

The Indiana Veterinary College (1892-1924): Its Background and Contributions to Veterinary Medicine

Howard H. Erickson

The Indiana Veterinary College was established in Indianapolis and chartered by the State of Indiana on December 24, 1892 by Dr. Louis A. Greiner.¹ “A band of devoted veterinary and [sic] medical practitioners of Indianapolis, Ind. had met to discuss the establishment of an institution for the teaching of veterinary science....these men of courage, these pioneers of American veterinary education decided that they would organize a veterinary faculty and do their share to improve [“the most deplorable”] conditions which were doing so much to retard successful stock raising and agriculture.”² The Indiana Veterinary College would become one of the most distinguished educational institutions of its nature in the United States for over 30 years.³

In the tabulated history of the veterinary colleges of North America compiled by Dr. J. P. Foster,⁴ the Indiana Veterinary College was listed as being established in 1892 with a first class of three graduates in 1893. By the time the school closed in 1924, Foster accounted for a total of 884 graduates while a later table shows 902 graduates.⁵ The school “was the main source of veterinarians in Indiana during that period.”⁶ Its graduates became eligible for membership in the American Veterinary Medical Association and were recognized by the Bureau of Animal Industry of the United States.^{7,8,9}

Locations and Buildings

During its three decades of existence, the Indiana Veterinary College occupied five facilities in three locations. A room was first rented in the Cyclorama building when lectures started in the year 1893.¹⁰ Located just east of the Indiana Statehouse, the large, domed Cyclorama building was built in 1888 with the sole purpose of housing a single mural depicting the Civil War Battle of Atlanta. Lame or diseased animals were treated free of charge at the Indiana Veterinary College at 18 Cyclorama Place on Tuesday and Friday from 1 to 3 p.m.¹¹ At that time, Erastus L. Booth, M.D. was President and Dean Ferd A. Mueller was Corresponding Secretary.¹²

In 1895, construction was underway¹³ for a new building leading to the 1897 *Indianapolis City Directory* placing the Indiana Veterinary College at 18-24 South East Street with Louis A. Greiner, V.S., as Secretary.¹⁴ The College’s first building of its own (Fig. 1) was centrally located near all street-car lines, and had been specially constructed to meet the requirements of the faculty and students.^{15,16} This three-story brick structure situat-

ed on the corner of East and Pearl Streets was also convenient to the city center.

The College’s *1899-1900 Announcement*¹⁷ indicated that lecture and dissecting rooms were amply large, well-lighted and ventilated, and furnished with modern appliances on the third floor. The infirmary occupied the entire second floor where students received practical training. Laboratories, operating rooms, and private offices were located on the ground floor.

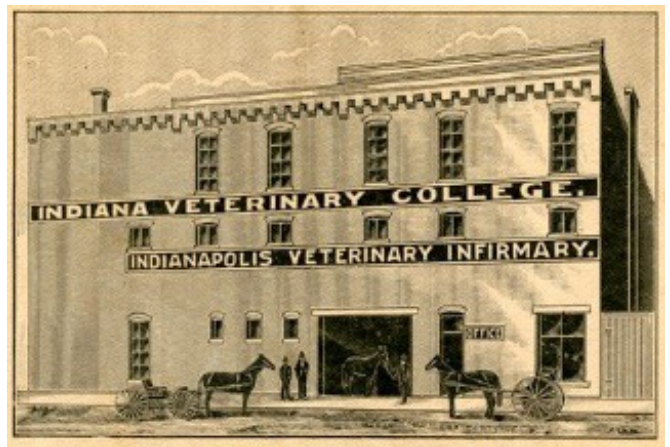


Figure 1. Indiana Veterinary College and Infirmary at 18-24 South East Street. From: *Eighth Annual Announcement of the Indiana Veterinary College, Session 1899-1900*; back cover. Image courtesy C. Trenton Boyd

As noted in the *1902-03 Announcement*,¹⁸ the College had relocated by the 1903-04 fall session into a “commodious” new one-story building at 810-814 East Market Street, between Davidson and Pine. “Especially designed after the most approved plans for the scientific teaching of veterinary medicine, [the structure] is now completed, and we can say with pardonable pride that it is one of the most thoroughly equipped institutions of its kind in America.”¹⁹

