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APPEARANCE

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# Abraham Lincoln's Appearance

## Teeth

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Excerpt of Lincoln's letter to Miss Mary Speed of Louisville, Kentucky,  
from Bloomington, Illinois, September 27, 1841.

"Do you remember my going to the city (probably Louisville, Kentucky) while I was in Kentucky, to have a tooth extracted, and making a failure of it? Well that same old tooth got to paining me so much, that about a week since I had it torn out, bringing with it a bit of the jawbone; the consequence of which is that my mouth is now so sore that I can neither talk, nor eat. I am literally 'subsisting on savoury remembrances'--that is, being unable to eat, I am living upon the remembrance of the delicious dishes of peaches and cream we use to have at your house."

Roy P. Basler, Editor

Marion Dolores Pratt and

Lloyd A. Dunlap, Assistant Editors:

The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln.

Rutger's University Press,

1953, Vol. 1, pages 260-261

"One day in 1862, Dr. G. S. Wolf, 1313 New York Avenue, N.W., but one door next to the church which Mr. Lincoln attended (Washington, D. C.), was honored by a visit from the President, who asked that an annoying tooth be pulled. After the examination, Dr. Wolf selected a pair of forceps, and as he adjusted it to the tooth, Mr. Lincoln exclaimed "Just a minute, please!" To Dr. Wolf's surprise, the president reached in his pocket for a small bottle from which he took a few deep inhalations and then gave a signal to proceed. Dr. Wolf stated that the contents of the bottle was chloroform and that the extraction of the tooth was practically a painless operation."

Dr. Milton H. Shutes, M.D.:

Lincoln and the Doctors.

The Pioneer Press, 1933, page 88.

Excerpt of letter by J. H. Littlefield to William H. Herndon, dated  
December 11, 1866.

"Mr. Lincoln, one evening (1862) at the White House was  
suffering with pain caused by the extraction of a 'raging  
tooth' "...and not with standing the pain that afflicted  
him, chatted humorously with here and there a flash of  
real logic that showed that he comprehended the situation  
(Yazoo River Expedition)."

Emanuel Hertz: The Hidden Lincoln  
From The Letters and Papers of  
William H. Herndon, The Viking Press,  
1958, page 334.



February 11, 1965

Dr. Maynard K. Hine  
Dean, Indiana University  
School of Dentistry  
1121 W. Michigan Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

Dear Dr. Hine:

Dr. Warren suggested that I send you the enclosed picture of the instrument used by Dr. Wesley Wampler to remove one of Lincoln's teeth in 1856, at Milton Station, Illinois.

You might also refer to the letter which Lincoln wrote to Mary Speed on September 27, 1841, telling about a tooth extraction.

There is also the following quotation from the book, "Lincoln and the Doctors" by Milton Shutes, M.D., page 88:


"One day in 1862, Dr. G. S. Wolf, 1313 New York Avenue, N.W., . . . was honored by a visit from the President, who asked that an annoying tooth be pulled."

It was pleasant talking with you; I hope that we have been able to help you, and that your engagement in Cleveland will be a success.

Yours sincerely,

rh/

Mrs. K. E. Higgins  
Asst. to Dr. McMurtry



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# THE JOURNAL

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## *Original Communications*

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### BAINBRIDGE, ROSS COUNTY, OHIO, THE CRADLE OF DENTAL EDUCATION

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By EDWARD C. MILLS, D.D.S., F.A.C.D., Columbus, Ohio

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IN the beginning. Forceful, meaningful words. For always, everything has its beginning. Often—at the moment—it seems of little import. The historical background becomes shrouded in mystery, and only when Time reveals that someone with vision and science and skill has offered to humanity comfort and welfare and happiness, and the votaries become zealous in expanding its field of usefulness, contemplating its increasing advancement in the future, is there awakened in the human mind that inherent, inquiring impulse to go back to the "beginning."

Many times, but little consideration is given to the long period of evolution through which the art or science has passed, and the memory of the patient toilers who have handed the torch to those who came after, for the further enlightenment of the world, is dimmed, and their legacy—the result of arduous labor and unselfish thinking—becomes more or

less a tradition. The facts become obscure, until, after a lapse of two or three generations, it is difficult to distinguish between fact and hearsay.

In the science of even so young a vocation as dentistry, authentic sources of information regarding the early history of its professional advancement are rare. I have availed myself of sources of information so inaccessible as to preclude previous research, and here present my findings to substantiate the fact that dentistry, as far as professional educational training is concerned, had its birth in the little village of Bainbridge, Ohio, in the year 1827.

Bainbridge was laid out in 1804 by Gen. Nathaniel Massie, a Virginian, who became very influential in the affairs of the Northwest Territory and acted in the capacity of surveyor in the making of entries of land for those holding warrants in this section, known as the Virginia Military District. He named the

village in honor of Commodore William Bainbridge, one of the nation's great naval heroes, whose wife was Mary Taylor, a relative of General Massie's friend, Joseph Taylor, four of whose sons became dentists and are referred to elsewhere in this article.

Soon after the town was laid out, Massie employed Jacob and John Rockhold, who had settled at the Falls of Paint Creek two years previously, to build a hewed log house, which was used as a store and was the first building on the town plat.

Paint Valley, in which this village lay, is just another of those valleys whose beauty is so characteristic of the scenery of Southern Ohio, receiving its name from the creek which follows a serpentine course throughout its entire length. It is bordered on the north and south by ranges of hills of appealing beauty. Its fertile fields, once covered by dense primeval forests, with an abundance of game, and its streams teeming with fish, no doubt had a strong appeal to prehistoric man in this vicinity, as did the Valley of the Scioto, into which Paint Valley opens its portal at Chillicothe.

Four miles west of the village are the Seven Caves, on Rocky Fork—at times, a turbulent branch of Paint Creek. The elements here throughout the centuries have wrought the curious formations so characteristic of all caverns found in sections with a subterrain of limestone and sandstone. Before the advent of the sturdy pioneers, this section is supposed to have been rather densely populated, and archeologic explorations in mounds near Bainbridge show a marked evidence of culture and an advancement in agricultural pursuits. A few miles from the village, on a commanding height, is Fort Hill; and a short distance farther, Serpent Mound, places of defense and of

ceremonials, respectively; while some miles farther to the west on the watershed, between the Miami and the valleys to the east, is Fort Ancient, with a commanding position on one of the highest points, well fortified by high earthen breastworks, with stations from which fires signaled messages of good or evil, peace or war, throughout the tribal territory. This fort, which enclosed an area sufficient for cultivation, was a place of safe retreat during hostilities in those days of the long ago.

This historical background, associated with the lavish manner in which nature had beautified the environments of the village, must have been alluring to one with the studious inclinations of Dr. John Harris when he came to Bainbridge in 1825. Its peace and quietude furnished an ideal setting for the maturing of ideals which he had no doubt been fostering in his keen mind. He had been practicing as physician and dentist at Madison, Ohio, a post town in Hamilton County, only 10 miles from Cincinnati, which had a population of 12,016. From this fact, it is evident that he was more interested in the life and affairs of a small rural community than in those of a rapidly growing city.

It may be of interest to quote from the *Ohio Gazetteer* of 1837 relative to the population of the towns in which the activities I propose to narrate in this article took place.

In 1829, Bainbridge had about twenty-five dwelling houses, three stores, a forge and some mills. In 1830, it had a population of 279. In 1837,

It contains two houses of public worship, both of brick, one school house, four retail stores, with a ware-house attached to each, four taverns, about 55 or 60 dwellings, 21 mechanics shops, 4 tanyards and about 400 inhabitants. In the immediate vicinity are 2 forges, a rolling and slitting mill and nail fac-





tory, 2 flour mills, 4 saw mills and one distillery.

Chillicothe in 1829 had a population of about 2,600, and in 1830, 2,840. Hillsboro in 1829 had about sixty dwellings, and in 1833, a population of 600. Lancaster in 1829 had 1,500, and in 1833 could boast of 1,800. Columbus in 1829 had a population of 2,014, and in 1830, 2,430.

Bainbridge at present has a population of 750. The Milford Pike, the main artery of travel between Cincinnati and

to Hugh Hedrick, a high school student at Bainbridge.

To the extreme left is the cemetery where the "forefathers of the hamlet sleep." Mountain Street, running along the east side of it, intersects Main Street one block to the north. The road to the right of the middle of the picture, leading north, is the Greenfield Pike, which crosses Paint Creek and takes its course through the picturesque hills in the distance. The Milford Pike, the main street



Fig. 2.—Bainbridge.

Chillicothe, passed through Bainbridge. Hillsboro, 23 miles to the west, and Chillicothe, 20 miles to the east, were both more populous. The latter, having been the state capital in 1800-1810 and in 1812-1816, would have furnished a larger clientele; but for reasons we are unable to state, Dr. Harris preferred the smaller village.

The photograph of the Village of Bainbridge is taken from the range of hills to the south, and for this we are indebted

of the village, passes directly through from east to west.

Itinerancy at the present time often savors of quackery, but at that period when the settlements were small and roads and modes of travel difficult, it was necessary for the practitioner of those days of long ago to travel through the countryside and from town to town, that he might procure a livelihood. No doubt, there were quacks in those days, but there was also a class of men with medical



training who had chosen to practice dentistry in conjunction with medicine, realizing its importance as a health measure. To membership in the latter class, John Harris could justly lay claim, as is evidenced by his unselfish career.

The office of John Harris in Bainbridge is still standing on Main Street, on the north-east corner of the alley west of Mountain Street and is owned by Mr. J. W. Steadman.

In a letter under date of Sept. 26, 1931, Mr. E. E. Rockhold, of Rockhold,

8, 1924, aged 81 years. My grandfather and father were both merchants here for quite a number of years.

For a village of its size, Bainbridge had its full quota of members of the medical profession. At the time Dr. Harris made his advent, we find in the *Supporter & Gazette*, published in Chillicothe, the following names of physicians located in Bainbridge: Benjamin Doddridge, Drs. Fletcher Wampler and Benjamin O. Carpenter, who had recently entered into partnership in the practice of



Fig. 3.—Dr. John Harris' residence and office in Bainbridge.

Brown and Company, bankers of Bainbridge, states:

With reference to the house in which Dr. Harris lived and practiced dentistry, I would say that my father has told me of it quite a number of times, and it is the one recently photographed by your brother Dr. C. W. Mills. My great-grandfather Joseph Rockhold came to this part of Ohio from Pennsylvania. He first settled on High Banks, below Chillicothe, where my grandfather was born, in 1801. He later settled in this neighborhood on Cove Run. My father, Elijah Rockhold, was born in Bainbridge and died here June

"medicine and physic and surgery," and Dr. James B. Finley, "back of Mr. H. Turner's store," who had succeeded to the office of Dr. Kirker McCague, but recently deceased.

The dental profession—probably a misnomer as applied to dentistry of that day—was not represented. Chillicothe, at the time, had eleven or more physicians and its first resident dentist in the person of Joseph Giles Dunlap, who had studied with a Dr. Drummond of Louisville, Ky.

The name "Dunlap" was associated with dentistry in Chillicothe through three generations.

#### MEDICINE

The practice of medicine in Ohio, previous to 1811, was unrestricted. The state was admitted to the Union, Feb. 10, 1803, and the general assembly, at its ninth session, Jan. 14, 1811, created and established the first state medical society. The state was divided into five districts, and in each was appointed a board of three medical censors or examiners for the purpose of examining candidates for the practice of "physic, midwifery and surgery." The board met in June and November of each year. Fee for license was \$5, and any person practicing without a license, could not collect accounts by law. In 1821, an act provided that the district of each court of common pleas should constitute a medical district, and, in each five censors were appointed to examine candidates under this act. The censors of each district sent one delegate to a convention held in Columbus, known as the medical convention of Ohio. The convention was the only body empowered to grant licenses, but the censors of a local district could issue a temporary permit, until the above-mentioned convention convened, and licenses were then granted by ballot.

In 1824, the Act of 1821 was repealed and a new act, creating twenty medical districts, was enacted which, among other provisions, made it obligatory that a candidate for examination *have received instruction under a preceptor*.

The only medical college in the state from 1819 to 1833 was the Medical College of Ohio, located in Cincinnati, which later was merged with the Miami Medical College to form the Medical Department of the University of Cincinnati.

The nearest college out of the southern part of the state was the Medical Department of the Transylvania University of Lexington, Ky., organized in 1817. In 1850, it was removed to Louisville and became the Kentucky School of Medicine. In 1908, it became the Medical Department of the University of Louisville. Announcements of this college were published in the *Supporter & Gazette* during 1824.

#### DENTISTRY

Dentistry was being practiced without any legal restraint and was destined to continue so for some time, as it was many years before it received the consideration as a health measure which it merited. The success of some who had been in practice induced many incompetent and unqualified persons to enter its ranks, and the newspapers during these years contained many announcements of itinerant dentists, making extravagant claims as to their ability. The spirit of selfishness and secretiveness that prevailed among practitioners who did possess any knowledge and technical ability was a serious handicap to dental education and progress.

Dr. John Harris, from his experience in the practice of medicine, early realized the importance of a medicodental education for the successful practice of dentistry, fully recognizing its value in the treatment of conditions involving the general health. This is voiced in his writing of a later date.<sup>1</sup>

The medical colleges, so few in number, had more to teach than was possible in the two-year course prescribed, and it seemed impracticable to have a department of dentistry attached to these institutions.

1. Harris, John: Am. J. Dent. Sc., 6:100, 1845-1846.



Shortly after Dr. Harris had located in Bainbridge, devoting more than half his time to the practice of dental surgery and the remainder to the practice of medicine, James Taylor, who lived in the vicinity, entered his office as a student, no doubt to prepare himself as an applicant for examination by the censors of one of the district medical societies.

John Harris' office at Madison, located at Greenfield, about 15 miles to the north of Bainbridge, for the practice of medicine. He had no doubt followed an itinerant practice before locating in Greenfield, as the *Supporter & Gazette*, in an issue of September, 1823, advertises among the list of letters uncalled for at Old Town, Ohio, one for Chapin Harris.

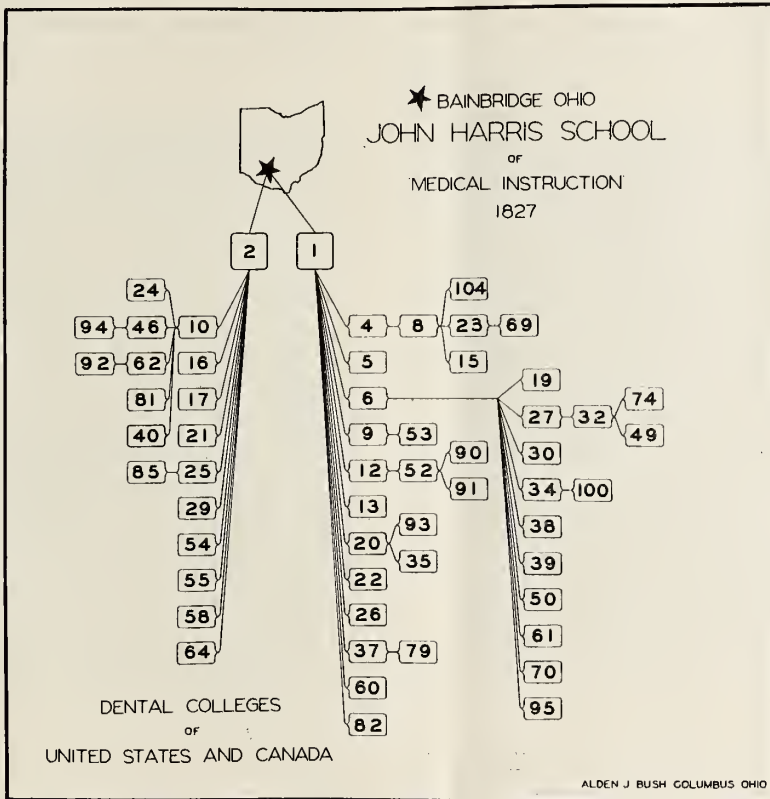


Fig. 4.—Order of establishment of dental colleges in United States and Canada. (See key in supplement, page 382.)

Whether influenced by his preceptor, or following the natural bent of his own mind, he became more interested in the dental phase of Dr. Harris' practice than in the medical.

Dr. Chapin A. Harris, a brother of John Harris, who had been a student in

Dr. Chapin Harris also became interested in dentistry. This was most fortunate in view of the ideals for dentistry in the mind of Dr. John Harris, for Chapin A. Harris and James Taylor were to carry on, in the not distant future and on a more pretentious scale,

those precepts which John Harris was to instil in their minds and those of others, from the school of instruction he was on the eve of establishing in this, the village of his adoption. Further, the effulgent rays of dental knowledge from his primitive school were to be diffused into every institution where dental science was to be taught throughout the ages that were to follow.

An obituary of Dr. Edward Taylor, published in the *Dental Register*,<sup>2</sup> states that he was born "near Bainbridge, which place might very properly be called the starting point of the following pioneers of the profession in the Mississippi Valley: Drs. John, James and Chapin A. Harris; Dr. Jones, formerly of Dayton, Ohio; Dr. Wampler of Illinois; Dr. Church of Baltimore; Drs. Joseph, James and Irwin Taylor."

The foregoing statement is from the pen of Dr. Jonathan Taft, at that time editor of the *Dental Register*. No member of the dental profession of that period was more familiar with dental literature than he; few, if any, were so zealous in publishing material or contributing material of interest to those who were to follow. He left a rich legacy of information concerning dental organizations and their activities and regarding the outstanding dentists of his day, their aims and achievements.

While his statement is significant, Dr. Taft passes over the matter with the mere mention of such names as had come to his attention as having been associated with Bainbridge. He graduated from the Ohio College of Dental Surgery in 1850, about twenty-five years after the time of the dental activities in this village, and these names no doubt had come to him through the Taylors, then practicing in

Cincinnati, or possibly from the dentists themselves.

