Warren County, Accounts of Patients in Rainsville, Indiana, in Physician Account Book of Theophilus Stembel, July 19, 1842, through December 1, 1842

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Before Benton County, Indiana, became an official county in 1840, a number of other counties governed the land it now encompasses. First recognized as Wabash County, the land became part of Fountain County in 1826. As county boundaries expanded and contracted, the land came became part of Tippecanoe County in 1827 and then Warren County in the 1830s. Early commercial centers such as Rainsville, established in 1833 in Pine Township, Warren County, and Oxford, established in 1843 in Oak Grove Township, Benton County, provided farmers with needed services.¹

Dr. Theophilus Stembel became one of Benton County's earliest resident physicians. Born December 9, 1813, in Middletown, Maryland, Stembel migrated with his parents, John Stembel (1787–1861) and Eleanor Van Swearingen (1788–1874), to Ohio around 1831. He graduated from Ohio Medical College, also known as Cincinnati Medical College, in 1837 and practiced medicine in Dayton, Ohio. By 1842 Stembel migrated to Rainsville in Warren County, Indiana. On July 17, 1845, he married Martha Ann Justus (1828–1905), daughter of Judge Basil Justus (1796–1879) and Jane Foresman (abt. 1803–1854), early settlers of Benton County. Theophilus and Martha had twelve children: Eleanor (1846–1864); Jane (1848–1897), who married Henry Clay Harris; Austin (1851–1864); Mary (1853–1923), who married George Washington Halstead; Frank Holton (1854–1920), who married Ida Jane Runner; Elbert (1856–1953), who married Anna Strite; Isabella (1858–1937), who married William Phares; Jerome (1860–1941), who married Addie Potter; Perry (1862–1947); Walter (1864–1936); Basil Justus (1867–1947), who married Frances Robinson; and Olive (1868–1934), who married Joseph Morse.

Stembel moved his growing family to a farm outside the neighboring town of Oxford in 1846. Around 1859 Stembel retired from the medical profession and concentrated on farming. In 1866 he became a member of Oxford Academy's first board of directors. Theophilus Stembel died in Oxford, Indiana, on November 20, 1902.²

Dr. Stembel's account book is one of two bound volumes in the collection (BV2243) housed at the Indiana Historical Society's William H. Smith Memorial Library. The account book chronologically lists payments made by Stembel's patients and includes limited descriptions of services rendered by the doctor. The payments are also based on location. There are accounts from Rainsville (Warren County) from July 19, 1842, to March 30, 1847, and from Oak Grove (Benton County) from April 1847 to September 20, 1852.

For the purpose of this article, the names found on pages one through thirteen of Stembel's account book are listed under the day that name was entered. The account book's page number is also provided. The names appear here in the same order in which they are in the account book. Many of the names repeat throughout these thirteen pages. Therefore, multiple appearances of the same name within the same day are not found on the following list. To make the list more searchable, the names have been listed here surname first.

Notes

- Jesse Setlington Birch, History of Benton County and Historic Oxford (Oxford, IN: Craw & Craw, 1928), 19; Counties of Warren, Benton, Jasper and Newton, Indiana: Historical and Biographical (Chicago: F. A. Battey & Co., 1883), 109; and Maps of Indiana Counties in 1876: Together with the Plat of Indianapolis and a Sampling of Illustrations (1876; repr., Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1968), [6] and [86].
- Oren "Skip" Stembel, "Stembel Family History Project," http://familyhistory.stembel.org/; Robert Fletcher, "Griffin Taylor Fletcher and Martha Churchill," http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/; Biographical History of Tippecanoe, White, Jasper, Newton, Benton, Warren and Pulaski Counties, Indiana (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1899), 1:413; Birch, History of Benton County and Historic Oxford, 64; entry for Theophilus Stemble and Martha Ann Justus, 17 July 1845, Warren County,

Indiana Marriages to 1850 database, Ancestry.com, accessed February 19, 2012; John Hardin Thomas, "The Academies of Indiana," *Indiana Magazine of History* 10, no. 4 (December 1914): 347; and entry for Theophilus Stembel, 20 November 1902, Oxford, Benton County, *Indiana Deaths*, 1882–1920 database, Ancestry.com, accessed February 19, 2012.