As of the 1907-08 year, an adjacent two-story college building had been constructed on the corner of Davidson and Market Streets consisting of lecture rooms, laboratories, clinic and dissecting rooms. It was “connected with the infirmary for the study and treatment of selected cases before the classes” and gave the College an address of 804-806-808-810-814 Market

Street.²⁰ It was said, “The school is recognized as at the head of the schools not endowed and unassociated with universities and receiving state aid.”²¹

In its early development, the College was materially assisted by Dr. Ferdinand A. “Ferd” Mueller who served as its Secretary and Treasurer. Under his financial direction, an addition to the College’s existing two-story building that had been erected two years earlier was completed in 1909 at a cost of \$20,000. On the corner of East Market and North Davidson Streets, the College now occupied an entire quarter city block.^{22,23,24}

In the 1909-10 *Announcement* the reason for the second expansion was stated as, “having completed the seventeenth year of our school we find that the growth thereof has been much greater than we anticipated. When two years ago we put quite an addition to our school we did so with the expectation that we would have ample room for several years to come, but today we find that such is not the case, as the increased number of students has outgrown our capacity, therefore we have found it necessary to put on a larger addition by which we have greatly increased our Hospital, also our Laboratories, have added another classroom, and other improvements which when completed will put us on an equal if not superior to any school in the country.”²⁵

In that 1909 addition to the two-story building was “our new operating room [that] has a semi-circular amphitheater with a seating capacity of 140; the operating table is placed in the pit so that all have a good view of the operations going on. Our smaller clinic room is equipped with all modern improvements such as Stocks, Bath Tubs, etc., the whole being covered by a Prism Glass Skylight thus affording an abundance of light. Our ward for smaller animals is located on the rear of the second floor. It is well lighted, ventilated and fitted with steel cages and cement floor. Our laboratories have been equipped with all modern improvements, including high-grade microscopes and a stereopticon lantern, together with a curtain 12x15 feet, upon which objects are shown greatly enlarged and thoroughly demonstrated.”²⁶

As the result of the latest construction (Fig. 2), the Indiana Veterinary College offered:²⁷ Lecture Rooms for each class, a Chemical Laboratory, a Zoological and Physiological Laboratory, a Histological and Pathological Laboratory, the Clinic and Operating Room. The Hospital consisted of two parts with the Equine Hospital on the first floor. On the second floor were the Cat and Dog Infirmaries “furnished with modern hygienic cages and operating tables” in conjunction with a “sunny roof-garden for convalescing patients.”²⁸

According to the *Centennial History and Handbook of Indiana* in 1915, “the college maintained one of the finest hospitals for the treatment of animals in the country, which was one of the most important adjuncts to the college building.”²⁹



Figure 2. Photo of the completed Indiana Veterinary College at East Market Street, Corner of North Davidson Street, Indianapolis, Indiana as seen in 1910. Source: *Catalogue of the Indiana Veterinary College, Session 1910-1911*. Image courtesy C. Trenton Boyd

Louis A. Greiner, Founder

The Indiana Veterinary College was founded by Louis A. Greiner, V.S., (1854-1916) (Fig. 3), a distinguished representative of the veterinary profession. His family had been prominently associated with the field for five generations. Dr. Greiner was recognized as one of the leading exponents of veterinary science in the state of Indiana as the senior member of the firm of L. A. Greiner & Son, proprietors of the finely-equipped Indianapolis Veterinary Infirmary, located at 14-16 South Alabama Street, and also as one of the founders of the Indiana Veterinary College, which he conducted for a period of nine years.³⁰



Figure 3. Louis A. Greiner, V.S. seen in a photo excerpted from the 1915 graduating class composite appearing in the 1915-16 Terre Haute Veterinary College Announcement.

Source: Stockton, Jack J., ed. *A Century of Service: Veterinary Medicine in Indiana 1884-1984*. Indianapolis: Indiana Veterinary Medical Association, 1984; p. 125.

