

Genealogy Lines: Dr. Robert Morris – The Country Doctor By Joyce Smith

In the last newsletter I introduced the farmer, Dr. Robert Morris. This newsletter we will meet the physician, Dr. Robert Morris. Dr. Morris wedded Frances Peacock of West Walworth in 1880. In the beginning of his practice he had two offices, one in Lincoln and one in West Walworth. After the death of Frances' parents, she inherited the farm and they moved his office to the farm at 4893 Lincoln Road.

At the museum we have "The Physician's Visiting List" books for his medical services from 1877-1922. In addition, we also have his 1877 medical school book (with pages of notes), and New York State Department of Health death certificates. We also have approval forms from the Treasury Department of the United States so he could purchase opium, cocoa leaves, compounds, manufactures, salts, derivatives or preparations thereof under Section 2 of the Act of Congress, approved December 17, 1914.

The Physician's Visiting List book has the following sections: doses of eclectic remedies, prediction of the day of confinements, artificial respiration, care of galvanic batteries, disinfectants, poisons and antidotes, and table of doses. Another section of the book has weekly call list, memoranda for each month, clinical record, birth record, death record and bills rendered. I am making a list of birth and death records for each year. You will find this notebook in our museum.

In 1877 Dr. Morris kept a record of his horse's yearly expenses: a load of straw \$2.00, oats \$52.00, barley \$3.00 and corn \$14.30. Plus you will find other notes in these books that will keep your interest and you will want to keep reading.

Dr. Morris' son, Don, bought a new Ford coupe when Dr. Morris was about 72 years old. Don would drive his dad to visit his patients at night and when the weather was bad. The doctor died in 1934.

To learn more about Dr. Morris and his family we have the books "History of Burroughs (Burrow), Parmenter, Peacock, Esley (Isely), Furber, Morris, Graf and Held Families" by Virginia Burrow Morris and "Historical Sketch of West Walworth" by Mrs. Charles Peters.