James Taylor was born March 25, 1809, and was but 16 years of age when he entered Dr. Harris' office as a student. It is very unlikely that Dr. Harris would discuss with one so young any plans he may have had in mind for securing students in the future, and it is highly probable that Dr. Taylor never did know that Dr. Harris resorted to announcements in the public press under "Medical Instruction." Dr. Taylor, in his remarks preceding an obituary of Dr. Harris,<sup>3</sup> refers to his rare qualities as a teacher, but makes no mention of any method he adopted, beyond the confines of the neighboring countryside, to make himself known as an instructor.

Dr. Harris had a wider vision than that of being preceptor to one or two students. He had a desire to enroll a sufficient number to make worth while the efforts he was prepared to put forth, and the plan he adopted explains why "Bainbridge was the starting point of so many pioneer dentists." Had his plans, methods and means been known to Drs. Taylor and Taft, they would have made a secure place in that galaxy of names that Ohio has given to dentistry, for the name of John Harris; and Bainbridge would have become a shrine of dentistry, as the place where his vitalizing impulse to dental education marked the first advance of dentistry to the rank of a profession.

The district medical societies created by the Act of 1824, requiring all candidates for examination by the board of censors to have had instruction under a *preceptor*, provided an opportunity for Dr. Harris to establish a school for medical instruction. Although he had devoted

2. Dent. Reg., 22:91, 1868.

3. Dent. Reg., 3:49-52, 1849-1850.

more than half of his time to the practice of dental surgery for more than ten years previous to 1830, according to his announcement in the *Ohio State Journal & Columbus Gazette*, issue of Oct. 14, 1830, a photographic copy of which is shown herewith, he was undaunted in his enthusiasm in meeting this opportunity. His experience as a physician and later as physician and dentist had convinced him of the importance of some medical instruction for the successful practice of

which is shown herewith. This announcement first appeared in the issue of Nov. 1, 1827, and last appeared in the issue of Dec. 6, 1827.

As far as my knowledge goes, this is the first announcement of professional lectures by an individual in the public press or elsewhere, and the only one by a physician and dentist who was himself to deliver lectures on the entire curriculum of medical subjects, and concurrently be devoting more than half his time to the practice of dental surgery. This school is

### Medical Instruction.

**D**R. J. HARRIS, of the village of Bainbridge, Ross county, is making a variety of preparations and arrangements for the instruction of a private class of Medical Students, preparatory to their entering a Medical College, for the consummation of their profession: Among which are Anatomical preparations and Chemical Apparatus, sufficiently extensive for the exhibition of many important experiments. He will deliver Lectures, during the winter season, at least once a week on each of the following branches, viz: Demonstrative Anatomy, Operative Surgery and Chemistry: and during the Summer season, he will devote as much of his time in lecturing on Osteology, Physiology, Materia Medica, Theory and Practice of Medicine and Obstetrics, as his professional avocations may permit; and every possible facility will be afforded to those who may see cause to patronize his efforts. No Student will be received who has not at least a first rate English education.—Terms of Tuition will be reasonable, depending on circumstances.

October 25, 1827.

35—6

Fig. 5.—Dr. John Harris' announcement appearing in the *Supporter & Gazette*, Chillicothe, Ohio, Nov. 1, 1827.

dentistry, and such students as were to come under his instruction for the practice of medicine would, by virtue of this study, be better prepared for the practice of dentistry, should they elect to study it.

In furtherance of his plans, we find, in the *Supporter & Gazette*, published in Chillicothe, his announcement of medical instruction, a photographic copy of

### DENTAL SURGERY.

**DR. JOHN HARRIS.**

**R**ESPECTFULLY informs the citizens of Bainbridge and contiguous towns, that he has just received a large supply of

### Surgical Instruments,

Among which are a full set, for the practice of Dental Surgery. From his knowledge of the Medical Profession, Surgery and Dental Surgery in particular, he flatters himself that he shall be able to render general satisfaction to all, who may have occasion to employ him. He will set Artificial Teeth with much permanency and so natural in appearance, as to escape detection; and without that pain so consequent upon the operation, as performed by most Dentists—cure all cases of Scurvy of the Teeth—preserve those that are decaying, by plugging—extract all kinds of Teeth and Stumps, with ease; and perform every other operation of a Dental character.

Bainbridge, Feb. 7, 1828 52—tf

Fig. 6.—Dr. John Harris' announcement in *Supporter & Gazette*, Chillicothe, Ohio, first appearing in Feb. 21, 1828, issue and discontinued after Dec. 3, 1828.

in marked contrast to our present-day schools in that one teacher instructed in a variety of subjects, whereas now each teacher confines his instruction to one or possibly two subjects.

The preliminary educational requirements specified in the announcement indicate that Dr. Harris was an advocate of higher standards than would be ex-



pected for that period, and to base an opinion on the qualifications and character of those of his students whose activities have come to our attention, he must have adhered strictly to such standards. Owing to the absence of data, it is impossible to estimate the number of students enrolled at Dr. Harris' school, or what percentage of them, intent on the practice of medicine, became more interested in dental surgery. In fact, the latter class is the only one of which we have information, which indicates that preparing students for the practice of dentistry was Dr. Harris' chief motive.

As further evidence of such a purpose, we find in the *Supporter & Gazette*, issue of Feb. 21, 1828, but two and one-half months after publication of his notice as medical instructor another announcement of Dr. Harris,' a photographic copy of which is shown herewith. (Fig. 6.)

This announcement was continued until the issue of Dec. 3, 1828.

The statement that he had "just received a large supply of Surgical Instruments, among which are a full set for practicing Dental Surgery" would indicate that he had installed an additional outfit for the use of his students, and the subsequent portion of his announcement was possibly intended to attract patients for the dental clinic that he was establishing in which to give technical instruction to his students. This is a reasonable presumption, since he had been practicing for at least seven years and no doubt had a sufficient armamentarium for his private practice.

We are convinced that Dr. Taft's list of dentists from Bainbridge did not include all of the students of Dr. Harris' school; in fact, they seem to have come from remote sections. In a biographic sketch of Dr. Edward P. Church, Chapin A. Harris states:

Dr. Church was born in Middlesex, N. Y., March 3, 1805, and at about the age of seventeen commenced the study of medicine, which he pursued with great zeal for upwards of four years. During the last two years of his studentship he was under the tuition of the author and his brother Dr. John Harris, and devoted a considerable portion of his time to Dental Surgery, upon the practice of which, after having completed his medical education, he immediately entered.<sup>4</sup>

From these data, it may be deduced that Dr. Church was a student as late as 1826-1828, at which time Dr. Harris had his school in full operation in Bainbridge. It may be of interest that Dr. Church invented forceps for extracting the upper third molar, which, in 1849, were used by the majority of dentists in the United States. Dr. Church practiced in Natchez, Miss., Memphis, Tenn., Kentucky and western New York State. He died in New York State of cholera, July 22, 1832, thirty-six years prior to the reference by Dr. Taft to the dentists of Bainbridge.

Dr. John Allen, pioneer in porcelain dental art, was another student at Bainbridge not included in Dr. Taft's list. He was born in New York State, Nov. 4, 1810. For many years, his father was a practicing physician in Cincinnati, Ohio. Dr. B. L. Thorpe, in his "Biographies of Pioneer American Dentists and Their Successors" (1909) states that "at the age of nineteen (1829), he became a student of Dr. John Harris of Chillicothe . . . after a pupilage of one year he removed to Cincinnati." Dr. Thorpe is in error as to the place, as Dr. Harris was conducting his school in Bainbridge in 1829, and did not locate in Chillicothe until May, 1830, his first announcement appearing in the *Supporter*

4. Harris, C. A.: Dictionary of Dental Science, Biography, Bibliography and Medical Terminology, Ed. 1, Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston, 1849, p. 134.

& *Gazette*, May 26, 1830, a photographic copy of which is shown herewith. (Fig. 7.)

Undoubtedly, inspiration and instruction were received in this primitive school by others whose names have been lost to history, but who, in their humble and earnest manner, nevertheless imparted to less fortunate members of the vocation the precepts and principles which Dr. Harris had instilled in them, all of which were to redound to the unsung praise of this unselfish promoter of dental science.

**DR. JOHN HARRIS,**  
**SURGEON DENTIST.**

**R**ESPECTFULLY tenders his services to the Ladies and Gentlemen of Chillicothe and its vicinity, in the various branches of

**DENTAL ART.**

From his knowledge of the Medical Profession, Surgery and Dental Surgery in particular, he flatters himself that he shall be able to render general satisfaction to all who may be pleased to favor him with a call. He will set

**ARTIFICIAL TEETH,**

With much permanency, and so natural in appearance as to escape detection; and without that pain so consequent upon the operation, as performed by most dentists; cure all cases of scurvy of the teeth; preserve those that are decaying, by pluggings; extract all kinds of teeth and stumps with ease, and perform every other operation of a

**DENTAL CHARACTER.**

HIS OFFICE IS AT HIS RESIDENCE ON SECOND STREET.

**DR. HARRIS**

Pledges himself that all operations shall be performed in a style of neatness, elegance and durability, not to be surpassed in the United States. His charges will be moderate.

May 26. 14-3w

Fig. 7.—Dr. John Harris' announcement appearing in the *Scioto Gazette* in May, 1830.

#### DENTISTS IN CINCINNATI, OHIO, 1816 TO 1825

Dr. James Taylor, in an obituary of Dr. John Harris,<sup>5</sup> states: "In dental surgery, Dr. Harris was principally his own instructor . . . he obtained from an itinerating dentist some knowledge of the constructive branches of the profession." Being established in the practice of medicine at Madison, but 10 miles from Cincinnati, he was no doubt attracted by the

announcements of itinerant dentists who visited that place previous to 1825, the year he removed to Bainbridge.

An examination of the Cincinnati newspapers previous to this date, furnishes some information regarding the dentists who visited there during these years.

#### T. ETHERIDGE

In the *Liberty Hall & Cincinnati Gazette*, issue of July 1, 1816, T. Etheridge, Dentist, informs the ladies and gentlemen of that place that he will tarry a short time at Mrs. Emerlong's, Main Street. He calls attention to the teeth, both natural and artificial, and touching upon the importance of their care, remarks: "Suf-

**E. PARMLY,**  
**DENTIST,**

**I**NTENDS staying in this city a few weeks and will devote a share of his time to the duties of his profession. Having received the most flattering encouragement from the inhabitants of Montreal and Quebec, (where he regularly studied this surgical branch of science) also from the citizens of Pittsburgh, Lexington and Louisville, he cannot but expect similar patronage from the gay, the fashionable, and the wealthy of this young and flourishing metropolis.

Application to be made at his lodgings at Mrs. Burley's, Main street.

November 3, 1817. 85-4f

Fig. 8.—Dr. Eleazar Parmly's announcement appearing in the *Liberty Hall & Cincinnati Gazette*, Nov. 3, 1817.

fice it to say that no fashionable person will neglect so important a part of cleanliness." The issue of November 4, of the same year, reports the suicide of T. Etheridge, by morphin, as having occurred October 29, and that "he was in the prime of life, skillful in his profession, leaving a young widow but no children."

#### E. PARMLY<sup>5</sup>

The same paper, Nov. 3, 1817, pub-

5. For biography, see Thorpe, B. L.: *Biographies of Pioneer American Dentists and Their Successors*, in Koch, C. R. E.: *History of Dental Surgery*, Vol. II, Chicago: National Art Publishing Co., 1909, p. 81.

lished an announcement of Eleazar Parmly, as shown in Figure 8.

This announcement was discontinued with the issue of December 18 the same year. The following appears May 6, 1818:


E. PARMLY  
DENTIST

Will execute in the line of his profession, in Cincinnati, until the fifteenth of May. Application to be made at his lodgings at Mrs. Burley's, Main Street.

April 29, 1818.

DR. PLANTOU

The *Cincinnati Advertiser* of Nov. 17,



**DR. PLANTOU,**  
**SURGEON & DENTIST, FROM PARIS.**  
D<sup>R</sup>. PLANTOU, Surgeon and Dentist, from Paris, on his way to New-Orleans, respectfully informs the Ladies and Gentlemen of Cincinnati, that he will remain five or six days, and perform during that time any operations of the Dentist's art, such as cleaning the teeth, so as to render the black ones white; clearing them from decay; plugging them with gold or lead, so as to prevent the pain and the progress of decay; extracting those which are painful, or which corrupt the breath; replacing those which are lost by artificial ones.  
The Doctor also gives advice on the eyes, and performs the operations of that part of Surgery.  
Dr. Plantou lives at Mr. Weaver's on Front st. where he has a private room; though he will call at any ladies' houses.  
*Cincinnati, Nov. 17, 1818.* 22—

Fig. 9.—Dr. Plantou's announcement appearing in the *Cincinnati Advertiser*, Nov. 24, 1818.

1818, and the *Liberty Hall & Cincinnati Gazette* of Nov. 24, 1818, carried an announcement of Dr. Plantou. The former paper, in the issue of November 24, carries the same announcement, enhanced by a cut, a photograph of which is here shown. (Fig. 9.)

The cut of the four incisors with clasps for attachment to the cuspids is significant, showing that the French appealed to the esthetic early in their restorations.

DR. SOMERBY

The *Western Spy & Cincinnati General Advertiser* of May 15, 1819, published the announcement of Dr. Rufus Somerby:

DR. SOMERBY  
SURGEON DENTIST


Tenders his Professional services to the ladies and gentlemen of Cincinnati, etc. Operates for every disease incident to the teeth and gums, and inserts natural and artificial teeth from one to a full set.

His room is at Mrs. Gibson's boarding house, No. 20 Main Street, nearly opposite the Farmers and Merchants Bank.

May 1, 1819.

56 t.f.

The same paper, Sept. 14, 1822, published his announcement as surgeon den-



**MR. GREEN,**  
**SURGEON DENTIST,**  
(From England).  
M<sup>OST</sup> respectfully offers his professional services to the Ladies and Gentlemen of Cincinnati and its environs.  
Mr. G. feels confident his skill, in removing diseases of the mouth, beautifying and restoring teeth (however discolored) to their original pearly whiteness, stopping the progress of caries, and relieving the most painful affections, will be justly appreciated.  
Ladies and Gentlemen waited on at their residences.  
Office open from 10 A. M. to 4 P. M. at the *Green Tree Hotel*, Front Street.  
*Cincinnati, October 1, 1819.* 60-2

Fig. 10.—Announcement of Mr. Green appearing in the *Liberty Hall & Cincinnati Gazette*, Oct. 8, 1819.

tist, "Member of the Medical Society in New Orleans," and stated that he would remain for four weeks only. "Office . . . Corner Broadway and Columbia Streets."

Dr. Somerby visited Cincinnati about the time Dr. John Harris became interested in dentistry. If these two came into personal professional contact, it must have been most fortunate for both. Dr. Somerby was the caliber of man to enthuse Harris as to the possibilities of dentistry; and also had the character and professional ability which destined him



to a high rank among the pioneer dentists of the Mississippi Valley.

Much information is obtained of him from an obituary notice in the *Dental Register*<sup>6</sup>:

He was born at Newburyport, Mass., Jan. 9, 1791. His father, though an Englishman, served for the cause of the Colonies in the Revolution, and was detailed for guard duty around the scaffold upon which the intrepid André paid the death penalty.

As a boy he had a desire to follow the sea, but his sailor life was confined to one voyage to Europe; when the War of 1812 so interfered with the commerce of New England, he abandoned the sea forever. Being in delicate health he established himself in some mercantile pursuit in Alexandria, and later removed to Georgetown, D. C. Here he became acquainted with Dr. Durroux, a prominent dentist, and placed himself under his tutelage.

**G. T. RATRIE,**  
*Dentist,*

**P**RESENTS his respects to the citizens of Cincinnati and its vicinity, and begs leave to offer his professional services to them. He may be found at Mrs. Bryson's on Main-street. G. T. R. has in his possession vouchers of his proficiency from the places he has been pursuing his business, which as he is a stranger he will be glad to exhibit to any person who may wish to employ him. He would likewise refer them to Dr. Bohrer, professor of Materia Medica, in the Medical College of Ohio.  
Cincinnati, Nov. 13, 1820. 73-5

Fig. 11.—G. T. Ratrie's announcement in the *Liberty Hall & Cincinnati Gazette*, Dec. 2, 1820.

Later, he practiced successfully in the South and West as an itinerant. We find an announcement of his in a newspaper of Staunton, Va., July 10, 1818, and in May of the following year, in Cincinnati. Later, he located in New Orleans, where he remained seven years. On account of his health, he was forced to leave and in 1828 returned to Cincinnati, where he enjoyed a wide reputation and stood deservedly in the front rank among the members of the dental profession. In 1835, he removed to Louisville, Ky.,

6. *Dent. Reg.*, 11:359, 1857-1858.

where he practiced until his death, Jan. 26, 1858.

He was elected a member of the Mississippi Valley Association of Dental Surgeons in September, 1851, and was chosen president at the same meeting. He invented a blow-pipe, illustrated in the *American Journal of Dental Science*.<sup>7</sup>

The dentists of Louisville passed suitable resolutions at his death, in which he was paid the following tribute: "He enjoyed the respect of the community in which he lived and was beloved by all who knew him. We leave his name to be cherished by the hearts of the many who were wont to meet his sympathy, and receive his aid in the troubles that bestrew life's pathway."

**C. MUNROE, DENTIST,**

**H**AVING perfected himself in this highly important science with one of the most eminent DENTISTS in the United States, and being an eye-witness to most of the recent and improved operations upon the Teeth, &c. in the Atlantic States, offers his professional services to the good citizens of Cincinnati (among whom he has taken a permanent residence)—and may be found, at all hours of the day, at Col. MACK'S Hotel, until his rooms are prepared to receive Patients.  
Cin. Dec. 14. 3p5

Fig. 12.—C. Munroe's announcement in the *Liberty Hall & Cincinnati Gazette*, Dec. 21, 1824.

