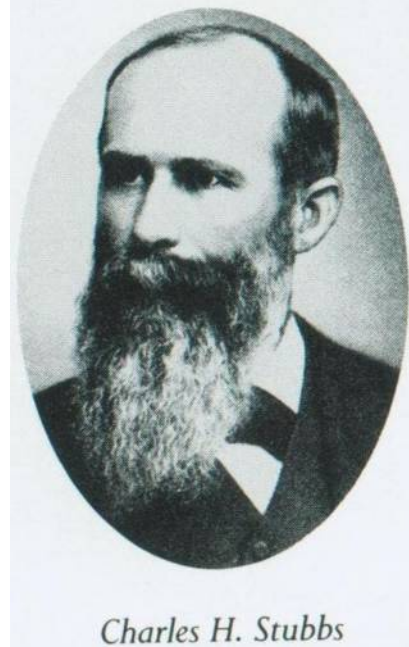




Ambrose H. Stubbs



Charles H. Stubbs



STUBBS. So far as the writer knows, the first of the family name in America was one Richard Stubbs, who, after coming to this country from England, became one of the proprietors of Hull, Mass., in 1642. Of his descendants there is no authentic record.

About 1718 one Thomas Stubbs left England and came to America. He located in Goshen township, Chester Co., Pa., and became the progenitor of the Stubbs family in this country, representatives of which may be found in many of the States from Maine to Georgia, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific. In 1720 Thomas married Mary Minor, who came from Ireland about the time that he arrived from England. In 1756 they moved to Concord township, Delaware county, where Thomas died in 1763. They had nine children.

John Stubbs, the fourth child of Thomas, moved to North Carolina in 1755. In 1757 he married Ethel Maddock, of Pennsylvania, and to them were born fourteen children. In 1768 they moved to Georgia, where all the children, except one who died in infancy, married, but soon moved to southwestern Ohio, and many of their descendants are to-day among the most influential people of the Buckeye State.

Daniel Stubbs, eldest son of Thomas and Mary (Minor) Stubbs, married Ruth Gilpin, whose ancestry has been traced back to Richard de Gulpin (1206), who, during the reign of King John, of

England, was knighted and given the manor of Kentmore, as a reward for his bravery. Daniel and Ruth Stubbs resided in Delaware county for fifteen years (1752-67), when they moved to Lancaster county, and located on a large tract of land along the Susquehanna river. They were the parents of fourteen children, and became the ancestors of all of the family name in the county. Daniel died at an advanced age in 1808.

Isaac Stubbs, youngest child of Daniel and Ruth, was born in 1774, and died in 1840. In 1800 he married Hannah (1778-1825), daughter of Jeremiah and Hannah (England) Brown, early settlers in this section of the county. They had ten children.

JEREMIAH BROWN STUBBS, second son of Isaac, was the first of the family in Pennsylvania to study one of the learned professions. He was born at what is now known as Cooney's mill, near McSparran post office, in Fulton township. In a "Biographical History of Lancaster County," by Alex. Harris, published by Elias Barr & Co., of Lancaster, in 1872, appears the following account, which the writer thinks is absolutely correct, and gives it as it is in the above named book, page 602: "Jeremiah Brown Stubbs, M. D., was born in Little Britain (now Fulton) township, Lancaster Co., Pa., on the 13th of April, 1804. He was the second son of Isaac and Hannah Stubbs, both descendants of early settlers of that neighborhood. Isaac Stubbs, his father, was a stone mason, and worked at the trade occasionally. He took more delight in perusing the contents of books, and in imparting to his children the rudiments of an English education (at least as far as he was capable), than to accumulate wealth by a close adherence to his occupation, or by any other manual labor. When Jeremiah was three years old, his parents removed to Harford county, Maryland, having purchased a small farm near the 'Rocks of Deer Creek.' Here the family resided until the year 1821, when they returned to Lancaster county to reside upon a farm near Peach Bottom. This was jointly inherited by the father and mother. In all these paternal migrations the older children accompanied their parents and rendered all the assistance of which they were able. After the return of the family to Lancaster county, Jeremiah determined to commence business for himself, and with this object in view entered a mercantile establishment in the city of Baltimore. Disliking the business, in the course of a few months he returned home. Receiving the encouragement of his maternal grandfather, Jeremiah Brown (of whom he always retained a grateful remembrance), he was induced to study and enter one of the learned professions. With no advantages of a preparatory education other than instruction received from a kind parent, and the limited attainments obtained by a few years' attendance at the public schools of an early period, he entered upon the study of medicine in the year 1824. He read under the direction of Dr. Vincent King, a well known practitioner of southern Lancaster coun-

ty; attended two full courses of lectures at the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, and graduated in the class of March 8, 1827. Soon after graduating, he located in the village of Rising Sun, Cecil Co., Md., where he practiced his profession for nine years. During his residence in Cecil county, he was elected a member of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Maryland. His membership of this body commenced September 9, 1827. At that time a physician practicing in the State of Maryland could not collect a fee unless he was a member of this medical organization, and no one became a member thereof unless he submitted to a rigid examination, and was recommended as worthy by a committee appointed for that purpose.