Louis Adolph Greiner was a native of the German province of Alsace-Lorraine, which was wrested from France during the Franco-Prussian War and was still a French province at the time of his birth on December 7, 1854. He was the son of Dr. L. A. Greiner, who was also born in Alsace-Lorraine in 1831. In 1866, Dr. L. A. Greiner immigrated with his family to the United States and worked as a veterinary surgeon in the City of Buffalo, New York. In 1879, the family relocated to Indianapolis, where Dr. L.A. Greiner established a prominent and successful veterinary practice. He and his wife died in 1889 and 1907 respectively. The father had begun his study in 1846 and graduated from Ecole de Alfort Veterinary College in 1851 in the City of Paris. For many years, he was an assistant to his brother, Dr. William Greiner, who was the official veterinary surgeon for the Strassburg district of Alsace-Lorraine, and in 1862, had received a medal of honor from the Emperor, Napoleon III. Dr. Henry Herman Greiner, paternal grandfather of Dr. Louis A. Greiner, served as veterinarian in the army of the great Napoleon, following him in his campaigns and was with him at Moscow and Waterloo.³¹

Dr. Louis A. Greiner secured his rudimentary education in his native land and was a lad of twelve years when the family immigrated to America. He was reared to maturity in the City of Buffalo, went to public schools, and also attended a German Lutheran Seminary. He began the study of veterinary science under the preceptorship of his father, Dr. L.A. Greiner, gaining thorough and practical instruction, and engaging in practice prior to attaining the age of twenty years. Louis then entered the Philadelphia Veterinary College and completed the prescribed course to prepare himself for the work of his profession. After leaving the Philadelphia Veterinary College in 1876, Louis practiced in the City of Buffalo before moving to Indianapolis in 1881 and joining his father, who had taken up residence there two years earlier.

After arriving in Indiana, Dr. Louis A. Greiner opened the Indianapolis Veterinary Infirmary (Fig. 4) in 1883 and became the acknowledged leader in his profession in Indianapolis. Impaired health and the exacting demands of his own professional work finally compelled Dr. Greiner to retire from the educational establishment which he founded. "Associated with Dr. Greiner in his extensive business were his son, Dr. Joseph M. Greiner, two assistants and several laborers. [In addition to his Infirmary,] Dr. Greiner was the city veterinarian of Indianapolis for a number of years and was incumbent of that position in 1910. He did all the veterinary work for the Consumers' Ice Company, Sterling R. Holt Ice & Cold Storage Company, the Sterling R. Holt stock farm at Maywood, the Indianapolis Street Railway Company, the Standard Oil Company and other large and important concerns. He also operated the Indiana School for Farriers, designed to teach, in the most practical manner, scientific shoeing for horses, — particularly driving and racing animals."³²

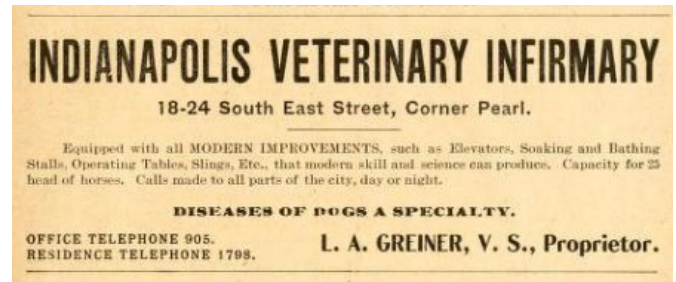


Figure 4. Advertisement for the Indianapolis Veterinary Infirmary. From: *R.L. Polk & Co. Indianapolis City Directory for 1897*. [Indianapolis]: R.L. Polk & Co., 1897; p. 487. <https://archive.org/details/indianapolisindi1897polk>

In addition to being one of the founders of the Indiana Veterinary College, he established a second private veterinary school in Indiana, the Terre Haute Veterinary College, in 1909, and was its professor of cattle pathology, lameness and shoeing.³³ At the time of his death, Dr. Greiner was vice-president and principal stockholder. The Terre Haute Veterinary School closed its doors in 1918 having graduated 145 students in its short nine years of existence.³⁴

