

Dr. Gose's Medical Ledgers

By Kathryn Dodd

The previous two articles discussed the life of Krum's physician Dr. Gose and his medical career in Krum. At the museum we have several of Dr. Gose's ledgers from his practice in Krum. Looking at the entries in these ledgers is like taking a walk through a history of Krum families. I was curious about some of the remedies he prescribed for his Krum patients so I researched several of these and have shown the information below.

On the first page from the Gose ledger from 1912 is this notation made by Dr. Gose : "*Oct 25, 1912: I have this day done about five dollars' worth of work and have collected some fifty dollars.*"

Kilmer's Swamp Root: Dr. Kilmer blended fifteen herbal ingredients for Swamp-Root: from South Africa, North and South America, Europe, the Middle East, Tibet, and North-west China, into a balanced formula that was supposed to benefit the digestive, respiratory, and nervous systems. Swamp-Root was the most popular of several herbal remedies created by Dr. S. Andral Kilmer of Binghamton, NY.

Grove's Chill Tonic: Grove's Tasteless Chill Tonic was created not as a cure, but as a preventative and relief of malaria and its resulting chills and fever. Those who remember taking the chill tonic did not agree with the "tasteless" billing, although it was better than taking straight quinine. Quinine has been used for more than three centuries and, until the 1930s, it was the only effective malaria treatment. The chill tonic was so popular the British army made it standard issue for every soldier going off to mosquito infested lands and, by 1890, more bottles of Grove's Tasteless Chill Tonic were sold than bottles of Coca-Cola.

Tutts Pills: Dr. Tutt's Liver Pills – A doctor and manufacturer of patent medicinals and cure-alls in the late 1800s – early 1900s, he touted these pills as the "means to health," a cure-all for everything from constipation, indigestion, and headaches, and insomnia.

Scott's Emulsion Cod Liver Oil: When Scott and Bowne began marketing their emulsion in the 1870s it was widely used for "consumption" and all "Wasting Diseases," which would have included tuberculosis, a leading cause of death at the time. In the early 20th Century the marketing changed dramatically, after the discovery of vitamins and the role they play in promoting healthy growth and preventing diseases such as rickets (caused by a deficiency of Vitamin D). Cod liver oil is one of the best natural sources of vitamins A and D. Soon every mother was admonished to give her children a daily dose of the oil—a practice that began in the 1920s and continued well into the 1950s

Syrup of Pepsin: The history of the Pepsin Syrup Company dates back to the 1880s when Dr. William B. Caldwell first began prescribing his senna and pepsin laxative. Due to the popularity and high demand for his senna pepsin laxative, Dr. Caldwell began producing his prescription at the corner drug store by 1888.

It wasn't until 1892 that Dr. Caldwell's former store clerk, Charles H. Ridgely, conceived the idea of manufacturing the doctor's famous prescription. Dr. Caldwell gave Ridgely and his

partner, John Bell, permission to go ahead and as a result “syrup pepsin” was made in small quantities, bottled, and sold in neighboring counties.

Finley’s Eye Salve: This salve was patented by John Price Haytor who was born near Whitesboro, Grayson County, Texas on November 23, 1862. The salve was a medical ointment used to soothe ailments of the eye.

Calomel Pills: These pills were used as both a laxative and a parasite medicine.

Doan’s Kidney Pills: used to be called Doan’s Kidney pills back in 1918. Over the years, the name was changed to Doan’s Backache pills to regulate and heal sick kidneys and assist them to throw impurities out of the system.

Kilmer’s Pills: Dr Kilmer’s Prompt Parilla Liver Pills

These pills were sold in boxes and were for digestion problems and other complaints. Dr. Kilmer also developed the Swamp Root mentioned before.

Information & picture from Wikipedia.