"On the 25th of February, 1836, Dr. Stubbs was married to Rachel H., eldest daughter of Timothy Kirk, Esq., of Oxford, Chester Co., formerly a member of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, and then an active business citizen of that vicinity. Previous to his marriage he purchased the farm and good will of Dr. John K. Sappington, of Little Britain (now Fulton) township, Lancaster county. Removing to the place he resumed the practice of medicine, which he continued with success to the time of his death, a period of twenty-six years. For a long time after he located in Lancaster county there was with one exception no physician in active practice within ten miles. In these early days of his medical career his labors were unceasing, and at times exceedingly arduous. Possessing a comparatively strong constitution and determined will he was enabled to do herculean duty, practicing his profession throughout a section of country many miles in extent. On February 14th, 1844, he was elected a member of the Lancaster City and County Medical Society, and at one time was president of that body. [Dr. Stubbs was one of the twenty-three physicians who, on the above date, organized the Medical Society.—Author.] He was elected to represent it as delegate in the American Medical Association and attended in this capacity its meetings at Boston, in 1849, Richmond, 1852, New York, 1853, and Philadelphia, 1855. In the fall of 1847 he was elected a member of the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania, by the Whigs of Lancaster county, and was re-elected in 1848. During his first term he served on the committee on Education, and in the second was placed on the committee on Ways and Means, and upon Banks, besides several special committees. The house was thoroughly Democratic during the session of 1848; nevertheless Dr. Stubbs, by his plain and unassuming manner, made many friends and received numerous favors from his political opponents. During his service at Harrisburg various expedients were devised by different members of the Ways and Means committee to raise revenue to replenish the State treasury, and at the same time not increase the taxes of the working classes of the commonwealth. Being a member of the committee to devise means of revenue, he sug-

gested the propriety of taxing the sale and manufacture of quack nostrums, which were then meeting with an immense sale throughout all parts of the State. For many years he was well acquainted with the fact that thousands of dollars were made by charlatans by imposing on those ignorant of medical knowledge. All honest trades and professions were taxed, but the manufacturer and vender of patent medicines went free. Receiving assurance of a majority of the Legislature and the Governor that to tax this class was just, he consulted with some of the learned of the profession and drew up a bill which became a law. Its passage created a unanimous protest on behalf of all the semi-medical men, quacks and venders in the State, and the vengeance of the whole fraternity was threatened against the author of the bill. In Lancaster county their influence was brought to bear against him but availed nothing. While a member of the Legislature he took great interest in all subjects pertaining to the education of children of the State, as well as to keeping up the standard of the profession of which he became in early life a member. For professional services rendered to half of the legislative body he was presented with a handsome testimonial on behalf of the members of both political parties. [This 'testimonial,' a gold-headed cane, the body of which was wood taken from a part of the old United States Ship-of-war 'Reliance,' the first vessel that bore the flag of the new nation upon the seas in defiance of Great Britain, was highly prized by Dr. Stubbs. It now belongs to a grandson, Dr. A. H. Stubbs, of Reading, Pa.] Having served the customary two terms in the State Legislature, he returned to the farm and continued the practice, and instruction of students of medicine. During his long professional career seven young men read under his direction and graduated. Of these only three survive. [All now deceased.—Author.] For several years previous to his death, Dr. Stubbs had frequent paroxysms of a disease that he was well aware would finally prove fatal. Nevertheless he continued to work and study to the last. On the 4th and 5th of July, 1862, he was attacked with angina pectoris, but recovered and seemed to improve until the night of the 9th, when he had a relapse, and died on the morning of the 10th, aged fifty-eight years. Dr. Stubbs was by birthright a member of the Society of Friends, but a few years after attaining manhood by his own request ceased to be connected with that Society. No man was more familiar with the various tenets and doctrines advanced and believed in by different religious bodies. He appreciated works of a theological and scientific nature, was conversant with the Scriptures, especially those books attributed to Job and Paul, which he considered to far exceed the others in sublimity and literary excellence. In his opinion the Sermon on the Mount with the Golden Rule, was sufficient in itself unto salvation, and to believe in and practice the truths there inculcated was paramount to a blind adherence to the creeds

