

McLean County Museum of History

## Dr. J. H. Fenelon Collection

Processed by  
Robert Bradley  
Fall 2013

### Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 box
COLLECTION DATES:	1893-2001
PROVENANCE:	Gift
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	None

### Historical Sketch

Dr. J.H. Fenelon was a physician who practiced for more than 45 years in McLean County. He was born on December 11, 1864 (?) in Springvale, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin. His year of birth was listed as 1863 in a March 3, 1941 *Pantagraph* obituary. However, the *Biographical History of the Members of the McLean County Medical Society of Illinois; One Hundredth Anniversary Edition*, which Dr. Fenelon helped prepare biographical sketches for, and the *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois*, both report the year of his birth as 1864.

Dr. Fenelon grew up on a farm in Wisconsin and was the son of Daniel and Mary Gough Fenelon. He had one brother, Dr. W.J. Fenelon, who lived in Ripon, Wisconsin. Dr. Fenelon attended school in Ripon, Wisconsin, and had an undergraduate degree from St. Lawrence College. He graduated in 1889 from Rush Medical College in Chicago.

Upon graduation, Dr. Fenelon began his practice of medicine in the Oklahoma territory. He opened an office in Norman, Oklahoma, which then had a population of around 8,000. Many of his first patients were new settlers to the territory who suffered from dysentery due to the alkaline water there.

While practicing in Norman, Dr. Fenelon was appointed and re-appointed the superintendent of health for the county and was hired as a surgeon for the Santa Fe railroad which ran through Norman. Because he was viewed as a real doctor, Dr. Fenelon's practice was successful in Oklahoma. Many of the so-called doctors in the territory were practitioners in medicine, who had not attended medical schools, often were illiterate, and prescribed home-spun remedies.

Despite his successful practice, Dr. Fenelon's mother convinced him to leave his office in Norman when two bullets from a saloon across the street entered his lodgings. So he found an opening in Bloomington, Illinois, and started a medical practice there in 1895. In 1897, he married Mary Slattery of Bloomington. During his time of practice in Bloomington, Dr. Fenelon was elected President of the McLean County Medical Society and of the staffs for both St. Joseph's and Mennonite Hospitals. He was also a member of a group of physicians that organized the McLean County Tuberculosis Society in 1908. In 1940, he was inducted in the State of Illinois "Fifty Year Club" to honor doctors who been practicing for at least 50 years. Dr. Fenelon was a member of Holy Trinity Church, the Catholic Order of Foresters, and Third and Fourth Degrees of the Knights of Columbus. He passed away on March 3, 1941.

## Scope and Content Note

The Fenelon Collection primarily consists of material on Dr. Fenelon's medical practice in Bloomington, Illinois around the turn of the twentieth century. The Collection includes a couple of newspaper stories on Dr. Fenelon, and several books that are Physician Call Lists and Records and Ledger Books of patient accounts.

There is one box for the collection. Box 1 contains folder 1 through folder 8, and one bound volume. Folder 1 contains original newspaper articles on Dr. Fenelon and transcripts of those articles. Folder 2 contains a small book, which is a 1908 *Physician's Call List and Record* for Dr. J. H. Fenelon. Folder 3 contains a small book, which is a 1927 *Physician's Call List and Record* for Dr. J. H. Fenelon. Folder 4 contains a small book, which is a *Physicians' Visiting List* for Dr. J. H. Fenelon. Folder 5 contains an 1893 General Ledger Book. Folder 6 contains an 1893 Patient Ledger Book. Folder 7 contains an 1897 to 1902 Patient Ledger Book. Folder 8 contains material related to Fenelon Place Elevator in Dubuque, Iowa. Dr. Fenelon's connection, if any, to elevator remains unknown. There is one bound volume that is a 1903 to 1920 Patient Ledger Book.

## Folder Inventory

### Folder 1: Newspaper Articles, etc.

- 1.1 "Silk Hatted Doctors on Horseback", story in *Pantagraph* by Charlotte Fitzhenry, April 7, 1940, transcript of story and copy of original story, 7 pages.
- 1.2 "Dr. J. H. Fenelon Dies: Practiced Here 45 Years", story in *Pantagraph*, March 3, 1941, transcript of story and copy of original story, 3 pages.
- 1.3 Tablet with four unused sheets of statements for his medical practice, 1930s.
- 1.3 Gift Agreement for collection materials, September, 4, 2001, 1 page.

### Folder 2: 1908 Call List and Record

- 2.1 *The Physician's Perfect Call List and Record*-Dr. J. H. Fenelon, twenty-second edition, published in 1907 by E.G. Swift, cost was \$1.50. This small book contains medical information and facts on the treatment of adults and children, and a log of patient visits for Dr. Fenelon for 1908.

### Folder 3: 1927 Call List and Record

- 3.1 *The Physician's Perfect Call List and Record*-Dr. J. H. Fenelon, forty-first edition, published in 1926 by Swift Publishing Company, cost was \$1.50. This small book contains medical information and facts on the treatment of adults and children, and a log of patient visits for Dr. Fenelon from January 1927 through January 1928.

### Folder 4: Physician's Visiting List 1897-98

- 4.1 *The Physician's Visiting List* by the Maltine Manufacturing Company. This small book contains a record of patient names, charges, addresses, and notes from January 1897 to October 1898 for Dr. Fenelon.

### Folder 5: 1893 General Ledger

- 5.1 An address and ledger book that lists expenses from January to March 1893. The address portion of the book is blank, and the account list starts on page 18.

### Folder 6: 1893 Patient Ledger

- 6.1 An address book and ledger book that lists patient names alphabetically and has individual patient cash accounts for 1893. Many pages have been torn out of book.

### Folder 7: 1897-1902 Patient Ledger

- 7.1 An address book and ledger book that lists patient names alphabetically and has individual patient cash accounts from 1897 to 1902. Some pages are missing from book.

### Folder 8: Fenelon Place Elevator

**[No confirmed connection had been found to date (2013) between Dr. Fenelon and the Fenelon Place Elevator]**

- 8.1 Letter from Betty A. Baule, Adult Services Librarian for Carnegie-Stout Library in Dubuque, Iowa, September 13, 2001, 1 page.

- 8.2 Entry from *Dubuque: The Encyclopedia* on the Fourth Street Elevator (also known as the Fenelon Place Elevator, 5 pages.
- 8.3 *Fenelon Place Elevator Company*, web article, September 5, 2001, 3 pages.
- 8.4 Obituary listings for Fenelons from index at Carnegie-Stout Library in Dubuque, 3 pages.

**Bound Volume: 1903-1920 Patient Ledger**

An address book and ledger book that lists patient names alphabetically and has individual patient cash accounts from 1903 to 1920. Binding for book is in poor condition.