

“Hinsdale, My Home Town”

History and Memories

by

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Herbert, married Blanche, daughter of George H. Bandfield, and raised their two sons. George and Donald Hillman, on a farm on the Olean road at the site where our first settler, Zachariah Noble, had lived. Joan Hillman, daughter of George, lives with her husband Francis Hill nearby. Dr. Hillman's grandson, Fred Hillman son of Harry, also lived in Hinsdale until his death in 1988; his wife, Juanita Osgood Hillman, a former schoolteacher still lives here.

Dr. Appleton Corbin, with Dr. Brownson from 1879 to 1881, married Theresa, daughter of Alfred C. Torrey, before removing to Clermont, PA. and finally to Bradford, PA.

William H. Vincent, son of Hiram and Wealthy (Blakely) Vincent, was born in the town of Persia, Cattaraugus County on April 3, 1854. His father, a Civil War soldier, died at Richmond, VA prison. William cared for his mother and her five other children, finally succeeding in graduating from Friendship Academy in 1877, and from the University of Buffalo Medical school in 1881. That year he became a partner of Dr. Ira Brownson, whose entire business he took over at the death of Dr. Brownson in December 1889. Dr. Vincent became a respected doctor and a prominent citizen of Hinsdale. He served as town supervisor from 1883-1886, was an organizer of the Hinsdale Union School and served many years on its Board of Education. He joined the County Medical Society in 1883. He married Ada, daughter of Henry Flint of Friendship. They had two children, Genevieve born January 28, 1886 who died at age sixteen, and William H. who died in March 1893 at age of four months. Dr. Vincent remained here until his death in 1905.

Dr. Ransom Terry, son of Elisha and Amy Hawley Terry, was born in Franklinville on April 14, 1838. He served in the Civil War with Co. C of the 154th Regiment New York Volunteers. He was wounded at Gettysburg in 1863 with a bullet wound in the chest. He was so near death that the Confederate soldiers did not bother to take him prisoner. He was discharged in 1864 because of his serious wounds. After he regained his health, he decided to become a doctor. He graduated from the University of Buffalo in 1874 and opened an office in Ischua. Dr. Terry married Ellen Morris of Franklinville in 1877. They had one son, Marcy Terry, who also became a doctor. In 1906 Dr. Terry moved to Hinsdale and continued to practice here until his health failed in 1910. He died on June 8, 1911. Dr. Terry was an intelligent,

kind-hearted doctor, much respected by all. His wife, Ellen Morris Terry, remained in Hinsdale until her death in 1936 at the age of 80. They lived in the home now owned by Clifford and Doris Bennett, on Flanagan Road.

Following Dr. Terry came Dr. Happel, Dr. Roy Juhre and Dr. George Batt.

We must remember that most of these doctors practiced in "horse and buggy days." They traveled many a mile each day, in all kinds of weather, to make home visits. Somehow, before the telephone, messengers had to be sent to summon the doctor, sometimes he had to be located on his rounds. Thus, many hours often elapsed before the doctor's arrival. In times of childbirth, he often had to stay overnight to await the baby's arrival. Often times, a midwife in the neighborhood had delivered the baby before the doctor arrived. One will note that many women died young, often from complications of childbirth.

In times of epidemics, families often lost one or more children within a few days. The Elijah Edwards family of Haskell Flats lost Eli, age nine and Rosella, age six just two days apart. Diphtheria and typhoid fever were great killers. Many an operation or setting of a fractured bone were performed on kitchen tables.

It is wonderful to think of those dedicated doctors, when so limited in communication, transportation and equipment, yet performed so many miracles.

For many years Hinsdale has been without a resident physician; Dr. Philip Rossiter did open an office here for a short time in 1924.

Dr. Joseph Anderson lived here while practicing in Olean in the 1950's and Dr. Kenneth Freer, now lives at Haskell Flats with his office in Olean.