Dr. Louis A. Greiner died on March 3, 1916 and was buried in Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis.³⁵ An obituary³⁶ notes that he was one of the oldest practicing veterinarians in Marion County and also studied veterinary medicine in Pennsylvania, but received his V.S. degree from the Indiana Veterinary College at its fourth annual commencement in 1895.³⁷ His two sons also became veterinarians, Dr. Joseph M. "Joe" Greiner (1877?-1952) of Indianapolis who was in private practice as well as involved with the IVC as House Surgeon and Lecturer in Anatomy and Dr. Adolph Greiner [Louis A. Greiner, Jr.] (1885-1945) who was employed as an inspector for the U.S. Bureau of Animal Industry in Detroit, Michigan. They graduated from the Indiana Veterinary College in 1899 and 1908 respectively.³⁸

Some Faculty and Officers of the College

The Indiana Veterinary College had some of the best medical and veterinary men in Indianapolis and surrounding towns as instructors. By and large, Stockton notes that the teachers were not "mere theorists dependent on textbooks and professional publications. The professors were thoroughly trained academically, but they all had large practices of their own."³⁹ They were active in the profession by giving talks, writing in journals, and contributing to the Indiana Veterinary Medical Association and American Veterinary Medical Association. In describing their "strong, harmonious faculty" in 1907-08,⁴⁰ among the prominent professors and officers were:

Ferdinand A. Mueller was a life-long resident of Indianapolis, Indiana (Fig. 5). He was a charter member and a graduate of the Indiana Veterinary College, class of 1896, and was an instructor and secretary-treasurer of the institution for thirty years. He was also secretary of the Indianapolis College of Pharmacy and a leading druggist of Indianapolis. Besides be-

ing president and treasurer of the Ferd A. Mueller Drug Co., he was identified with a large number of other business interests in Indianapolis. Dr. Mueller was a thirty-second degree Mason and a Shriner.

Dr. Mueller was a man of philanthropic ideals, devoted much of his time to charity, was a charter member of Allenheim of Indianapolis, a home for aged men and women, and served as president of the organization from its beginning up to the time of his death. He was also an active director of the General Protestant Orphan Society of Indianapolis for more than thirty years and once served as president. He died very suddenly on September 13, 1923. He was survived by his son Dr. Ferdinand A. Mueller, Jr., who was elected secretary-treasurer of the Indiana Veterinary College, May 1, 1923, at the request of his father.⁴¹



Figure 5. Ferdinand A. Mueller, Ph.G., V.S., Secretary-Treasurer, Indiana Veterinary College. From: Composite photo of the Class of 1912, Indiana Veterinary College.

William B. Craig came to the United States when he was 13 years old.⁴² He earned his V.S. degree from the Ontario Veterinary College, Toronto, Canada, in 1889 and his M.D. degree from the Indiana Medical College in 1893. He became the dean (Fig. 6) of the Indiana Veterinary College in 1904.^{43,44} Dr. Craig was President of the Indiana State Veterinary Association in 1906.⁴⁵ He was named Assistant State Veterinarian of Indiana in 1921.⁴⁶ The *Proceedings of the AVMA* in 1922⁴⁷ noted that W. B. Craig, 216 N. Meridian Avenue, Indianapolis was the Resident Secretary for 1921-1922 for Indiana. Dr. Craig died at age 69 on February 16, 1938 in an Indianapolis hospital after having been ill since November of 1937. The obituary noted in addition to being the former dean of the Indiana Veterinary College, he was also secretary-treasurer of the Indiana Veterinary Medical Association.⁴⁸ The obituary⁴⁹ in the *Pharos Tribune*, Logansport, Indiana, noted that Craig was widely known over the country in his field and for many years lectured at short courses at Purdue University.



Figure 6. William B. Craig, V.S., M.D., Dean, Indiana Veterinary College. From: Composite photo of the Class of 1912, Indiana Veterinary College.

George H. Roberts (Fig. 7), prominent in the professional circles of Indianapolis, was born in Alabama, Genesee County, New York, November 1, 1864, moving to Orleans County of the same state in 1865. From public schools, Roberts went to Medina Academy, then to Genesee Wesleyan College, and the New York Veterinary College in New York City, graduating with the class of 1888 from the latter institution. After a course in the laboratory of Bellevue College he began practicing at Albion in Orleans County, New York, and from there came to Indianapolis in 1890 and was elected to the faculty of the Indiana Veterinary College in 1892. During the year 1892, he was professor of physiology, in 1893 he was professor of anatomy, and since 1894 filled the Chair of Comparative Medicine. In 1902, Roberts was elected dean of the faculty and in 1904 the president of the Board of Trustees of the Indiana Veterinary College.

