 1881. Further information about him also is lacking (70). **Daniel Morton** received his MD from the University of Louisville, Kentucky in 1887. He served as Professor of Dermatology and Genito-Urinary Surgery at Ensworth Medical College from 1889-1890 (68). Ensworth Medical College was located in St. Joseph, Missouri and existed from 1882-1914.

Edward J. Hogan received his MD in 1894 from the American Medical College (Eclectic), St Louis and served there as Professor of Dermatology and Venereal Diseases, as noted in an 1897 advertisement. He died in 1942 at the age of 77. (68,71). **F. P. Wright** is listed as Assistant in Surgery and Dermatology in an 1898 directory for the College of Medicine and Surgery at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis (72). **Henry Clay Aldrich** (1857-1922) is recorded as Professor of Dermatology, 1888, at the College of Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery of the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, which existed from 1886-1909 (73). He received his MD in 1881 from Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital in Philadelphia. He practiced in Iowa from 1881-1887 and then moved to Minneapolis (74). **Lincoln E. Penny, Ralph St. John Perry** (died 1937) and **Asa Friend Goodrich** (1865-1918) also served as Professors of Skin and Genito-Urinary Diseases at the College of Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery, Minneapolis (73).

Dermatology Related Vignettes from the Wild West

There were many colorful personalities, besides physicians, whose lives offer insight into the dermatology of the Wild West. The following are three vignettes:

Doc Holliday's Tuberculosis (FIGURE 14,15)

There were a number of infectious diseases that afflicted settlers in the western United

States, including tuberculosis. For them, tuberculosis was often a death sentence. John Henry “Doc” Holiday (1851-1887) was a famous gunfighter and dentist, who had graduated from the Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery in 1872, and a friend of the lawman Wyatt Earp (1848-1929). He is best known for his role in the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral in Tombstone, Arizona. On October 26, 1881, Doc Holiday along with Wyatt, plus Virgil and Morgan Earp had a legendary shootout with Frank and Tom McLaury, and Ike and Billy Clanton. The McLaury brothers and Billy Clanton were killed while Virgil and Morgan Earp, and Doc Holliday were wounded.

Doc Holiday’s mother and adopted brother had both died of tuberculosis. Around 1873, Doc Holiday developed weight loss, then a nagging cough and was diagnosed with tuberculosis. In 1884 his health began to fail and he died 3 years later at the age of 36 (75).

Calamity Jane and the 1878 Outbreak of Smallpox in Deadwood, South Dakota (FIGURE 16)

Martha Jane Cannary, or “Calamity Jane” (1852-1903) was a Frontierswoman and an acquaintance of the western folk hero Wild Bill Hickok. She appeared in Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show beginning in 1893. She acquired her nickname in Goose Creek, Wyoming after rescuing Captain Egan who had been shot in an ambush and was falling off his horse. The Captain, on recovering, laughingly said: “I name you Calamity Jane, the heroine of the plains” (76).

As a child, Calamity Jane survived an episode of smallpox. In 1878, there was an outbreak of smallpox among gold-miners in Deadwood South Dakota. Calamity Jane is said to have single-handedly cared for eight gold-miners with great compassion and under harsh conditions. Five of the eight miners survived (77).

The Sister Mary Joseph Nodule

Catholic nuns played a key role in advancing nursing in the United States. One example is Sister Mary Joseph, born Julia Dempsey (1856-1939) who made a notable contribution to dermatology. She trained as a nurse in 1889 at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota. She quickly became the head nurse and in 1892, she was appointed Superintendent of St. Mary's Hospital. From 1890-1915 she became the first surgical assistant to the famed surgeon William James Mayo (1861-1939). While working with Mayo, Sister Mary Joseph observed that patients who developed a firm erythematous or violaceous nodule in the umbilical skin usually were found to have widely disseminated intra-abdominal carcinoma during surgery. When the English surgeon Sir Hamilton Bailey (1894-1961) visited the Mayo brothers in the 1900s, he met Sister Mary Joseph, and became aware of her clinical observation. He gave her credit, and the eponym for this observation as recorded in his textbook on physical signs in clinical surgery (78).

