

Licorice Root to
Leeches: Some
Early Doctors in
Union City and
Northwestern
Pennsylvania

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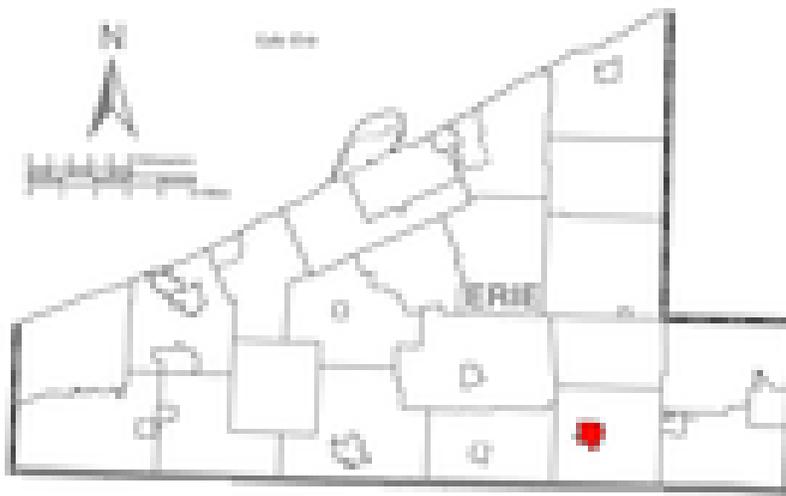
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Chapter One

Licorice Root to Leeches-Doctors and Midwives in Erie and Warren Counties

People depended on midwives and general practitioners for their medical care in 19th Century Erie and Warren Counties in Pennsylvania.

People watched wide awake at their hearths for disease as vigilantly as they did for marauding Indians in 19th century Erie County, Pennsylvania. They brewed tea and swallowed bitter elixirs to drive away fevers and cold and measles and whooping cough. None of them dreamed that creatures so tiny that thousands of them could fit on the end of one of granny's knitting needles were to blame for the miseries and often fatal epidemics that devastated entire neighborhoods and too often set fathers to fashioning tiny wooden coffins and mothers sewing burial clothes sprinkled with tears.

The Iroquois tribes that lived in Northwestern Pennsylvania believed that medicine men and women with special spiritual and healing powers could change the course of diseases. Later when disease-bearing white settlers came to Erie and Warren Counties, they brought home remedies and doctors along with them to fight ubiquitous fevers and other

illnesses that periodically sprang up among them. Aunt Tamar Thompson, Aunt Nancy Range, Aunty McGuire and the Doctors Sherwood all practiced medicine in Erie and Warren Counties in different centuries and with different methodologies, but they all symbolize the medical transition from the 19th to 20th centuries.

Aunt Tamar, Aunt Nancy Range, and Aunty McGuire typify the practicality and adaptability of people struggling to conquer a new country. They faced its medical problems and used the material at hand to alleviate and sometimes cure them. When Dr. Alfred Carter Sherwood began his practice in the late 19th century, medical care had begun to be proactive instead of reactive and he and his son, Andrew Jackson Sherwood pioneered many medical innovations in Erie County.

Aunt Tamar Thompson and Aunt Nancy Range's Early 19th Century Medical World

[Abel Thompson](#) came to Union Township in 1801, bought forty acres of land and set up a blacksmith shop within a mile of a mill located on the banks of French Creek. He brought a family of five sons, two daughters and his wife Jemima with him. They immediately began to carve a home and farm out of the thick woods and as they did so, they encountered the perils of the new land, including malaria that infested the marshy creek bottoms.

The Thompsons did not know that the pesky mosquitoes biting their backs and shoulders as they chopped down trees and dug wells were the carriers of malaria. They did know that the chills and fever made it necessary to dig fresh graves in the hilltop cemetery. They used home remedies like rhubarb, calomel and herb teas to try to ward off chills and fever, hemlock sweats to relieve cold miseries, and licorice root as an overall body tonic. They died of disease, childbirth, old age and were buried in the soil that they worked so hard to cultivate.

Abel Thompson, Jemima his wife, and Tamar his second wife as well as his sons Job, Joel and Caleb were all buried in the old Thompson Cemetery outside of Union City. They all went to their graves unaware of microbes and untended by “doctors from over yon” practicing state of the art medicine.

The Human Body Interacting with the Natural World

[Nineteenth century medical theory](#) said that the human body constantly interacted with its environment and that good health was the result of ensuring that one's body maintained a proper equilibrium with its self and its environment.

Medical theory analyzed the human body in two ways. It said that all parts of the body were related to each other and that the body's inputs and outputs were central to its proper functioning. Good health was maintained by proper regulation of this inputs and outputs.

A person whose body lost its proper balance of input and output became an unhealthy person. Since doctors believed illness was caused by disequilibrium, they designed their treatments to bring the body back in balance. They accomplished this by prompting the body to release elements including blood, urine, defecation and perspiration to return the proper balance.

19th Century Medical Prescriptions

Doctors used bleeding with or without [leeches](#), as a pivotal treatment because they believed that the force of the illness would leave the body through the blood, relieving pain and weakening illness. Doctors prescribed drugs like calomel (a compound of mercury) to purge the body, opium to moderate diarrhea and relieve pain and camphor to cause sweating.

These drugs produced strong reactions that influenced the inputs and outputs of the body by producing vomiting, stopping diarrhea and prompting sweating. Doctors also prescribed rhubarb and medicinal alcohol and early settlers in Erie County often carried their medicinal whiskey along with them in their daily pursuits. Patients expected doctors to institute these aggressive treatments so they would be dramatically and visibly cured.

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Chapter Two

Licorice Root to Leeches-19th Century Medicine in Union City

Aunt Tamar Thompson and Aunt Nancy Range tended patients in Erie County Pennsylvania as American medicine turned professional and went to war with itself.

Most 19th century Americans did not turn to doctors for their first choice of healer. Doctors made house calls, had few tools, and could not offer many treatments more effective than home remedies. They rarely had enough business to support being full time doctors, so they held second jobs such as farming, as well. Midwives, nurses, pharmacists and family members also practiced under these conditions. Dr. Benjamin Rush was one of the most influential physicians in early United States history. His medical ideas such as bloodletting and purging were controversial, but he made important contributions to the development of medicine in the United States.

Female Midwives and Granny Women Are Important Medical Mainstays

Doctors were not all male in the early 19th century. Millions of unnamed and unsung female midwives placed newborn babies in their mother's outstretched arms outlined by flickering flames from the fireplace. Doctor midwives like Aunts Tamar Thompson and Aunt Nancy Range also nursed fevers and diseases with a cure-rate that often exceeded male practitioners. In her diary, Martha Ballard, a New England midwife, fought a constant professional battle against male doctors who believed that they had superior knowledge, and diagnosed from afar. Martha had a hands-on, in the home knowledge of her patients and treated them more effectively.

At the beginning of the 19th century, just a handful of medical colleges and hospitals existed and doctors usually made house calls to see their patients. Doctors served a two year apprenticeship without fulfilling formal educational requirements. A few doctors did attend college and study in Europe before they returned to America, but they were the exception and usually clustered together in large cities. Most doctors received their training in privately owned and operated propriety model medical schools where a student was virtually guaranteed a degree.