**MR. GREEN**  
(FROM ENGLAND)

The *Liberty Hall & Cincinnati Gazette*, issue of Oct. 8, 1819, published the announcement shown in Figure 10.

In the *Literary Cadet*, Nov. 29, 1819, in addition to his usual announcement, Mr. Green says: "Children's teeth regulated."

The *Cincinnati Western Spy* of March 20, 1820, contains an advertisement of Durrels' Lotion for the teeth, and cure for scurvy of the gums.

7. Somerby, Rufus: *Am. J. Dent. Sc.*, 5:226, First Series, 1844-1845.

G. T. RATRIE

The *Liberty Hall & Cincinnati Gazette* on Dec. 2, 1820, published the announcement of Dr. Ratrie shown in Figure 11.

He announced his return on April 18, 1823, and again on May 14, 1824, with an M.D. attached to his name, a degree not used in his previous announcements.

GEORGE W. HUBLEY

The *Cincinnati Advertiser* of Feb. 18, 1824, announces "George W. Hubley, Dentist, who will remain a few weeks."

**James Whittaker,**  
**DENTIST,**  
(Late assistant to Mr. Parmly, of New-Orleans)

**I**N TENDS devoting the greater part of his time to his professional practice, which is precisely on the highly approved plan of Mr. *Parmly*. According to the improvements of that gentleman, artificial **TEETH** are fixed, without the aid of Ligature, or any Metallic substance, and in so perfect a manner, as at once to elude detection.

Every other dental operation performed with the greatest care and attention, and under the advantage of those important and skilful improvements, for which every person acquainted with Mr. *Parmly's* method, have given him the most grateful commendation. The terms are so moderate as to constitute no reasonable objection.

*J. Whittaker* may be consulted at his Room, from 9 A. M. to 3 P. M. at Mr. *WATSON'S* Hotel, sign of the Golden Lamb, for a few days.  
Chillicothe, Nov. 15. 31

Fig. 13.—James Whittaker's announcement in the Chillicothe Times, Nov. 24, 1824.

His announcements appeared with regularity during this period.

C. MUNROE

The *Liberty Hall & Cincinnati Gazette*, in the issue of Dec. 21, 1824, published an alluring announcement. (Fig. 12.)

In 1825, he had the rooms formerly occupied by Dr. Ratrie, 7 Broadway.

JAMES WHITTAKER

The *Chillicothe Times* of Nov. 24, 1824, published an announcement, photo-

graphic copy of which is here presented. (Fig. 13.)

While we have no evidence of Whitaker's practicing in Cincinnati on his journey north from New Orleans, it is quite probable that he gave "the gay, the fashionable and the wealthy" of that "flourishing metropolis" the benefit of his knowledge, obtained while assistant to Dr. Parmly, in which event, Dr. John Harris may have had opportunity to further his knowledge of Dr. Parmly's methods.

From the foregoing announcements, it is evident that Dr. John Harris had the opportunity to study the known methods of technical procedure of that day, the

**DENTISTRY.**  
**JOHN HARRIS, M. D.**  
**DENTIST,**

Member of the American Society of Dental Surgeons.

**T**AKES this method of informing his friends and acquaintances that he has returned to Chillicothe, for the purpose of practicing his profession, and is amply prepared to attend to all cases pertaining thereto. His stay will depend entirely upon the demands for his services. No reference is deemed necessary, as he is so generally known. Dr. H. is prepared to put in full or entire sets of teeth, and warrant them to subvert the purpose of original teeth, for replacement or no charge will be made.

He may be found at Mrs. Houghton's, Second St., a few doors below Col. Madeira's Hotel.  
July 21, 1842. 151f

Fig. 14.—Dr. John Harris' announcement as a member of the American Society of Dental Surgeons; published in the Scioto Gazette, July 21, 1842.

French through Dr. Plantou or, more probably, the system of Dr. Durroux, through his pupil Dr. Somerby; the English through Dr. Green, and last but not least, dentistry as practiced by the dentists in the New England States, through Eleazar Parmly or C. Munroe.

Basing our opinion on the testimony of his contemporaries concerning Dr. Harris' thoroughness as a student, we would conclude that each system as practiced by these itinerant dentists received his closest investigation, and, on the final analysis of these studies, he adopted a technical procedure which in his opinion

was calculated to produce the most beneficial results.

Referring to the "Pioneers of the Dental Profession of the Mississippi Valley," Dr. Taft mentioned "Drs. John, James and Chapin A. Harris."

#### JOHN HARRIS

John Harris (1798-1849) was the founder of the School of Medical Instruction.<sup>8</sup>

Dr. Harris was married, Nov. 12, 1827, to Mrs. Martha Edmiston Wampler, widow of Dr. Fletcher Wampler of Bainbridge, whom she had married in Chillicothe, Oct. 28, 1824.

In 1830, Dr. Harris moved from Bainbridge to Chillicothe. He removed to Kentucky in 1834. He was unsuccessful in an effort in 1836 to obtain a charter from the legislature for a dental college in Kentucky. He practiced in Louisville, Frankfort and Georgetown until 1845, when he was succeeded by Dr. Cyrenius O. Cone, a graduate of the Baltimore College of the same year. Dr. Cone was recommended as "a man of moral and professional worth" through the newspapers by Dr. Harris. Dr. Cone remained in Georgetown until the fall of 1846, when he became demonstrator of prosthetic dentistry in his alma mater.<sup>9</sup>

In the *Scioto Gazette* of March 4, 1842, appears the following announcement under "Dentistry":

Dr. John Harris, Dentist, formerly of this city, at the solicitation of many of his friends and acquaintances, has come to the determination to return to Chillicothe some time in May or June next for the purpose of attending to all the calls in the line of his profession. Chillicothe, March 4, 1842.

In the issue of the *Scioto Gazette* of

8. Biographic sketches: Bull. Ohio. State Dent. Soc., pp. 106-111 (May) 1927; Dent. Cosmos, 71:1074-1081 (Nov.) 1929; Tr. A.D.A., 1930, pp. 201-207; Footnote 3.

9. Footnote 5, p. 266.

July 21, 1842, appears his announcement as a member of the American Society of Dental Surgeons. (Fig. 14.)

#### JAMES H. HARRIS

Thorpe is in error in "Biographies of Pioneer American Dentists," page 66, in stating that "James H. Harris became a clergyman." He studied medicine with his brother John Harris while at Madison.

James H. Harris, brother of John Harris, formerly of Madison, Ohio, located in Columbus, Ohio, in 1822, as per his announcement published in the *Columbus Gazette*, issue of March 21, 1822, as follows:

#### DR. J. H. HARRIS

Hereby informs the public that (having long since made choice of this town, for his permanent place of residence, and having now moved to the same) he will as far as possible, attend to all calls in the line of his profession. His office and residence is on the east side of High Street, first door south of the State House.

N.B. Dr. Harris and Mr. Jerome design to keep constantly on hand at the Laboratory formerly owned by R. Hart and Co. on Broadway, north of the Public Square, a general supply of Copperas, Paints, Acids, Ethers and Dr. Sourins Rheumatic Oil and Cerate that has been so justly celebrated in many parts of the world for the cure of Rheumatism and chronic diseases of almost every description. Columbus, March 18, 1822.

His residence in Columbus was evidently of short duration, as the *Columbus Gazette* of Oct. 17, 1822, published in a list of letters unclaimed at the post office, Oct. 1, 1822, one addressed to "James H. or Chapin Harris."

The *Lancaster Gazette* of June 5, 1827, mentions a meeting of the Medical Society of the 13th District and among the officers elected was: "James H. Harris, Treasurer."

In the same paper, the issue of Dec. 30, 1828, is the announcement that he



has resumed and will at all times promptly attend to the practice of "Physic, Surgery and Midwifery, and has removed to the late residence of Dr.

McNeil, Broadway, near the Market House."

The same card appears early in the following year, but his name is not included in the list of members of the 13th District Medical Society, published in the *Gazette* of June 2, 1829; and no further mention is found of him as a physician.

The announcement of Dec. 30, 1828, indicates a previous absence from Lancaster, and indicates to my mind that, during this period of absence, he was attending the school of John Harris at Bainbridge, receiving instruction in dental surgery, in the latter part of 1827 and the greater portion of 1828, as the first announcement of the school was made in

**DR. JOHN HARRIS,  
SURGEON DENTIST,  
FROM CHILlicothe,**

**R**ESPECTFULLY tenders his services to the Ladies and Gentlemen of Columbus and its vicinity, in the various branches of

**DENTAL ART.**

From his knowledge of the Medical profession, Surgery and Dental Surgery, in particular, he feels confident that he will be able to give perfect and entire satisfaction, to all who may be pleased to favor him with their patronage. He will set

**ARTIFICIAL TEETH,**

with much permanency, and so natural in appearance, as to escape detection; and without that pain so consequent upon the operation, as performed by most Dentists—cure all cases of scurvy of the teeth—preserve those that are decaying—extract all kinds of teeth and stumps with ease, and perform every other operation of a Dental character, in a style of neatness, elegance and durability, not to be surpassed in the United States.

Dr. H. has been a practitioner for more than ten years, and has devoted more than half of his time to the theory and practice of Dentistry.

Those persons whose gums are diseased, will do well to call immediately, as all such cases require from one to six or more sittings to effect complete cures.

His charges will be as follows, viz:

For inserting artificial teeth, each	\$3.00
" extracting do	0.50
" cleansing the teeth in ordinary cases	1.00
" treatment in relation to scurvy,	
from	2 to 5.00
" plugging teeth, each plug	1.00

All other operations in the same proportion.

His office is at *John Watson's Hotel*; but he will visit Ladies at their residence, if requested. As he intends remaining but a few days in this place, those wishing his aid, will please call as soon as convenient.

For information with regard to his skill in his profession, reference may be had to any citizen of Chillicothe, or the following Gentlemen residing in this place, viz: Col JOHN WATSON, JOHN BAILLACHE, Esq and Doctor M. B. WRIGHT.

P. S. As Dr. H. intends visiting this place once in each year, those Ladies and Gentlemen who may have Teeth inserted, will enjoy the opportunity of having the same kept in order, without any extra charge.

Oct. 12, 1830

6

Fig. 15.—Dr. John Harris' announcement appearing in the Ohio State Journal & Columbus Gazette, Oct. 14, 1830.

**DENTISTRY.**

The advertisement of Doctor JAMES H. HARRIS, which will be found in a subsequent column, is respectfully recommended to the attention of our readers. The advertiser is brother to Doctor JOHN HARRIS, who has practised in this town for some weeks past, and whose skill in Dental Surgery is generally acknowledged. We have examined the testimonials of the former gentleman, and can state that they bear sufficient evidence of his correct deportment and professional ability, to justify the confidence of those who may be pleased to avail themselves of his services as a Dentist.

Fig. 16.—Notice of Dr. James H. Harris' announcement appearing in the Ohio State Journal & Columbus Gazette, Nov. 18, 1830.

November, 1827; and in March, 1828, John Harris had equipped his school with "A larger supply of surgical instruments, among which are a full set for practicing Dental Surgery."

As John Harris had been devoting more than one-half of his time to the practice of dental surgery since 1820, as shown by the foregoing advertisement, undoubtedly he had in 1827 a sufficient armamentarium for his private practice, and this "larger supply" would indicate that he had established a clinic in connection with his lectures.

In confirmation of the statement above that James H. Harris was a dentist instead of a clergyman, the item shown in Figure 16 appeared in the same issue as James H. Harris' announcement, Nov. 18, 1830.

Dr. James H. Harris, shortly after his return to Lancaster in December, 1828, devoted his time exclusively to dentistry. He spent the major portion of his time in

**DR. JAS. H. HARRIS,**  
**SURGEON DENTIST,**

**R**ESPECTFULLY tenders his services to the Ladies and Gentlemen of Columbus and its vicinity, in the various branches of the

**DENTAL ART.**

From his knowledge of the Medical profession, Surgery and Dental Surgery, in particular, he pledges himself to perform any operation of a Dental character, in a style of neatness, elegance and durability, not to be surpassed.

Those who need his services, are respectfully invited to examine his testimonials, his improved mode and manner of operating, and his work, and judge for themselves.

His residence and room is on the corner of High and Rich streets, a few doors south of J. Armstrong's Hotel.

Early application is desired, especially in all cases involving scurvy of the gums and teeth, or where decay, ulceration and pain, have produced any considerable local or constitutional irritation or disease: as those cases will require two, three or more sittings, with intervals of several days, to insure a perfect and lasting cure. But where the gums are in a healthy condition, teeth may be inserted so as to subserve all the purposes of the original teeth, both in beauty and usefulness. The natural teeth may be diseased and irritating matter or caries removed; their decayed cavities prepared and filled, so as to render them as useful and durable as if never decayed, without any delay, and generally at one sitting, and without pain.

Families, if requested, will be waited on at their residences.

Charges as low as can possibly be afforded.

Columbus, Nov. 15. 1830. 10—1f

Fig. 17.—Dr. James H. Harris' announcement appearing in the Ohio State Journal & Columbus Gazette, Nov. 18, 1830.

Lancaster, but made occasional trips elsewhere, as is shown by the announcement copy of which appears in Figure 17.

Later, he went to Baltimore, Md., and there he died, Oct. 24, 1836.<sup>10</sup>

10. Footnote 4, p. 358.

**CHAPIN A. HARRIS**  
(1806-1860)

Space will not permit a review of the career and achievements of Chapin A. Harris, organizer of the first dental college, at Baltimore, editor of the first dental journal (*American Journal of Dental Science*) and prolific author.

At a meeting of the dentists in New York City, Oct. 8, 1860, of which Eleazar Parmly was chairman and Solymon Brown secretary, under the "Harris Testimonial Fund" the preamble and resolutions pay him the following tribute:

Every distinct profession in human society has its leading members, men of energy, talent and eminence. This is true of the dental profession as of any other, and not less true in America than in other quarters of the globe. The names of Greenwood, Woofendale, Gardette, Hayden, Flagg, Hudson, Koecker and Randall among others that have left their sublunary labors, are evidence of this fact.

It has become our melancholy duty in pursuance of the object of this meeting, to add another name to this catalogue, more highly distinguished than any of his predecessors for numerous and valuable contributions to the science and literature of his profession, as well as by his writings, as by personal inculcations as head of the oldest, and for many years, the only dental college in the world.<sup>11</sup>

I recall, while a student in the office of the late Dr. F. H. Rehwinkel, of Chillicothe, the pleasure it was to Dr. Rehwinkel to relate the cordial reception given to him by Dr. Harris when, in 1854, he matriculated in the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery. Dr. Harris referred to the fact that Chillicothe was only a few miles from Bainbridge.

**DR. JONES, "FORMERLY OF DAYTON"**

Dr. John Jones was born in 1795 and died at Dayton, Ohio, Sept. 11, 1850, having practiced about twenty years.

11. Dent. Cosmos, 2:221, 1861. Biographic references: Dent. Cosmos. 2: 274-279, 1860; Am. J. Dent. Sci., 10:588-591, 1860; Dent. Reg., 15:79-90, 1861.

Shortly after entering practice, he located in the Miami Valley, and he practiced in Miamisburg and in neighboring towns, removing to Dayton about 1840-1842. He maintained a high standing in his profession and only those who knew him well could appreciate his private worth. He received an honorary D.D.S. from the Ohio College of Dental Surgery.

A friend in Dayton, writing of his death, said: "A man highly esteemed both in professional and private life, his loss is no doubt felt by more of the citizens than would be the loss of any other citizen, either public or private."<sup>12</sup>

He is buried with his wife, Susan M. Jones (1808-1884), and his sons William S. and Capt. James E. Jones, in Woodland Cemetery, Dayton, Ohio.

William S. Jones (1836-1883) was for many years first assistant clerk of the police court in Cincinnati.

Capt. James E. Jones deserves more than passing notice. He was born at Miamisburg, Jan. 31, 1835. In 1852, he began the study of dentistry with Dr. Taylor in Cincinnati, and, in 1855, he graduated from the Ohio College of Dental Surgery. After practicing one year with Dr. W. H. Goddard of Louisville, Ky., he returned to Dayton and continued in practice. He took an active interest in dental affairs, becoming a member of the Mad River Valley Dental Society, Oct. 4, 1860.

In 1861, at the outbreak of the Rebellion, with the "Dayton Light Guard" he answered the first call of President Lincoln in the First Ohio Regiment, serving from April to July, 1861. Reenlisting Aug. 12, 1861, with a commission of first lieutenant in the same regiment, he was soon promoted to captain and, at the head of his company, participated in some of

the most sanguinary battles in the South. He was mustered out Sept. 1, 1864. After an imperiled service of four years, it was his sad fate to meet a violent death in the burning of Pike's Opera House in Cincinnati, Thursday evening, March 22, 1866. At the time that he received his injuries, he was assisting in removing goods from the office of the Adams Express Company, where he was crushed by the falling of the cornice.

It was said of him: "He was a man of personal excellence, intelligent in military affairs, brave in battle and possessed of noble qualities of head and heart."<sup>13</sup>

#### DR. WAMPLER, OF ILLINOIS

Dr. Wesley Wampler was born in Virginia, Oct. 25, 1806, and died at Hum-



Fig. 18.—Instrument with which Dr. Wesley Wampler removed a tooth for Abraham Lincoln some time during 1856 while at Milton Station, Ill.

boldt, Ill., July 27, 1875. His parents were Joseph and Sarah (Stevens) Wampler of Virginia, who later resided at Oakland and Paris, Ill. They were also the parents of Newton, who died in infancy, and Fletcher Wampler, a physician at Bainbridge, Ohio, who was born May 16, 1804; married Martha Edmiston of Chillicothe, Ohio, Oct. 28, 1824, and died at Bainbridge in 1827. His widow married Dr. John Harris, Nov. 12, 1827.

