

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

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Our Northern Kentucky  
Negro Doctors

by

Dr. Alvin Poweleit

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EARLY NORTHERN KY DOCTORS  
& MEDICINEOUR NORTHERN KENTUCKY NEGRO DOCTORS

The rapidly changing America which emerged from the Civil War produced many changes. One of the greatest changes was in that of the emancipated Negro. The entire race was on a threshold of a new future. New horizons were there for those who wanted to work and make something of themselves. Thus, begins the Medical Chapter in Northern Kentucky of Negro Physicians.

Dr. S. J. Watkins, M.D. was born in Alabama, graduated from Tennessee State College, later known as Walden University. Then he graduated from Meharry University in 1888 in Dentistry. Then in 1889 he graduated in Medicine. He served on the Faculty from 1889 to 1891 at the Medical School. He was the first Negro Physician and Dentist in Covington, Kentucky from 1891 to 1946. He died in Covington in 1948.

Dr. Adam D. Kelly, M.D. was our second Negro Doctor. He was born in Carthage, North Carolina, July 6, 1860. He was the son of John and Julia Kelly. He graduated from Bennett College, Greensboro, North Carolina in 1892. In 1896 he graduated from Meharry Medical College.

In June of 1898, Dr. Kelly married Miss Mary E. Wendell of Nashville, Tenn. From this union was born eight children, three of whom survive, and it was from one of his son's (Wendell Kelly) that this information was gained.

He was a Methodist, Odd Fellow, Elk, United Brother of Friendship, Count of Calanthe Eastern Star, Knight of Pythias and 33rd Degree Mason. He was a charter member of the Eastern Star. He worked untiringly at his practice, never refusing a patient whether night or day, holiday or Sunday. He died February 26, 1934 in Covington, Ky.

Dr. J. Bryant, M.D. Graduated from Meharry Medical College in 1908 and practiced until 1920.

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Dr. Albert B. Snowden, M.D. was born in Lexington, Kentucky and graduated from Normal School of Lexington, Kentucky and from Meharry Medical School in 1916. He practiced in Covington from 1916 until the time of his death in 1923.

Dr. Harry P. Taylor, M.D. Graduated from Meharry Medical College in 1903. He practiced in Flemingsburg, Kentucky until 1905. After his marriage in 1905 he moved to Versailles, Kentucky and practiced there until 1925. He then moved to Covington, Kentucky and practiced in this city until his death in 1960.

Dr. Earl Beam, M.D. Graduated from the National Medical College of Louisville, Kentucky in 1908. He practiced in Covington from 1909 until the early thirties.

Dr. Horace S. Brannon, M.D. Graduated from National Medical College, Louisville, Kentucky in 1907 and practiced in Covington from 1907 until his retirement in 1965. He is now living at 953 Church Hill Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio. He served in the Army during World War II, was a 1st Lieutenant.

In 1922, two graduates of Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee came to Covington, Kentucky, namely;

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Dr. Norman Earl Dunham, M.D. Dr. Dunham took his pre-Med training at Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn. He graduated from Meharry in 1921 and in 1922 came to Covington, Kentucky.

Dr. J. E. Randolph, M.D. Graduated from Meharry in 1917 and came to Covington in 1922. He is still practicing in Covington. Actually he is the only practicing Negro Physician in Northern Kentucky.

Campbell County boasted only two Negro Physicians. Both settled in Newport, Kentucky.

Dr. Charles Horner, M.D. Graduated from the Eclectic Medical College in 1924.

Dr. Percival Bacchus, M.D. Graduated from Meharry Medical College in 1922. Both doctors carried on a well integrated practice.

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At the present time, to my knowledge, we have only one Negro Medical Student from Covington, Kentucky - Jacob Crittenden. Mr. Crittenden is completing his Junior year at the University of Kentucky Medical School. He is the first Negro Medical Student in this school. We hope that he will come to Covington after completion of his studies.

This material was compiled thru the Efforts of Mr. Wendell Kelly (Dr. A.D. Kelly's son), Mr. & Mrs. Robert Curt, Mrs. Anna Williams and Mrs. Anna M. Jones.

*Compiled  
E. C. & J. Williams*