The Medical Profession Grows Along with America

Between 1765 and 1800, five medical schools produced 250 doctors; between 1830 and 1840, orthodox schools produced 6,800 doctors; and between 1850-1860 orthodox schools produced 18,000 doctors. By 1830, fifteen states had passed license laws and the medical profession modeled its codes of ethics and behavior after the British code of Thomas Percival. Few medical school graduates were more than nominally qualified. Antebellum physicians continued to be hindered by the lack of knowledge of the causes

of disease and by a trial and error methodology and therapeutic systems that featured massive bleeding and purging as keystones of healing.

The War Between Allopathic and Homeopathic Medicine

As America began to grow and expand so did the medical profession and it, too, divided into two warring factions as did America. Medicine divided into orthodox or mainstream sectors and medical sects. The cholera epidemic of 1849 widened the gap between the two schools of medicine in America – the [allopathic](#) and homeopathic. The law of similars or the idea that like is cured by like is the fundamental principle of homeopathy. Samuel Hahnemann of Leipzig, Germany first applied this principle in the early nineteenth century and called it homeopathy to distinguish it from the medical establishment which he called allopathy.

The American Institute of [Homeopathy](#) was founded in 1844, and physician and senator Royal S. Copeland popularized it in the United States. Homeopathic adherents had observed that quinine given to a healthy person caused the same symptoms that malaria did in a person with the disease, so quinine became the preferred treatment for malaria. When a drug was found to create the same symptoms as a certain disease, it was used in small doses to treat the disease.

Aunt Tamar and Aunt Nancy Range Still Visit Patients

Dr. Samuel Arminius Latta, who practiced in Cincinnati, Ohio at the time, wrote a pamphlet about the cholera epidemic in 1849 that graphically illustrates the bitterness of the disagreement between the two schools of medical thought. In his introduction he states that in May 1849 soon after the appearance of cholera in Cincinnati, “The Homeopathic, Eclectic, Indian, and Negro Doctors with other irregular practitioners” published extravagant claims of cholera cures in the secular press to the disgust and dismay of the Board of Health and the allopathic physicians.

Dr. Latta commented that the members of the “regular profession” pursued the even tenor of their way, contending by day and night with the angel of death as he silently struck among the masses in the street, or in the family circles of the mansion, the cottage, the garret or the cellar. “Dr. Arminius reviewed the report of the supposed homeopathic cure for cholera read before the Homeopathic Association and scathingly denounced it.

As the century wore on, many of American’s leading physicians were influenced by French clinicians and began to question the dogmatic therapies of the older medicine. In [Erie County Pennsylvania](#) Aunt Tamar Thompson and Aunt Nancy Range did not trouble themselves about warring medical theories and disagreeing doctors as they rode the narrow bridle paths on the way to isolated cabins. They were most concerned about their families, crops and weather, healing their patients, and driving away disease.

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Chapter Three

Licorice Root to Leeches-Cholera in Northwestern Pennsylvania

Soldiers from the War of 1812 came home to Northwestern Pennsylvania, bringing cholera with them. Aunt Tamar Thompson nursed the soldiers and her neighbors.

After the War of 1812 soldiers came home to Erie County, Pennsylvania, from Black Rock below Buffalo, where they had wintered in quarters so dirty that according to early Erie County historian David Wilson they contracted a fever “almost as fatal in its effects as the Asiatic cholera.” It was known as the Black Rock fever.

Ordinary Life Goes on, Despite Black Rock Fever and Death

When the soldiers returned home to Erie County, they carried cholera with them and many of the Thompsons and their neighbors died, including Andrew Thompson and his wife Martha and Margaret Smith Thompson, the wife of Joel Thompson. In 1816, Jemima Thompson died and Abel arranged for his son Caleb to live with him on the farm where they could both work and carry on their trades.

About 1822, Jeduthan Gray purchased a farm on nearby Oil Creek and his sons, son-in-law and widowed sister Tamar Ames who had married young and had several children, followed him to his farm. [Abel](#) saw Tamar during a public gathering and immediately fell in love. His friends realized the depth of his feelings when Abel discarded his slouch hat and bought a bell crown that was then the style.

Aunt Tamar Continues Her Nursing

Abel and Tamar were soon married and settled on the old Thompson homestead and Caleb resettled nearby. During the last decade of his life, Tamar faithfully cared for Abel. Even after Abel Thompson died in 1840 at age 84, Tamar continued to nurse her neighbors. She had been the only doctor in the neighborhood for years. Faithful, resolute and kind, she turned out the darkest nights and rode horse back to any place where she was called within a distance of four or five miles, charging only one dollar.

A Cholera Epidemic Rages in 1832

Aunt Tamar probably nursed some of the victims of the 1832 [cholera](#) epidemic brought on by English immigrants. New York City, Buffalo, and Utica were all particularly subject to the 1832 cholera epidemic.

The harbor at Erie, Pennsylvania was an important shipping and passenger center for the Lake Erie trade and the docks teemed with sailors and passengers. Often they carried cholera, fever, typhus and other germs along with their valises and trunks.

The farms and homes of Union Township were just a short journey from Erie and many local men occupied seasonal berths on the lake vessels or made short business trips between Erie and Buffalo. Unwittingly, they brought deadly diseases back home to their family and friends.

The Asiatic Cholera Microbe Tours the Great Lakes

In 1832, the United States government chartered four vessels to transport troops, provisions and munitions bound for Chicago to help fight the Blackhawk War. Captain Walker was master of the *Sheldon Thompson* and he chronicled the voyage of his steamer which sailed from Buffalo on July 2, 1832.

The *Sheldon Thompson* Leaves Buffalo with Asiatic Cholera Aboard

[The *Sheldon Thompson*](#) left Buffalo on the morning of July 2, 1832, with a full contingent of officers, troops, equipment and Asiatic cholera. The vessel most likely made brief stops at Erie and the other harbors along the Lake Erie shore. When Captain Walker arrived at Detroit, he discovered that Detroit authorities had ordered his sister ship, the *Henry Clay* to anchor near the foot of Hog Island about two miles from the city.

Captain Walker moored at the wharf for a few minutes, taking on fuel and stores for the trip and then got underway. He anchored alongside the *Henry Clay* and General Scott and about 90 soldiers from the *Clay* boarded the *Sheldon Thompson*.

The *Sheldon Thompson* sailed on to Fort Gratiot (Port Huron) and landed about 50 of the troops. By the next day when the *Henry Clay* arrived in the St. Clair River cholera had winnowed the sailor's ranks like a wave sweeping over the decks. As soon as the *Henry Clay* anchored, the men rushed to shore fleeing the disease. Some ran to the fields, some to the woods, others lay in the streets and sought shelter under the river banks. Most of them died alone.

The *Sheldon Thompson* Carries the Cholera to Chicago

Captain Walker and the *Sheldon Thompson* continued their lake voyage, leaving three sick soldiers and two of the ship's crew on Mackinaw Island. No cholera deaths took place on board until the *Thompson* passed the Manitou Islands in Lake Michigan. The first person to die onboard did so about four o'clock in the afternoon when the *Thompson* was about thirty hours outside of Chicago.

