

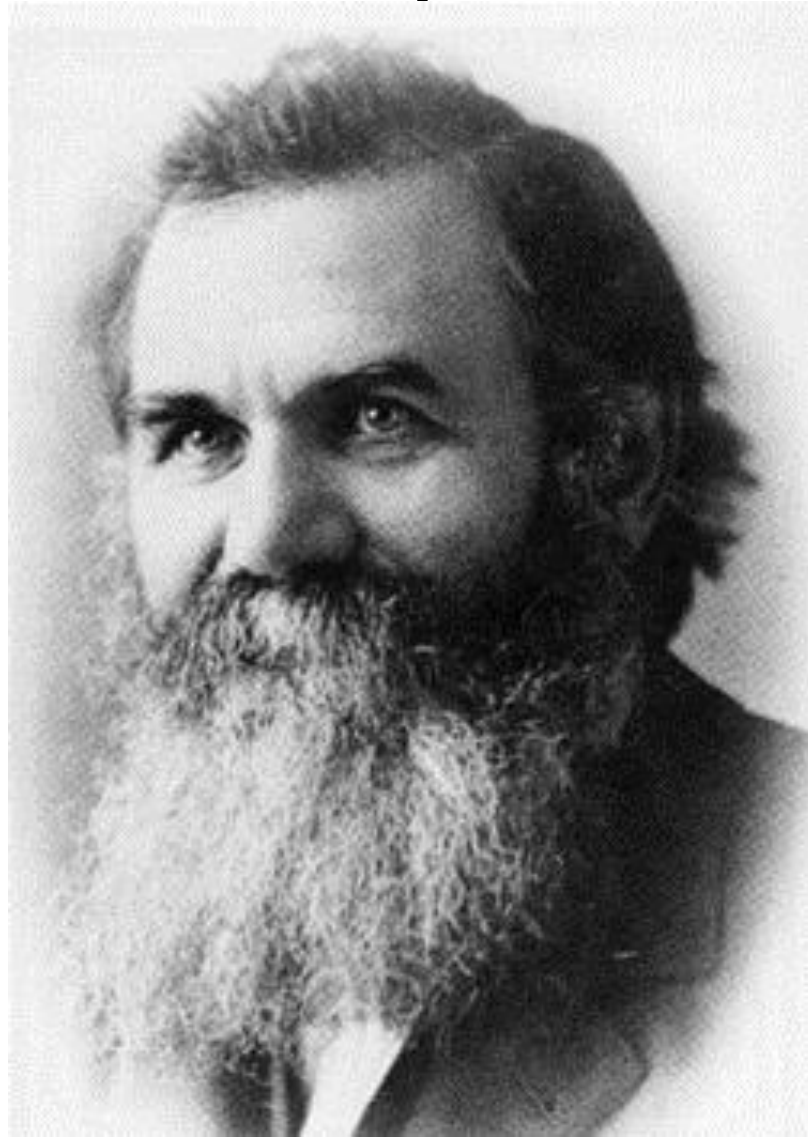
# The “Black” History of Chiropractic

A Concise History for the ABCA  
February 13<sup>th</sup> 2014

By Winston Kyle Carhee Jr. DC  
President of the

**American Black Chiropractic  
Association**

# D.D. Palmer, Discoverer of Chiropractic





**Harvey Lillard, of African Ancestry, owned and operated a janatorial service in the building where D.D. Palmer practiced.**



# Harvey Lillard's Daughter, Valdenia Simons



Valdeenia Simons, 88, with an award presented to her by the National College of Chiropractic. *April 21, 1983*

Photo by Art Lund

## IN CHIROPRACTIC CIRCLES, she's a link to history

By PAM ADAMS *peoria Journal Star*

Valdeenia Simons is not a chiropractor and has been to one only once in her 88 years. But in chiropractic circles, she's something of a celebrity.

The Peorian has been interviewed for books and asked to speak at national chiropractic conventions and graduations. These sponsoring organizations pay her transportation and have her sit on the podium with the big shots in the field.

Afterward, people come to her just to shake her hand. She has been asked to speak at a conference on the history of chiropractic in June at the National College of Chiropractic, Lombard.

She takes all this attention in stride. Her voice takes on a kind of "can-you-imagine-that" tone when the black woman speaks of white people who just want the honor of taking a picture with her.

"When you've been living as long as I have, that's something," she says.

The attention is not as much for her as it is for her father, Harvey Lillard, the first person said to have been cured by the man who is called the founder of chiropractic, D.D. Palmer. But Lillard, grandson of an English nobleman, never got any credit. Just how much credit he deserves, and just what part he played in the growth of chiropractic, is not clear.

As most history books tell the story, D.D. Palmer was an interesting, if somewhat eccentric, small-time entrepreneur trying to make a living as a magnetic healer in Davenport, Iowa. He had been working on his theory of healing by spinal manipulation for some time before he actually experimented on Lillard, a partially deaf janitor.

to her by one of her father's co-workers, contends that Palmer's discovery was by accident in 1895.

It's a story she tells easily and often. Though her memory sometimes falters when it comes to other details of her life, this story always remains the same as documents in books and papers on the history of chiropractic.

Chiropractic came into being because of my father, she begins. "Evidently, my father was a tale-teller. He and a man that worked for him stopped in front of D.D. Palmer's office while my father was finishing the story.

"Well, Dr. Palmer was in his office reading a book. The doctor stuck his fingers between the pages and walked out to listen to the end of the tale. The doctor was so tickled that he hit my father in the back with the book."

Harvey Lillard had been deaf 17 years, ever since he had bent to pick up something and heard a loud pop.

Soon, Lillard discovered he could hear better — and told Palmer: it was to his credit.

The two men made a pact, Mrs. Simons says. "I don't know what kind of doctor he was, but he wasn't doing too well at the time. And he said to my father, 'Suppose I work with you and find out what I did. If I become successful, we'll share it.'

"My father told me the doctor gave him a little money one time, and a little money then was little money."

Palmer passed his work to his son, B. J., who founded Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, the first and one of the largest chiropractic schools. David Palmer, the great-grandson of D.D., has often invited Mrs. Simons to special occasions at the school. Ironically, blacks were

not admitted as students there until the 1950s.

"When I lived in that area, I was always seeing my father's face on Palmer advertising," Mrs. Simons remembers.

Lillard left Davenport in 1907, Mrs. Simons says, because he hated the long and bitter conflict between D.D. and B. J. Palmer.

D. D., reportedly mentally ill and suffering from typhoid fever, died in California in 1913. Three attempts were made to take R.J. to trial for his father's murder.

Before he died, D.D. is supposed to have told a friend that his son tried to run over him with a car during a chiropractic convention in Davenport. A rival chiropractic college reportedly gathered false affidavits stating that D.D. died after he was struck by a car driven by his son. Grand juries refused to indict B.J. each time.

It's not clear just what kind of relationship Lillard had with the Palmers after the spinal adjustment. "I think he left to get away from the scandal," Mrs. Simons said.

