Chiropractic History
One Man, One Dream, One Incredible Profession
Daniel David Palmer
Chiropractic's Founder
1845 - 1913
The first recorded chiropractic adjustment was performed on September 18, 1895, by Dr. Daniel David Palmer, a Canadian-born teacher and healer. Dr. Palmer was, at the time, studying the cause and effect of disease.
His patient was Harvey Lillard, a janitor working in the same building as Dr. Palmer in Davenport, Iowa. Mr. Lillard, who had complained of hearing problems for over 17 years, allowed Dr. Palmer to examine his spine.
Dr. Palmer discovered a "lump" on Mr. Lillard's back and suspected that a vertebra might be out of place.

With an admittedly unrefined, even crude technique, Dr. Palmer repositioned the vertebra with a gentle thrust. After several such treatments, much of Mr. Lillard's hearing was restored.
One of Dr. Palmer's patients, a minister, is credited with attaching the name "chiropractic" to the art and science of manipulation. He took the Greek words for "hand" (cheiros) and "done by" (pracktos) and put them together to spell chiropractic, meaning "done by the hand."
Daniel David Palmer

Thomas Palmer was a shoemaker, later a grocer. Publicly, he served his community as a school director and as Postmaster. He and his wife, who had been Catherine McVay, had three sons and three daughters.
Daniel David Palmer

The sons, besides Daniel, were Thomas J. and Bartlett D. Palmer. The daughters were Lucinda Mariah, Hanna Jane and Catherine.
Daniel David Palmer

The great Civil War in the United States caused hard times in Canada, when men fleeing from the army draft overran the Canadian labor market. When Daniel Palmer was twenty, he and his brother, Thomas J. decided to seek their fortunes south of the International line.
So, with their belongings packed in a carpet bag, and with $2.00 borrowed from friends - according to Thomas J. Palmer’s Autobiography - they struck out on April 3, 1865. They walked 18 miles, to the town of Whitby.
Daniel David Palmer

According to DD (Palmer, 1908, p. 14): The rebellion in the United States made work scarce and wages low in Canada. In the spring of 1865 he and his brother T.J., now Post Master at Medford, Okla., worked their way west to the Mississippi River.
The next 20 years were engaged in school teaching, raising fruit and honey, and the grocery business. About the age of 40 he commenced the practice of Magnetic healing, which he made a success.

He was not content with any of the many explanations in regard to the cause of disease, and continually asked himself and others, why one person had a certain ailment, and another similarly situated did not.
History

DD's daughter Jessie is born in What Cheer IA

BJ Palmer is born in What Cheer (Rehm, 1980, p. 271; Gielow, 1981, p. 32)

DD's wife Louvenia dies in Letts IA, where DD was teaching school
Dear Sir:
I am pleased to say that my wife whom you treated, over two years ago, for rheumatism in her back has had no return of it since. For many years we tried medicines and several physicians without any benefit and had given up all hopes until after your seven treatments over two years ago. Since that time she has had the best of health and often speaks of your treatments as being the only remedy that ever did her any good.

Yours most respectfully,
H.N. Stone
Send 25 cents of “The Educator” for one year. It gives hundreds of cures and also his methods of healing the sick.
Harvey Lillard
I was deaf 17 years and I expected to always remain so, for I had doctored a great deal without any benefit. I had long ago made up my mind to not take any more ear treatments, for it did me no good. Last January Dr. Palmer told me that my deafness came from an injury in my spine. This was new to me; but it is a fact that my back was injured at the time I went deaf. Dr. Palmer treated me on the spine; in two treatments I could hear quite well. That was eight months ago. My hearing remains good.
HARVEY LILLARD, 320 W. Eleventh St., Davenport, Iowa
Bartlett Joshua Palmer
Chiropractic's Developer
1881 - 1961
Bartlett Joshua Palmer
Bartlett Joshua Palmer
By the time this photo was made (circa 1908) B.J. had taken over as president and owner of the PSC from his father following the latter's incarceration in Scott County jail for the unlicensed practice of medicine
The Petersons, owners before B.J. and Mabel Palmer, installed Italian carrara marble fireplaces and parquet floors in the early 20th century.