All twelve of the burial detail, including Sergeant Davis, sickened and died in a few hours and were also thrown overboard before the rest of the troops were landed at

Chicago. The *Sheldon Thompson* anchored outside of Chicago on the evening of July 8, 1832, still carrying General Scott, his men, and the cholera germs.

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Chapter Four

Licorice Root to Leeches- Aunt Nancy Range Doctored in Erie and Warren Counties

Aunt Nancy Range doctored backwoods patients in Warren and Erie Counties while medicine continued to grow into a profession.

In Erie County, Aunt Tamar Thompson and Aunt Nancy Range nursed the sick through cholera, and other epidemics. They sweated colds and starved fevers and delivered Erie county babies. By 1830, male physicians had taken over obstetrics and midwifery, at least for middle class women, but their dominance did not extend to the backwoods of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

Aunt Nancy Range Doctors Through Warren and Erie County

[Aunt Nancy Range](#), born Nancy Myers, was distantly related to Tamar Thompson and she followed the same profession. She was born June 4, 1784 in Clarion County, Pennsylvania, and was raised there. She married John Range Jr., on April 12, 1798, and they had 14 children. When Aunt Nancy wasn't busy tending her own family, she was doctoring her neighbors and ailing citizens of Warren and Erie counties.

In those days a doctor didn't need a license to practice medicine. A man might at any time put up a shingle and proclaim himself as a doctor. These untutored doctors made all their own medicine, and sometimes even distilled their own whiskey for medicinal purposes. Aunt Nancy's skills were as good as or better than her male counterparts and she was in more demand.

Aunt Nancy Doctored from the Cradle to the Grave

In her middle age when she doctored in [Warren County](#), Aunt Nancy rode Warren county bridle paths on her roan mare Mollie. She stretched above medium height with large bones, strong hands, and a strong jaw line. She wore steel rimmed specks with black strings on their bows fastened behind her head to keep the glasses from falling off when Mollie trotted hard or rode at a gallop.

Every pioneer household welcomed a frontier doctor like Aunt Nancy. The householders offered food, shelter and warm hospitality because it was an honor to shelter and entertain the doctor and in return, many householders eagerly awaited the news and gossip that Aunt Nancy carried from cabin to cabin.

When a message came that Aunt Nancy was needed she quickly dropped her herb brewing, spinning or dyeing while one of her sons saddled and bridled Mollie and

brought her to the door. She grabbed her saddlebags that always hung behind the door ready for an emergency and climbed on Mollie's back.

Through wind and rain and snow reaching to Mollie's belly Aunt Nancy would ride on Mollie's back to reach her patients. When Aunt Nancy arrived at her patient's home and found a serious illness, she would stay right there until she nursed the sick person better. If the patient died, Aunt Nancy Range laid out the body, cooked a meal or two and tended matters in general.

Aunt Nancy's Herb Garden

At her cabin home near the headwaters of the Little Brokenstraw Creek in Warren County, Aunt Nancy had a large herb garden, a hundred yards long and 50 yards wide. In it she grew the herbs essential to her practice, like foxglove, catnip, lobelia, peppermint, smartweed, golden seal, spearmint, spikenard. The forest was also Aunt Nancy's herb garden and from the forest she gathered bloodroot, myrrh, mandrake or May apple, sassafras, tag alder, slipper elm and many other herbs.

Aunt Nancy knew just where to find blossoms, leaves, bark, or roots that were good for cures in woods or clearings or swamps. Foxglove reduced dropsy, sassafras thinned the blood, yellow dock purified the blood, and golden seal and licorice root acted as a general tonic and cured stomach ailments. Boneset cured colds. Hemlock tea was a standard home remedy. Indians used Queen of the Meadow for colds and Aunt Nancy used the same remedy calling it "a reliable Indian remedy."

Aunt Nancy Preaches Her Own Funeral Sermon

In the last years of her life Aunt Nancy ministered to souls as well as bodies. She preached on Sundays in a log school house and the good folks came from miles around on foot and horse back to hear her sermons. She preached the old fashioned hell fire and suffering for the damned and eternal bliss for the righteous. She loved that sort of preaching and went from the kindly character of nurse and doctor to the stern, vindictive pulpit personality in one sentence.

When she had reached her seventies and lived in Erie County near the site of present day Union City, Aunt Nancy Range who now had white curls at her temples, had a premonition. She announced that she would preach her funeral sermon on the following Sabbath. A large congregation assembled and listened to her preach. They all agreed that it was a good sermon, preached with power and persuasion. Two weeks later on December 8, 1860, she died and went to her reward which has to be a good one because she relieved so much suffering on earth.

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Chapter Five

Licorice Root to Leeches- George McGuire Catches a Bad Cold

Aunty Lucretia McGuire cured her husband's cold with a hemlock sweat, a blanket, and a visit from her neighbors. She effectively used herbs in her practice.

[Arch Bristow](#) tells the story of Aunt Nancy Range in his [Old Time Tales of Warren County](#). He also provides an amusing window into one of the pioneer remedies for a bad cold in another story, this time from the life of Aunty Lucretia McGuire.

George McGuire Catches A Bad Cold

Aunty McGuire's husband, George McGuire as she called him, had come down with a bad cold and had spent at least three days in bed with it. He refused her offer to give him a hemlock sweat and "provoked her to the point of unrighteous indignation," as she put it.

In Aunty McGuire's experience, hemlock sweats always worked. She would take a batch of fresh hemlock twigs, the lighter green of the new growth being the best, and line the bottom of a wash tub with the twigs. Next, she would pour boiling water over the twigs to leach the oil out of the hemlock. The fragrance of hemlock penetrating the house assured her that the water had liberated the oil.

As soon as the water in the tub had cooled enough to be comfortable, Aunty McGuire would sit the patient in the tub on a stool with his feet in the hot water. Then she would take a heavy blanket and wrap it around him so that it would come out over the edge of the tub and keep in the steam. As Aunty McGuire succinctly put it, "You make kind of a one pole circus tent out of him and just leave his head out at the top."

Aunty McGuire's Hemlock Sweat Remedy

Aunty McGuire's hemlock sweat remedy worked on her other patients, but her husband George McGuire wouldn't stay in the bath long enough to sweat out his cold. The longest George McGuire would stay in the bath was ten minutes. It took at least half an hour or better to thoroughly sweat out a cold, so Aunty McGuire had to come up with a scheme to keep her husband in the bath.

She used her blackberry cordial as bait to entice him to agree to sit in the bath for ten minutes. Then while he was out milking she slipped a half mile down the road to the house of Sister Potts who had a lady from the West visiting her. Aunt McGuire stayed for five minutes arranging for George McGuire's hemlock sweat.

Aunty McGuire Prepares George for the Remedy

An hour after supper she pulled down the curtain, got out the wash tub and set it in the kitchen close to the stove. She suggested to George McGuire that they let the fire go out in the setting room and keep the kitchen warm for her geraniums. He agreed because that meant less wood to cut and he liked to sit in the kitchen so close to the pantry.

By the time Aunty McGuire poured the boiling water on the hemlock, the kitchen was warm and steamy. She had George McGuire take off his clothes and sit in the tub and firmly pinned the blanket on him. He had been in about five minutes and was stirring purposefully when a knock came at the door and in stepped Mrs. Potts and her friend from the West.