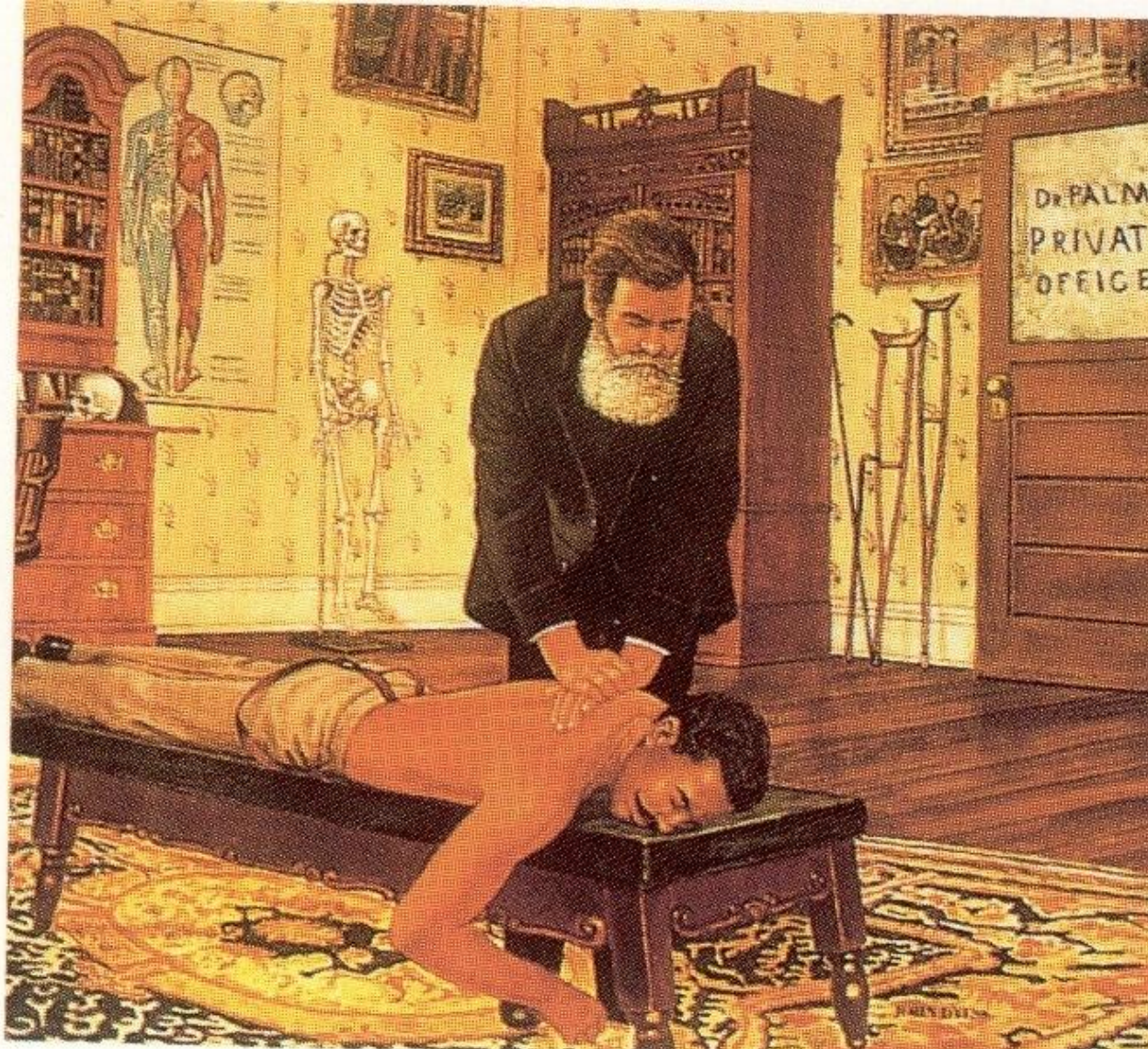
Lillard moved to Seattle, Wash., where he worked as a deputy sheriff before he died in 1925.

"The year chiropractic came into being, Valdeenia Simons came into being," she likes to say. And she has lived to become a symbol of chiropractic history.





# The First Adjustment, D.D. Palmer and Harvey Lillard, 1895.







**A portrait of  
the first  
chiropractic  
patient.**

Please fill out and return this Questionnaire promptly. Your answers will enable us to cooperate in giving you such information as will best serve your purpose in making reply to inquiry.

DATE \_\_\_\_\_, 193\_\_\_\_\_

1. Name in full \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Age \_\_\_\_\_

3. Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Previous business or mechanical experience:  
State kind of business and number of years in each, etc. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Previous schooling:

Common School (What grade) \_\_\_\_\_

High School (How long) \_\_\_\_\_

College (How long) \_\_\_\_\_

6. Have you taken Chiropractic adjustments? \_\_\_\_\_ 7. If so, from whom? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Are any members of your family or near relatives Chiropractors? \_\_\_\_\_

Name them and give Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Are you married or single? \_\_\_\_\_ How many dependent children? \_\_\_\_\_

10. When could you enroll? \_\_\_\_\_, 193\_\_\_\_\_

11. Nationality? (Negroes not accepted) \_\_\_\_\_

12. Check two booklets from the following list that you would like to have sent you:

☐ The Last Word.

☐ H. J. Palmer, Lecturer.

☐ A Tour Through The P.S.C.

☐ The Chiropractic Field.