12. Dent. Reg., 4:51, 1850.

13. Dayton Daily Journal, March 27, 1866; Cincinnati Gazette, March 27, 1866.



Dr. Wesley Wampler also studied dentistry and medicine in Baltimore, Md., and as a pioneer "practiced on horseback in Ohio, Illinois and Wisconsin," settling at Milton Station, now Humboldt, Coles County, Illinois, in the year 1840, and continued to practice until about 1868. While he was practicing at Milton Station, Abraham Lincoln, on his way to Chicago, had him remove a tooth, the first he had had extracted by a dentist. This was done some time during 1856. A photograph of the instrument used is shown in Figure 18.

Dr. Wampler retired from practice about 1868, and with his father was commissioned by the government as surveyor for southern Michigan. The compass and chain used by them are in the Henry Ford Museum at Dearborn, Mich.

Dr. Wesley Wampler married at Pinhook, Ill., in 1834, Mahala Longnecker (March 30, 1817-Sept. 23, 1889) of Maysville, Ky. They were the parents of five children: Matilda and Isabel, who died in childhood, Joseph F. (Oakland, Ill., 1846-1930), Thomas Wesley (Paris, Ill., 1850-1905) and Lawrence A. Wampler, who was born at Sheboygan, Wis., March 28, 1858, now residing at Richmond, Va. To Lawrence A. Wampler and Miss Emma M. Wampler, of Chicago, I am indebted for much of the foregoing information.

#### DR. CHURCH, OF BALTIMORE

Dr. Samuel T. Church, Baltimore, Md., according to the Baltimore city directory, was in 1858-1859 located at 51 N. Charles Street; in 1860, at the northeast corner of Charles and Lexington Streets, and in 1863-1864, at 87 N. Charles Street. No reference to him appears previous to nor subsequent to the foregoing dates and at this writing no

further information is available regarding him.

#### DRS. JOSEPH, JAMES AND IRWIN TAYLOR

This name "Taylor" is so closely identified with the early annals of American dentistry, and about the members of this family so much has been written, it would be redundant to offer more than a biographic citation.

The Taylor family is closely associated with the settlement of the Paint Valley. It is of interest to note that the Ohio pioneer of the family was William Taylor, a Revolutionary soldier, native of New Jersey, who, with his wife, Lucy Imlay, settled about one mile from the present site of Bainbridge, in 1800. He died April 24, 1830. The *Scioto Gazette* of May 19, 1830, states that he left fourteen children, one hundred and twenty-four grandchildren and seventy-five great-grandchildren. Their oldest son, Joseph Taylor (Sept. 27, 1770-Aug. 25, 1830), married Aug. 8, 1797, Jane Irwin (Aug. 25, 1779-Oct. 19, 1847) in Kentucky, where his father had settled temporarily, and came to Paint Valley with the other members of the family in 1800.

They were the parents of seven sons and two daughters. Four of the sons became dentists: Joseph (Sept. 23, 1806-May 12, 1873)<sup>14</sup>; James (March 25, 1809-June 12, 1881)<sup>15</sup>; Edward (Feb. 17, 1811-Feb. 26, 1868)<sup>16</sup>; Irwin (July 15, 1813-April 4, 1843). I am unable to cite an obituary of Dr. Irwin Taylor, but the following information was obtainable:

In 1838, Irwin Taylor assumed charge of a dry goods business in Bainbridge which Dr. James Taylor had established

14. Obituary, *Dent. Reg.*, 27:291-293, 1873.

15. Obituary, *Dent. Reg.*, 38:1-12, 1884; Thorpe's *Biography of Pioneer American Dentists and Successors*.

16. Obituary, *Dent. Reg.*, 22:91, 1868.

the same year. Later, Dr. Taylor's eyes threatened to fail and he sold out his store and moved to Crawfordsville, Ind., establishing another store, with Irwin Taylor in charge. The merchandise business not proving satisfactory, it was closed up and Irwin Taylor went to Maysville, Ky., where he studied dentistry with his brother Joseph Taylor, in 1841. Shortly after, he went to Natchez, Miss., at which place his brother Edward was practicing dentistry.

Irwin Taylor died at Natchez, April 4, 1843, and was buried in Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, Ohio.

James and Joseph Taylor were charter members of the Mississippi Valley Association of Dental Surgeons, Aug. 13, 1844.

James Taylor was among the first students of Dr. John Harris in Bainbridge. In an article on the "Life and Character of Chapin A. Harris,"<sup>17</sup> he states:

I was a student of medicine in his (Dr. John Harris') office . . . . He had acquired considerable reputation as a general surgeon and was a skillful operator. He was much devoted to the study of anatomy and chemistry, fond of experimenting; had a quick and active mind, was polished in his manner, delighted in imparting instruction to his pupils, devoted much time to their interests and prided much in their advancement in medical knowledge. At that time he had three or four students, *two of whom followed his pursuit of dental knowledge*, myself being one of them.

This statement refers to about 1826-1827. While it furnishes a pleasing estimate of the character and qualifications of Dr. John Harris, it furnishes convincing evidence that the subject of dentistry was receiving the fullest attention. The statement indicates also that some of Dr. Harris' pupils pursued a medical career.

The three elder Taylors contributed

17. Taylor, James: *Dent. Reg. of West*, 15: 79-80, 1861.

extensively to dental literature, particularly Dr. James Taylor, whose contributions embrace practically every topic relating to dental practice.

Dr. James Taylor founded the Ohio College of Dental Surgery in Cincinnati in 1845, the second dental college established. He was the first editor of the *Dental Register of the West* and president of the American Dental Association in 1866.<sup>18</sup>

Jared Taylor (1802-1875), another son of Joseph and Jane Irwin Taylor, was the father of Dr. James Irwin Taylor (Sept. 29, 1842-May 10, 1916), who graduated from the Ohio College of Dental Surgery in 1865 and practiced in Cincinnati until his death. His son, Dr. Henry C. Taylor, now of Toledo, Ohio, graduated at the Ohio College of Dental Surgery in 1894.

Dr. James Silcott, of Cincinnati, a graduate of the Ohio College of Dental Surgery in 1886, is also a grandson of Jared Taylor.

Dr. James Taylor Irwin (Aug. 3, 1833-Feb. 21, 1905), of the Ohio College of Dental Surgery, 1853, for many years a dentist in Cincinnati, was of the Irwin family into which the senior Taylor married, Aug. 8, 1797.

Everything presented in evidence of the fact, as stated in the beginning, that "dentistry, as a science, had its beginning in the village of Bainbridge in the year 1827" is *de visu*, and consideration has been given only to facts that have been substantiated by records the authenticity of which cannot be doubted. The few deductions that have been offered have been made with caution.

Research has disclosed the names of many pioneer itinerant dentists in southern Ohio, not pertinent to this subject,

18. *Dent. Reg.*, 38:1-12, 1884.

but they have been preserved in a supplement to this paper.

I regret that the descendants of John Harris have not thus far been located nor his photograph been procured.

In 1849, Dr. Harris' family were residing in Frederick, Md., during which time he seems to have continued his itinerant trips in the practice of his profession. It was his fate to have his dental career brought to a close in a small village as he had begun it; and though far

Grant of the M. E. Church preached the service and the burial took place in the Hertford Public Cemetery, which is a beautifully kept burial ground. His grave is among many of the other unmarked graves. While standing here, with a feeling of reverence for a man who, in a short span of life, did more for the educational advancement of dentistry than had been accomplished in all the ages that had preceded him, the truism—"The measure of success is not what we

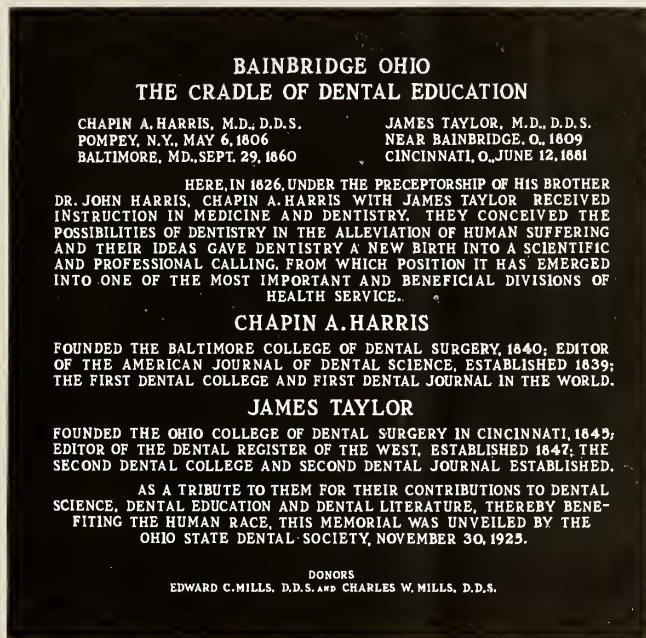


Fig. 19.—Tablet erected to Chapin A. Harris and James Taylor at Bainbridge, Ohio, "the cradle of dental education." This tablet on the town hall at Bainbridge, was unveiled Nov. 30, 1925 (*THE JOURNAL*, February, 1926, p. 276; *Ohio Archaeol. and Hist. Pub.*, April, 1926, pp. 380-401.)

distant from the loving care of a devoted family, he received tender ministrations from the members of the Masonic Fraternity.

His death occurred at Hertford, N.C., July 26, 1849, and the day following, Perquimans Lodge No. 106, F. & A. M., officiated at his burial. Rev. William

get out of life but what we leave after it"—seemed a dominating thought.

While there should be a fitting memorial at a site approximating the place of his burial to express a deserving tribute to his efforts in behalf of his profession, the most enduring monument to his vision and foresight is the result of the



inspiration which he imparted in his school of "Medical Instruction."

(During a visit to Hertford during the past summer (1931), it was found, on examination of the records of the Masonic Lodge several years previous to 1849, that Dr. Harris' name does not appear; but it appears as a visitor on April 11 and June 16, 1849. The "Index to the Executors and Administrators," in the office of the county clerk refers to an entry on the Minute Docket, Vol. 9, p. 119, as follows: "August Term 1849. Letters of administration upon the estate of Dr. John Harris were committee to Jos. H. White who entered into bond in the sum of \$1,000 with W. H. Bagley and B. J. Saunders (Saunders to sign later) and qualified agreeably to law." No record was found of filing a return.)

#### CONCLUSION

The high standards for the dental profession that were maturing in the mind of Dr. John Harris during his activities in Bainbridge were brought to full fruition by the students who came under his influence. Not often is it granted to one to view the results of the travail of mind in the projection of an idea, but Dr. John Harris lived to witness through the work of Chapin A. Harris and James Taylor, the passing to future generations of this heritage of untold worth bequeathed by him.

May we then be worthy of this heritage and enter into it with humility and profound thankfulness that to us has been handed this torch of work and research for the benefit of humanity, and may we have the strength and courage to bear it high and to keep the faith.

#### SUPPLEMENT

##### SOME PIONEER DENTISTS OF SOUTHERN OHIO NOT MENTIONED IN TEXT

###### CHILLICOTHE

*Scioto Gazette*: Dr. C. J. Ward, Nov. 24, 1930; resident dentist, Feb. 18, 1835. Dr. Joseph Sanford, surgeon dentist, March 4, 1842. Dr. I. M. Young, surgeon dentist, of Cincinnati, March 30, 1842.

###### LANCASTER

*Lancaster Gazette*: July 17, 1827, Dr. Hard-year at Mr. Steinman's Hotel; terms, inserting a tooth, \$3; Cleaning, \$1; Plugging, \$0.50. Oct. 23, 1827, J. Walker, for a short time at Col. Nobles. Feb. 24, 1829, Dr. Isaac A. Gibbs at Mr. Steinman's Hotel. May 3, 1831, Dr. J. L. Ligget of Zanesville, announces occasional visits, and lectures in City Hall on the importance of the teeth. May 24, 1832, Dr. A. Crane tenders his services. June 14, 1832, A. Kilbourn, surgeon dentist (from Columbus); room at D. Rokol's. Feb. 12, 1833, E. Taylor, surgeon dentist, room at D. Rokol's Tavern. Feb. 2, 1837, D. C. McGee, surgeon dentist, room at Phoenix Hotel.

###### COLUMBUS

*Ohio State Journal*: Jan. 17, 1829, Isaac A. Gibbs, surgeon dentist, Mr. S. Barr's Boarding House, credentials from New York City. Oct. 29, 1829, George Whalen, surgeon dentist, office at Mr. Browning's Hotel.

*Ohio State Journal & Columbus Gazette*: Jan. 6, 1832, A. Kilbourn ("grateful for past favors," indicating a previous visit). March 3, 1832, Thomas White, surgeon dentist, announces having studied in Philadelphia; returned Oct. 12, 1833—"One or two young gentlemen will receive instructions on liberal terms." Sept. 22, 1832, Meacham (W. P.) visited Columbus irregularly as late as 1838. Nov. 17, 1832, Meacham & Smith, a firm of short duration. May 11, 1833, Dr. Smith (office by self) continued in Columbus as late as 1838. June 8, 1836, H. Thompson, resident dentist.

*Daily Journal & Register*: Nov. 2, 1837, Mr. Powell, operative dentist, American Hotel.

*Ohio State Journal*: Dec. 31, 1838, H. Todd, dentist, announces that he had practiced in New York City the past five years.

#### KEY TO FIGURE 4

\* John Harris' School for "Medical Instruction," Bainbridge, Ohio, 1827.

1. Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, Baltimore, Md., 1840.
2. Ohio College of Dental Surgery, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1845.
4. Philadelphia College of Dental Surgery, 1852.
5. New York College of Dental Surgery, Syracuse, N. Y., 1852.
6. Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery, Philadelphia, Pa., 1853.

8. Temple University, School of Dentistry, Philadelphia, Pa., 1862.
9. New York University College of Dentistry, New York City, 1866.
10. Washington University School of Dentistry, St. Louis, Mo., 1866.
12. Harvard University Dental School, Boston, Mass., 1867.
13. Tufts College Dental School, Boston, Mass., 1868.
15. University of Toronto, Faculty of Dentistry, Toronto, Canada, 1875.
16. University of Michigan, College of Dental Surgery, Ann Arbor, Mich., 1875.
17. University of Tennessee, College of Dentistry, Memphis, Tenn., 1877.
19. Thomas W. Evans Museum and Dental Institute, School of Dentistry, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., 1878.
20. Vanderbilt University, School of Dentistry, Nashville, Tenn., 1879.
21. Indiana University, School of Dentistry, Indianapolis, Ind., 1879.
22. Howard University, College of Dentistry, Washington, D. C., 1881.
23. College of Dentistry, University of California, San Francisco, Calif., 1881.
24. Kansas City-Western Dental College, Kansas City, Mo., 1881.
25. State University of Iowa, College of Dentistry, Iowa City, Iowa, 1881.
26. University of Maryland, School of Dentistry and the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, Baltimore, Md., 1882.
27. Chicago College Dental Surgery, Dental Department of Loyola University, Chicago, Ill., 1883.
29. University of Minnesota, College of Dentistry, Minneapolis, Minn., 1883.
30. National University, Dental Department, Washington, D. C., 1884.
32. American College of Dental Surgery, Chicago, Ill., 1885.
34. University of Louisville, School of Dentistry, Louisville, Ky., 1886.
35. Meharry Dental College, Dental Department of Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tenn., 1886.
37. Columbia University, Dental Department, Washington, D. C., 1887.
38. School of Dentistry, University of Denver, Denver, Colo., 1887.
39. Atlanta Southern Dental College, Atlanta, Ga., 1887.
40. Northwestern University Dental School, Chicago, Ill., 1887.
46. Western Dental College, Kansas City, Mo., 1890.
49. University of Illinois, College of Dentistry, Chicago, Ill., 1891.
50. University of Buffalo, School of Dentistry, Buffalo, N. Y., 1892.
52. Dental College, Province of Quebec, Montreal, 1892.
53. School of Dental and Oral Surgery of Columbia University, New York City, 1892.
54. Ohio State University, College of Dentistry, Columbus, Ohio, 1892.
55. Western Reserve University, School of Dentistry, Cleveland, Ohio, 1892.
58. Cincinnati College of Dental Surgery, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1893.
60. School of Dentistry, Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, Va., 1893.
61. Marquette University, School of Dentistry, Milwaukee, Wis., Sept., 1894.
62. St. Louis University, School of Dentistry, St. Louis, Mo., 1894.
64. Omaha Dental College, Dental Department of the University of Omaha, Nebr., Feb., 1895.
69. College of Physicians and Surgeons, College of Dental Surgery, San Francisco, Calif., 1896.
70. University of Pittsburgh, School of Dentistry, Pittsburgh, Pa., 1896.
74. University of Southern California, College of Dentistry, Los Angeles, Calif., 1897.
79. Georgetown University, College of Dentistry, Washington, D. C., 1897.
81. North Pacific College of Oregon, School of Dentistry, Portland, Ore., 1898.
82. Tulane University of Louisiana, College of Medicine, School of Dentistry, New Orleans, La., 1899.
85. University of Nebraska, College of Dentistry, Lincoln, Nebr., June, 1899.
90. McGill University, Dental Department, Montreal, Canada, 1904.
91. University of Montreal, Faculty of Dentistry, Montreal, Canada, 1904.
92. Baylor University, College of Dentistry, Dallas, Texas, February, 1905.
93. Texas Dental College, Houston, Texas, Feb. 11, 1905.
94. Creighton University, College of Dentistry, Omaha, Nebr., 1905.
95. Dalhousie University, Faculty of Dentistry, Halifax, Nova Scotia, 1908.
100. Loyola University, School of Dentistry, New Orleans, La., 1914.