George McGuire is Trapped

Showing her guests to the kitchen, Aunty McGuire told Mrs. Potts and her friend that the sitting room fire was out but the kitchen was warm. She assured them that George McGuire was covered up perfectly respectable. “You can’t see anything of him but his bald head,” she said. The ladies settled themselves comfortably by the kitchen fire. Every twenty minutes Aunty McGuire opened a crack in her husband’s blanket and poured in more hot water.

Aunty McGuire had George McGuire right where she wanted him and she could see that he was angry. The blanket trembled and his face grew redder than her geraniums, but he couldn’t move and he was too ashamed to complain. If the company had just been Mrs. Potts he might have moved, but the lady from the West kept him in the bath. Aunty McGuire gave him a good three quarters of an hour while she sat and visited with her guests, adding fresh hot water right along. Finally she winked at Sister Potts and Sister Potts and her guest from the West departed.

George McGuire is Cured

Aunty McGuire got George McGuire out of the blanket and into a warm night shirt and then to bed with a few hot soap stones. She took in his steaming hot blackberry cordial and watched him drink it. According to Aunty McGuire he dropped right off to sleep and in the morning his cold had disappeared.

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Chapter Six

The Dedicated Doctors Sherwood of Union City, Pennsylvania

Drs. Sherwood, father and son, practiced medicine in Union City, Pennsylvania, but their lives followed the same pattern as country doctors across America.

Dr. Alfred Carter Sherwood and Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood built a medical family tree in Northwestern Pennsylvania. Dr. A.C. practiced medicine in Union City continuously for 38 years and Dr. A.J. for 50 years. Dr. A.C. Sherwood earned a reputation as one of the best surgeons in Northwestern Pennsylvania. From 1875 when he went into practice until his death in September 1911, he maintained that reputation. His son, Andrew Jackson, developed into an equally skilled surgeon while practicing medicine with his father. Together they accumulated about 88 years of medical service to Northwestern Pennsylvania.

Dr. Alfred Carter Sherwood and Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood Establish a Medical Dynasty

During the early years of his practice [Dr. Alfred Carter Sherwood](#) made his rounds with his horse and buggy. His son, Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood, had a favorite memory of his father when he used to accompany his father on his rounds. They would jog down the Old Stone Quarry Road outside of Union City in the buggy while Andrew Jackson kept a weather eye on the horse. He learned much going with his father on his rounds and this is probably when he decided that he wanted to become a doctor just like his father. Later, when there were two Doctor Sherwoods, people separated them by calling them Dr. Sherwood Sr. and Dr. Sherwood Jr.

In July 1950, Dr. John Norman Sherwood, the son of Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood, returned to Union City and went into partnership with his father. The *Union City Times* said that this partnership continued the practice of medicine at the same location on West High Street where it was established in 1860. It was in that year that Dr. H.R. Terry settled here and was joined in 1873 by his nephew, Dr. A.C. Sherwood, who in turn was joined by his son, Dr. A. J. Sherwood in 1903.

Dr. Norman Sherwood took his pre-medical work at Bucknell University and his medicine studies at the University of Pennsylvania. Both his father and grandfather were graduates of the University of Pennsylvania. John Norman Sherwood then spent his intern year at Philadelphia General Hospital. Following this, he spent two years as a surgical resident at St. Vincent's Hospital in Erie. The new Dr. Sherwood had been a

member of the U.S. Naval Reserve since 1942 and was assistant surgeon with the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade.

Dr. Alfred Carter Sherwood Appointed Philadelphia and Erie Railroad Surgeon

Norman's grandfather, Doctor Alfred Carter Sherwood, was born in Erie County and received his early schooling there. He attended the State Normal School at Edinboro and then read medicine with his uncle, Dr. H.R. Terry, who had been in Union City since 1860.

After a few years, he entered the University of Pennsylvania's Medical Department and on March 13, 1873, he graduated with honors. He immediately began practicing medicine. Even before he graduated, Dr. Sherwood had been appointed county physician and continuously held that position for a number of years. About the same time, he was also appointed surgeon for the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad and held that position for a number of years as well.

Three years after Dr. A.C. Sherwood began practicing in Union City, he married Miss Emma V. Jackson on January 20, 1876. Emma was the daughter of Andrew Jackson of Meadville. The Sherwoods had seven children, four girls and three boys. Belle E. Sherwood, Daisy M. Sherwood, Rose V. Sherwood, and Beatrice M. Sherwood all survived to adulthood.

Of the three boys, Frederick L., Alton C., and Andrew J., only Andrew Jackson survived to practice medicine with his father. Frederick died when he was seven and Alton when he was just three months. Daisy married F.H. Roth and lived in Union City. Belle E. married Merle N. Smith who was assistant general agent of the Carnegie Steel Company and they lived in Pittsburgh. Rose married Wayne Paulin, a merchant from Pittsburgh, and Beatrice married Reese Carroll, an electrical engineer and lived at Woodland, Pa. Andrew Jackson became a doctor and lived and practiced in Union City for fifty years.

Dr. Alfred Carter Sherwood Opens an Office In Union City

After Doctor Sherwood Sr. graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1873, he formed a partnership with his uncle, Dr. H.R. Terry, the same doctor with whom he read medicine. But after two years the doctors dissolved the relationship and from about 1875 until his son, Andrew Jackson, joined him as a partner in 1903, Dr. Sherwood Sr. practiced medicine alone. He earned a reputation as one of the best surgeons in Western Pennsylvania.

The *Union City Times* of January 1880, featured Dr. A.C. Sherwood's business card. The card announced that Dr. Sherwood's office was located over the Old Brick Store and his office hours were from 10 to 12 a.m. and 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. It stated that he was the Surgeon to the P & E Railroad and Physician for the County Poor.

Dr. Alfred Carter Sherwood practiced medicine in small town Union City, Pennsylvania, but his life paralleled that of other country doctors all over America

On February 19, 1880, Dr. Sherwood gave a lecture to the physiology class of the Union City Public Schools. He brought a "very fine skeleton and sections of the spinal column of different vertebrates" with him. He explained the peculiarities of the nervous system by dissecting portions of the spinal cord of an ox, and gave blackboard illustrations to show the distribution of the nerves of motion and sensation throughout the system. The pupils were delighted and felt that they learned much in an hour.

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Union City Times, Thursday, January 8, 1880

Rulaf Fuller's Dairy, May 6, 1881

Union City Times, various issues, 1880-1896

Session Records, Union City Presbyterian Church, March 10, 1888, David Wilson Clerk

Chapter Seven

Dr. Alfred Carter Sherwood Practices in Union City, Pennsylvania

Dr. Alfred Carter Sherwood was busy with surgery, healing the sick, and inventing cures like the "Paris Jacket" in his country medical practice.

Dr. Alfred Carter Sherwood practiced medicine in small town Union City, Pennsylvania, but his life paralleled that of other country doctors all over America, and he skillfully created several medical innovations

Dr. Sherwood Has a Busy Spring and Summer

George McClelland of Union City was grateful that [Dr. Alfred Carter Sherwood](#) practiced in his home town.. In March 1880 he struck an axe in his foot while chopping wood and cut it badly. Dr. Sherwood attended him.

