

The Early Doctors of Knightdale

The first doctor, in the area soon to be known as Knightdale, was **Dr. Joseph R Hester**. Dr Hester was born in the Franklinton area of Franklin County on October 23, 1891, was the son of William Henry Hester and Louie Virginia Goswick. William is descended from the Granville County Hester's and his wife is from Louisburg.

His father William, moved to Raleigh where he engaged in the tobacco business. The family eventually moved to the Wendell area and went into the full time tobacco business. It is here that Dr. Hester spent his childhood days. He attended the neighborhood one-room school and later the Wakefield School. He completed his high school education at the Wendell High School in the spring of 1903 and shortly thereafter entered the Academic Department of the University of North Carolina. In the winter of 1904/5 he conducted a school for Boys at Murfreesboro and in the winter of 1905/6 was principal of the Middlesex School. In late 1906, he entered the Medical School at Chapel Hill and later graduated from the Raleigh Department in the spring of 1910. He secured his license that year and started his practice in Knightdale on July 15, 1910.

After a short stay in Virginia, he got his Virginia license and took several postgraduate courses, he returned to Knightdale and continued his practice until March, 1929 when he moved to Wendell once again, but because of the short 7 mile distance continued his practice now in both places.

He was president of the Wake County Medical Society in 1925. While in Knightdale, he served on the school board and was chairman of that board for several years. He was Vice-president of the Bank at Knightdale while it was in business in town. Active in hunting and fishing in his leisure time, he was also a 32nd Degree Mason, a Baptist and a Republican.

Dr. Hester married Susie Nelson Finch of Littleton in 1911 and they had eight children.

Source: North Carolina Medical Department, Auspices of the Alumni Association, 1941.

The second doctor in Knightdale was **Dr. Rupert R Weathers**. Dr. Weathers was born in Wake County, near Wendell on Sept 16, 1897. He attended high school in Zebulon.

He attended Wake Forest College and graduated from the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, VA. Dr. Weathers practiced medicine in the Knightdale community for 32 years from Oct, 1926 through Jun 1958. Most of the time he practiced out of an office in the rear of the drugstore or another office on First Ave. At times he also practised from his home, assisted by his wife who was a nurse.

Dr. Weathers married Josephine Woodson in 1926 and they had one daughter, Sue Weathers.

Dr. Weathers died Aug 10, 1968 in Knightdale. He was a well loved "country doctor" who also loved being out in the country hunting for the ever elusive squirrel.

After Dr. Weathers was unable to continue his practice the town got together and decided to build a Medical Center. Stock was sold and the building constructed. In January of 1960 the building was opened and ready for occupancy. It was first utilized by Dr. Hornstein.

The third doctor in town was **Dr. Norman Hornstein**. As previously mentioned he was the first to utilize the new Medical Center on First Ave.

Another doctor working in town was **Dr. Otis Lawry** who worked ½ days at the medical Center and also worked in Spring hill

The first Dentist in town and in the Medical Center was **Dr. Rollin Ransom**. Dr. Ransom shows up in records between the years of 1960 and 1973.

In the 1968 to Mar 1974 time frame **Dr. Julian Warren** also served the town

In 1973 **Dr. Herbert C Guthrie** was the dentist at the Medical Center.

Another Dentist in the Center was **Dr. Hal P Cockerman**.

During the years of 1977 thru 1981 another dentist by the name of **Dr. Mark S Morgan** shows up as working from the Knightdale Medical Center.

W. Schulz