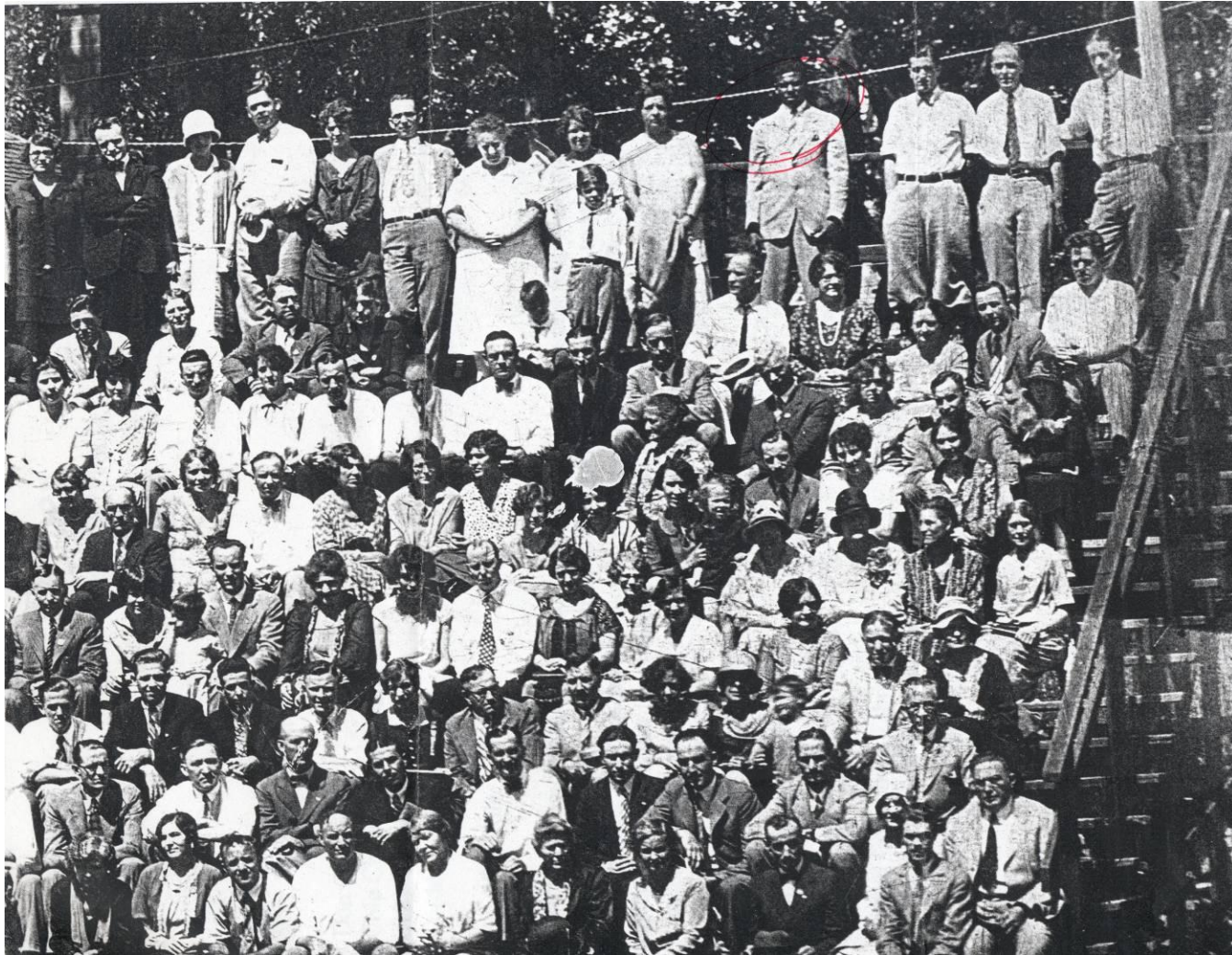


LYCEUM AND REVIEW COURSE AT P. S. C.  
1928

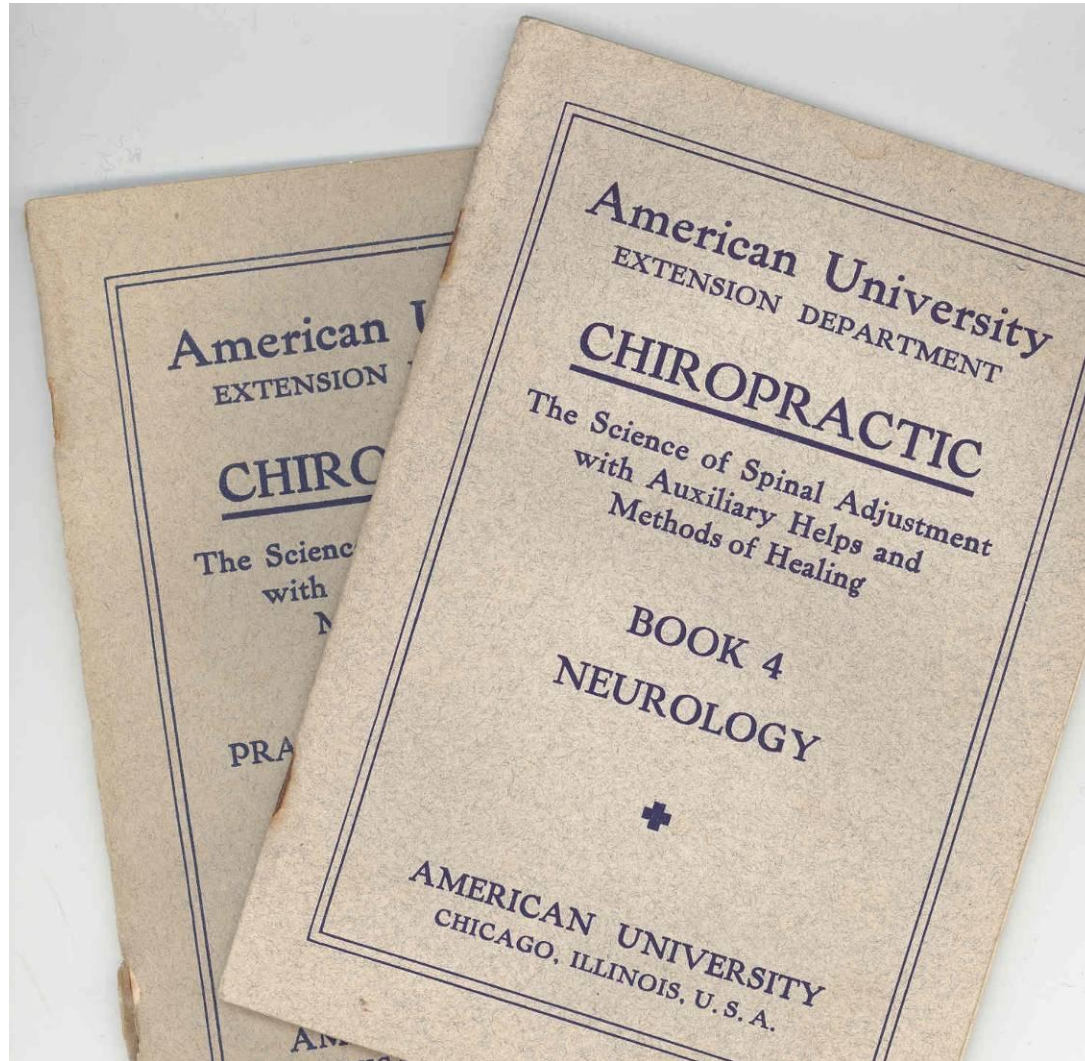




# African-American at PSC Lyceum, 1928?

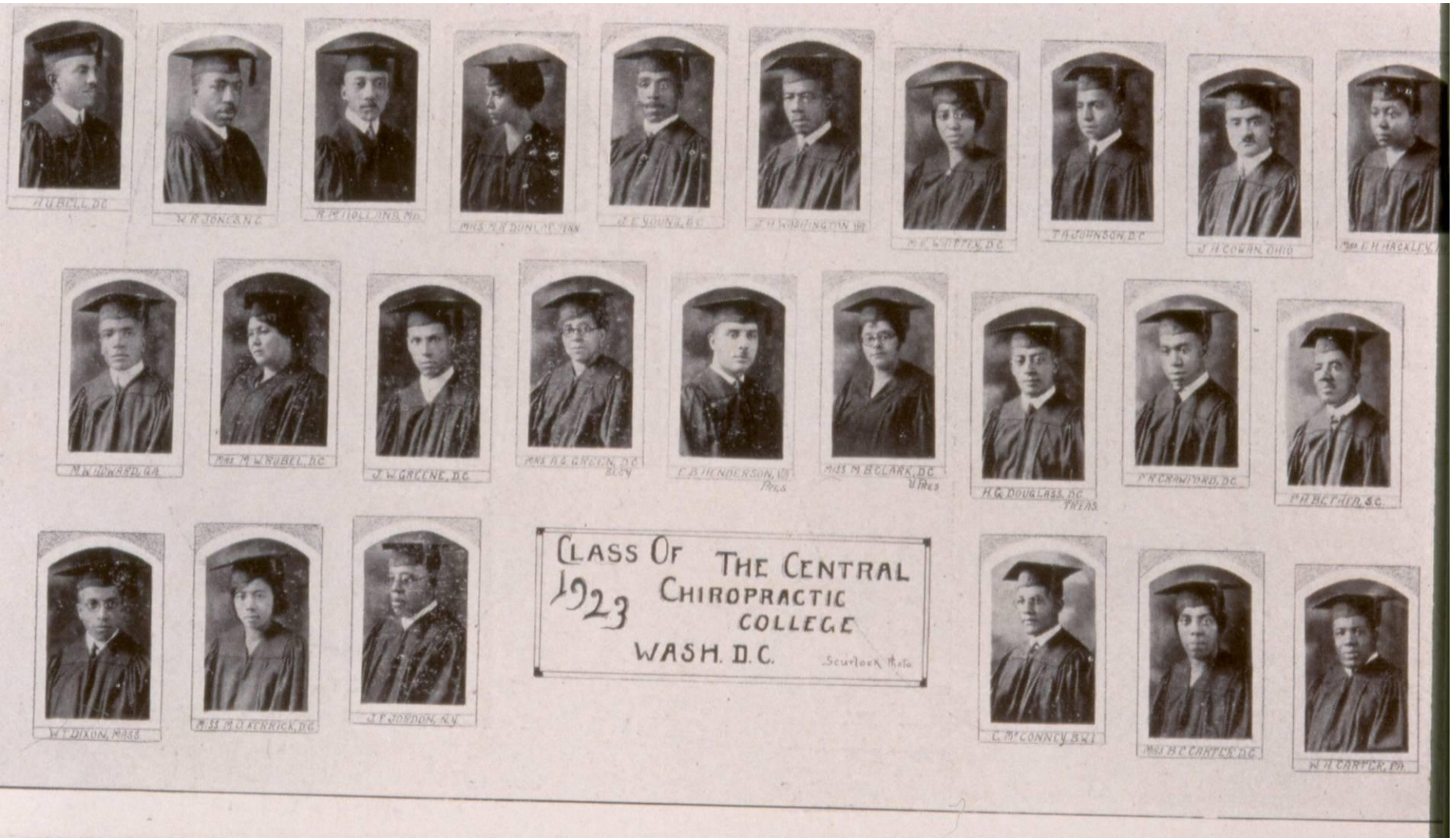


# Bulletin of the American University, a Correspondence College





# Central Chiiropractic College, 1923

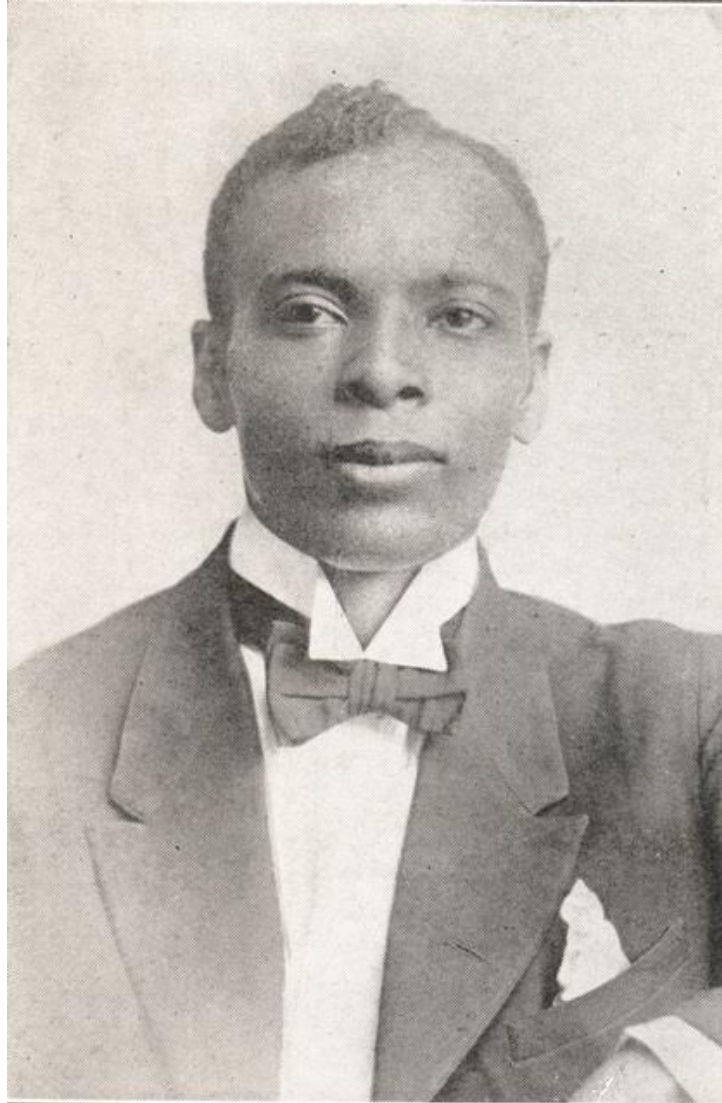