The unique character of the porch earned the house a place on the National Register of Historic Places. B.J. and Mabel Palmer collected elephant representations, idols, lamps, knives, Navajo and Indian rugs, canes, Oriental art and Abraham Lincoln memorabilia.

In 1922, B.J. Palmer purchased an Aeolian player pipe organ for $75,000. This pipe organ, installed in the Music Room, is one of the largest in the QuadCities. The commercial organ was used during broadcasts on WOC radio, which was the first radio station west of the Mississippi. B.J. owned and operated this station.
B.J. married Mabel Heath on 30 April 1904; she soon completed the course in chiropractic under D.D. Palmer and took over financial management of the Palmer School. In 1906, she gave birth to their only child, David D. Palmer, and in future years she provided a soothing counterpoint to B.J.'s often abrasive style of interaction. Mabel H. Palmer, DC is affectionately recalled as the "Sweetheart of the PSC"
First Lady in Chiropractic

The Daughter of W.L. Heath, D.C., pioneer graduate of the Palmer

She became secretary at the Palmer Institute

After the school was reorganized in 1906 as the Palmer School of Chiropractic, she enrolled at a medical college in Chicago, and completed a special 1-year course in anatomy and dissection. She returned to the PSC, obtained her doctor of chiropractic degree and became professor of anatomy, a position she held for almost 40 years. In 1918 she authored a well-regarded text, *Textbook on Anatomy.*
1881-1949
One of only two surviving photos showing all three generations of the Palmer chiropractors. From left to right: Mabel Palmer, B.J., D.D., and Dave; probably taken in 1913 during D.D. Palmer's final visit to Davenport.

Mabel married B.J. Palmer in Davenport on April 30, 1904.
Minora C. Paxson
Minora C. Paxson

Minora Paxson is one of the first two female chiropractors

Graduating from D.D. Palmer's original School and Cure in 1899, she practiced in several Iowa communities until 1904
Minora C. Paxson

She joined two other Palmer graduates, Solon Langworthy and Oakley Smith, in launching the American School of Chiropractic at Cedar Rapids.

It is documented that she was licensed in 1905 under the Illinois Medical Practice Act to "practice obstetrics in accordance with the principles of chiropractic" and granted the "first certificate licensing the treatment of disease by chiropractic."
The three-story Palmer Mansion was originally built by Louis Dessaint in 1874 in the Second Empire architectural tradition.

The woodwork throughout the Mansion is of solid butternut, and the foundation was constructed from two feet thick stone.
Palmer Mansion

The Petersons, owners before B.J. and Mabel Palmer, installed Italian carrara marble fireplaces and parquet floors in the early 20th century.

The Palmers bought the Mansion at 808 Brady St. in Davenport for $25,000 in 1912.
In 1922, B.J. Palmer purchased an Aeolian player pipe organ for $75,000. This pipe organ, installed in the Music Room, is one of the largest in the Quad-Cities. The commercial organ was used during broadcasts on WOC radio, which was the first radio station west of the Mississippi. B.J. owned and operated this station. One of the early announcers was Ronald Reagan.
Famous guests who have visited the Palmer Mansion include American presidents Ronald Reagan, Herbert Hoover and Harry Truman, entertainers Harry Houdini and Jeanette McDonald, and boxer Jack Dempsey.
Standing, left to right: E.E. Sutton (1901), BJ (1902), O.B. Jones (1900), Solon M. Langworthy (1901); seated, left to right: Oakley G. Smith (1899), Old Dad Chiro, Thomas H. Storey (1901); this photograph first appeared in the February, 1905 issue of The Chiropractor.
1903: DD operates the Santa Barbara Chiropractic School; H.B. Reynard earns DC (Zarbuck, 1988b&c)
The Palmer School
AND INFIRMARY
OF
CHIROPRACTIC

828 Brady St.
Davenport, Iowa, U.S.A., Aug. 10, '06.

Established 1885.