The spring and summer of 1880 turned out to be just as busy for Dr. Sherwood. A few of his cases included being called to Waterford in May to attend his uncle who was quite sick. In July, a little grandson of Mr. Conroy fell while playing in the barn and put his elbow out of joint. Dr. Sherwood attended. Besides his daily practice, Dr. Sherwood involved himself in medicine and the community in other ways such as serving on the Commission for the Poor and working in the Union City Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Alfred Carter Sherwood Opens a New Office

The year passed swiftly, propelled by medical cases. Highlights of 1881 for Dr. Sherwood Sr. included caring for the son of John Bartholme who fell and broke his collar bone while sliding down hill. In May, a boy was brought to Dr. Sherwood from Riceville for an operation for club foot. The doctor performed the operation successfully and felt that the deformity would disappear. "It was a delicate job of surgery and well done," noted the *Union City Times*.

June and July 1881 were moving months for Dr. Alfred Carter Sherwood and Dr. Burnam, his colleague. They had rooms fitted up in the Landsrath Block over Gary Smith's Store and in July they moved into their new offices.

Dr. Sherwood's "Paris Jacket" Cure

In 1881, Dr. Sherwood performed a service for an old friend and introduced a medical innovation. Dr. D.R. Greenlee of Meadville came to Union City and Dr. Sherwood helped him fit what was known as a "Paris Jacket" on Rulaf Fuller and James Farrington. Rulaf Fuller, a friend and neighbor of Dr. Sherwood's, had been seriously injured on the

railroad and could not even sit up in bed. The doctors fitted him for the jacket and "although he can not now sit up but five or ten minutes at a time, still it is so much better that he would not have it taken off for anything," reported the *Union City Times*.

Mr. Farrington also received the Plaster of Paris Jacket, improved very rapidly, and walked out some. He said that the jacket was a good thing and he felt happy to think that he at last found something which he was certain would prove a success. The jacket held the back so secure as to give relief and assist the patient in sitting up. Many times it proved an ultimate cure. Dr. Sherwood highly recommended it for some patients, even though it was an unusual procedure.

The Sherwood's are Involved in the Union City Presbyterian Church

Rulaf Fuller's diary for 1883 and 1884 revealed that he and Dr. Sherwood were good friends as well as physician and patient. Rulaf wrote that on Friday, July 6, 1883, Dr. Sherwood and his family came in for awhile and again on Tuesday, July 10, 1883, Mrs. Dr. Sherwood visited for awhile. When Rulaf's daughter, Bellea Anna, took sick in 1883, he noted it in terse entries. "Belle is very bad. Belle is so bad that Dr. Sherwood, Dr. Bonsteel and Dr. Abby was in most of the day." The diary revealed that Dr. Sherwood came in regularly to care for Belle until she recovered.

The Session Records of the Union City Presbyterian Church noted a red letter day for Dr. Sherwood. On March 4, 1888, Andrew Jackson Sherwood, a boy of ten, who was baptized in infancy in this church, presented himself. The Session examined him as to his knowledge of scripture and piety and he was admitted to the full communion of the church. Dr. Sherwood and his entire family were active members of the church. Mrs. Sherwood was involved in ladies missionary work, the doctor served as an elder and their children participated in many church activities. A.J. Sherwood sang bass solos and the girls gave recitations.

The year 1896 proved to be busy and exciting for Dr. A.C. Sherwood. In January 1896, he displayed his card in the *Union City Times*. It read: A.C. Sherwood, M.D., Physician and Surgeon. Office at residence. Corner First Avenue and High Street, Union City, Pa. Office hours 10 to 12 a.m., 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m.

The Sherwoods Celebrate Their Anniversary

The New Year hadn't started out too well health wise for Dr. Sherwood. He was seriously ill for a few days in the second week of January, but near the end of the month, he and Mrs. Sherwood celebrated their 26th wedding anniversary with a number of their friends.

On Monday, January 20, 1896, the friends of the Sherwoods gathered at their home and enjoyed a delightful time for two hours. Reverend A.J. Herries of the Presbyterian Church made a few appropriate remarks on behalf of their friends present, and everyone gave the genial doctor and his wife a beautiful hand-painted china celery dish and a salad

bowl, as a small token of their regard and esteem. The Sherwoods fully appreciated the gift and thoroughly enjoyed the presence of their friends and neighbors.

The story continues in: [The Two Dr. Sherwoods Practice in Union City, Pennsylvania](#)

Sources:

Bates, Samuel, *History of Erie County Pennsylvania*, Volume Two, Historical Publishing Company, Topeka, Indianapolis, 1925

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Union City Times, Thursday, January 8, 1880

Rulaf Fuller's Dairy, May 6, 1881

Union City Times, various issues, 1880-1896

Session Records, Union City Presbyterian Church, March 10, 1888, David Wilson Clerk

Chapter Eight

The Two Doctor Sherwoods Practice in Union City, Pennsylvania

Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood followed in his father's medical footsteps and joined Dr. Alfred Carter Sherwood's Union City, Pennsylvania, medical practice.

[Dr. Alfred Carter](#) Sherwood practiced medicine in small town Union City, Pennsylvania, but his life paralleled that of other country doctors and he skillfully created several medical innovations.

Good family news came to Dr. Alfred Carter Sherwood in June, 1899. His daughter, Miss Daisy Sherwood, received an appointment in the Philadelphia Presbyterian Hospital. She would not have to leave Union City immediately, but the appointment as a nurse was definite and an honor.

There came yet another office move for Dr. Sherwood in January 1903. Since his practice continued to grow he rented a suite of rooms on the second floor of the new Smiley Block in Union City and had them fitted up for an office.

Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood Graduates from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School

Dr. Alfred Carter Sherwood's case load increased, because in January 1903, the Directors of the Poor had reappointed him as physician for Union City and vicinity. The month also brought more surgical cases for Dr. Sherwood. He attended the little son of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Baldwin, residents of Crooked Street in Union City. The boy fell and fractured his right arm. On Wednesday, January 7, 1903, Dr. Sherwood traveled to Corry Hospital to operate on Frank Austin.

The doctor's wife, Emma, led as busy a life as he did. In May 1903 she and Mrs. J.R. Mulkie attended the 38th Annual Assembly of the Foreign Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church held at Cambridge Springs. A few days later Emma Sherwood entertained the High Street Twentieth Century Club at her home. Dr. Sherwood Sr. celebrated two important events in June 1903. Along with Dr. L.D. Rockwell, he attended the annual meeting of the Northwestern Medical Association in Cambridge Springs. A week or so later, Dr. Sherwood went to Philadelphia to attend the 30th anniversary of his college class and also to attend the commencement of his son, Andrew Jackson Sherwood.

Even before Andrew Jackson Sherwood, later to be known as Dr. Sherwood Jr., graduated from medical school, he had earned a residency at the University Hospital in Philadelphia and was performing his duties. This position as resident physician was a highly competitive one and "his numerous friends in Union City heartily congratulate him upon securing the position," the *Union City Times* said.