# Exterior, Rubel Chiropractic College





# Faculty Member, Julien Dawson of Rubel College

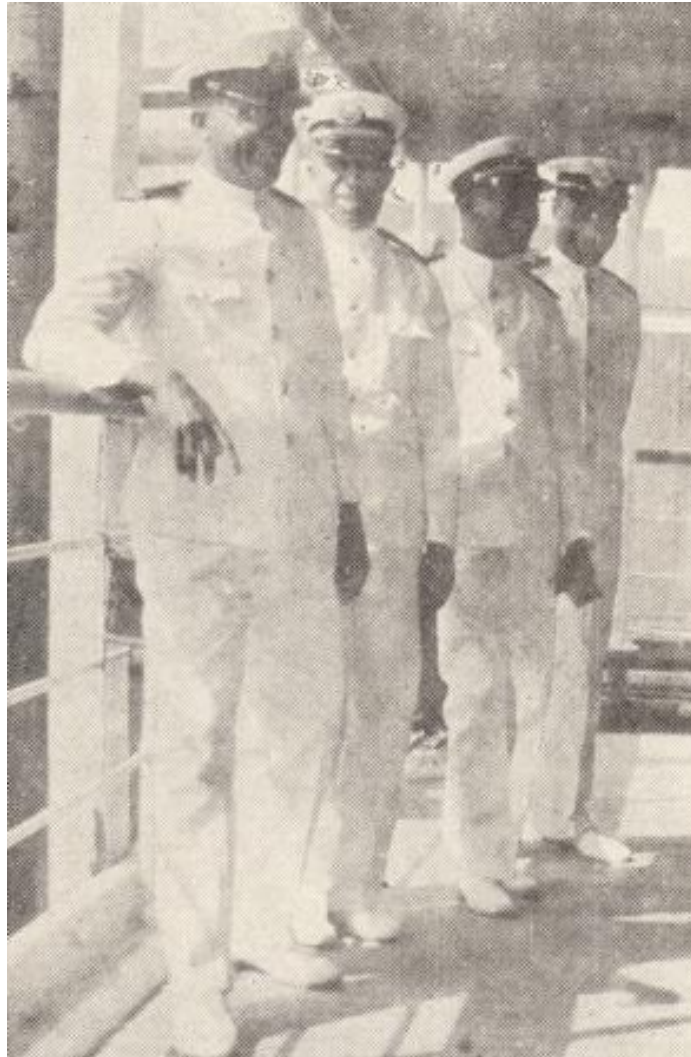


# A.A. Cole (left), John Usher (right) Organizing members of the Interstate Chiropractic Association

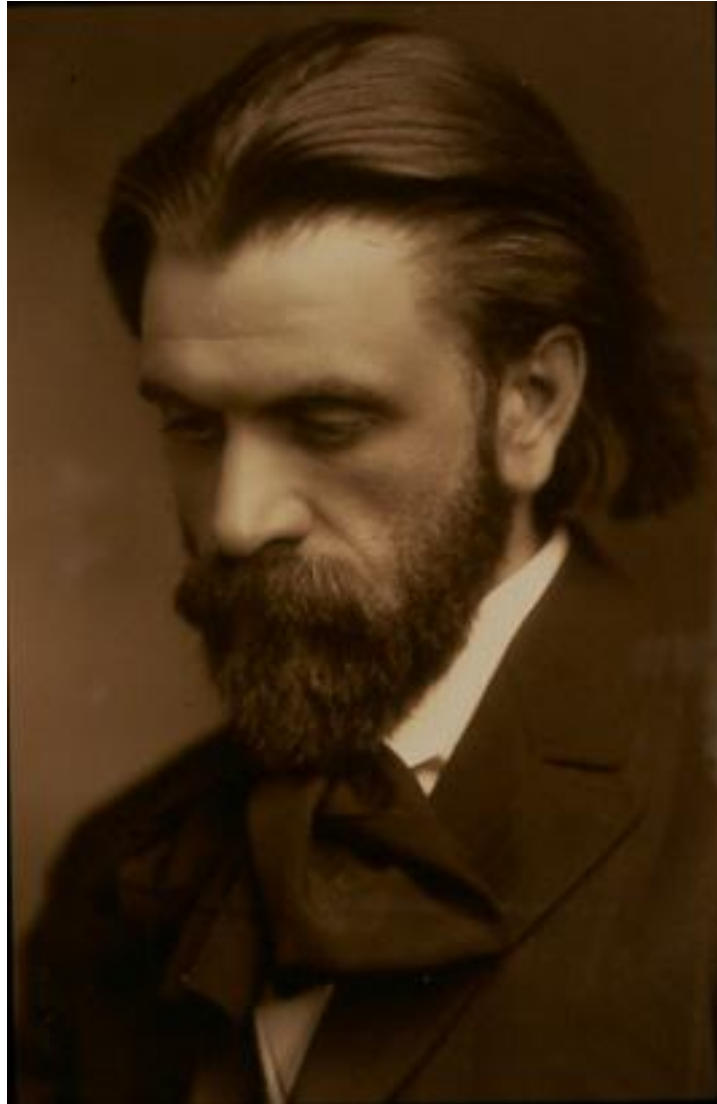