Dr. Roberts served as Assistant State Veterinarian for 12 years from 1901 to 1913, serving in both a Democratic and Republican administration. He was also the City Veterinarian, appointed first in 1901 and reappointed in 1905 to serve for four more years. In 1910, Roberts was elected president of the Indiana State Veterinary Association and in 1913 he was elected vice-president of the American Veterinary Medical Association. He was the author of *Roberts' Examination of Horses for Soundness* and of a number of bulletins on live-stock sanitation which were accepted as authoritative by practically all the States in the Union. He also wrote numerous papers on comparative medicine that were of great value to both physicians and veterinarians. Dr. Roberts was also the scientific director of the Moreland Biological Farm.^{50,51}



Figure 7. George H. Roberts, V.S., President, Board of Trustees, Indiana Veterinary College. From: Composite photo of the Class of 1912, Indiana Veterinary College.



Figure 8. Joseph W. Klotz, V.S., Vice-President, Indiana Veterinary College. From: Composite photo of the Class of 1912, Indiana Veterinary College.

Joseph W. Klotz (Fig. 8) was a veterinary surgeon of Noblesville, Indiana.⁵² He was born on a farm in White River Township, Hamilton County, Indiana, on April 9, 1868. Klotz was reared on the family farm and given a good common school education. He also attended a German school in Arcadia for three years. Upon reaching the age of twenty-one he became a student at the Ontario Veterinary College, Toronto, Canada. Following graduation in 1891, Klotz practiced for a time in the immediate area of his home and in the fall of 1893 located in Noblesville. He helped organize the Indiana Veterinary College and was an active member, delivering lectures on surgery and obstetrics three days each week during the college year.

Dr. Klotz was vice-president and later president of the Indiana Veterinary College. In addition, he maintained a very large practice which took him to all parts of the state, as well as into surrounding states. Dr. Klotz was a member of the Indiana State Veterinary Association since its founding, served as president for two terms, and treasurer for 10 years. He was a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association since 1894. Dr. Klotz was appointed by the United States Government as inspector of all cattle and horses exported into Canada. His son, Joseph Lee Klotz (1893-1971) first graduated from the Indiana Veterinary College in 1915, then received a D.V.M. from Cornell University in 1916. He practiced with his father in Noblesville, Indiana.⁵³ Dr. Joseph W. Klotz died of apoplexy on December 19, 1922.⁵⁴ At the time of his death he was president of the Indiana Veterinary College. In addition to his administrative duties, he also taught surgery and obstetrics in the College. Others recalled him as “an obliging, kind hearted, and exceptionally capable colleague, who was always willing to pass his accomplishments on to others.”⁵⁵

Length of Course of Study

The length of the course of study at the Indiana Veterinary College underwent several changes over the years as veterinary education evolved in America. Some months after the school was chartered, the Indiana Association of Veterinary Graduates received a report at their semi-annual meeting in August, 1893 from the Committee on the Indiana Veterinary College.⁵⁶ After reviewing the school’s prospectus “calling for three sessions of thirteen weeks each, and allowing for an empiric to become qualified in one session at the said institution,” Drs. Stull, Rodgers, and Hoover presented a resolution denouncing the school and its graduates deeming it “an unfit institute for obtaining a veterinary education.” When organized in 1889 with 25 of the state’s 35 members as graduate veterinarians, the Indiana Association intended to raise qualifications for veterinarians and addressed the non-graduate controversy by excluding “charlatans [in order] to claim the undivided attention to true professional men.”⁵⁷

For a number of years after the school opened, its course of study extended over two sessions of six months each. This was despite revised membership specifications which became effective on January 1, 1893 (known as the “rule of 1893”) approved by the then United States Veterinary Medical Association (U.S.V.M.A.), which later became the American Veterinary Medical Association. Thereafter, new members were required to be graduates of schools with four or more veterinarians as instructors and a three year course of study, of at least six months each.^{58,59} In turn, these requirements of a 3-year curriculum and 4-person faculty were regarded as minimum requirements for schools to be recognized by the A.V.M.A., a forerunner of accreditation standards.