Conclusions

In 1872, Brewster M. Higley (1823-1911), a physician in Smith County, Kansas, wrote a poem called "My Western Home." This poem became the lyrics for the famous western folk song "Home on the Range." The opening verses are:

Oh, give me a home where the Buffalo roam
Where the Deer and the Antelope play;
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word,
And the sky is not cloudy all day (79).

This song captures the majestic beauty of the prairies and America's West. To this magnificent land came pioneering dermatologists 150 years ago. They settled in cities in the western United States and began to establish academic dermatology programs, local dermatology organizations, and specialty practices. Their efforts paved the way for the subsequent growth and spread of dermatology, during the 20th Century, throughout the great American West.

Legend for Figures

Figure 1: Douglass W. Montgomery

Figure 2: Jessie B. Shelmire

Figure 3: Joseph Grindon, Sr.

Figure 4: Office of Joseph Grindon, Sr. at 3894 Washington St. in St Louis (1901) that he shared with other professionals. Wikimedia Commons

Figure 5: Amant Henri Ohmann-Dunesil

Figure 6: Johann Philipp Kanoky (Knoche)

Figure 7: Caricature of Johann Philipp Kanoky by Archibald B. Chapin.

Figure 8: LeGrand Norton Denslow

Figure 9: Burnside Foster

Figure 10: Advertisement for Sewanee Medical College, Medical Department of the University of the South listing H.W. Blanc, M.D. as Dean and describing Sewanee, Tennessee's "cool climate". Blanc, pioneer of dermatology in New Orleans, moved to Sewanee in 1892. This advertisement appeared in the New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal, index to Volume 19, July 1891-June 1892; page 18.

Figure 11: Isadore Dyer

Figure 12: Obituary for Andrew Jackson Giesy. The Capital Journal. Salem, Oregon November 9, 1933 page 8

Figure 13: Mansion of Alfred Guido Rudolph Schloesser

Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 15 January 2020), memorial page for Alfred Guido Rudolph Schloesser (19 Apr 1851–1933), Find A Grave Memorial no. [23228517](#), citing Hollywood Forever, Hollywood, Los Angeles County, California, USA ; Maintained by TLS (contributor [372](#)) .

Figure 14: Autographed photo of Doc Holiday in Prescott, Arizona, 1879. Wikimedia Commons

Figure 15: List of graduates of Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery, March 1, 1872 showing the name of John H. holiday. From Dental Cosmos (Vol XIV, 1872 page 199)

Figure 16: Calamity Jane by CE Finn, circa 1880's. The photograph is captioned in the negative "Calamity Jane, Gen Crook's Scout. An early view of Calamity Jane wearing buckskins, with an ivory-gripped Colt Single Action Army revolver tucked in her hand-tooled holster, holding a Sharps rifle". Wikimedia Commons.

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Tables 1 and 2 are on the next 5 pages

Table 2: 18 Additional Western Dermatologists (Limited Biographic Information)

1) Sioux City, Iowa

L. Phelan

M. M. Hamlin

2) St. Louis, Missouri

Edward J. Hogan

3) Minneapolis, Minnesota

George E. Ricker

S. S. Wentworth

Henry Clay Aldrich

Lincoln E. Penny

Asa Friend Goodrich

C. L. Wells

F. P. Wright

4) Des Moines, Iowa

E.T Twining

5) St. Joseph, Missouri

G.C. Potter

F. Eliseu

Daniel Morton

6) Kansas City, Missouri

John Wilson

George W. Davis

7) Lincoln, Nebraska

I. K. Maxson

8) Keokuk, Iowa

G. H. Eiskamp

Note: Adding Lincoln, Nebraska and Keokuk, Iowa to the cities listed in Table 1 gives a total of 19 cities with Western dermatologists.