# R.C. Hunt, Arthur Cole, Leslie Jones, and C.A. Griffith, 1938

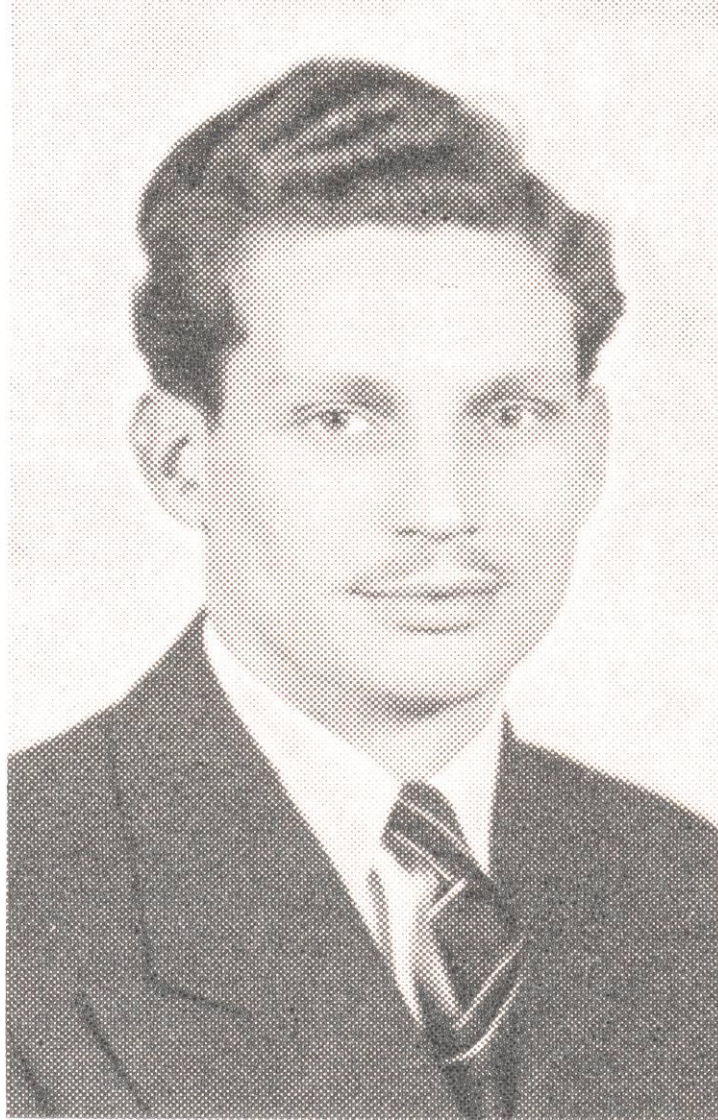


# B.J. Palmer, President of the PSC 1906-1961.





# Clarence Reaver



Leaver School, as featured  
in Ebony Magazine



Art of adjusting is demonstrated on a road roller by youthful Clarence F. Reiser, foreman and founder of the Reiser School. Students are also shown in action.