The Drs. Sherwood Operate Together and Open a Joint Medical Office

When Dr. Sherwood Sr. returned from Philadelphia possibly he and Dr. Sherwood Jr. were already making plans to practice together. In July 1903 Dr. A.C. Sherwood went to Cambridge Springs to consult with Dr. Frank Young in the case of Mrs. John Hood who was seriously ill. Three months later, the *Union City Times* noted that at the Corry Hospital on October 7, 1903, Mr. A.J. Sherwood of Union City assisted by Drs. Stem and Sherwood, performed a very successful operation for the removal of an eye on Mr. Lewis Bloomfield of Riceville. This is the first mention in The *Union City Times* of the doctors Sherwood collaborating on a case.

Then a few weeks after that, on Wednesday, November 11, 1903, both of the Doctors Sherwood performed an operation. The patient was their Presbyterian minister, Reverend A.J. Herries, who had been in poor health for several weeks. The *Union City Times* said that Drs. A.C. and Andrew J. Sherwood performed the operation and it would be some days before Reverend Herries would be out and about again.

A few days later, a notice in the *Union City Times* dated Tuesday, November 17, 1903, made the merger of the two Doctors Sherwood official. The announcement said that "Dr. Andrew J. Sherwood has associated himself with his father, Dr. A.C. Sherwood, for the practice of his profession. The doctors had offices together in the Smiley block. "Drew" is a recent graduate of the University of Pennsylvania located in Philadelphia and was at the head of his class. We bespeak for this new firm's success."

Dr. Alfred Carter Sherwood Becomes Grandpa Sherwood

On Thursday, March 9, 1905, at his finely appointed suite of office rooms in the Smiley Block, Dr. A.J. Sherwood gave a reception to about 60 of his young lady and gentlemen friends. The reception was in every particular a most successful social function. Bridge whist was the game of the evening and all enjoyed it very much. An elaborate lunch was served in fine style and all who enjoyed the pleasure of being present voted the doctor an entertainer who would be hard to beat.

All of the physicians in Union City met at the office of Dr. A.C. Sherwood on Tuesday, August 8, 1905. Dr. L.D. Rockwell delivered an address. In it he congratulated Dr. Sherwood on the fact that another honored title had been added to his name - that of Grandpa Sherwood. Dr. Rockwell informed Dr. Sherwood that among the long list of doctors that had practiced their profession here since Union City was founded away back in the dim and misty past, he was the first one who had ever attained the distinction of grandfather. Grandpa Sherwood responded, thanking his brother physicians for their

thoughtfulness and assuring them that the gift of the stout oak cane that they presented him was fully appreciated. Then followed an hour of social chat in which all joined heartily. The event was a happy one.

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Rulaf Fuller's Dairy, May 6, 1881

Union City Times, various issues, 1880-1896

Session Records, Union City Presbyterian Church, March 10, 1888, David Wilson Clerk

Chapter Nine

Dr. Alfred Carter Sherwood Leaves Erie County a Medical Legacy

Dr. Alfred Carter Sherwood and his son, Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood, practiced caring medicine and illustrated the importance of small town doctors.

Dr. Alfred Carter Sherwood and his son, Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood, kept certain traditions in the family. Both their names started with "A", and they both married women named Emma.

Monday, July 15, 1907, was an important day for Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood. According to the *Union City Times* wedding announcement, he and Miss Emma V. Anderson of Rouseville were married by their favorite pastor, Reverend C.H. Williamson. They were married at the home of Dr. Sherwood's sister, Mrs. Merle N. Smith of Pittsburgh. The immediate relatives of the young couple were all that attended the quiet home wedding. The house was prettily decorated and a sumptuous wedding supper enjoyed before Dr. and Mrs. Sherwood departed on their honeymoon to eastern cities and the sea coast.

Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood and his Bride, Emma, Settle in Union City, Pennsylvania

When they returned to Union City, the newly wed Sherwoods were given a gala reception. The *Union City Times* announcement noted that the groom graduated in 1896 from Union City High School and continued his education at Bucknell University, the University of Pennsylvania, and the hospitals of Philadelphia where he spent two years. Since 1903, he had been in partnership with his father, Dr. A.C. Sherwood and had a [steadily increasing practice](#). The *Union City Times* described the bride as an accomplished young lady, the daughter of Isaac Anderson of Rouseville. She was recognized as one of the best violinists in America through having studied under several masters.

Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood Works With the Union City Board of Health

Early in January 1908, Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood was involved with the Board of Health in Union City. On Monday, January 6, 1908, the Board of Health met in the Council Room in the City Building at the call of the president, Rulaf Fuller. C.G. Ames, John F. Duncombe, George W. Brooks, Dr. A.J. Sherwood and Officer Horace Rice made up the full board. The board discussed the scarlet fever situation in the school houses and Dr. Sherwood said that the methods of disinfecting the school houses were defective and if the disinfection could not be thoroughly done it had better not be done at all.

Mr. Brooks moved and Mr. Ames seconded the motion that Dr. Sherwood be given authority to use his own judgment in granting permission to officers and attendants to enter houses that had been quarantined and to perform such other duties as he deemed necessary. J.F. Duncombe moved that the President of the School Board be instructed to close the schools on Tuesday, January 7, and that they remain closed as long as necessary to thoroughly disinfect the school buildings. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brooks and unanimously adopted. Dr. Sherwood moved and Mr. Duncombe seconded the motion to obtain proper disinfectants to use.

The Andrew Jackson Sherwoods Enjoy Family and Social Activities

As well as his medical duties, Dr. Sherwood had a growing family to tend. The Sherwoods had a son, Alfred Carter, born April 27, 1908. Richard Miller was born January 27, 1919 and John Norman was born May 20, 1923.

On January 25, 1910, the Andrew Jackson Sherwoods enjoyed a social evening. Mrs. Paul D. Mullin entertained three tables at bridge at her home, and introduced Miss Anna Ayers of Columbus as her honor guest. Mrs. A.J. Sherwood and W.C. Westcott won first prize. Mrs. Ernest Carlburg and Dr. A.J. Sherwood had to be satisfied with the consolation prize.

Dr. Alfred Carter Sherwood and His Wife, Emma, Celebrate Their Anniversary

Dr. Sherwood Sr. wasn't feeling too well in December 1910, but he soon rallied and went about his daily rounds. He improved so much that by March 1911, the Sherwoods had house guests. The doctor's sister, Mrs. A.L. Hunter of Waterford, stayed with them for the week. Mrs. Hunter was the oldest of six sisters, all living, and another of the Sherwood sisters was Mrs. A.S. Drake of Union City. Dr. A.C. Sherwood was the only brother. The Sherwoods and Mrs. Hunter enjoyed the visit.

Emma and Alfred Carter Sherwood celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on Friday, January 19, 1911. Dr. and Mrs. L.D. Rockwell entertained the several physicians of Union City and their wives at their home on East High Street to celebrate the occasion. The rooms were decorated in green and white and a splendid six course dinner was served in faultless style.

Dr. Alfred Carter Sherwood Dies, but Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood Carries on His Legacy

Eight months later on September 25, 1911, Dr. Alfred Carter Sherwood died. He had practiced his profession in Union City continuously for 38 years and at the same location on West High Street that his uncle Dr. H.R. Terry had established in 1860. He had joined his uncle in 1873 and his son, Andrew Jackson, had joined him in 1903. Dr. Alfred Carter Sherwood left a medical legacy that his son Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood was determined to continue. In 1908 when Andrew Jackson Sherwood's first son was born he

was named Alfred Carter Sherwood after his grandfather to carry on the name to the next generation.

