

Mormon Contributions to Chiropractic

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Potential Sources:

Walden, David, MA (historian); 1017 S Freedom Blvd, Provo UT 84601; (Messages: 801-874-8154)

Mormon Figures in Chiropractic:

Nephi L. Cottam, D.C.
Karl J. Hawkins, D.C.
John F.A. Howard, D.C.
Joseph Howe, D.C., D.A.C.B.R.
Robert B. Jackson, D.C., N.D.
Joseph Janse, D.C., N.D., A.A.
Mrs. D.D. (Molly Hudler) Palmer
Reed B. Phillips, D.C., Ph.D., D.A.C.B.R.
Frank F. Pyott, D.C.
W.H. Pyott, D.C.
Henry Eyring Turley, D.C.

1894: Utah passes medical practice act (Wilder, 1901)


1906: Molly Hudler Palmer is Mormon (DD, quoted in Palmer, 1951, p. 69)

1906 (Apr/May): The Chiropractor [2(5-6)] includes:

- Mrs. DD Palmer is a Mormon (p. 7):
  My loving wife was allowed to call on me three times a week during my imprisonment. Never will I forget her bravery which assisted me in withstanding the assault on my personal liberty. She is a member of the Later Day Saints, which has grown to 150,000 thru persecution.

- DD notes persecution of various sects, including Mormons (p. 41):
  The murder of Joseph and Hiram Smith a Nauvoo, Ill., did not retard their teachings. All this rumpus about Smoot is advertising mormonism. They realize the injustice, but have an inward satisfaction in know that such work is making converts.

1923: Utah passes chiropractic law

1948 (June): National Chiropractic Journal [18(6)] notes:
- George A. Wilson, D.C. of Salt Lake City authors “Food and the body’s power of response” (pp. 19, 68)

1948 (July): National Chiropractic Journal [18(7)] notes:
- George A. Wilson, D.C. of Salt Lake City authors “Food and the body’s power of response” (pp. 40, 67)

1949 (Feb 9): letter from Ralph J. Martin, D.C., N.D., president of LACC, to Elizabeth Eckardt, D.C. (in my Martin file):
Dr. Elizabeth Eckardt
516 Ogden Canyon
Ogden, Utah

Dear Dr. Eckardt:

We are very much interested in your report on the Utah basic science struggle. Much thought has been given to your letter by the administrative committee of the college, but we find ourselves unable to participate in any action until you furnish us with more information in the form of a copy of each of your bills Nos. 135 and 145.

We are not in a position to oppose ‘basic science’ just because it is basic science for this would arouse public antagonism to our profession and do us all much damage. In 1942 we fought the basic
science bill because it was unfair and discriminatory, giving control of the chiropractic profession to the medical profession. Thus we were careful to make the distinction that we were not fighting basic science as such but rather the particular objectionable basic science bill which was being offered.

If medical doctors are going to sit on the board and no chiropractors, then you have a just basis of objection which the public will be interested in of course.

Some of us may have to be in Nevada in a few days so a political situation there which affects the college and if you feel we could help you while there by coming on into Utah please let me know right away. Also copies of your bills, so we can see just what you are up against.

Mrs. Martin and myself wish to extend to you every good wish for success in your professional endeavors, and certainly hope that no adverse legislation may be imposed upon you.

Sincerely,...

RJM:gs

1950 (Feb 1-3): Minutes of NCA Council on Education, meeting at Sherman Hotel in Chicago (Keating & Cleveland, in press)

...Dr. Martin then made the inquiry as to what could be done to obtain a standardized and uniform conduct on the part of State boards of chiropractic examiners in relation to all chiropractic colleges. Dr. Nugent said that some of the state boards were prejudiced toward some colleges and favored others and he cited the example of the State of Utah, where the State board of examiners refused to recognize any of the colleges that taught physiotherapy.

1952 (Mar): JNCA [22(3)] includes:
- cover photo of E.H. Gardner, D.C. of Los Angeles, chairman of the Committee on Educational Standards of the National Chiropractic Association

1959 (Jan 3-6): Minutes of the NCA Council on Education, meeting in Dallas (Keating & Cleveland, in press)

(c) The Utah situation came in for a brief discussion. Comment being made that sooner or later N.C.A. representation would have to seek to establish contact with the agencies concerned. At present the Utah Board of Chiropractic Examiners would not accept the applications of graduates from schools teaching physiotherapy.

1959: Utah passes basic science law

1959 (July 6-9): Minutes of the NCA Council on Education, meeting in Chicago (Keating & Cleveland, in press)
Utah: Basic Sciences Act passed at last session of legislature.

1966 (Mar/Apr): Digest of Chiropractic Economics [8(5)] includes:
-"Researcher passes" (p. 58):
  Dr. Nephi L. Cottam of Los Angeles, California, widely known in the chiropractic profession as the originator of Craniotherapy, died at his home Wednesday, February 9th. Dr. Cottam, born in 1883 at Salt Lake City, Utah, is survived by his son Dr. Calvin Cottam, Mrs. Nedra Gozzi of Ely, Nevada and a sister, Mrs. Frank Hatch of Scipio, Utah.

A practicing chiropractor for fifty years, Dr. Cottam was the second member of the profession to practice in Salt Lake City, Utah. He was a member of the ACA, ICA, CCA and the LACCS.
1967 (May/June): *Digest of Chiropractic Economics* [9(6)] includes:

-“Cottam Clinic combines grace-beauty-utility; a Digest personality profile from California” (pp. 14-5); many photos of clinic

1979: Utah repeals basic science law

1996: Bruce Gundersen, D.C., D.A.B.C.O. is member of CCE Board (photograph)

References:


Phillips RB, Janse J. Joseph Janse: the formative years of a chiropractic educator, 1897-1930. *Chiropractic History* 1988 (Dec); 8(2): 10-17

Palmer BJ. *History repeats. Volume XXVII*. Davenport IA: Palmer School of Chiropractic, 1951


Walden DM. The limits of medical dominance: pre-World War II chiropractic in Utah. *Chiropractic History* 1988 (Dec); 8(2): 32-7