Chiropractics
Fountain Head

This school has the best collection of pathological and anomalous specimens in osteology of any school in America.
The only picture of D.D. Palmer, B.J. Palmer and David D. Palmer
D. D. Palmer Dies

He gave birth to Chiropractic. His spirit passed on Oct. 20th, 1913 at 8 a.m. His age was 68. The funeral was held Oct. 22nd, 1913. On that day The P.S.C. held an Honor service.
WHO

With Hands Only
AM Radio station
One announcer was Ronald Reagan
THE PALMER SCHOOL OF CHIROPRACTIC
RADIOPHONE STATION

WOC
FALL AND WINTER SCHEDULE
(Effective September 16, 1923)
Central Standard Time - 484 Meters

SUNDAYS
9:00 A.M. - Chimes Concert (1 hour).
7:00 P.M. - Pipe Organ Recital.
7:30 P.M. - Sport News.
8:00 P.M. - Church service.
9:00 P.M. - Musical Program (2 hours).

P.S.C. Orchestra, with vocal solos and other numbers interspersed.

WEEK DAYS

†9:00 A.M. - Opening Markets and Household Hints.
11:00 A.M. - Weather, Markets and Government Bulletins.
12:00 Noon - Chimes.
†‡12:15 P.M. - Closing Markets (Saturday Only).
††1:30 P.M. - Closing Markets (Except Saturday).
3:30 P.M. - Educational Program.
      Chiropractic lecture and musical numbers.
5:45 P.M. - Chimes (Except Wednesday).
6:00 P.M. - Weather and Sport News (Tuesday only).
*6:30 P.M. - Sandman's Visit.
*6:50 P.M. - Sport News and Weather.
*7:00 P.M. - Educational Lecture.

This period is set apart for the various speakers who present talks for broadcasting on general subjects and is therefore, not regular.

*8:00 P.M. - Musical Program (1 hour).
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights, Thursday, P.S.C. Orchestra. Other nights, mixed musical program.
9:00 P.M. - Dance Program (1 hour) (Saturday only).

P.S.C. Orchestra,
10:00 P.M. - Musical Program (1 hour) (Wednesday only).

Subject to Change when Markets change from Daylight Time.
*These schedules not broadcast on Tuesday - Silent Night for Davenport (p. 13)
Forest Park Chiropractic Sanitarium, Davenport, Iowa (What, 1938)
Bon-Aire Sanatorium of San Antonio, Texas (What, 1938)
Bakkum Chiropractic Clinic & Hospital, Waukon, Iowa (What, 1938)
This photo of the Palmer family, taken on 3 April 1890, shows young B.J. (age 8), his father, stepmother and two sisters.
Annual Enrollment of the Palmer School of Chiropractic

Number of Students

- 1916: 462
- 1917: 536
- 1918: 602
- 1919: 1245
- 1920: 1538
- 1921: 2776
- 1922: 1509
- 1923: 1000
Chiropractors

In 1970, there were an estimated 13,000 chiropractors licensed in the United States (Cooper, 1996).
Chiropractors Today

Over

100,000 chiropractors are licensed in the United States
1913
  Kansas
  North Dakota

1915
  Arkansas
  Ohio
  Oregon

1916
  Nebraska

1917
  Connecticut
  North Carolina

1918
  Montana

1919
  Florida
  Idaho
  Minnesota
  Vermont
1921
Arizona
Georgia
Iowa
New Hampshire
New Mexico
Oklahoma
South Dakota

1922
California

1923
Illinois
Nevada
Rhode Island
Tennessee
Utah

1924
Maine

1925
Hawaii
West Virginia
Wisconsin
1927
Indiana
Missouri
1928
Kentucky

1929
District of Columbia
Maryland
Wyoming

1932
South Carolina

1933
Colorado
Michigan

1937
Delaware

1939
Alaska

1944
Virginia
1949
  Texas

1951
  Pennsylvania

1853
  New Jersey

1959
  Alabama

1963
  New York

1973
  Mississippi

1974
  Louisiana (Last state to be licensed)