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Session Records, Union City Presbyterian Church, March 10, 1888, David Wilson Clerk

Chapter Ten

Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood Doctors at the Stone Quarry Camp

When Dr. and Mrs. Sherwood's son, Alfred Carter Sherwood II became ill, the result wasn't as favorable as usually happened for Dr. Sherwood's patients. Alfred was taken ill with infantile paralysis on Monday, October 8, 1917, and died on Wednesday, October 10, 1917. He was in the third grade at the Union City public school and a great favorite of his classmates. Reverend E.E. Lashley of the Union City Presbyterian Church presided at his funeral services from his home on the corner of First Avenue and West High Street, and he was buried in the family plot in Evergreen Cemetery.

Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood Fishes on French Creek and Attends Patients

To help ease his grief for his son, and because he loved it for its own sake, Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood frequently angled for trout in local streams, especially in French Creek.. The *Union City Times* noted that on Wednesday, May 1, 1918, he was seen fishing down the Pennsylvania and Erie tracks.

Dr. Sherwood didn't neglect his patients for fishing though. Donald Northrop of Union City had his tonsils removed at St. Vincent's Hospital in Erie the first week of March 1924. Dr. Sherwood operated and reported that Mr. Northrop was recuperating satisfactorily. On Thursday, March 10, 1932, Dr. Sherwood attended a staff meeting of doctors at St. Vincent's Hospital in Erie, which was led by Dr. A.H. Roth.

Dr. Sherwood discussed at length the problems of a physician and surgeon of 25 years before. He said that the greatest problem in those days was transporting patients to the hospital. The entire community feared the surgeon's knife and scores of patients died rather than submit to an operation. Appendicitis was an unknown disease and was rarely seen in the hospital. People died at home of "inflammation of the bowels" which was nothing more than peritonitis, following a ruptured appendix. Fifty doctors attended this meeting and Dr. Maxwell Lick, well known in Union City, presided.

Professor E.R. Hadlock, County Superintendent of Public Schools, fervently testified to Dr. Sherwood's skill. On May 17, 1932, he was suddenly stricken with an acute attack of appendicitis and taken to the local hospital on Warden Street in Union City. Dr. Sherwood operated on him and he fully recovered.

Dr. Sherwood Makes His Rounds at the Old Stone Quarry Immigrant Camps

Part of Dr. Sherwood's rounds during the 1930s-1950s included traveling the Old Stone Quarry Road outside of Union City. In a series of articles he wrote that were published in the *Union City Times* after his death, Dr. Sherwood talks about the Old Stone Quarry Road. He says that he had always loved it and recalled as a child going over its length with his father, Dr. A.C. Sherwood, when he made his rounds.

Later as a youth and young man he traveled the road on errands of his own. At the first dip in the road west of town, Dr. Sherwood knew the grove and the exact tree where his father had tied his horse one morning in 1888. With an air of mystery, the doctor took a long package from under the seat of the buggy. He handed it to Andrew Jackson Sherwood and said, "It's time you learned how to handle a rifle." Dr. Sherwood Jr. said, "The gun which the ten year old first used that day still stands in his gun cabinet, and it served his boys when they, too, took their first lessons in marksmanship."

Immigrants Dig the Townline Cut of the Pennsylvania Railroad Outside of Union City

In the 1930s, the eastbound track of the Pennsylvania Railroad was built through the country bordering French Creek by the Stone Quarry Road and the Townline Cut. The Railroad brought over foreign laborers to do the physical digging of the cut. There were husky crews of "Hunkies," "Slavs," and Italians and the camps, about five of them, were separated as far as practical because the men fought each other. Steam shovels and dump-cars rumbled in the depths of the Townline Cut, and 100 or more Hungarians lived on the rim in the Stone Quarry Camp.

Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood Doctors at the Stone Quarry Camps

Dr. Sherwood recalled the camps in several newspaper articles published in the late 1950s. He recollected the day that he was called to the bunkhouse to see a sick baby. The father told the doctor, "Baby, he no eat."

Dr. Sherwood investigated and found a pale, spindly, two month old baby lying under a heavy quilt in a stifling room. Flies buzzed around the room and the baby was vainly sucking at a beer bottle, trying to drink what appeared to be milk for a few calories and vitamins. The baby wasn't getting any milk from the bottle because the milk had solidified in it. So the baby cried and the father complained, "Baby, he no eat." Dr. Sherwood took the parents aside and offered to take the baby home and care for him. They refused, so the doctor had no choice but to leave the baby to his fate.

Regretfully, Dr. Sherwood speculated that the baby's fate would not be long in coming. Several years later at another camp, Dr. Sherwood saw the same baby, now a sturdy youngster, caring for his two younger brothers.

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Union City Times, various issues

Union City Times, the Old Stone Quarry Road, November 25, 1957

Union City Times, the Old Stone Quarry Road, December 5, 1957

Session Records, Union City Presbyterian Church, March 10, 1888, David Wilson Clerk

Chapter Eleven

Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood's Adventures at the Stone Quarry Camp

Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood encountered “Jumbo” and began to appreciate of what America meant to immigrants working on the Pennsylvania Railroad cut.

One night [Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood](#) answered the call of a man at one of the Stone Quarry Road camps for immigrants building the Pennsylvania Railroad cut outside of Union City, Pennsylvania. The man said, "Woman, she have baby."

Dr. Sherwood Sews Up A Woman Stabbed by a Jealous Husband

Dr. Sherwood thought that he was going to help a woman having difficulty delivering a baby. He crowded into a hut among pigs, chickens, and milling humans. Finally, he reached the bedside of a woman with a baby in swaddling clothes at her side. In one hand she held a nearly empty whiskey bottle.

Probing a little more, the doctor discovered that the woman had a neat slit under her left shoulder blade. As the doctor sewed up the woman, he asked her husband what had happened. Her husband said that the woman had spent the night before at the home of the expectant mother and when she had come home, he stabbed her. He thought that because she had been gone all night, she had been unfaithful, even though she had brought home the baby she had delivered. After the husband explained, he fled. The woman recovered, forgave her jealous husband, and he came back home.

Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood Learns the Story of John Pavolicz

As doctor of the camps, Dr. Sherwood learned the story of John Pavolicz. At his home in Hungary, John had heard glowing reports of the golden opportunities in America and returning immigrants assured him that all he needed to make it in the land of promise was a strong back and two hands capable of grasping a pick or a shovel. In three years, with some financial assistance from an uncle, John finally accumulated enough money for passage to the United States.

On the long trip by train and ship, he lived mainly on black bread, bologna and coffee. After several months of working odd jobs in and around New York City, he had put his mark on a labor recruiting agency contract, and with others he had been deposited at the Stone Quarry camp in Erie County, Pennsylvania, to dig the Pennsylvania Railroad cut.