## SCHOOL FOR CHIROPRACTORS

**WHILE** many of the patients who pay more than \$500,000 a year to the 30,000 chiropractors in the U. S. are Negroes, few colored men and women have been able to enter this large and lucrative medical profession. But this year 15 students, including one Southern white, have gathered in the onetime Stutz mansion of Dayton, Ohio, to break the town's near-white educational pattern and to learn how to cure man's ills by hand-manipulation (or "adjusting") of the spinal column.

The Beaver School of Chiropractic, the first ever to open its classes without a racial quota, was set up a year ago on a high, grassy hill overlooking west Dayton. Immediately a horde of "sticks and stones" were mailed and waved to its youthful president, Clarence E. Reaver, from other chiropractors.

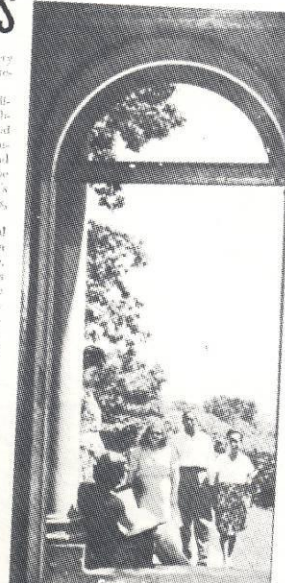
Already booed by doctors as "one of those quack chiropractors" and equally damned by pharmacists, who believe drugless healing hodes their profession no good, Weaver met

still more opposition from the Montgomery County Chiropractic Association, which relieved him of his duties as an officer.

Understand, however, and his board of directors (ex-NAMP director, plumber, chicken-woman, ex-ambulance nurse) plan to expand the red brick mansion into the largest institution of its kind in the world. A TB wing and a mental sanatorium will be erected on the school's 25 acres, in accordance with Reuser's belief, despite outraged dissent from the MEs, that tuberculosis can cure these diseases.

No doubt, even to the cause of equal opportunity, the young president practiced on Daytons crowded (\$1000) Negro west side, wondered why more Negroes and whites couldn't be trained to cut the high disease rate he found there. One ex-patient was so impressed with drugless medicine that she decided to study it. The Heaver School was established after she found that no existing schools were free of racial quotas.

Outdoor classes on grassy 25-acre grounds are students' favorites, afford fine view of Dayton's business section.





# The Reaver School of Chiropractic Dayton, Ohio 1945-1951



Art of adjusting is demonstrated on a chief volunteer by youthful Clarence E. Beaver, president and founder of the Beaver School. School's entrance (below) is a meeting place for students and patients. House and grounds were constituted a private estate.

