

Steuben County, Members Listed in the County's Medical Society Ledger, 1880–1898

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Medical societies have long been an important and crucial aspect of the medical field. Medical societies in Indiana have been around since before 1850, some outdating the Indiana State Medical Society, which is the organization they all report to.¹ One such organization under the control of the state medical society was the Steuben County society, organized in the latter half of the nineteenth century. The William H. Smith Memorial library holds a ledger of the Steuben County Medical Society in the form of a bound volume. The constitution of the society states that its name “shall be ‘The Steuben County Medical Society,’ and shall be auxiliary to, and under control of the Indiana State Medical Society.”²

The main purpose of this society as written in its official ledger was to promote the “advancement of medical knowledge; the elevation of professional character, the protection of the interests of its members; the extension of the bounds of medical science; and the promotion of all measures adopted to the relief of the suffering.” To achieve full membership in the society, a person had to be a graduate “in medicine of a respectable school or [a] licentiate of any regularly organized society” in good standing. Additionally, members of the society had to pay annual dues of \$1.50.³ In 2020, \$1.50 would be equivalent to about \$30.⁴ In addition to the names of the society’s members, the ledger also contains records of local cases of illnesses and death around Steuben County.

Listed below are the names of members of the Steuben County Medical Society who joined between the years 1880 and 1898. The names have been alphabetized by surname. Some names in the ledger are difficult to read; square brackets surrounding a letter or name indicate the authors’ best guess. When available, the town in which a member resided and the date of membership are included.

Notes

1. Charles N. Combs, "History of the Indiana State Medical Association," in *One Hundred Years of Indiana Medicine, 1849–1949*, ed. Dorothy Ritter Russo (Indianapolis: Indiana State Medical Association, 1949), 7–8.
2. Steuben County Medical Society Ledger, 1885–1929, 1976, BV 5108, Indiana Historical Society, <https://www.indianahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/steuben-county-medical-society-ledger.pdf>. The actual date the Steuben County Medical Society was established is unknown by these authors. The collection guide for this ledger states it was 1863. Another source, Inter-state Publishing, *History of Steuben County, Indiana* (Mount Vernon, IN: Windmill Publishing, 1998), page 420, states that this county society dates to 1876. On the first page of the ledger itself, it gives the bylaws of the organization and states that they were adopted on November 6, 1885. And yet, in the membership list in the ledger, some members are recorded as having joined the medical society as early as 1880.
3. Steuben County Medical Society Ledger, 1885–1929, 1976.
4. MeasuringWorth, <https://www.measuringworth.com/>, accessed February 11, 2020.

Members of the Steuben County Medical Society who Joined from 1880 to 1898

Name	Town of Origin	Date of Membership
[---]ishardt, [Emmitt]	Angola	Honerary [<i>sic</i>] Member
[---]oser---], [H. O.]	Metz	April 15, 1898
Bowen, W. M.	Angola	
Burgess, Thos. E.	Ashley	January 13, 1893
Byall, N. W.	Metz	Honerary [<i>sic</i>]
Cameron, J. T.	Hamilton	
Crain, Frank M.	Angola	
Creef, Thos. J.	Angola	May 25, 1893
Cunningham, H. H.	Salem Center	July 12, [1893?]
[D---], F. B.	Fremont	September 9, 1892
Dolph, C. M.	Pleasant Lake	1888
Fenton, D. W.		
Fierstone, J. [R.]	Salem Centre	
Fuller, S. H.	Pleasant Lake	February 6, 1880
Gaylor, E.	York	
Gooddale, C. W.	Metz	
Hagerty, J. D.		
Hamilton, F. H.	Hudson	
Humphrey, F. B.	Angola	September 9, 1892
Keyes, Charles R.		
Kimmel, A. J.	Hudson	
Lowe, W. T.	Angola	1884
McNuff, [L.] B.		
Morr, J. E.	Orland	October 4, [1893?]
[Newner], Calvin	Angola	May 1893
Nichols, H. A.	Flint	1891
Penton, Geo. E.	Angola	[May?] 23, [1893?]
Ransberg, Martin V.	Salem	
Shaw, Marion F.	Angola	
Simmons, E. B.	Angola	Honerary [<i>sic</i>]
Stauffer, Edwin R.	Fremont	
Sutherland, C. W.	Angola	August 21, 1896
Wallace, James F.	Orland	
Walter, W. H.	Angola	
Wilkinson, J. J.		
Willett, Frank	Ray	
Williams, Tho. [P.]		
Young, [W.]	Fort Wayne	