104. University of Alberta, Faculty of Medicine, Edmonton, Canada, 1917.

KEY TO CHART OF COLLEGES (FIG. 4)

The colleges in the United States and Canada, including those discontinued, graduates of which were members of original faculties of later colleges, are listed. The number preceding indicates approximately the order of organization and its position on the chart. The names listed with the colleges are those of the original faculty. The number in brackets indicates, when obtainable, the college of graduation, followed by the year.

Many of the pioneer educators who are not here credited with the D. D. S. degree probably received the degree from the American Society of Dental Surgeons, as a resolution was adopted by that society at its organization meeting, Aug. 18-20, 1840, appointing Dr. Eleazar Parmly as an agent of the society to present a petition to the Legislature of the State of New York asking for a charter with power of conferring the degree of doctor of dental surgery (*Am. J. Den. Sc.*, 1:169, 1839).

In some instances, the faculties are incomplete, and, with a few exceptions, faculty members not known to have practiced dentistry are omitted.

\* John Harris' School of "Medical Instruction," Bainbridge, Ohio, 1827.

1. Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, Baltimore, Md., 1840; merged with the University of Maryland, June 15, 1923, under the title of Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, Dental School, University of Maryland. Dean, Chapin A. Harris, M.D., John Harris' school at Bainbridge, Ohio, 1827, (4) 1854, honorary; Horace Hayden, M.D.; Thomas E. Bond, M.D.; H. W. Baxley, M.D.

2. Ohio College of Dental Surgery, Cincinnati, 1845; discontinued, July 1, 1926. Dean, Jesse W. Cook, M.D.; James Taylor, M.D., John Harris' school at Bainbridge, Ohio, (1) 1843, honorary; Melancthon Rogers, M.D.; Jesse P. Judkins, M.D.

4. Philadelphia College of Dental Surgery, Philadelphia, Pa., 1852; discontinued in 1856. Dean, Elisha Townsend (1) 1846, honorary; J. D. White (1) 1856, honorary; T. L. Buckingham (1) 1853; Eli Parry, M.D.; D. P. Whipple.

5. New York College of Dental Surgery, Syracuse, 1852. The buildings were destroyed by fire in 1855, the location was changed to New York City and college named New York

State College of Dental Surgery. 1904, it consolidated with the New York Dental School and the name became the New York College of Dental and Oral Surgery. Dean, Amos Westcott (1); Erick Parmly; C. L. Ford (5) honorary; William Dalrymple (5), honorary; L. G. Bartlett.

6. Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery, Philadelphia, 1853; first organized under the name Philadelphia College of Dental Surgery, and in 1855 changed its name to the Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery; merged with the University of Pennsylvania in 1909. Dean, Robert Arthur (1) 1841; Elisha Townsend (1) 1846, honorary; T. L. Buckingham (1) 1853; J. F. B. Flagg (4) honorary; Louis Jack (6) 1854; William Calvert; Eli Parry, M.D.

7. The New Orleans College of Dentistry, New Orleans, La., 1861; chartered March 1, 1861, remained in operation two or three years. The breaking out of the Civil War caused an interruption until 1867, when the college resumed, graduating students (1868 to 1877 inclusive). It then became extinct. Dean, John S. Clark (2) 1852; G. J. Fredericks (2); A. F. McLain (6) 1856; W. S. Chandler; James S. Knapp. (This information was received too late, to include on the chart of colleges; otherwise it would appear as from the Ohio College of Dental Surgery.)

8. Temple University, School of Dentistry, Philadelphia, Pa., 1862, organized as the Philadelphia Dental College, for a time named the Philadelphia Dental College and Hospital of Oral Surgery, and later the Philadelphia Dental College and Garretsonian Hospital of Oral Surgery. In 1907, the college was taken over by Temple University and became known as Temple University, School of Dentistry. Dean, J. H. McQuillan (4) 1853; J. Foster Flagg (4) 1856, honorary; G. W. Ellis (6) 1861; William Gorgas (6) 1854; C. A. Kingsbury, M.D.; Thomas Wardell.

9. New York University, College of Dentistry, New York City, 1866; organized as the New York College of Dentistry, June 29, 1925. It became an integral part of New York University and the name was changed to the New York University, College of Dentistry. Dean, N. W. Kingsley (1) 1871; W. H. Dwinelle (1) 1847; J. Smith Dodge, Jr. (1) 1858; Eleazar Parmly; D. H. Goodwillie (6); R. M. Streeter.

10. Washington University School of Den-



tistry, St. Louis, Mo., 1866; organized as the Missouri Dental College. It became the Dental Department of Washington University, and, in 1892, the Dental School of Washington University. In 1918, the name was changed to the Washington University School of Dentistry. Dean, Homer Judd, M.D. (10) 1866, honorary; W. H. Eames (2) 1853; A. M. Leslie (2) 1847; I. Forbes (2) 1850, honorary; W. N. Morrison (2) 1864; H. J. McKellops (2) 1855, honorary; H. E. Peebles (1) 1850, (2) 1850, both honorary.

12. Harvard University Dental School, Boston, Mass., 1867. Dean, Nathan C. Keep, M.D. (1) 1843, honorary; L. D. Shepard (1) 1861; E. G. Leach (6) 1867; I. A. Salmon (6) 1867; George T. Moffatt (12) 1870, honorary; N. W. Hawes (12) 1879, honorary; S. F. Ham (12) 1870.

13. Tufts College Dental School, Boston, Mass., 1868; organized as the Boston Dental College in 1868. In 1899, it became the Dental Department of Tufts College. Dean, J. A. Follett, M.D.; I. J. Wetherbee (1) 1851, honorary; Ambrose Lawrence (6); C. G. Davis (1) 1850; H. F. Bishop (1) 1854; W. H. Atkinson (2) 1859, honorary; W. S. Miller; S. J. McDougall, M.D.

15. University of Toronto, Faculty of Dentistry, Toronto, Canada, 1875. Dean, J. B. Willmott (8) 1871; Luke Tesky (15); R. M. Fisher (15).

16. University of Michigan, College of Dental Surgery, Ann Arbor, 1875. Dean Jonathan Taft (2) 1850; J. A. Watling (2) 1860; W. H. Jackson (16) 1876.

17. University of Tennessee, College of Dentistry, Memphis, 1877; located at Nashville until 1911, united with the University of Memphis, College of Dentistry in 1911 and removed to Memphis the same year. Dean, Robert Russell, M.D., D.D.S.; W. L. Dismukes (2) 1874; John Arrington (7) 1871; H. E. Beach (6) 1870; L. C. Chisholm, registered; J. Y. Crawford (17) 1880, honorary; Gillington Chisholm, registered.

19. Thomas W. Evans Museum and Dental Institute, School of Dentistry, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., 1878; organized as the University of Pennsylvania, School of Dentistry in 1878. In 1909, the Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery and, in 1916, the Dental Department of the Medico-Chirurgical College of Philadelphia were merged into it, and it became known under its present name. Dean, C. J. Essig (8) 1871;

E. T. Darby (6) 1855; M. H. Webb (8) 1867; Robert Huey (6) 1867; Louis Jack (6) 1854; S. H. Guilford (6) 1865; H. C. Register (6) 1866; W. R. Millard (6) 1868; J. A. Woodward (6) 1865; R. H. Shoemaker (6) 1864; G. W. Klump; H. C. Longnecker (8) 1876; H. K. Luch (8) 1877; William Diehl (6) 1877; E. C. Kirk (6) 1878; R. J. Nickell (6) 1879; A. H. Scofield.

20. Vanderbilt University, School of Dentistry, Nashville, Tenn., 1879; organized as the Department of Dentistry of Vanderbilt University; discontinued, July 1, 1926. Dean, W. H. Morgan (1) 1848; R. R. Freeman (6) 1869; J. C. Ross (2) 1853; Henry W. Morgan (8) 1876.

21. Indiana University School of Dentistry Indianapolis, 1879; organized as the Indiana Dental College. President, W. L. Heiskell (21) 1883; Dean, P. G. C. Hunt (2) 1870, honorary; J. E. Cravens (2) 1871; Merit Wells (2) 1860; S. T. Kirk; S. M. Goode; W. M. Herriott (2) 1870, honorary; F. Hutchinson; Joseph Richardson (2) 1853; T. S. Hacker (2) 1873.

22. Howard University, College of Dentistry, Washington, D. C., 1881. Dean, J. F. R. Dufour (1) 1867; N. W. Whitcomb, registered; J. B. Hodgkin (1) 1869.

23. College of Dentistry, University of California, San Francisco, Calif., 1881. Dean, S. W. Dennis (21), honorary; C. L. Goddard (8) 1874; A. F. McLain (6) 1856.

24. Kansas City-Western Dental College, Kansas City, Mo., 1881. Kansas City Dental College, organized in 1881, united in 1919 with the Western Dental College (organized 1890, Kansas City, Mo.), taking the name Kansas City-Western Dental College. Dean, J. K. Stark (24) 1890; C. L. Hungerford (10) 1880; J. D. Patterson (24) 1883; C. B. Hewitt (24) 1885; R. I. Pearson; W. T. Starr (10) 1889; A. J. Thompson (8) 1872; L. C. Wasson (24), honorary; A. C. Shell, registered; E. N. Laveine, registered; J. R. Boyd, registered; L. P. Meredith; R. W. Brown (8) 1873; W. H. Shulze (24) 1892; H. S. Thompson; W. H. Buckley; W. A. Drone.

25. State University of Iowa, College of Dentistry, Iowa City, Iowa, 1881. Dean Luman C. Ingersol (2) 1883; W. O. Kulp (10) 1867; A. O. Hunt (25) 1883; Israel P. Wilson (10) 1869.

26. University of Maryland, School of Dentistry, and the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, Baltimore, Md., 1882. The Univer-

sity of Maryland Dental Department was organized in 1882 and, June 15, 1923, the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery united with it under the present name. Dean, F. J. S. Gorgas (1) 1885; James H. Harris (1) 1861; John C. Uhler (1) 1867; Frank L. Harris (1) 1881; Lewis M. Cowardin (1) 1874.

27. Chicago College Dental Surgery, Dental Department of Loyola University, Chicago, Ill., 1883; originally, the Chicago Dental Infirmary. In 1884, the name was changed to Chicago College of Dental Surgery. In 1889, it became the Dental Department of Lake Forest University; and, in 1906, became the Dental Department of the Valparaiso University. Dean, T. W. Brophy (6) 1872; E. S. Talbot (6) 1873; A. W. Harlan (2) 1880; G. H. Cushing (2) 1864; W. W. Allport (2) 1859; L. P. Haskell, registered; Dr. G. V. Black (10) 1877, honorary (lectured in the Chicago Dental Infirmary in 1883.)

29. University of Minnesota, College of Dentistry, Minneapolis, 1883; organized as Minnesota College Hospital Dental Department in 1883, absorbed the St. Paul Medical College, Dental Department in 1888, and became known as the University of Minnesota, College of Dentistry. Dean, F. A. Dunsmoor, M.D.; M. M. Frieselle (2); W. T. Giddings (6); F. H. Brimmer (8) 1877; L. D. Leonard, registered.

30. National University, Dental Department, Washington, D. C., 1884; merged in 1903 with the Columbia University Dental Department, which discontinued in 1921. Dean, H. M. Barker, M.D.; C. A. Von Hartleben (6) 1870; Burrows Nelson (1) 1880.

32. American College of Dental Surgery, Chicago, Ill., 1885. Dean, I. Clendenin, M.D.; Willard E. Hall; I. F. Davenport; G. W. Whitefield (27) 1885; Eugene Vigneron (1) 1883; C. F. Eshbaugh (27) 1886; T. Rix (32) 1886; J. M. Cooper.

34. University of Louisville, School of Dentistry, Louisville, Ky., 1886; organized 1886 as the Hospital College of Medicine, Dental Department, Central University, Richmond, Ky. In 1899, it was reorganized as the Louisville College of Dentistry of Centre College of Danville. In 1918, it became a school of the University of Louisville. Dean, A. Wilkes Smith (6) 1872; C. G. Edwards (1) 1868; J. H. Baldwin (26) 1883; H. B. Tileston (16) 1882.

35. Meharry Dental College, Dental Department of Meharry Medical College, Nash-

ville, Tenn., 1886; formerly, the Central Tennessee College, Meharry Dental Department; later, connected with Walden University. Dean, G. W. Hubbard, M.D.; W. H. Morgan (1) 1848; J. B. Bailey (20) 1881; A. P. Johnson.

37. Columbia University Dental Department, Washington, D. C., 1887; name changed to George Washington University Dental Department in 1903, when it united with the National University Dental Department, Washington, D. C.; discontinued in 1921. J. Hall Lewis (1) 1879; H. C. Thompson (8) 1871; M. F. Finley (16) 1878; H. B. Noble, Sr. (1) 1857; D. W. McFarland (6) 1855; R. B. Donaldson (1) 1878; J. C. Smithe (1) 1878; L. C. F. Hugo (1) 1887; W. S. Harban (1) 1877; H. B. Noble, Jr.

38. School of Dentistry, University of Denver, Denver, Colo., 1887; organized as the Denver College of Dentistry, united in 1901 with the Colorado College of Dental Surgery, forming the Dental Department of the University of Denver now named as above. Dean, A. B. Robbins, M.D.; P. T. Smith (6) 1868; J. M. Norman, registered; M. A. Bartleson, registered.

39. Atlanta Southern Dental College, Atlanta, Ga., 1887; organized as the Southern Dental College, name changed to the Dental Department of the Atlanta College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1887, and united with the Atlanta Dental College 1917 to form the present college. Dean, L. D. Carpenter (39), honorary; William Crenshaw (1) 1874; John S. Thompson (6) 1873; R. A. Holliday (6) 1875; Sidney Holland (7) 1870.

40. Northwestern University Dental School, Chicago, Ill., 1887; absorbed the American College of Dental Surgery in 1896 and the Northwestern College of Dental Surgery in 1898. Dean, E. D. Swain (2) 1883, honorary; G. V. Black (10) 1877, honorary; Thomas L. Gilmer (10) 1881; G. H. Cushing (2) 1864; J. S. Marshall, registered; C. P. Pruyn (27) 1885; I. A. Freeman (40) 1890; A. B. Freeman (8) 1886; B. S. Palmer (16) 1883; W. B. Ames (2) 1880; A. E. Matteson (40) 1890, honorary; E. L. Clifford (6) 1879; G. W. Haskins (27) 1887; G. W. Whitefield (27) 1885; D. M. Cattell (16) 1879; H. P. Smith (27); secretary of faculty, Edmund Noyes.

46. Western Dental College, Kansas City, Mo., 1890; in 1919, united with the Kansas City Dental College (24). Dean, D. J. McMillan (10) 1877; H. S. Lowry (6) 1880;



A. J. McDonald (10) 1886; J. M. Gross (24) 1887; J. W. Hecker (24) 1887; S. C. Wheat (24) 1889; George Ashton (16) 1882; E. D. Carr (12) 1874; E. E. Shattuck (2) 1876; W. G. Price (2) 1881; C. E. Esterley (2); J. S. Letord; H. S. Thompson; S. B. Prevost; Elliott Smith; J. W. Aiken.

49. University of Illinois, College of Dentistry, Chicago, Ill., 1891; organized as the Columbian Dental College; in 1898, reorganized as the Illinois School of Dentistry; and, in 1901, merged into the University of Illinois. Dean, J. S. Marsh, registered; W. H. Pontius (32) 1890; S. M. Wilkie (40) 1890; A. J. Rust (16) 1890.

50. University of Buffalo, School of Dentistry, Buffalo, N. Y., 1892. Dean, W. C. Barrett (6) 1880; J. Edward Line (6) 1871; G. B. Snow (6) 1859; George J. Frey (6) 1891; H. A. Birdsall (8) 1884; C. A. Allen (19) 1881; V. H. Jackson (16) 1877; H. B. Meade (27) 1892; A. P. Southwick; F. E. Howard; G. W. Melotte, registered.

52. Dental College of the Province of Quebec, Montreal, Canada, 1892; affiliated with the University of Bishops College, Faculty of Dentistry, 1892; discontinued, 1904. Dean, G. W. Beers (52); Frederick A. Stevenson (12) 1889; L. J. B. Leblanc (52); S. J. Andres (52); S. Globensky (52); R. H. Berwick (52); J. H. Bourdon (52).

53. School of Dental and Oral Surgery of Columbia University, New York City, 1892; organized as New York Dental School; changed name in 1904 to College of Dental and Oral Surgery of New York; on July 1, 1923, merged with the School of Dentistry of Columbia University, the two forming the present school. Z. T. Sailer (9) 1880; J. Howard Reed (9) 1880; S. B. Price (9) 1880; V. F. Parker (9) 1885; G. H. Winkler (1) 1869; G. L. Curtis (19) 1880; J. A. McKee (19) 1890; S. B. Palmer.

54. Ohio State University, College of Dentistry, Columbus, Ohio, 1892; organized as the Ohio Medical University, College of Dentistry; name changed in 1907 to Starling Ohio Medical College, Department of Dentistry, and in 1914 to the present name. Dean, A. F. Emminger (2) 1876, honorary; A. O. Ross (2) 1882; J. E. Barricklow (2) 1882; James Silcott (2) 1886; G. A. Billow (2) 1892; C. A. Eckert (16) 1882; E. C. Mills (16) 1889.

55. Western Reserve University, School of Dentistry, Cleveland, Ohio, 1892; organized

as Dental Department Western Reserve University. Dean, H. L. Ambler (2) 1868; D. R. Jennings (2) 1868; J. R. Owens (8) 1875; G. H. Wilson (16) 1878; H. F. Harvey (16) 1879; W. H. Whitslar (16) 1885; J. W. VanDoorn (9) 1890.

58. Cincinnati College of Dental Surgery, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1893; discontinued, June 1929. Dean, G. S. Junkerman (2) 1881; W. T. McLean (2) 1889; W. O. Hulick (2) 1889; A. I. F. Buxbaum (8) 1887.