of Calvin or Luther. With him the moral law was the basis of all true religion, and upon this he was willing to rest all hope of a peaceful hereafter. To the theory and science of medicine he was strongly devoted. A constant reader, he always kept pace with the progress of the age, and was ready to avail himself of all the recent discoveries in medicine and surgery, never permitting a remedy of value in alleviating human suffering to escape his notice. His trained and extensive knowledge on subjects appertaining to his profession was attested by a valuable library of medical works. Chirurgery, or that part of the science belonging properly to the surgeon, he did not fancy. His sympathetic temperament forbade it. His province or forte was the duties pertaining to the physician. Few men were better versed in etiology, or the causes of disease, and in diagnosis he had few equals. To be familiar with disease sufficient to enable one to recognize it at all times in its different phases is one of the most difficult parts of the science. In this Dr. Stubbs was an adept, hence his skill and success in treatment. To him the oath of Hippocrates and the code of ethics of the medical profession were laws to be adhered to with a strictness bordering on Persian and Median tenacity. To violate them was a breach of professional honor not to be tolerated. Quacks and medical pretenders of all descriptions met with no encouragement at his hands. To younger members of the profession he was ever willing to render assistance, and counsel. In his business transactions he was exact. Starting in life poor, with few friends and an abundance of envious relations, he made all he possessed. An honest poor man never appealed to him in vain. To him he would render needed assistance at all times. He knew what it was to be poor and depend on others for aid. In his latter years he often remarked that it was a great source of consolation to him to know that he had repaid all favors ever extended to him and to feel that he never knowingly took a cent of anyone, and pecuniarily he owed no man, living or dead."

Dr. Stubbs had two sons, viz.: Charles Henry, born Dec. 30, 1839; and Cassius Eugene, born March 22, 1844.

CHARLES H. STUBBS, M. D., attended several terms at Millersville State Normal School, and in 1861 began the study of medicine with his father, later attending lectures at Jefferson Medical College, where he graduated March 10, 1863. While a student, in 1862, he was appointed medical cadet by Surgeon General Hammond, U. S. A., and at once joined the staff of Brigade Surgeon David McReur, in charge of the floating hospital "Louisiana," which conveyed the wounded of Gen. McClellan's army to Philadelphia and Washington. In July, 1863, after graduating, Dr. Stubbs was appointed assistant surgeon of the 40th Pennsylvania Volunteer militia, and in 1864 served on the staff of Surgeon Joseph Hopkinson Mower, U. S. A. Hospital, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia. Dr. Stubbs had a letter of

recommendation from the elder Prof. S. D. Gross, one of the greatest of American surgeons, who was his teacher at college, and for whom he entertained the highest regard. After serving his enlistment Dr. Stubbs returned to his home in Fulton township, and began the practice of medicine in the office occupied by his honored father for many years.

In 1868 Dr. Charles H. Stubbs married Sarah B., only daughter of Timothy and Rachel E. Haines. To this union two children were born, Clarence Theodore and Ambrose Herbert. Improvements were always of interest to Dr. Stubbs, and he was one of the directors of the Peach Bottom Railway, now the Lancaster, Oxford & Southern; he was also editor of the *Oxford Republican*, a paper published for a short time at Oxford, Chester county. The natural sciences were a pleasure to him, and he had one of the finest collections of minerals, fossils and relics of the stone age in the county. He later disposed of his main collection of Indian relics to a daughter of Asa Packer, and they are now in the museum of the great university founded by her father, viz., Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa. Dr. Stubbs was a corresponding member of the Linnæan Society of Lancaster, and of the Maryland Academy of Science, and his papers on Mineralogy, Archaeology and kindred subjects were widely read. In 1872 he published a genealogy of the "Kirk Family," of which he was a descendant. This work was widely distributed, and up to the present writing (1902) is the only history of the family that has been compiled. His library contained many hundred volumes, including most of the standard works of fiction and science. He always took an active interest in educational affairs, and served many years on the local school board. He was a member and commander of Capt. Snow Post, No. 461, G. A. R., at the time of his death. Although not a member of any religious denomination he was thoroughly familiar with the many creeds, and like his father believed that the moral law was far superior to mock sentimentality and religious profession. However, he entertained great respect for all denominations, and especially for the Society of Friends. Dr. Stubbs for many years successfully practiced his profession. In the treatment of diseases of children he was particularly skillful, and in diagnosing and treating pneumonia in the adult he had few superiors. In 1884 he was stricken with paralysis, and temporarily gave up practice. In 1886, having sufficiently recovered, he took an extended trip to the Pacific coast, at the same time adding to his fine collections of minerals and Indian relics. After his return he resumed practice, and though much broken in health, a sufferer from paralysis and Bright's disease, he continued to the last, having only half an hour before his death returned from the bedside of a sick child, and on retiring died suddenly, at 10 P. M., Thursday, Nov. 19, 1891, aged fifty-one years, ten months, and nineteen days. His sympathetic nature was nowhere more evidenced

than in his untiring devotion to his invalid wife, who for many years received every care and comfort within his power to bestow. Although for several years under the care of the best medical talent in the land, it failed to restore her former health. Perfectly resigned to her helpless condition, with no complaint for the years of suffering, she survived her husband more than two years, and after living a noble, pure and Christian life, died Jan. 9, 1893, aged fifty-one years, eight months and twenty-four days.