Accounts of Patients in Rainsville, Indiana, in Physician Account Book of Theophilus Stembel, July 19, 1842, through December 1, 1842

Rainsville July 19th 1842

Boyington, Francis, 1 Howell, Joshua, 1 Waddles, L. W., 1 Matthews, John, 1 Gray, William, 1

Rainsville August 1st 1842

Coffenberry, Aaron, 1
Lesley, —, 1
Howell, Joshua, 1
West, John, 1
Matthews, John, 1
Heacock, Harmon, 1
Aldridge, Cira, 1

Rainsville August 18th 1842

Howell, Joshua, 2
Hillow, John R., 2
Indacutte, Jesse, 2
Aldridge, Cira, 2
Mitchell, Henry, 2
Garlen, Jesse, 2
Heacock, Harmon, 2
Bartlet, Thomas, 2
Piotte, James, 2
Boyington, Francis, 2
Lewis, Madison, 2
Harlin, Jesse, 2

Mills, Jacob, 2 Justice, Basil, 2

Rainsville Sept 1st 1842

Harlin, Jesse, 3
Bartlet, Thomas, 3
Coffenberry, Aaron, 3
Critzer, John, 3
Matthews, John, 3
Bruce, William, 3
Lane, David, 3
West, John, 3
Piotte, James, 3

Rainsville Sept 10th 1842

Lane, David, 4
Howell, Joshua, 4
Bartlet, Thomas, 4
Mitchell, Henry, 4
Aldridge, Cira, 4
Matthews, John, 4
Critzer, John, 4
Brown, Dawson, 4
Piotte/Piatte, James, 4
Farris, James Andrew, 4

Rainsville Sept 17th 1842

Critzer, John, 5 Gregory, Leroy, 5 Matthews, John, 5 Howell, Joshua, 5 Herryman, Stephen, Sr., 5 Mitchell, Edward, 5 Farris, Andrew, 5 Aldridge, Cira, 5 Coffenberry, Aaron, 5 Gray, William, 5

Rainsville Sept 20th 1842

Howell, Joshua, 6 Gray, William, 6 Coffenberry, Aaron, 6 Mitchell, Edward, 6 Templeton, Isaac, 6 Matthews, John, 6 Herryman, Stephen, 6 Piotte, James, 6 Mitchell, Henry, 6 St. John, Samuel, 6 Mills, John, 6 Critzer, John, 6

Rainsville Sept 24th 1842

Templeton, Isaac, 7 Piotte, James, 7 Heacock, Harmon, 7 Gregory, Leroy, 7 Dawson, Wad, 7 Hooker, William, Sr., 7 Mitchell, Edward, 7 Montgomery, Walker, 7 Sutser, ———, 7 Farris, John, 7 Boyington, Francis, 7 Mitchell, Henry, 7

Rainsville Oct 3rd 1842

Gregory, Leroy, 8
Templeton, Isaac, 8
Montgomery, Walker, 8
Mitchell, Edward, 8
Farris, John, 8
Herryman, Stephen, 8
Waldrup, Wesley, 8
Dawson, Waddle, 8
Thornton, James, 8
Reed, James, 8
Farris, Jams & Andrew, 8
Critzer, John, 8

Rainsville Oct 10th 1842

Mitchell, Edward, 9
Gray, William, 9
Mitchell, Henry, 9
Matthews, John, 9
Harris, Charles T., 9
Boyington, Francis, 9
Gregory, Leroy, 9
Herryman, Stephen, 9
Waddle, L. W., 9
Robertson, John H., 9
Conell, David, 9
Templeton, Isaac, 9

Rainsville Oct 17th 1842

Gray, William, 10 Gray, Wesley, 10 Mitchell, Edward, 10 Gregory, Col. James, 10
Waddle, L. W., 10
Bulger, James, 10
Conell, David, 10
Coffenberry, Aaron, 10
Justice, Basil, 10
Mitchell, Henry, 10
Robertson, John H., 10
Farris, John, 10
Smith, Benjamin, 10
Gregory, Leroy, 10
McConell, William, 10
McConell, Widow, 10

Rainsville Oct 25th 1842

Best, Henry, 11 Gregory, Leroy, 11 Bulger, James, 11 Boyington, Francis, 11 Garlen, William, 11 McConell, William, 11 Mitchell, Edward, 11 Bever, Henry, 11 McConell, Widow, 11 Robertson, John H., 11 Farris, James, 11

Oct [12th?]

Mitchell, Edward, 11

Rainsville Oct 2 1842

Boyington, Francis, 12 Beaver/Bever, Henry, 12 Mitchell, Edward, 12 Gregory, Col. James, 12 Lesley, Oliver, 12 Piatte/Piotte, James, 12 Gregory, James, 12 Gregory, Leroy, 12 Matthews, John, 12 McConell, Thomas, 12 Clark, Silas, 12 Farris, James, 12 Bartlet, Thomas, 12

Rainsville Nov 24th 1842

Matthews, John, 13 Read, James, 13 Critzer, John, 13 Hooker, James, 13 Waddle, L. W., 13

December 1st 1842

McConell, Thomas, 13
Howell, Joshua, 13
Piotte/Pyotte, James, 13
Hooker, James, 13
Critzer, John, 13
Clark, Silas, 13
Matthews, John, 13
Gregory, Leroy, 13
Robinson, Henry, 13
Beaver, Henry, 13
Boyington, Francis, 13
Waddle, L. W., 13

Online Connections

Regional Sources and Stories