60. School of Dentistry, Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, 1893; organized as University College of Medicine, Dental Department, and, in 1913, merged with the Dental Department, Medical College of Virginia (organized 1897) and named as at present. Dean, Lewis M. Cowardin (1) 1874; C. L. Steele (1) 1881; A. R. Bowles (26) 1891; A. L. Stratford (26) 1884; Leo Pusey (1), 1892.

61. Marquette University, School of Dentistry, Milwaukee, Wis., September, 1894; in 1907, became part of Marquette University. Dean, B. G. Maercklein (6) 1886; R. E. Maercklein (6) 1886; Robert Maercklein (6) 1884; A. J. Cohn (6) 1890; H. B. Wiborg (27) 1892; V. A. Gudex (27) 1888.

62. St. Louis University School of Dentistry, St. Louis, Mo., 1894; organized as the Marion Sims College of Medicine Dental Department; name changed to Marion Sims Dental College in 1900; in 1905, changed to St. Louis Dental College, later to Dental Department, St. Louis University, then to St. Louis University Dental School and lastly, to St. Louis University School of Dentistry. Dean, L. A. Young (25) 1889; C. C. Cowdery (10) 1892; A. S. Halstead (10) 1886; P. F. Hellmuth (10) 1889; J. H. Kennerly (10) 1888.

64. Omaha Dental College, Dental Department of the University of Omaha, Omaha, Nebr., February, 1895; discontinued in 1905. Dean, A. W. Nason (64) 1896; W. H. Sherradin (6) 1883; L. P. Davis (24) 1894; J. J. McMullen (16) 1893; W. N. Dorward (2) 1884; H. W. Shriver (25) 1887; H. T. King (64) 1897; O. K. Kelly; L. G. Van Slyke.

69. College of Physicians and Surgeons, College of Dentistry, San Francisco, Calif., 1896. President, Thomas Morfiew (23) 1882; Charles Boxton (23) 1883; F. C. Pague (6) 1889.

70. University of Pittsburgh, School of Den-



tristry, Pittsburgh, Pa., 1896; organized as the Pittsburgh Dental College, Department of the Western University of Pennsylvania; in 1909, name was changed to the present one. Dean, J. G. Templeton (6) 1870; H. W. Arthur (1) 1867; G. L. Simpson (6) 1881; W. H. Fundenberg (8) 1878.

74. University of Southern California, College of Dentistry, Los Angeles, 1897. Dean, Edgar Palmer (32) 1892; J. C. McCoy (10) 1875; F. M. Parker (20) 1888; Ernest Allin (27) 1892; R. H. Shoemaker (6) 1864; A. P. Hays (6) 1888; W. A. Smith (6) 1885; H. D. Requa (6) 1890; A. H. Palmer (6) 1881; R. G. Skillen (6) 1897; C. E. Rhone (6) 1889; P. Hendricks (33) 1891; F. R. Cunningham (2) 1894; W. C. Smith (50) 1893; J. I. Morris (23) 1897; W. H. Spinks (39) 1892; W. R. Haliday (8) 1888; L. E. Ford (27) 1892; H. G. Atwater (27) 1892; G. H. Cushing (2) 1864; E. G. Howard (27) 1890; M. Evangeline Jordon (23) 1898; A. C. Thompson; D. Cave; S. H. Tolhurst; D. R. Wilder.

79. Georgetown University, College of Dentistry, Washington, D. C., 1897; organized as Washington Dental College and Hospital of Oral Surgery, merged, in 1901, into the Georgetown University. Dean, W. N. Cogan (37) 1893; W. W. Evans (1) 1863; A. W. Sweeney (1) 1876; S. G. Davis (30) 1892; F. H. Shultz, registered. Clinical staff: E. Parmly Brown (1) 1879; T. M. Hunter (1) 1880; W. St. G. Elliott (8) 1870; V. H. Jackson (16) 1877; J. B. TenEyck (1) 1873; F. W. Schloendorn (26) 1889; P. W. Evans (79) 1899; S. L. Close (2); M. M. Dolmage, registered; W. D. Narramore.

81. North Pacific College of Oregon, School of Dentistry, Portland, 1898; organized as the Oregon School of Dentistry, 1898. In 1900, the Tacoma College of Dentistry (organized in 1893), Tacoma, Wash., united with it and the name was changed to North Pacific College of Dentistry and finally to the present name. Dean, H. C. Miller (10) 1885; E. M. Hurd (10) 1892; C. R. Templeman (8) 1881; E. G. Clark (8) 1880; E. L. Lane (8) 1892; J. R. Cardwell, registered; John Welch, registered.

82. Tulane University of Louisiana, College of Medicine, School of Dentistry, New Orleans, La., 1899; organized, May, 1899, as the New Orleans College of Dentistry. In October, 1909, it became the Dental Department of Tulane University, with the present

title. Dean, J. J. Sarrazin (1) 1887; Charles Eckhart (1) 1879; W. E. Walker (1) 1889; L. D. Archinard (1) 1891; C. V. Vignes (33) 1892.

85. University of Nebraska, College of Dentistry, Lincoln, June, 1899; organized as Lincoln Dental College of Cotner University; it affiliated in 1903 with the University of Nebraska and the merged institutions became known as the Lincoln Dental College. In 1918, the latter was taken over by the University of Nebraska and took the present title. Dean, W. Clyde Davis (25) 1891; H. F. Helms (40) 1898; H. A. Shannon (27) 1898; Oliver Johnson (25) 1899; C. R. Tefft, registered; J. R. Shannon (46) 1897; Harry M. Dunn.

90. McGill University Dental Department, Montreal, Canada, 1904; Peter Brown; F. G. Henry (52) 1899; D. J. Berwick (52) 1897; E. R. Barton; J. B. Morrison (52) 1900; A. D. Angus (52) 1901; W. D. Smith (52) 1901.

91. University of Montreal, Faculty of Dentistry, Montreal, Canada, 1904; organized as the School of Dentistry of Laval University; changed to the present name in 1919. Dean, Eudora Dubeau (52) 1895; J. G. A. Gendreau (52) 1886; Joseph Nolin (9) 1885.

92. Baylor University College of Dentistry, Dallas, Texas, February, 1905; organized as The State Dental College, and taken over by Baylor University in 1918. Dean, D. E. Morrow (62) 1899; T. G. Bradford (62) 1904; H. T. King.

93. Texas Dental College, Houston, Feb. 11, 1905. Dean, O. F. Gambati (20) 1884; T. P. Williams (1) 1884; M. J. Lossing (4) 1894; C. H. Edge (93) 1907.

94. Creighton University, College of Dentistry, Omaha, Nebr., 1905; organized as the Creighton University Dental College. Dean, C. O. Metzler (46) 1897; F. J. Despecher (6) 1887; W. L. Shearer (64) 1902; A. H. Hipple (15) 1889; G. W. Hamilton (40) 1900; P. T. Barber (27) 1890; J. C. Soukup (64) 1902; J. J. Foster (54) 1897; J. J. Peterson (64) 1898; W. M. Condon, registered; L. J. Schneider.

95. Dalhousie University, Faculty of Dentistry, Halifax, Nova Scotia, 1908; organized as the Maritime Dental College, and made a faculty of the University in 1912. Dean, Frank Woodbury (6) 1878; G. K. Thomson (8) 1892; F. W. Ryan (16) 1885; A. G. Cogswell (6) 1888; F. W. Stevens (6) 1890; S. G. Ritchie (13) 1900; H. Woodbury (8) 1877;

G. H. Fluck (8) 1884; W. H. Beckwith (6) 1901; W. C. Oxner (1) 1902; R. E. McDonald (8) 1904; H. P. Temple (8) 1907; W. W. Woodbury (8) 1908.

100. Loyola University, School of Dentistry, New Orleans, La., 1914. C. V. Vignes (34)

1892; J. J. Sarrazin (1) 1887; S. S. Grosjean (1) 1900.

104. University of Alberta, Faculty of Medicine, Edmonton, Canada. Dentistry was authorized as a subfaculty in 1917. L. L. Fuller (8) 1901; H. C. Bulyea (12).

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MEDICAL COLLEGE OF VIRGINIA  
Medicine Dentistry Pharmacy Nursing  
Richmond, Virginia

June 13, 1939

Lincoln Insurance Company  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Gentlemen:

I have heard that you have published some very interesting material on Abraham Lincoln and would be glad to see something of this if available.

Our dental school has a very odd gadget, which is said on good authority to have been used in pulling a tooth for Mr. Lincoln.

*with Mr. S. M.*  
*Dr. Warren*  
*a note*  
*E. L. M. J.*

Sincerely yours,

(signed) W. T. Sanger

W. T. Sanger  
President

WTS:MG

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

*School of Dentistry*

1121 WEST MICHIGAN STREET

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46202

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

February 15, 1965

Mrs. K. E. Higgins  
Assistant to Dr. McMurtry  
Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mrs. Higgins:

Thank you for your letter of February 11 in which you sent me a picture of the key which Dr. Wesley Wampler used to remove a tooth for Abraham Lincoln in 1856. Can you tell me where Milton Station, Illinois is or was, and where this picture came from? I have become sufficiently interested in problems associated with Lincoln's teeth that I would like to make a little deeper study.

I found that the surface water that Lincoln drank the first eight years of his life had an optimal amount of fluoride in it, and I think this may account for the fact that Lincoln had a minimum of dental troubles.

Sincerely yours,



Maynard K. Hine, D.D.S.  
Dean

MKH:rc



Hine

February 17, 1965

Maynard K. Hine, D.D.S.  
Office of the Dean  
Indiana University School of Dentistry  
1121 West Michigan Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

Dear Dean Hine:

I have your letter of February 15 and am glad that I was able to help you.

The picture you ask about illustrated an article in THE JOURNAL of the American Dental Association, Vol. 19, March, 1932, No. 3, page 378. It was part of an article by Edward C. Mills, entitled "Bainbridge, Ross County, Ohio, The Cradle of Dental Education."

Milton Station, Illinois, is now Humboldt, Coles County, Illinois. Dr. Wesley Wampler was a pioneer dentist who "practiced on horseback in Ohio, Illinois and Wisconsin," settling at Milton Station in the year 1840. While he was practicing at Milton Station, Abraham Lincoln, on his way to Chicago, had him remove a tooth, the first he had had extracted by a dentist. This was some time in 1856. The photograph in Fig. 18 is from the Dent. Reg., 38:1-12, 1884.

You probably have a copy of The Journal mentioned above in the library at the school.

Do not hesitate to call on us if we can be any further help to you.

Very sincerely,

Ruth P. Higgins  
(Mrs. K. E.)  
Asst. to Dr. McMurtry

1526 Atlantic N.E.  
Warren, Ohio 44483  
Feb. 21, 1965

Lincoln Life Insurance Co.  
Fair Wayne, Ind.

Dear Dr. Mc Murty:

I teach American History at  
East Junior High School in Warren, Ohio.  
I have just been asked by a pupil  
about the condition of Mr. Lincoln's  
teeth! I wonder if you can tell me  
the source of information?

I have all heard, I believe,  
about George Washington's false teeth.  
Since I always express obvious  
preference for Mr. Lincoln, I am  
supposed to know these things.  
As a matter of fact, I believe that  
I have read that Mr. Lincoln's teeth  
were in excellent condition.  
However, I would have no idea  
where I might look to support  
this statement.

Can you help me?

Very truly yours,

(Mrs) Jeanne Clare Bokros

March 2, 1965

Mrs. Jeanne Clare Bokros  
1526 Atlantic N. E.  
Warren, Ohio 44483

Dear Mrs. Bokros:

In the absence of Dr. McMurtry, who is away on a speaking tour, I will attempt to answer your questions about Lincoln's teeth, insofar as we know the answers.

Apparently, Lincoln had good teeth. Dr. Maynard K. Hine, dean of the Indiana University School of Dentistry, has been doing some research on this subject and thinks that the fact that Lincoln drank water the first eight years of his life with an optimal amount of fluoride in it, may account for the fact that he had a minimum of dental troubles.

We know that Lincoln had a tooth pulled in 1856 by a Dr. Wesley Wampler at Milton Station, (now Humboldt), Illinois. In a letter to Mary Speed on September 27, 1841, Lincoln describes the extraction of one of his teeth. Another tooth was pulled by a Dr. G. S. Wolf in 1862, in Washington D.C.

The sources of the above information are The Journal of the American Dental Association, Vol. 19, March 1932, page 378; the book, "Lincoln and the Doctors" by Milton Shutes, M.D., page 83; "The Hidden Lincoln" by Emanuel Hertz From the Letters and Papers of William H. Herndon, page 334; and the "Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln", Vol I, page 259.

I hope this information will satisfy your class.

Very sincerely,

rh/

(Mrs.) Ruth P. Higgins  
Asst. to Dr. McMurtry



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

*School of Dentistry*

1121 WEST MICHIGAN STREET

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46202

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

November 10, 1967

Mrs. Ruth P. Higgins  
Assistant to Dr. McMurtry  
Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mrs. Higgins:

I have again been asked to make a few comments regarding Abraham Lincoln's teeth and since you were kind enough to help me a couple of years ago I would like to impose upon you again. It is my understanding that you have a very complete catalog of information regarding Abraham Lincoln, so perhaps answering the following questions will not present much of a problem. Of course, if answers are not readily available, I do not expect you to devote too much time to searching for information!

As I remember it, there are very few references to Abraham Lincoln's teeth in the literature. These are:

1. A tooth was extracted in 1842.  
Is it known where this was done and by whom? Could a reference be cited proving that the tooth was extracted in that year?
2. He is reported to have purchased a tooth brush in 1843.  
Is there a reference to this? How common was the purchase of tooth brushes at that time? Is Lincoln's purchase of one indicative of the fact that he was interested in his teeth or the fact that he had just purchased one might suggest that he was not interested in his teeth?
3. He had a tooth removed by a dentist in 1856 in Milton Station, Illinois.  
Do you have a reference about this?
4. I understand he visited a Dr. G. S. Wolfe in 1862, at which time Lincoln was reported to have taken a few whiffs of chloroform prior to the extraction of a tooth.  
What is the reference for this incident?

Mrs. Ruth P. Higgins

-2-

November 10, 1967

Do you have anything in the files that would suggest that Abraham Lincoln did or did not like candy, cakes and pastries? Since there are so few references to Lincoln's dental problems, I am assuming that he had few. It occurs to me this could be explained on three bases; first that he grew up in an area in Kentucky and Southern Indiana that had an optimal amount of fluoride naturally occurring in the drinking water. Preliminary information suggests this is true. Second, it is possible that Lincoln had a type of diet which did not produce much dental caries. Since he was tall and angular, one might assume that he did not over-eat, particularly of carbohydrates.

Any comments in your file regarding in your file regarding the type of diet that Lincoln ate might be of dental interest.

Third, perhaps Lincoln took very good care of his teeth, although the evidence pro and con in this direction seems scanty.

Do you know of any pictures of Lincoln in which he shows his teeth? I cannot remember having seen a single photograph that shows him with his mouth open. I have heard of one reference to his teeth by a poet (Nathaniel Hawthorne?) who said I believe that he had strong white teeth. It has been suggested this may have been poetic license.

Anything that you may have in your files which would give us information regarding Abraham Lincoln's teeth would be of interest to me. I shall appreciate learning of any other source of information not available in your library.

Please be assured that my inquiry is not based upon idle curiosity. If I can get sufficient information together I shall prepare it for publication in a dental journal. If my investigations get this far, I shall of course give you and the Lincoln National Life Foundation complete credit.

Sincerely yours,



Maynard K. Hine, D.D.S.  
Dean

MKH:rc

November 14, 1967

Maynard K. Hine, D.D.S.  
Office of the Dean  
Indiana University School of Dentistry  
1121 West Michigan Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

Dear Dr. Hine:

I have your letter of November 10 and have been combing our library and file drawers for clippings, pictures and references about Lincoln's teeth. It is amazing, in view of all the words written and spoken about Lincoln, that so little was ever mentioned about his teeth. One newspaper clipping quoted an "English author" (unnamed) as describing Lincoln as having "two rows of large white teeth."

Of the 118 photographs taken of Lincoln, none showed him with his mouth open. (You have to remember that time exposures were necessary at that time, when photography was in its infancy.) Enclosed is a copy of Lloyd Ostendorf's illustration, "The Angry Lincoln" which adorns the jacket of a new book entitled Lincoln's Lost Speech. This shows Lincoln's teeth.

Also enclosed are copies of our Lincoln Lore bulletin in which you will find Lincoln's letter to Mary Speed describing his visit to the dentist in 1842. The name of the dentist is not mentioned. You will also find a picture of an ad for tooth powder, along with Mrs. Lincoln's endorsement of this product. I find no reference to a tooth brush purchased by Lincoln or any member of his family, but it would seem reasonable to assume that if Mrs. Lincoln endorsed a tooth cleaning powder so whole-heartedly the entire family must have used tooth brushes.

The other enclosures will answer your questions about the Milton Station and Dr. Wolfe extractions, Lincoln's diet and tastes in food, and his comments on eat and drink.

If I come across anything else I think might help you, rest assured I will send it on to you.

Very sincerely,

(Mrs. Kenneth E. Higgins)  
Asst. to Dr. McMurtry



(duplicate)

MAYNARD K. HINE, D.D.S., M.S.\*

*"There is no man in American history with whom the people so desire intimate acquaintance as they do with Abraham Lincoln."—Ida Tarbell.*

# Mr. Lincoln's Teeth: evidence, conjecture suggest he enjoyed good oral health

MANY VOLUMES have been written about Abraham Lincoln, but there are very few references in the literature concerning his teeth. Since Lincoln lived during the time that dentistry was developing into a profession, with several well-established dental journals and dental societies in existence, one can conclude that he sel-

dom needed the services of a dentist (unlike George Washington, whose serious dental problems are well known.)

