

## IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE AREA? (Cont.)

Among the early 20th century doctors in the Brighton Area we find Dr. Singer---

"In the death of Dr J. D. Singer, 85, [4-15-43] whose funeral will be held Sunday afternoon with Masonic rites, Brighton losses a man of unusual talents. He died Thursday at his country home, just west of the village after a brief illness." thus begins the obituary of Dr. Singer in the local press on 4-17-43.

March 24, 1858, saw the birth of Jacob Daniel Singer in Portsmouth, O. Early boyhood was spent in Freeport, PA, where his parents had moved. Rudiments of education were received there and he worked in the mills and plants of the area. At age 18, he was apprenticed to a stonecutter. He apparently enjoyed the occupation - at past 70 years of age he cut and placed each stone in the fire place of his home just west of Brighton which was situated on the bank of a lake.

He also had an undying love of nature which was fulfilled by his hobby as a farmer and fruit grower. An undeniable passion for music and art caused him to attend Baxter University of Music in Friendship, N.Y. He studied voice, piano, theory of music and instrumentation and 1883 found him in Wahpeton, Dakota Territory, teaching music. During this period he was also studying medicine with Dr. G. W. Arbuckle of Breckinridge, MN. He studied one year at Hahnemann College, Chicago, then entered the School of Medicine in Pittsburg, PA from which he graduated in 1896.

He practiced 13 years in Wyandotte (1896-1909) and then 33 in Brighton (1909-1942), where he continued to labor, even at the age of 85, until a few weeks before his death. He was known as one of the oldest practicing physicians in the state.

During his medical career he had taken courses in Harvard University, and the Lying-in Hospital in NYC. Post graduate work at Massachusetts General Hospital and the Detroit Post Graduate School of Medicine followed.

He became a member of the Volunteer Medical Corp during WW I. Dr. Singer was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and Brighton Lodge #247, F & A M, also Michigan Chapter OES #314 of Brighton. For a period of 16 years he was a camp physician at the Detroit Recreation camp on Euler Road, west of Brighton.

Throughout all of his medical career in Brighton he never lost his love of music and the arts. An accomplished musician, Dr. Singer trained choirs, bands and singing societies for many years. It is said that many Brighton youngsters were encouraged to develop their talent and follow a career in music. The Brighton Band and the Brighton Singers were beneficiaries of his talents.

His office on W. Main Street (just east of Singer Press [139 W. Main]) was situated approximately where a parking lot is located. Some descendants of Dr. Singer are still located in Brighton. Singer Press was begun by a son, G. Eric Singer; still in the Singer name with a grandson-in-law and great grandson in charge. (By Marieanna Bair. To be continued. Anyone with information regarding the subject matter of these articles is urged to contact her, 229-6402. She needs help.)

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