

JOHN SPOHN HALDEMAN, MD 1819 - 1899

Adamsville 1854;
Sonora 1854 & 1871;
Zanesville 1871-98

Dr. John S. Haldeman was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania on June 24, 1819 the only son of Christian and Susannah (Spohn) Haldeman. Originally of German descent he was of third generation (the Haldemans being among the pioneer families of Lancaster county.) His father was a farmer and later a miller and migrated on West with his family in 1828, walking the distance to Butler county Ohio first but staying only briefly before purchasing a farm in Preble county. One other child was Caroline who later married Robert Steele of Richmond Indiana. Dr. Haldeman was but nine years of age on coming to Ohio, and received his literary training first in the common schools and then Miami University at Oxford, Ohio. He



left in his sophomore year and began the study of medicine with Drs. Williams and Dunham of Camden, Preble county, Ohio in 1841. Subsequently he was with Davis & Loop, Thorntown, Boone county, Ind., with whom he remained about one year. He began to practice medicine June 1, 1846, at Mount Jefferson, Ohio, licensed by his preceptors. In 1847 he went to St. Marys, Ohio and in 1848 to Seven Mile, Ohio. In 1849 he served through the cholera epidemic. Both he and his partner, Dr. Hibbard contracted the disease. Dr. Hibbard died of it, Dr. Haldeman was weakened but recovered. In 1850 he came to Zanesville to practice, having an office on 7th Main & Market and later 6th by the Baptist church in 1851-2. He then located in Adamsville and attended the session of 1853-54 at Starling Medical college, Columbus, Ohio. He graduated and for a short time practiced in Sonora where he has been considered to have been the first practicing physician there. He then removed to Coshocton, Ohio, where he formed a partnership with Dr. E. Sapp. While a member of this firm and being a member of the Methodist Episcopal church he was called upon by the trustees to take the presidency of the Spring Mountain seminary, conducted under the auspices of the North Ohio conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, which position he accepted. In consequence of having this position he became a member of the North Ohio conference in 1857-58. The confinement of the schoolroom did not agree with him, his health failed, and he was compelled to resign. He then took work in the conference in 1859, and his first appointment was at Clyde, Sandusky county, Ohio. He was afterward at Perkins, Erie county, Port Clinton, Ottawa county, Townsend, Huron county, North Amherst, and Penfield. Failing health and loss of voice caused him to take a supernumerary relation and he moved back to his home in Sonora.

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Recovering his health to some extent, he took up work again in the conference but did not remove his family. He was appointed to Gambier, Knox county, the seat of Kenyon college, next to Keene circuit, located in Coshocton county. During his ministry his voice broke down again and he was compelled to resume his supernumerary relation. He returned to practice medicine in Sonora in 1871 and the following year purchased property at 30 Orchard street in Zanesville where he continued to practice. He remained affiliated with the church, preached on occasions and was a member of the Board of Education from 1881 to 1891. In 1883 he won by 73 votes in the Seventh Ward was later elected president of the Board holding that office for four years. He was physician to the John McIntire Children's home and interested in that institution. He was a member of the Zanesville Medical Academy and as secretary of the organization he took detailed minutes of the meetings. He was a member of the Muskingum County Medical Society and was President of the organization in 1878 and in 1891 and a trustee of the Society in 1880. He contributed to medical journals and presented papers at the local meetings. His principal contributions were "Aborting Variola Eruptions," "The Paroxide of Hydrogen, Chemically and Medically Considered," "The Veratrum Viride a Sure Antidote to Opium Poisoning," "Diabetes," "Fractures of Acromion Process," "Paralysis Agitans," "Diphtheria."

He also belonged to the State Medical Association and the Hildreth District Medical association. In 1889 he was made a member of the board of censors of Starling Medical college and enjoyed his annual visits to the alma Mater.

Among his students and preceptees was O. M. Wiseman MD. who presented a memorial lecture on his preceptor after his death. He was married on Sept. 14, 1843 to Miss Abigail S. Williams of Warwick, Mass. She died on January 9, 1894. At the time of his death they had four living children, two having died in infancy. Mary S. Reasoner, Edward W. & Samuel W. (twins) and Esther A. Gigax.

He died March 18, 1899 of old age (80) and is buried in Greenwood.

Ref The Daily Courier Sat Mar 18 1899

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