Only four visits by Lincoln to dental offices can be documented. The first two were reported in a well-known letter from Abraham Lincoln to Mary Speed dated September 27, 1841. He wrote:

"Do you remember my going to the city (Louisville) while I was in Kentucky, to have a tooth extracted, and making a failure of it? Well,

that same old tooth got to paining me so much, that about a week since I had it torn out, bringing with it a bit of the jawbone."

ANOTHER VISIT, in 1862 while he was president, is reported thus:

"One day in 1862, Dr. G. S. Wolf . . . but one door next to the church which Mr. Lincoln attended, was honored by a visit from the President, who asked that an annoying tooth be pulled. After the examination, Dr. Wolf selected a pair

\*This account of Mr. Lincoln's little-known dental history is condensed from a talk by Dr. Hine at the annual Pierre Fauchard Academy dinner, where he received the PFA Gold Medal, see page 64.



Artist Lloyd Ostendorf's conceptions of Abraham Lincoln with mouth open; every known photograph of Mr. Lincoln shows him with mouth closed.



of forceps, and as he adjusted it to the tooth, Mr. Lincoln exclaimed, 'Just a minute, please!' To Dr. Wolf's surprise, the President reached in his pocket for a small bottle from which he took a few deep inhalations and then gave a signal to proceed.

"Dr. Wolf stated that contents of the bottle was chloro-

form and that the extraction of the tooth was practically a painless operation."

This extraction apparently resulted in much discomfort for President Lincoln; a letter by J. H. Littlefield to William H. Herndon, dated December 11, 1866, included this comment:

"Mr. Lincoln, one evening

(1862) at the White House was suffering with pain caused by the extraction of a 'raging tooth' . . . and notwithstanding the pain that afflicted him, chatted humorously with here and there a flash of real logic that showed that he comprehended the situation (Yazoo River Expedition)."

Continued on Page 70



Dr. A. W. French, dentist in Springfield, Illinois, has been referred to as Lincoln's dentist, but no record is known of any treatments he gave Lincoln.

**FOR LACK OF** direct evidence, one can only speculate about the appearance and the condition of Mr. Lincoln's teeth.

Of the 118 photographs taken of Lincoln, none showed him with his mouth open.

In Ralph Waldo Emerson's account of his visit with Lincoln in January 1862, he mentioned that "when he has made his remark, he looks up at you with great satisfaction, and shows all his white teeth, and laughs . . ."

**IT IS INTERESTING** to speculate regarding the reasons for President Lincoln's apparently relative freedom from dental disorders.

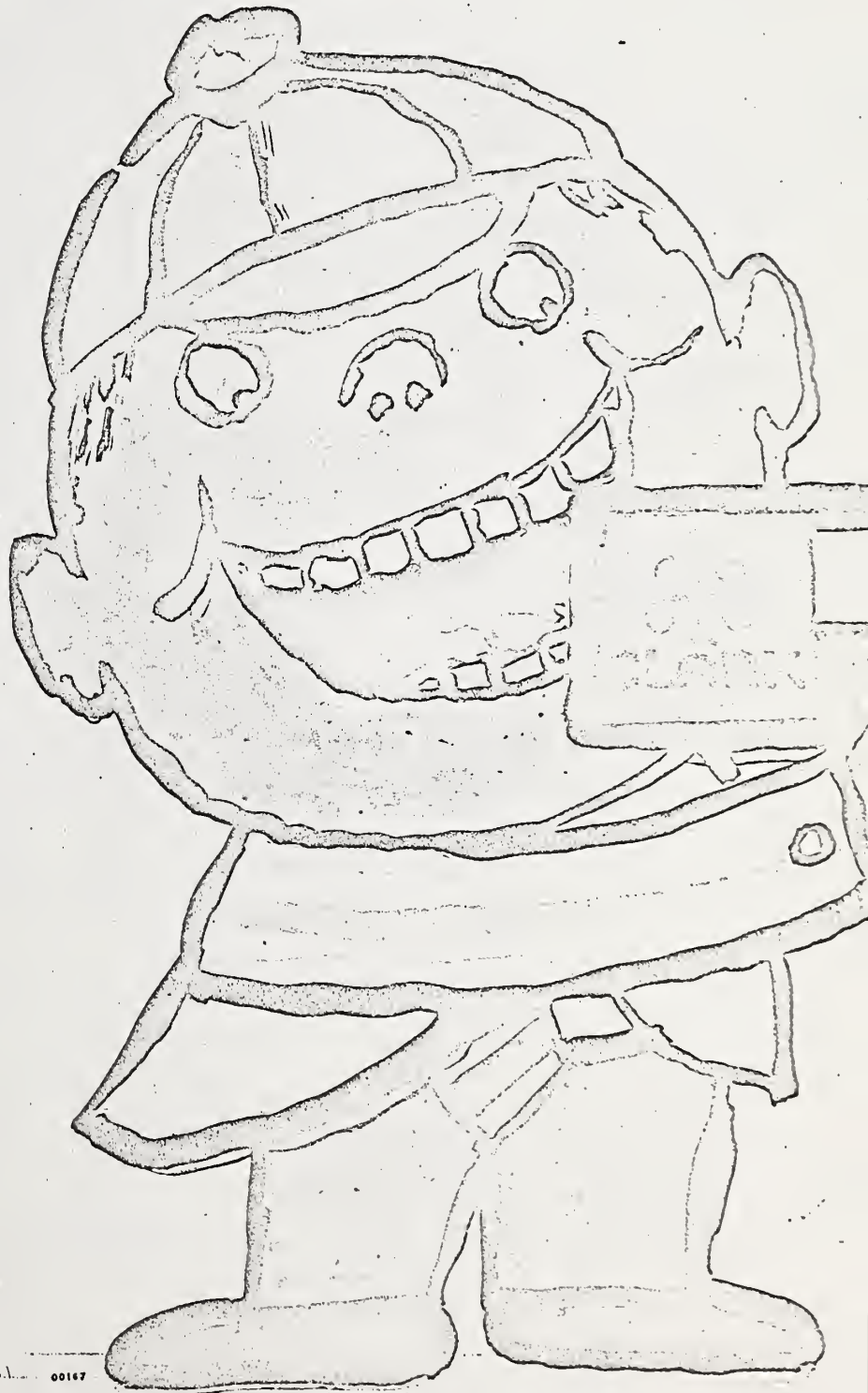
In Lincoln's youth his family used water from wells and springs in Kentucky and Southern Indiana, areas where the fluoride content of some water is optimal. It may be that Lincoln's freedom from dental caries could be attributed in part to consumption of fluorides.

And, since one writer reported that Lincoln purchased a toothbrush in 1843, and in 1862 Mrs. Lincoln signed a testimonial for a dentifrice,

Lincoln apparently had some understanding of oral hygiene practices.

Also, it is known that Abraham Lincoln's diet did not

include many freely fermentable carbohydrates, for much has been written about Lincoln's dietary habits. It seems that though he never com-





plained of the fare, he rarely praised it, either.

While President, he usually ate a very frugal breakfast of an egg and a cup of coffee;

at luncheon he rarely took more than a biscuit and a glass of milk, with a plate of fruit. At dinner he ate sparingly of one or two courses — for in-

stance, some hot soup and usually meat and potatoes. Dessert, if any, was home-made apple pie or fruit.

His tall, gaunt physique suggests that he ate sparingly and probably did not partake of many cariogenic foods. Incidentally, he drank little or no wine or liquor, and never used tobacco.

In summary, then, scanty information and some calculated guesses suggest that Abraham Lincoln had good teeth and seldom needed to visit a dental office, that he ate an anticariogenic diet and may have had the benefit of naturally fluoridated drinking water, and may have practiced good oral hygiene. □

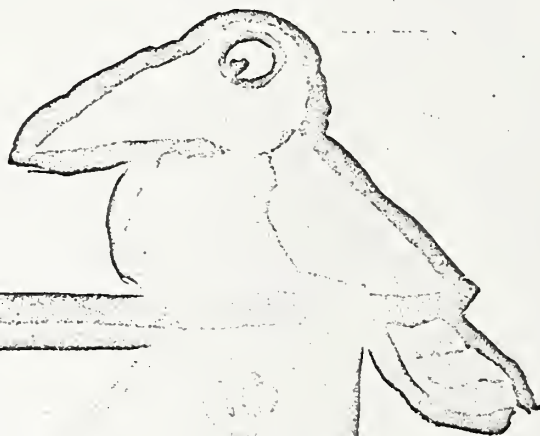
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#### DIET CLUES SOUGHT AGAINST ORAL ILLS

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A search for dietary factors that would make the teeth and gums more resistant to disease is supported by a grant from the National Institute of Dental Research to Dr. Juan M. Navia of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He will explore the influences of various proteins on developing oral tissues, the effects of dietary fats on teeth, and the role of magnesium in resistance to disease. □

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OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR • 1219 WEST MICHIGAN STREET 46202 • (317) 639-8717

January 27, 1970

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry  
Editor  
Lincoln Lore  
The Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Doctor McMurtry:

A few years ago I became interested in studying Abraham Lincoln's teeth, and much to my surprise, I have found that there is very little known about this subject. During the course of my investigations, I found that no picture had ever been taken of Lincoln showing his teeth and that there was only one description in the literature of them. It is true that one artist at least has drawn a picture of Abraham Lincoln with his mouth open, but the artist told me that he had no real information about Lincoln's teeth.

Not long ago I made a brief report on the information known about Lincoln's teeth to a group of dentists including one young man who is a dentist and an artist. At my suggestion, he drew a picture of Abraham Lincoln smiling, showing his teeth, and he did so well that I thought you might like to see a print. (Please find one enclosed.) The only basis for this drawing can be found in "The Heart of Emerson's Journal" edited by Bliss Perry and published by The Riverside Press in 1926 (page 290): "When he has made his remark, he looks up at you with great satisfaction, and shows all his white teeth, and laughs. . . ." The artist is Dr. Rolando DeCastro of Indianapolis.

If you believe it would be interesting to publish this artist's conception of Lincoln smiling, please feel free to do so. I have enjoyed reading your publication, "Lincoln Lore," for the last few years and would like to repay you in some way!

Sincerely yours,



Maynard K. Hine, D.D.S.  
Chancellor

MKH:rc

P.S. You might be interested in the enclosed discussion of what I learned about Lincoln's teeth.

M.K.H.

46801

January 28, 1970

Maynard K. Hine, D. D. S.  
Chancellor  
Indiana - Purdue University  
at Indianapolis  
1219 West Michigan Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

Dear Dr. Hine:

Dr. McMurtry is away at present on an extended speaking tour, but I know that he will be pleased with your letter of January 27, and delighted to have the drawing of Lincoln showing his teeth, by Indianapolis artist Dr. Rolando DeCastro.

Thank you very much for the copy of your article "Mr. Lincoln's Teeth." This will go into our file on Lincoln's teeth. I would like to get hold of a copy of the magazine Dental Survey April 1969, in order to place it in our collection of periodicals which contain articles on Abraham Lincoln.

We appreciate your permission to use the picture and your article, if we wish. Perhaps Dr. McMurtry will be able to incorporate these items in some future issue of Lincoln Lore. He will be pleased to hear that you enjoy reading our monthly bulletin.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth P. Higgins (Mrs.)  
Asst. to Dr. McMurtry

rph/





R.A. De Lauro, VMD  
Ill School of Dentistry '70

Telephone  
703-360-3600

The National  
**Future Farmer**  
Owned and Published by the Future Farmers of America

P. O. Box 15130  
Alexandria, Virginia 22309

*all  
6/28/71*

June 25, 1971

Editor, Lincoln Lore  
The Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

Dear Sir:

Just a thank you for the fine work and interesting reading  
you provide in the regular issues of Lincoln Lore.

I wanted you to know that some of us who may not write  
frequently or get to visit the offices in Ft. Wayne very  
frequently do appreciate the exciting work you all are conducting.

Although I live in Virginia now my home was originally in Toulon,  
Illinois. As I understand from stories told by older citizens  
of the community, Mr. Lincoln stopped in Toulon on his way to  
the debates at Knox College and had a tooth extracted. The  
dentist's office has been preserved by the Stark County Historical  
Society. The little building stands between the Dale Carnegie  
Library and the Historical Society's home. It is fully equipped.  
Someday this might be a story lead for you.

Cordially,

*John M. Pitzer*  
John M. Pitzer  
Associate Editor

JMP/jh



(Duplicate)

# BULLETIN

## *of The History of Dentistry*

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Fig. 1. One of the few sketches of Lincoln, by a modern artist, showing his teeth.

## The Dental Problems of Abraham Lincoln

—MAYNARD K. HINE, D.D.S.  
*Indianapolis, Indiana*

Abraham Lincoln must be ranked as one of the most remarkable and well-known individuals of modern times. He has an established reputation as a writer, diplomat, humorist and humanitarian. The literature *about* Lincoln has become voluminous and more is written each year. As Ida Tarbell wrote, "There is no man in American history with whom the people so desire intimate acquaintance as they do with Abraham Lincoln."

Although many volumes have been written about Abraham Lincoln, it is surprising to note that there are *very* few comments in the literature concerning his oral health. Searching for information regarding Abraham Lincoln's teeth has interested the author off and on for about a decade, and just about all of the possible sources of information that one's imagination can dream up have been exhausted. Scores of biographies and books of Lincoln photographs; museums; governmental agencies; historians; many magazine and newspaper articles; all have been checked, and one must admit that the search has had but limited success. Seldom does one find a mention of his teeth, or a tooth ache, or his dentist. This paper is a summary of all that the author has learned, and is inclined to believe, all that is recorded about Abraham Lincoln's dental problems. However, additional information *might* be found in some forgotten records; readers are urged to send any new references to the author of this report.

Even though Lincoln lived during the time that dentistry was developing into a profession, with several well-established dental journals and dental societies in existence, comments about Lincoln and dentistry are almost non-existent. By comparison, the frequent and serious dental problems of George Washington are well known.

#### DOCUMENTATION OF LINCOLN'S DENTAL EXPERIENCES

Actually, only four visits by Lincoln to dental offices can be documented. The first two were reported in a well-known letter from Abraham Lincoln to Mary Speed dated September 27, 1841. He wrote:

Do you remember my going to the city (Louisville) while I was in Kentucky, to have a tooth extracted, and making a failure of it? Well, that same old tooth got to paining me so much, that about a week since I had it torn out, bringing with it a bit of the jawbone.<sup>1</sup>

Apparently it took two visits to get one of Lincoln's teeth extracted, but who took his tooth out in 1841 is not known. Evidently a third visit was to Dr. Wesley Wampler of Milton Station (now Humbolt) Illinois in 1856, while Lincoln was on his way to Chicago.<sup>2</sup> Dr. Wampler extracted a tooth using an ivory handled turnkey, but nothing else is known about this visit.

A fourth visit was in 1862, while Lincoln was president. It is reported as follows:

One day in 1862, Dr. G. S. Wolf, 1313 New York Avenue, N.W., (Washington, D.C.) but one door next to the church which Mr. Lincoln attended, was honored by a visit from the President, who asked that an annoying tooth be pulled. After the examination, Dr. Wolf selected a pair of forceps, and as he adjusted it to the tooth, Mr. Lincoln exclaimed, 'Just a minute, please!' To Dr. Wolf's surprise, the President reached in his pocket for a small bottle from which he took a few deep inhalations and then gave a signal to proceed. Dr. Wolf stated that the contents of the bottle was chloroform and that the extraction of the tooth was practically a painless operation.<sup>3</sup>



Apparently a Dr. Austin F. Hewett of Chicago had done some experimentation with chloroform as an analgesic agent before this time and had extracted one of his own teeth in the same manner.<sup>4</sup> Just how Lincoln learned of the "Hewett method" of analgesia is not known.

This extraction apparently resulted in much discomfort for President Lincoln; a letter by J. H. Littlefield to William H. Herndon, dated December 11, 1866, included this comment:

Mr Lincoln, one evening (1862) at the White House was suffering with pain caused by the extraction of a 'raging tooth' . . . and notwithstanding the pain that afflicted him, chatted humorously, with here and there a flash of real logic that showed that he comprehended the situation (Yazoo River Expedition).<sup>5</sup>



Fig. 2. Lincoln With His Friends — 1861

Of course, Mr. Lincoln may have had other unrecorded visits to a dental office. As a youth Abe split many rails for a Dr. Josiah Crawford, a physician from near Gentryville, Indiana, who also performed some extractions for his patients. If Lincoln did need dental care, he probably would have visited Dr. Crawford, but no records are known that suggest this occurred.

Dr. A. W. French has been referred to as Lincoln's dentist in Springfield, Illinois, and reported in an interview that he "... had numbered the family of Abraham Lincoln among his clients." However, his records do not indicate he had treated Lincoln, although he made records only of patients who did not pay in cash.<sup>6</sup>

#### WHAT WERE LINCOLN'S TEETH LIKE?

Because of the complete lack of direct evidence, one can only speculate about the appearance and the condition of Mr. Lincoln's teeth. Even the detailed autopsy study of Lincoln failed to mention his teeth, nor did an anthropologic survey made of Lincoln.<sup>7</sup> Of the 119 photographs taken of Lincoln (39 beardless and 80 with a beard), none showed his teeth!<sup>8</sup> Several photographs show him smiling a little, but none of them with his mouth open. (It must be remembered, of course, that in Lincoln's time photography was in its infancy and time exposures were required. It was also customary for the individual being photographed to pose in a formal manner.) Even in caricatures of Lincoln, of which there were many, his teeth are seldom seen. Only two or three from a collection of 163 published in 1953 show any suggestion of teeth, and these of course were merely artists' impressions.<sup>9</sup> Similarly, none of the over seventy sculptors made statues of Lincoln with his mouth open.

