

Hall County's early doctors

By SYBIL McRAY
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In Hall County courthouse downstairs where the deed records are located, there is an old, thin and rather worn notebook that contains the first records of medical practitioners in Hall County. It is among several other dusty books stacked on a shelf in the corner of the room. The label of contents is illegible; however, a few letters of the inscription on the front of the book is discernible.

Evidently, all physicians with medical practices in Hall County in 1881 were required to register. They gave the date and place of their birth and when and where they received their medical license or diploma.

The first few pages of this notebook contain the registration of the physicians not alphabetically arranged, but rather in order of registration. A page number is listed by each name and on these pages there is pertinent information concerning each registering physician. A few are listed:

James T. Rogers, The Glades, Ga. (residence), Hall County, Ga. (where born), License: G.A. Mitchell, Flowery Branch, Ga., Gwinnett County, Diploma;

J.W. Bates, Gainesville, Hall County, Diploma; H.P. Long, Gainesville, Madison County, Diploma; F.M. Newman, Flowery Branch, Spartanburg, S.C., Diploma; J.A. Latham, Hall County, Hall County, License; Ed J. Camp, Gainesville, Pike County, Ga., Diploma.

"State of Georgia Hall County. Benjamin F. Hanie born in Pendleton District, South Carolina, March 3, 1821, removed to Georgia when a boy and has been in Georgia ever since, commenced to practice medicine in 1842.

"Having before that date purchased and read the works of Dr. Samuel Thompson and received his certificate or Right to Practice his system of medicine and has been regular in the practice of his profession ever since. Has no diploma or license other than that mentioned and needed no other being in the practice before the year 1847.

Signed — B.F. Hanie
Georgia, Hall County.
Personally came before me B.F. Hanie who has by me duly sworn says on oath that the facts stated in the foregoing are true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

"This Dec. 1st, 1881; C.C. Clements C.S.C.; "Recorded Dec. 1th, 1881" (page 10).

"In person came Andrew Jackson Shaffer and on oath says he is a resident of Hall County, that he was born in Adams County, Pennsylvania, and is now practicing medicine under and by authority of a Diploma granted by the Atlanta Medical College, Aug. 30th, 1856.

"S & S Nov. 29, 1881; G.C. Clements C.S.C." (page 10)

"Personally came before me Francis Marion Newman born in County of Spartanburg, state of South Carolina, states that he is in the regular practice of

Medical College March 4th, 1879, signed by John Johnson President S. & S. Dec. 1st, 1881.

G.C. Clements C.S.C. (page 11)

"Georgia Hall County
Personally came before me W.G. Ham who being duly sworn sayeth that he resides in the town of Gainesville, state and county aforesaid and that he was born in the county of Oglethorpe, state of Georgia, that he is in the regular practice of Medicine by virtue of a Diploma granted by the U. of Medical College, New York. (Signed) W.G. Ham

"Sworn to and subscribed before me this April 2nd, 1883. W.B. Smith, Clk." (page 12)

"Personally came before George W. Scroggs who duly sworn says he resides Hall County and state Georgia, that he was born Clay County, North Carolina, that he is in regular practice of medicine by virtue of a Diploma by the Southern Medical College, Atlanta, granted March 4th, 1883. "Signed by Thos. Powell President Board of Trustees S & S for April 7th, 1885.

"A.R. Smith C.S.C." (page 22)

A few registered physicians are listed because the names are familiar:

W.H. Jennings, born in County of Marlborough, S.C. E.E. Dixon, born in County of Merriwether, Ga. W.F. Peacock, born in the County of Coffee, State of Alabama. J.T. Curtis, born in Lumpkin County, Ga., Diploma granted in 1869. C.A. Cheatham, born in Louisville, Jefferson County, Ga., License granted 6th December, 1847.



Medicine by virtue of
Diploma granted by the U. of
Medical College, New York.