# International College of Chiropractic, Dayton, OH 1948-1955

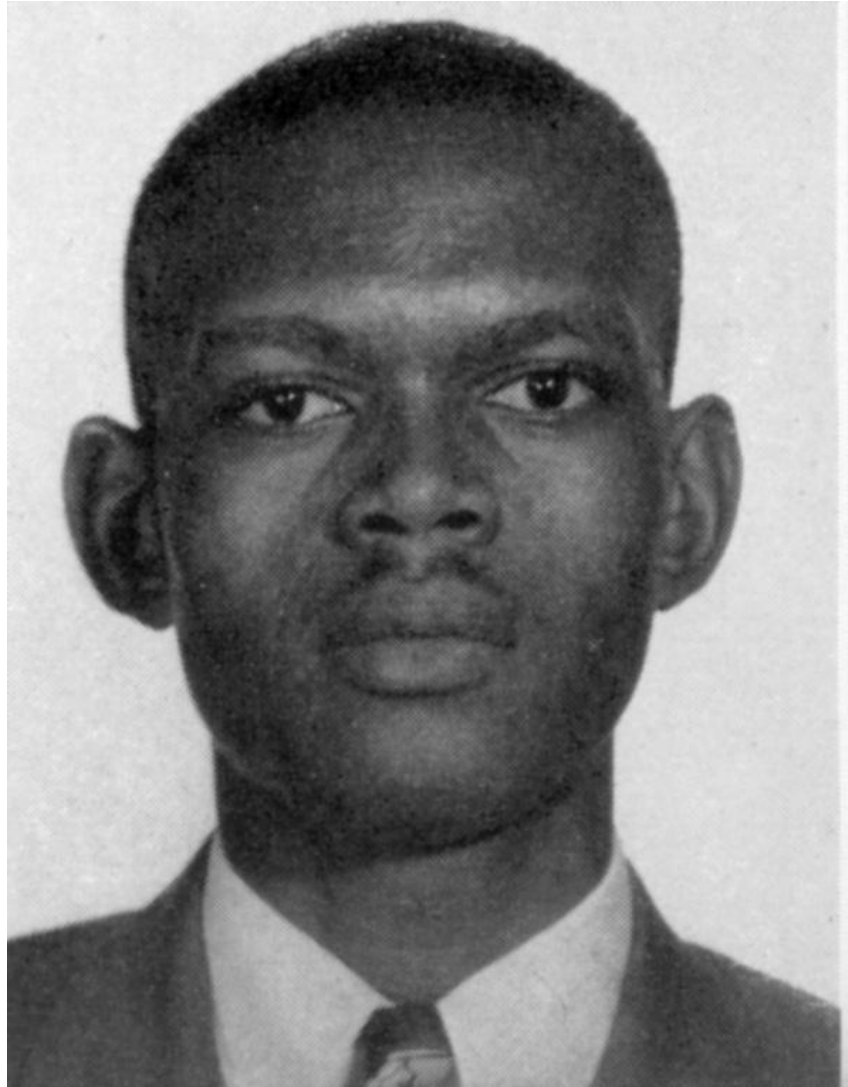




# Faculty of International College, 1949

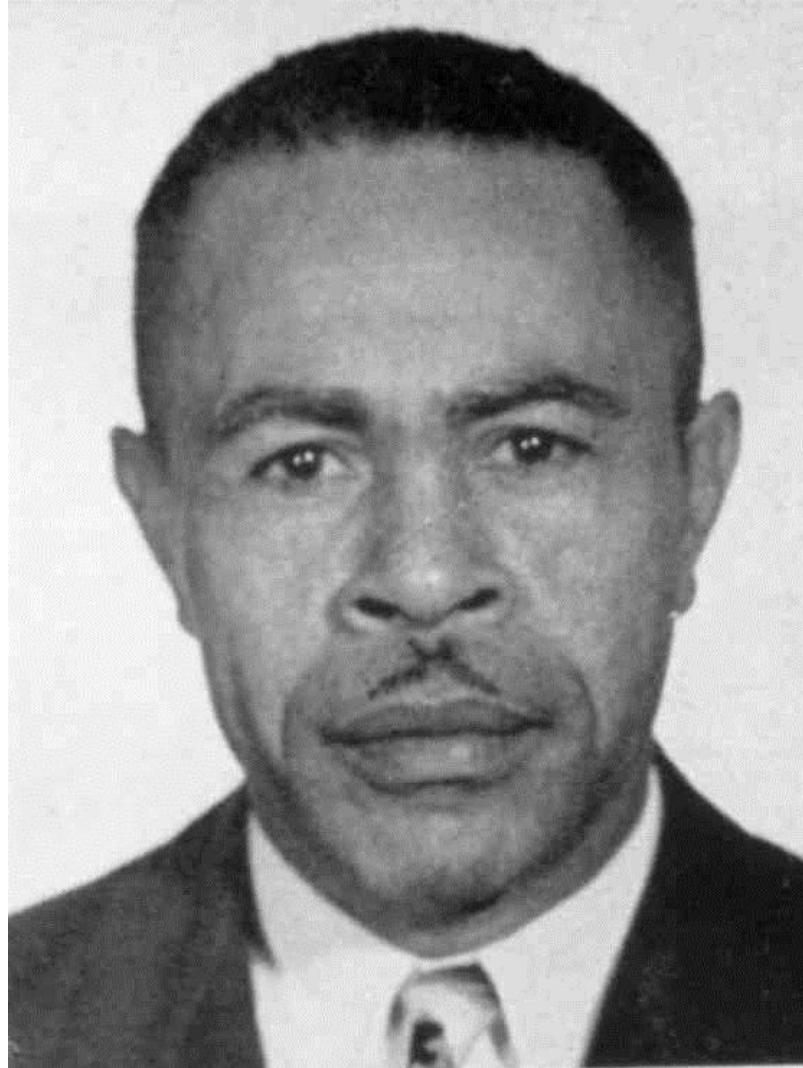


# Ossie Johnson, a 1950 graduate of Missouri Chiropractic College

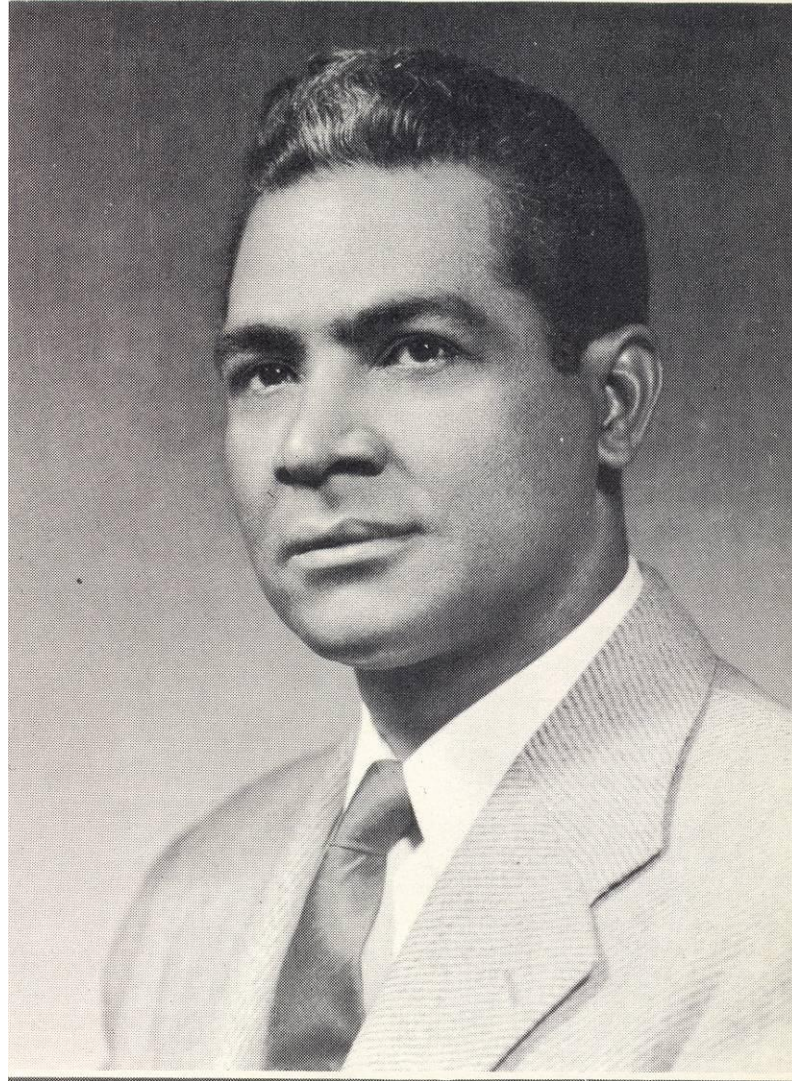




# Walton Russ, First African-American to be licensed in Arkansas - 1954



# Stanley Dale, PSC, 1956





# Study group in the PSC library

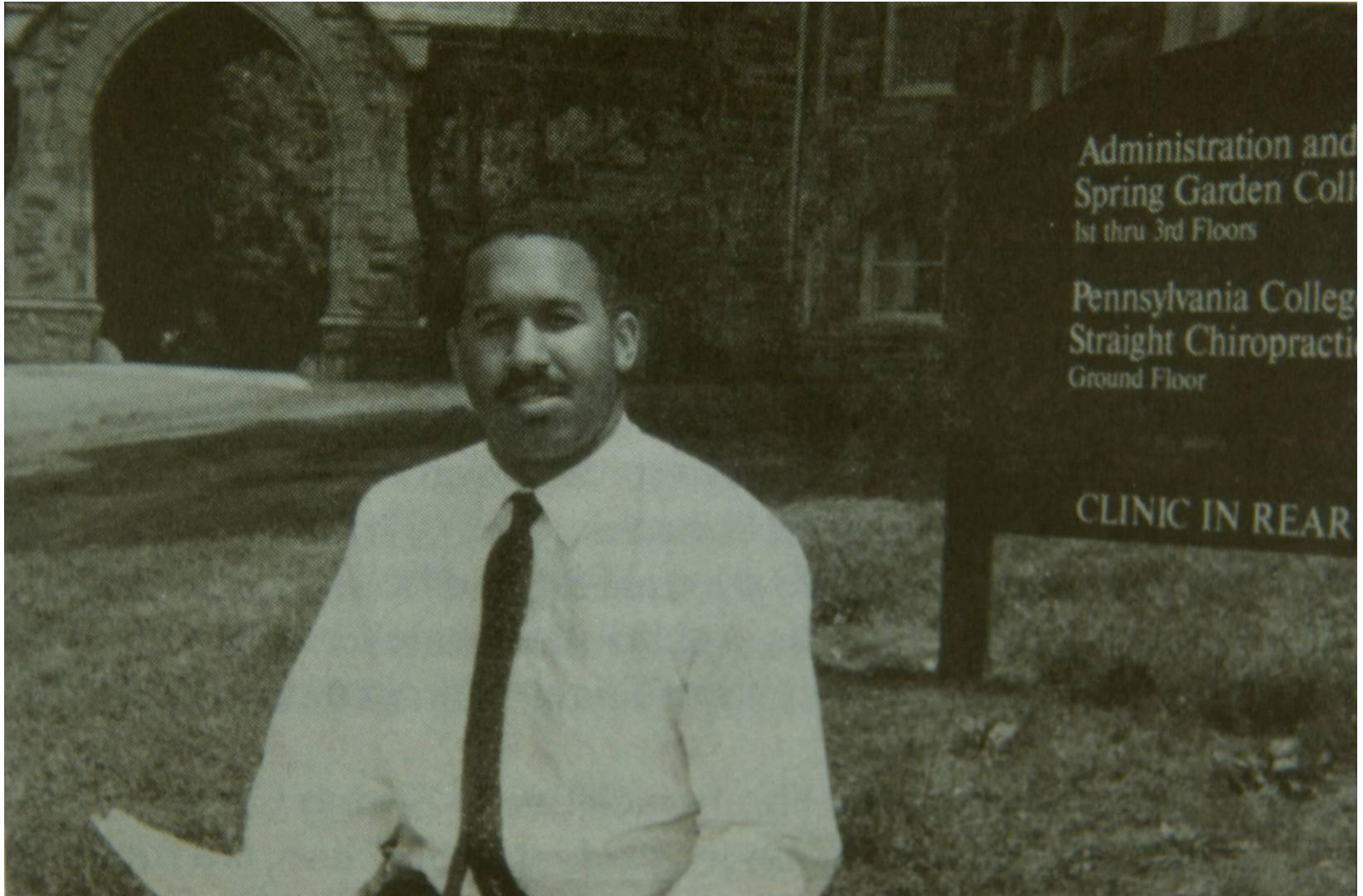


# Milous Reese, Alabama Chiropractor of the Year, 1979





# Ad For Pennsylvania College of Straight Chiropractic, 1980s.



# Bobby Westbrook, D.C.



- **Helped form the American Black Chiropractor's Association**
- **Wrote the seminal article on African-Americans in Chiropractic**



# ABCA's Third Annual Convention. Pasadena, Texas



ACA President Kenneth Luedte, SABCA President Gloria Niles, and ABCA Vice-President Herman Glass II, at the 1988 annual convention in Chicago.





# ABCA Officers at a symposium addressing minorities in chiropractic on the Palmer campus. 1990.



Willard Smith, D.C., President of the  
California Chiropractic Association in 1990.

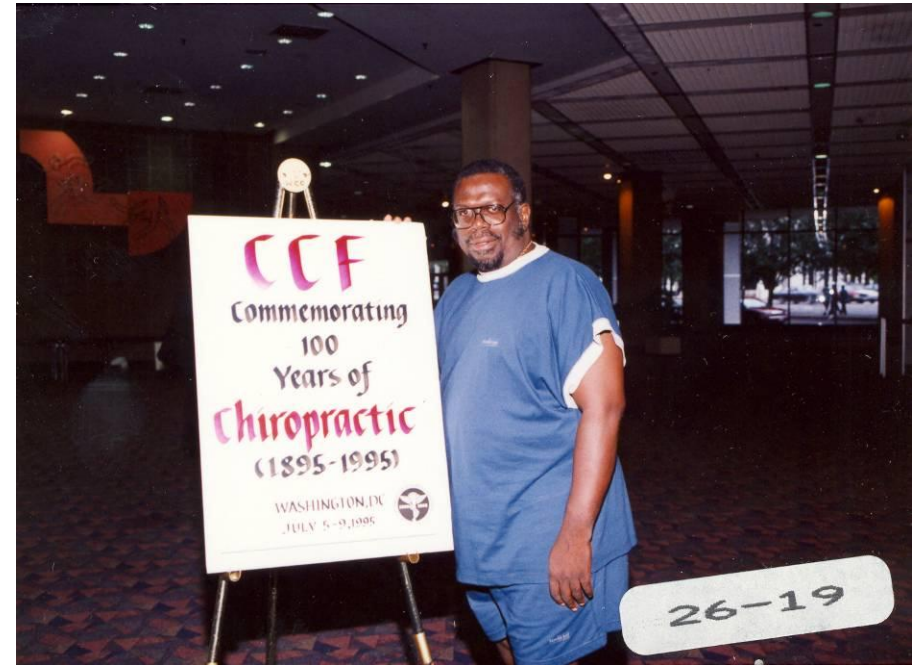




# Panel on African-Americans in Chiropractic, Chiropractic Centennial Celebration, Washington D.C., July 1995



# Celebrating 100 Years of Chiropractic





# American Black Chiropractic Association Makes Splash in Jamaica



## Jamaican Chiropractic Association Launched

The American Black Chiropractic Association (ABCA) held its 15th annual national convention Aug. 14-18 in Jamaica, that verdant isle in the West Indies that rises out of the Caribbean Sea some 90 miles of blue water south of Cuba.



*Members of the American Black Chiropractic*

# President of Sherman College



July 01, 2001 through July 2005



# Recruitment = Secret Weapon



Mr. Mackel Harris

# ABCA Joins the Chiro Summit



[www.ChiroSummit.org](http://www.ChiroSummit.org)



# New Web Site



# ABCA

AMERICAN BLACK  
CHIROPRACTIC  
ASSOCIATION



HOME ABOUT ABCA ABOUT CHIROPRACTIC PATIENTS DOCTORS STUDENTS EVENTS & EDUCATION CONTACT US



2014 ABCA National Convention in New Orleans, LA!