Continued hard work, poor food, and other hardships had taken their toll on his body. When he consulted Dr. Sherwood, John was a pale, anemic husk of a man, scarcely able to stand. His arms and legs were swollen and blotchy and saliva dripped from his swollen mouth and bleeding gums. He said that he could "no chew." Dr. Sherwood listened to the "Hippocratic whisper" that told him to give John scraped raw potato and lemon juice.

Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood and “Jumbo”, the Stone Quarry Camp Bully

Often, Dr. Sherwood was called to one or another or all of the camps to treat the victims of stabbing and shooting frays that went on there. One time, he was presented with an ear neatly wrapped in a soiled bandanna and was asked to "sew him back." The doctor said that the victim looked like "a sloop with a single spin maker, sailing before a stiff breeze." The men didn't think too highly of "Meester Doctor" when he told them he couldn't restore the ear to its former owner.

The Doctor recalled one occasion where he was in personal peril at the camps. This was the aftermath of an epic battle at the Stone Quarry Camp. Jumbo, a gigantic "Hunky" and the bully of the camp had on several occasions, had much of his paycheck demolished because of a company policy. The construction company in charge of the work on the railroad deducted the payment for medical services from the paycheck of the perpetrator.

As Dr. Sherwood put it, Jumbo had "received many anemic paychecks in a row because he got into so much trouble." His latest fight was with a bantam weight Slav. Jumbo had "caressed" the Slav with a section of iron pipe, and split open his skull. The Slav had put a throat-hold on Jumbo, but bystanders had separated the fighters and called in Dr. Sherwood to do the repair work. When he had finished the time keeper said, "Look out for Jumbo. He has a knife and is outside laying for you."

Dr. Sherwood had made the trip by horseback. He describes his horse as being a "combination of polo pony, Texas Ranger and bull-dog which would allow no one but his master to approach him. He stood with his head in the door watching the clinic with deep absorption, and there, too, I stood, until Jumbo's sanity had partially returned." Both the horse and Doctor Sherwood lost no time heading for home.

Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood Appreciates Union City and America

Dr. Sherwood found it interesting to speculate what had led the immigrants to leave home and country and come to America. The work was hard and after living and carousing expenses, the pay was not high. Still, the men came and worked hard and sent for their families. Many of the Americans living around the camps would not do the heavier labor of these jobs and if an American was caught working with one of the gang of "Hunkies," he became a social outcast. The "Hunkies" themselves were always looking forward to better things, a plot of ground and a home. That seemed to be their main reason for enduring the hardships of immigrating to America - the hope of a better future and a good life for their families.

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Union City Times, the Old Stone Quarry Road, November 25, 1957

Union City Times, the Old Stone Quarry Road, December 5, 1957

Session Records, Union City Presbyterian Church, March 10, 1888, David Wilson Clerk

Chapter Twelve

Three Generations of Sherwood Doctors in Union City, Pennsylvania

Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood finds poignant memories along the Old Stone Quarry Road and welcomes his son, John Norman Sherwood, into practice with him.

Doctor Andrew Jackson Sherwood often answered the siren call of the old Stone Quarry Road while driving his car. On the way home from a visit to a cottage located on the road, voices usually stirred his memory and pictures appeared in his mind to accompany the voices.

At one point the road took a wide swing away from the Pennsylvania Railroad track and followed the edge of French Creek for several miles. Here, he usually visualized a younger version of himself battling a five pound bass, and wrestling it to shore. The older doctor marveled at the ease of movement of the younger one. Around the bend was another memoir for the doctor. A canoe holding three men capsized, leaving all three stranded in a tree top. The doctor smiled ruefully. All of them should have known better than to attempt a trip in the icy flood of French Creek in early spring.

Around the next bend, the doctor made out the outline of a giant maple. He stopped and got out of his car. He walked over and stood underneath the maple, and for a moment it was THAT night again. Years ago on a moonlit night, THE girl gave him her "yes" under this tree. Now on this present night, he smiled. The girl, older, but still saying yes, was waiting for him at home.

Memories of Alfred Carter Sherwood II

Dr. Sherwood got back into the car and followed the moonlit road. This trail caused a stab of pain in his heart, even after years had turned the saplings into full grown trees. Thick-trunked trees stood where once men labored with sledge hammers and heavy vines covered the face of the cliff, hiding its scars. The doctor turned to cross the old bridge and stared at the gravel bar. The years fell away and the doctor saw a younger doctor struggling with a leaping bass. A nine-year-old boy danced in excitement and called, "Don't lose him, daddy! Don't lose him!"

"Daddy didn't lose him," the doctor said aloud. He saw the boy and the man frying fish for supper over a campfire by the gravel bar. Before many more months passed, the doctor had lost the boy and through the years he made a shrine of their picnic ground and his visits a ritual. Tears ran down his cheeks as he started the car and pointed it down the road that led home.

Dr. John Norman Sherwood Makes the Third Generation of Sherwood Doctors

The Sherwoods raised their two remaining sons, John Norman and Richard. Richard Sherwood grew to become an accomplished pianist and organist and his name appeared in the account of the celebration of the 130th anniversary of the Presbyterian Church in October 1941. He gave an organ recital and also accompanied the special music.

The *Union City Times* of Thursday, June 29, 1950, reported that Dr. Norman Sherwood had become associated with his father in practice. The two doctors Sherwood located their offices in the same house on the corner of First Avenue and West High Street.

Dr. Norman Sherwood took his pre-medical work at Bucknell University and his medical studies at the University of Pennsylvania. Both his father and grandfather were graduates of the University of Pennsylvania. He spent his intern year at Philadelphia General Hospital. Following this, he spent two years as surgical resident at St. Vincent's Hospital in Erie. He had been a member of the U.S. Naval Reserve since 1942 and was Assistant Surgeon with the rank of Lt. J.G. He began practicing with his father in early July.

The *Union City Times* of March 23, 1953 noted that Lt. .and Mrs. J.N. Sherwood arrived for a short visit with his parents Dr. and Mrs. A.J. Sherwood. Norman completed two and a half years of service in the medical department of the U.S. Navy and re-enlisted as a flight surgeon in the naval Air Force. He was on the way to Pensacola, Florida for six months training in Aviation medicine.

The Erie County Medical Society Honors Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood

On Thursday, September 10, 1953, Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood was honored during the regular monthly meeting of the Erie County Medical Society. His colleagues presented him with a 50-year plaque.

Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood died on June 19, 1954 and his wife Emma died in 1957. On Sunday, December 30, 1962, the recently installed chimes were dedicated at a Memorial Dedication service at the Union City Presbyterian Church. They were given by Dr. and Mrs. Norman Sherwood and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Sherwood in memory of the late Dr. and Mrs. A.J. Sherwood.

Dr. Andrew Jackson Sherwood Finds that "Old Country Roads Lead Home"

In concluding the articles published after his death, Dr. Sherwood articulated his philosophy of life. He said, "To have health, friends, to be of a little service to others, perhaps I had found part of the answer after all. I do not know if others have found their path to peace along some old country road. Theirs may lead through books, or music or art. But whatever form it takes it should have character, and must be in living, or else they have not lived. And it should lead, as mine, toward home."

Because of the efforts of pioneer doctors practicing caring medicine and transitional physicians like the Doctors Sherwood who expanded and applied modern medicine, home [in Erie County, Pennsylvania](#) is a healthier place.

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