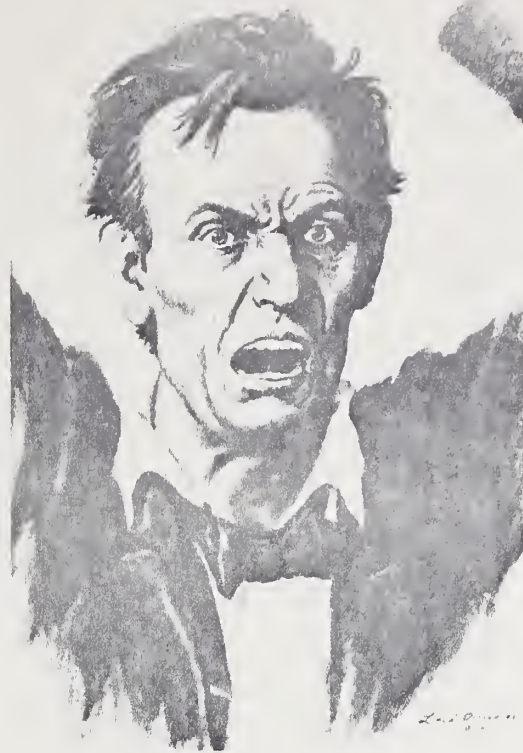
In the book, "Facts About The Presidents," Joseph N. Kane does not mention teeth, although he does indicate that Lincoln was the first president to wear a beard, which he began to grow shortly after his election in 1800.<sup>10</sup> Many of his supporters had suggested he would look more dignified with a beard. As a matter of fact, more is known about Lincoln's beard and his feet than his teeth!

Henry B. Rankin wrote that Lincoln's jaws were long, up-curved and massive, and looked solid, heavy and strong,<sup>11</sup> but he didn't mention his teeth. Only three references have been found concerning the appearance of his teeth. One was in Ralph Waldo Emerson's account of his visit with Lincoln in January 1862. Emerson mentioned that "... when he has made his remark, he looks up at you with great satisfaction, and shows all his white teeth, and laughs . . . ." <sup>12</sup> Whether this is an accurate description of Lincoln's teeth, or merely polite poetic language, is not known.

A second comment about the appearance of Lincoln's teeth was in an obviously politically inspired character sketch in *The Kentucky Statesman*:

Abraham Lincoln is a man above the medium height. He passes the six foot mark by an inch or two. He is raw-boned, shamlegaited, bow-legged, knock-kneed, pigeon-toed, slab-sided, a

Fig. 3.  
*The Angry Lincoln. This portrait appeared as the cover picture of the book Lincoln's Lost Speech by Elwell Crissey. It was painted by Lloyd Ostendorf (who also painted the previous picture "Lincoln With His Friends"), the Art Editor of the Lincoln Herald, an erudite quarterly devoted exclusively to Lincoln research.*



shapeless skeleton in a very tough, very dirty, unwholesome skin. His hair is . . . black and shaggy; his eyes dark and fireless like a cold grate in winter time. His lips protrude beyond the natural level of the face, but are pale and smeared with tobacco juice. His teeth are filthy."<sup>13</sup> (Most authors comment, however, that Lincoln did not use tobacco.)

Third, an Englishman, Edward Dicey, wrote an uncomplimentary description of Lincoln which included these comments about his face:

. . . a face furrowed, wrinkled, and indented, as though it had been scarred by vitriol; a high narrow forehead; and, sunk deep beneath bushy eyebrows, two bright, somewhat dreamy eyes that seem to gaze through you without looking at you; a few irregular blotches of black bristly hair in the place where beard and whiskers ought to grow; a close-set, thin-lipped, stern mouth, with two rows of *large white teeth*, and a nose and ears, which have been taken by mistake from a head of twice the size.<sup>14</sup>

On the jacket of a book entitled "Lincoln's Lost Speech," published in 1967, an artist portrayed Lincoln with his mouth open, but this of course is merely an artist's conception of Lincoln's appearance. (Fig. 3) Correspondence with both the author of this book, and the artist, indicated that they knew of Emerson's comment, but had no other information about Lincoln's teeth.



## WHAT MIGHT THE TRUTH BE CONCERNING LINCOLN'S TEETH?

It is interesting to speculate on the reasons why we know so little about Lincoln's teeth. Although dentistry was not too well established in Illinois and Indiana prior to the War Between the States, by the 1860's the dental profession was fairly well organized. In Washington, D. C., during Lincoln's term of office, dentists or historians undoubtedly would have recorded any significant dental problems of President Lincoln, so it is probable that he did not visit a dentist very often.

One can conclude that undoubtedly Lincoln had good oral health, with a minimum of dental problems. One can also argue that Lincoln *should* have had a good dentition for several reasons. First, in Abraham Lincoln's youth his family used water from wells and springs in Kentucky and Southern Indiana, and it is known that the fluoride content of some of the water in these areas contains about the optimum amount of fluoride. The surface water of Hardin County was reported as .1 p.p.m. in 1962, but according to a geological survey of that area some of the water had at least 1 p.p.m. Since the exact locations of the springs used by the Lincolns are unknown, it is not possible to determine exactly how much fluoride existed in their drinking water. It should be remembered also that the fluoride content of surface water varies with the amount of rainfall. Unfortunately, no weather records for 1809-15 are available. There is no positive evidence available, but it is possible that Abraham Lincoln's freedom from dental care could be attributed in part to his consumption of fluorides in his early years.

Second, since one writer reported that Lincoln purchased a tooth brush in June, 1843<sup>15</sup> and another on May 18, 1853 (for 20¢)<sup>16</sup> one can assume that he had some understanding of methods of maintaining oral hygiene. In fact, Mrs. Lincoln, in 1862 while she was in the White House, endorsed "a highly scented American tooth powder". An advertisement believed to have been published in the New York Times included the following statement: "The case containing your far-famed tooth powder has been received, and I cheerfully testify that it is superior to all others I have used in thoroughly cleansing the mouth, purifying the breath, and whitening the teeth. Yours respectfully, Mrs. Lincoln."<sup>17</sup> It apparently was the custom at that time for prominent individuals to give testimonials for commercial products. President Lincoln himself gave testimonials for a hair tonic, soap, and for a chiropodist who cared for his feet.<sup>17</sup>

More important, it is also known that Abraham Lincoln's diet did not include many freely fermentable carbohydrates. Much has been written about Lincoln's dietary habits. Lincoln's stepmother, Mrs. Sarah Bush Johnson Lincoln, wrote that "Abe was a moderate eater. He sat down and ate what was set before him, making no complaint." It seems that even though he never complained of the fare, he rarely praised it, either. While President he usually ate a very frugal breakfast of an egg and a cup of coffee; at luncheon he rarely took more than a biscuit and a glass of milk, with a plate of fruit. At dinner he ate sparingly of one or two courses; for instance, some hot soup and usually meat and potatoes.

Dessert, if he ate any, was home-made apple pie or fruit. His tall, gaunt physique suggests that he ate sparingly and hence probably did not partake of many cariogenic foods. Incidentally, he drank little or no wine, or liquor of any sort, and never used tobacco.<sup>14</sup> So his diet probably would have contributed to good oral health.

In summary, then, after a rather diligent and lengthy search, it must be admitted that few documented facts about Abraham Lincoln's teeth can be found. It is always possible that some new evidence will be located, but at this late date it seems unlikely.

Based upon scanty information and some calculated guesses, one can conclude that:

1. Abraham Lincoln had relatively good teeth, and seldom needed to visit a dental office.
2. There is some evidence to suggest that Abraham Lincoln practiced good oral hygiene.
3. Abraham Lincoln ate an anticariogenic diet and *may* have had the benefit of naturally occurring fluoride in his drinking water.

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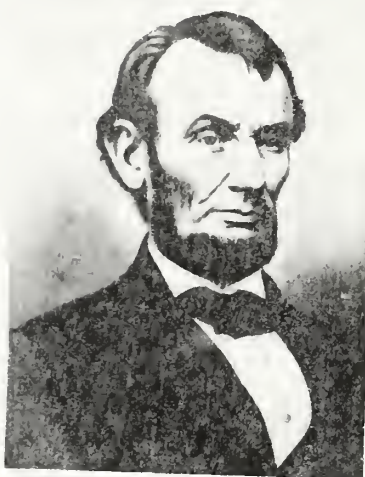
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**On the Cover:** February is National Children's Dental Health Month. Join the celebration!

# The U.S. Presidents Teeth— How Good Were They?

## An Illinois Dentist is Researching Them



*Abraham Lincoln had few recorded visits to the dentist.*

*by Mary Schaefer, Managing Editor*

Dr. Jack S. Ragsdale, a general practitioner from Canton, Illinois, has been studying tooth problems suffered by the United States Presidents for three years now.

"I first became interested in the subject after I began researching a speech topic for the Toastmasters Club," Dr. Ragsdale said. "I thought initially I would address the subject of George Washington's teeth."

Dr. Ragsdale in his studies, found that George Washington had six sets of dentures. Some were made of walrus or elephant ivory, but most used hippopotamus ivory. In his most famous set, the upper was gold swaged palate, the lower was elephant ivory base. The teeth were carved from cross-cut hippopotamus canine. The upper and lower were then spring loaded on each side. This set is on display in the Smithsonian Institute.

Dr. Ragsdale has been searching for a picture of Old George smiling showing his teeth, but has been unable to find one.

What started out as a speech for the Toastmasters Club has developed into a full grown project. Dr. Ragsdale is now compiling all the information he has collected into a book.

He began researching all the Presidents, trying to find out the names of their dentists, what kind of dental work they had done while in and out

of office, and generally what kind of condition their teeth were in.

Dr. Ragsdale has been unable to obtain any information about President's Reagan's oral health—such as does he have a bridge or has he ever been afflicted with gum disease.

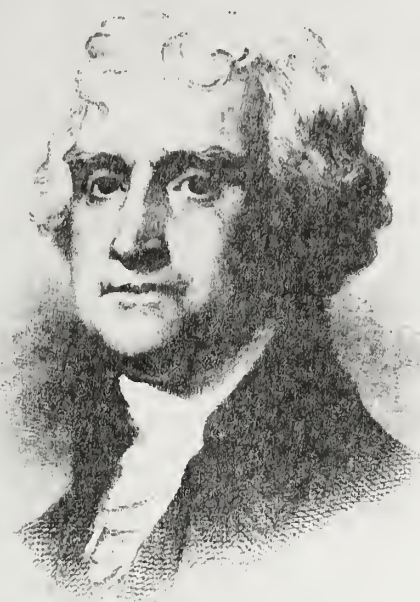
Captain Lawrence Blank is President Reagan's dentist and has assisted Dr. Ragsdale in his research of other subjects, but will not disclose any information on the status of President Reagan's teeth. "He prefers not to comment while President Reagan is in office," Dr. Ragsdale said.

"Reigning presidents and former presidents still living are very 'closed mouthed' about giving any information about their dental health. The problem is confidentiality. Some of the dentists of Presidents still alive were told not to disclose anything that happened in the dental office."

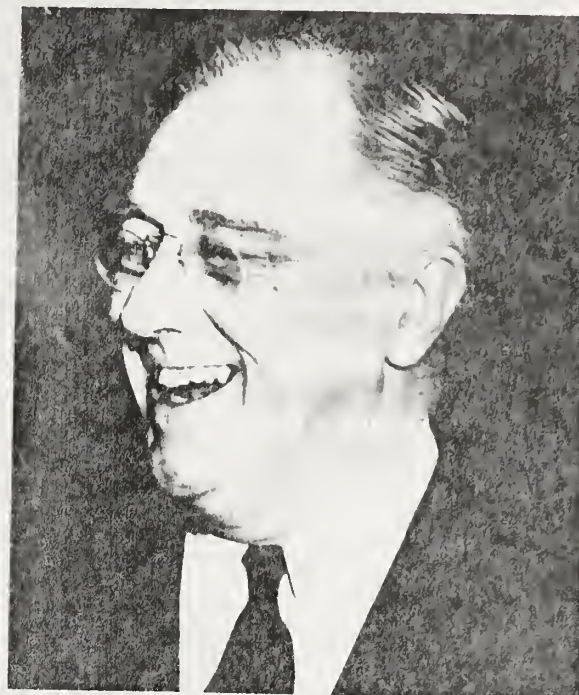
Ragsdale has learned through other sources that President Nixon, Ford and Kennedy all had excellent teeth. He has been able to retrieve very little information on President Nixon or President Ford's teeth. Only that he knows President Ford visited the dentist periodically to have his teeth cleaned because he smoked a pipe.

One of President Kennedy's dentist's was once reported as saying, "Kennedy used to sit in the dental





*Thomas Jefferson made every attempt to avoid tooth extractions.*



*Franklin Roosevelt had a small partial replacing two anterior teeth.*

chair with one foot on the floor, if I turned my back, he'd be out the door in nothing flat."

When researching Abraham Lincoln's teeth, Ragsdale was able to find only four recorded trips to the dentist. Mr. Lincoln had a tooth removed near Humboldt, Ill. and had one attempted to be removed in Louisville, KY. After having another reported tooth removed, Lincoln wrote a letter to Mary Speed, a personal friend of his, in which he wrote, "I have been unable to eat or drink since, subsisting on savoury remembrances."

President Andrew Jackson, the 7th President, had some of the worst teeth, Dr. Ragsdale said. This may have occurred because of his upbringing and that he was ill so much. He also was fitted with a spring loaded denture similar to the one worn by George Washington. Jackson was not comfortable wearing it and as a result did not very often.

"A soft denture lining may have helped the comfort of both George Washington and Andrew Jackson," Dr. Ragsdale said, indicating this may have helped prevent sore spots.

When Grover Cleveland was president in 1893, there was a financial panic and the current administration

was very reluctant to let Vice President Adlai Stevenson take over should something happen to President Cleveland. The President was secretly diagnosed as having oral cancer. Two biopsies were taken and both came back malignant.

In order to provide secrecy about his condition, President Cleveland along with physicians and dentists were boarded on a boat at night. The boat sailed up and down the East River in New York while an operation was performed to extract two teeth and a section of the palate opened in efforts to remove the cancer. In order to conceal his speech impediment which resulted after the operation, President Cleveland was prohibited from speaking in public until a device was fitted to seal the open area of the palate.

President Thomas Jefferson's dental problems increased from his presidential years to his death, Dr. Ragsdale said, indicating that Jefferson made every attempt to avoid tooth extractions. "Jefferson together with a lot of other presidents would not acknowledge dental problems because of vanity."

Dr. Ragsdale has written to the editors of the state dental journals, all the dental schools in the nation, and

has visited the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. trying to locate information regarding the presidents. He has found most of his information in personal diaries and letters.

"The people I have written to have been most helpful. When I wrote James Roosevelt, the son of FDR, he was most interested and generous with information," Dr. Ragsdale said.

President Roosevelt had a small partial replacing two anterior teeth while he was in the White House. James Roosevelt in his letter to Dr. Ragsdale wrote, "When father did his radio talk shows at home (the fireside chats), all the children would scurry around to try to find father's teeth. If he didn't have them in, all you could hear was something like a whistle."

President Lyndon Johnson had trouble with gum disease, Ragsdale claims. "A lot of people thought Johnson wore dentures—because his teeth were so small you rarely saw them." Johnson had to have a great deal of periodontal work done while in the White House.

Ragsdale reports that all the Presidents had a Navy dentist except Eisenhower and Truman, who had an Army dentist, and Nixon, who had an Air Force dentist.



"Truman had no quams about vanity at all," Ragsdale contends. "He would frequently take the temporary crown off an upper central tooth, pull it off his lip and stick it out on the edge of his tongue while talking with reporters." This stopped when a permanent crown was put in place.

During his research on Harry Truman, Ragsdale stumbled upon a story that was recorded by a Dr. Uhls in Kansas City. It was an experience that happened to him while Harry Truman was vice president under Franklin Roosevelt.

Dr. Uhls remembers receiving a telephone call from a person who said they were from the Secret Service and that President Roosevelt was going to be in town the next morning at 9:00 a.m. and would Dr. Uhls set aside time on his schedule for the President to have a dental appointment. Dr. Uhls replied, "Well, yes." The caller turned out to be a school buddy pulling a prank.

Two days later, Dr. Uhls received another telephone call. This person said, "This is Vice-President, Harry Truman. I am going to be in town tomorrow and could I make a dental appointment."

Dr. Uhls replied, thinking it was another prank, "No, I am too busy working on President Roosevelt's teeth. I don't have time to see the Vice President." The caller kept insisting that he was Harry Truman and set up a dental appointment. The next day Vice-President Harry Truman, walked in Dr. Uhls dental office, keeping his scheduled appointment.

In addition to his research on the Presidents, Dr. Ragsdale has been trying to find out when the first dental office was established in the White House. Even though many of the Presidents went to the Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland, Ragsdale had heard a rumor that there was a dental office in the White House.

"When researching this, everybody, politicians included, said there wasn't a dental office in the White House," Dr. Ragsdale said. "I knew there was."

"People are paranoid about security and also that taxpayers might



Portrait by Leo Steen. Courtesy Harry S. Truman Library.

*Harry Truman had a great deal of dental work done.*



Photo No. ST 452 20 62 in the John F. Kennedy Library.

*John F. Kennedy was one President blessed with good teeth.*

think it is a waste of money."

After much investigating, Dr. Ragsdale found that a dental office was established in the White House during the Hoover administration. The equipment at that time consisted mostly of an old Ritter dental chair.

Dr. Kaplan of Washington D.C., the family dentist of the Kennedys' helped upgrade the equipment while Kennedy was in the White House.

"The equipment was again upgraded during the Carter administra-

tion with fiber optic handpieces." Dr. Ragsdale reports he has tried every way possible to get in to see the White House dental office. "Everybody seems to deny there even is one. Ironically enough, Admiral McLeod, head of the Navy Dental Corp. has not even been there."

\*Dr. Jack S. Ragsdale will be presenting a lecture, "Smile, Mr. President" at the ISDS Annual Session on Wednesday, May 22, 1985 at the Hamilton Hotel in Itasca, Ill.