[www.ABCAchiro.com](http://www.ABCAchiro.com)

# Current ABCA Board





# 2014 Convention



# **Mission Statement**

**Integrating and improving  
outcomes for  
persons of color  
entering the profession of  
Doctor of Chiropractic.**



# Constitution Purpose:

- To recruit, encourage and support black persons to study chiropractic.
- To encourage camaraderie and leadership amongst black chiropractic doctors, instructors, technicians and students.
- To assist chiropractic colleges in recruiting qualified black students and faculty members.
- To teach and perform research in chiropractic.
- To facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experience, and research among doctors of chiropractic
- To help advance the science, philosophy, and art of chiropractic, and to improve the standards in chiropractic professional knowledge.
- To donate time and services to neighborhood health clinics.
- To perform community education.
- To establish the Harvey Lillard scholarship fund for members of the Student American Black Chiropractic Association

# What % of the Population

What % currently get adjusted

What % should

What % are minority

What % are minority doctors



# Diversity & Growth

The Schools  
&  
The Profession

Needs Minorities to get involved  
We Need “Everyone” to get involved

# ARE YOU A MINORITY

Are you a minority in the field of healthcare?

Have your “Professional” Civil Rights been violated?

As societies conscious changes so do laws.  
Discrimination of Minorities is no-longer acceptable.



# Sec. 2706

**The ACA nondiscrimination provision states:**

***“A group health plan and a health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage shall not discriminate with respect to participation under the plan or coverage against any health care provider who is acting within the scope of that provider’s license or certification under applicable State law.”***

# We have more in Common

History is written everyday.

What will Chiropractic look like in the next  
100 years.

“The History of Chiropractic!”

By YOU

# THANK YOU

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