Cassius Eugene Stubbs, second son of Dr. Jeremiah B. Stubbs, was born March 22, 1844. He attended West Chester Academy and the Millersville State Normal School. Later he read law under Hon. A. Herr Smith, of Lancaster, and in 1865 graduated from the Law Department of the University of Michigan. He practiced law in Jefferson county, W. Va., for several years, and was State's attorney and a member of the State Legislature. Later he moved to Colorado Springs, Colo., and has been county attorney and member of the State Legislature a number of terms. For the past few years he has been retired from active practice, has been engaged in real-estate and mining interests in Colorado and other States. He married Hannah K., daughter of Lewis Haines, of Fulton township, Lancaster county, and they have three sons, Merton, Herbert and Harry.

CLARENCE THEODORE STUBBS, the eldest of the two sons of the late Dr. Charles Henry Stubbs, was born July 20, 1869. He attended Millersville State Normal School several terms, and then represented a Philadelphia publishing house in New England for a year. Having a liking for electrical work, he entered the General Electric Company's establishment at Schenectady, N. Y., and graduated in the student's course two years later. He then took the extended course in arc lighting at the company's (Lynn, Mass.) works, and was graduated from there in 1893, "capable of installing and operating any of the machines built by the Edison General Electric Company." He did not, however, follow the work, and in 1895 he opened a drug store in Reading, Berks Co., Pa., which he successfully conducted until his untimely and accidental death, Sept. 22, 1901, at the age of thirty-two years, two months, and two days.

AMBROSE HERBERT STUBBS, M. D., second son of Dr. Charles H. Stubbs, was born June 10, 1874. After attending several terms at the Millersville State Normal School, he taught school at Cherry Hill, Fulton township, during the session of 1892-93, and then began the study of medicine under the direction of Dr. J. W. Houston, of Oxford, Chester Co., Pa. (now residing in Lancaster). He graduated April 22, 1896, from the Baltimore Medical College, of Baltimore, Md., and located for a short time at York, Pa. On Jan. 1, 1897, he removed to Wakefield, Lancaster county, his former home, and practiced his profession there until the fall of 1901, when he re-

moved to Reading, Berks county, where he now resides, and in connection with the practice of medicine conducts the drug store formerly belonging to his brother. On Jan. 25, 1899, Dr. Stubbs married Anna L., only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Adam B. Baer, of Rohrerstown, Lancaster county. They have two children—Charles Detwiler, born Dec. 18, 1899; and Guy Haines, born May 10, 1901.—[Sketch prepared by Dr. A. H. Stubbs.

Post Script by Alan Peterson, M.D. - July 2019

How did I come across this lineage of the Stubbs? I had just given some comments at the Southern Lancaster County Historical Society on physicians I knew who were involved in the underground railroad in Lancaster County. I had introduced myself as being the Publications Director of the Edward Hand Medical Museum. As I was leaving a woman stopped me and asked if I was aware of a Dr. Henry Wentz, and also of her past family history of physicians in the southern end of Lancaster. She introduced herself as Margaret Stubbs Showalter of Glen Mills, PA. I answered that Dr. Wentz was still alive and well and we were good friends, but that I was not aware of her family history of physicians. She then asked Mike Roth, the Treasurer of the Southern Lancaster County Historical Society, to bring up on the computer the previous article (shown above) on her family.

She also had mentioned that years ago her father, Charles D. Stubbs, son of Ambrose H. Stubbs, MD., had many years ago sold a Regina recorder with 12 metal records to Dr. Wentz for his wife. Margaret said at first she thought the request from Dr. Wentz was a scam, but quickly found out it was not. I checked with Dr. Wentz's daughter and they still have it in their possession!

Her grandfather was Ambrose H. Stubbs, MD. who died in 1930.

His father was Charles H. Stubbs, MD, her great grandfather. He lived in a large white house on a hill on Peach Bottom Rd where an Amish family lives now. But Mike Roth, the same as mentioned above, built a home on the property at Westbrook Station. He is also related to the Stubbs.

Her great, great grandfather was Jeremiah B. Stubbs, MD.

Because of this encounter I have agreed to present a talk in the future at the Southern Lancaster County Historical Society about the three generations of Stubbs physicians.