

History of the Dr. Wentzes

By Dr. Paul R. Wentz with additions from Dr. Henry S. Wentz

The first of them was William J. Wentz, M. D. He was born in Drumore Township, attended school at Locust Grove Seminary and later at Millersville. He taught school for three years in Drumore Township, then two years in Strasburg Township, also studied medicine with Dr. J. K. Raub of New Providence. He then attended Jefferson Medical College from which he was graduated in 1865. He practiced medicine with Dr. Raub for two years after which he opened his own office in New Providence. Died in 1902.

B. Frank Wentz, M. D. was the son of Dr. Wm. J. Wentz. He was born at New Providence, 1870, attended school at Millersville, was graduated in medicine from University of Pennsylvania. First practiced in Bainbridge, then moved to Philadelphia where he had a large practice until he passed away in 1928.

Charles E. Wentz, M. D., another son of Dr. Wm. J. Wentz, was born in 1877. He graduated from Medico Chi, Philadelphia, and practiced in his father's old home for a short time, when he died of typhoid fever, 1905.

Dr. Thomas Henry Wentz, brother of Dr. Wm. J. Wentz, was born near Peach Bottom in 1848. He attended school at Chestnut Level Academy, later at private school in Spring Valley. He then taught school for three years and studied medicine with his brother, Dr. Wm. J. Wentz. He then entered Jefferson Medical College, from which he was graduated in 1874. Located in Kirkwood and practiced there until 1906, when he moved to Philadelphia, continuing his practice until he died in 1910. Thomas married Anna Roop.

Dr. Henry S. Wentz, grandson of Dr. Thomas H. Wentz, writes:

“My grandfather practiced in Kirkwood and a Haverstick Funeral Home was across the street from his office. When my father and his brother Paul Wentz were coming home from school one day, Paul ran ahead and laid in a coffin and my father, Joseph took the children into the funeral parlor and Paul suddenly sat up to the horror of the children.

When my grandfather moved to Philadelphia to practice, the Haverstick Funeral Home moved to Oxford because if there was not a doctor, an undertaker would not be needed

I was told my grandfather went to Philadelphia because his nephew, Frank was very busy. They did not practice in the same office but I guess in the same area.

One day my grandmother, Anna Roop, was summoned by a man because another man had fallen over in the street and needed medical attention. The man lying in the street was my grandfather and he was dead. My grandfather died several years before I was born”.

Dr. Paul Roop Wentz, son of Dr. Thomas H. Wentz, was born at Kirkwood in 1883. Attended Tome Institute, Port Deposit, Maryland, later Franklin and Marshall Academy, from which he was graduated. He then entered Jefferson Medical College, graduating in 1907. During vacation of his third year, he served at St. Joseph Hospital as an assistant intern. After graduation served his full internship at the same hospital. He then located at Olney, Philadelphia, in private practice, but did not like City life, so transferred to New Holland where he practiced until retirement in 1962. Paul was a mentor for Dr. Henry S. Wentz.

Dr. Tillman Davis Johnson, a grandson of Dr. Thomas Henry Wentz, was born in Ogden, Utah. A graduate of University of California, 1933, and of Jefferson Medical College, 1938, he interned at Lancaster General Hospital. He then entered military service, during World War II served overseas, Japan, Germany, etc., including four years at the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington. After retirement from the service, he located at Elkton, Maryland where he was in private practice.

Dr. Henry Stauffer Wentz, another grandson of Dr. Thomas Henry Wentz and son of Joseph C. Wentz, was born at Leola, Pennsylvania, 1921. He was graduated from Duke University and later from Jefferson Medical College, Class of 1944. Served his internship at Lancaster General Hospital and practiced in Strasburg, Pennsylvania. He was also the first Director of the Walter Aument Family Medicine teaching center in Quarryville.

In 2018, he is healthy and living in the Willow Valley Retirement Center in Willow Street. Henry says his father wanted him to be a physician and felt his parents made this decision “while I was still in the womb.” Henry “enjoyed the practice of medicine” and retired in 1988.

The following medical doctors were related to the Dr. Wentz's through marriage:

Dr. Thomas Reed Ferguson, married to a niece of Dr. Thomas Henry Wentz, graduated from Jefferson Medical College, 1906, practiced medicine at Kirkwood, Pennsylvania. Was a First Lieutenant in Medical Reserves in World War I and died of influenza 1918.

Dr. John B. Kohler, father-in-law of Dr. Paul R. Wentz, was born in New Holland, Pennsylvania. Was graduated from University of Pennsylvania Medical College in 1873. Practiced in New Holland until he died in 1908.

Dr. A Graeme Mitchell's wife was a daughter of Dr. B. Frank Wentz. Dr. Mitchell was graduated from University of Pennsylvania Medical College. Was professor of Pediatrics at College of Medicine, University of Cincinnati, Medical Director and Chief of Staff of the Childrens' Hospital of Cincinnati, and co-author of Diseases of Infants and Children, (Griffith and Mitchell). Died in the prime of life.

Dr. Henry S. Wentz met Dr. Mitchell 1 or 2 times. He used his textbook in medical school for Pediatrics. He had twin daughters. He was supposed to give the speech at their graduation He was also going to give them each an automobile for graduation. He had given the automobiles and written the graduation speech. He admitted himself to the hospital and died before his daughter's graduation.

Dr. Thaddeus Rohrer was a brother-in-law of Dr. Wm. J. Wentz. Practiced medicine in Quarryville and also had a drug store in Quarryville. Opened his drug store at the suggestions of Dr. Deaver. Dr. Deaver was the father of Dr. John. B. Deaver, the renowned Philadelphia surgeon. Dr. Rohrer died in 1918.

Dr. Claude D. Roop. The paternal grandfather of Dr. Roop and the maternal grandfather of Dr. Paul R. Wentz, were brothers. Dr. Roop was graduated from Jefferson Medical College in 1901, interned at Williamsport Hospital. Practiced at New Providence, later was medical director at Lancaster County Hospital, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Served in World War I and II. He was a Commander in the U. S. Navy. Retired. He was a specialist certified by the American Board of Psychiatry, served as a Psychiatrist at the State Hospital, Concord, New Hampshire, died in 1962, buried in Arlington Cemetery.