Discussions and changes were taking place in private schools across the country as they lengthened or considered future extension of their courses of study beyond two years. The Dean of the Indiana Veterinary College wrote that, “we trust shortly

to increase the term of study to three years.⁶⁰

In addition to new faculty assignments for the forthcoming 1897 year at the Indiana Veterinary College, it was reported that, “Much stress is laid on clinical instruction for the coming year. The college curriculum will be changed to a three-years’ course after the session of ‘97-’98.”⁶¹ While the College maintained an obligatory two-years’ course for several more years, students could attend an optional third year as of 1898.⁶²

Due to increasing requirements for AVMA membership and civil service employment with the U.S. Bureau of Animal Industry, the Indiana Veterinary College finally extended its course of study to a three years program beginning with the 1903-1904 session held from October through April.^{63,64,65}

Nearly ten years later, at a meeting of the representatives of “private schools” held at Terre Haute, Indiana on April 15, 1915, it was unanimously decided to institute a four-year course of study which would become mandatory for AVMA-approved schools beginning with the 1916-17 academic year.⁶⁶ Despite concerns about increased expense of time and money for students and burdens on the schools, this change was “absolutely **necessary** and **practical**” for Class A schools in order to satisfy demands by the Bureau of Animal Industry for qualified veterinarians and “provide continued uplifting of the entire veterinary profession.”⁶⁷ In addition to providing better preparation for graduates, faculty member Dr. A.S. Jaeger said another point not be forgotten is “the altruistic duty which those responsible for the educational preparation of veterinary practitioners, owe to the public”⁶⁸ in improving and keeping livestock healthy.

This action by the private schools was in line with trends in veterinary education toward a four year program. Several faculty, including Drs. Roberts, Klotz, and McLeay, attended the 52nd A.V.M.A. meeting at Oakland, California in August, 1915. They reported that in addition to the program at its usual standard of excellence and numerous clinics of great scientific value, among the most important work of the session was the unanimous indorsement of four-year veterinary college instruction, beginning 1916.^{69,70}

Degree Conferred

Initially, the Indiana Veterinary College awarded a V.S. degree until 1904.⁷¹ The school then joined the national trend toward a standardized degree by temporarily conferring the Latin V.M.D.⁷² from 1905 until about 1912. From then on, students were granted a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine or D.V.M. degree (Fig. 9) even though a few graduates listed themselves as D.V.M. rather than V.M.D. during that eight year interim period.

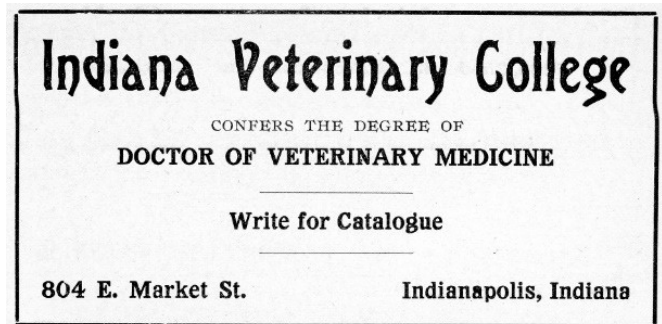


Figure 9. A 1917 ad for the Indiana Veterinary College from the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* in 1917. Source: *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*. 51: 15, 1917.

AVMA & USDA Recognition

As the veterinary medical educational system in the United States was becoming well established by the turn of the twentieth century, there was increasing effort to improve schools. At the 42nd AVMA meeting in Cleveland, Ohio in 1905, the Committee on Intelligence and Education took a leadership role and reported on the results of a 34-question survey sent by letter to investigate and obtain information about colleges and universities conferring veterinary degrees, many of which were private schools.⁷³ The response from the Indiana Veterinary College was submitted by its secretary, Dr. Ferdinand A. Mueller, as follows:

The 1905 survey report⁷⁴ indicated that the College’s faculty consisted of ten professors and seven lecturers of which five were veterinarians.

The curriculum in 1905 included ten major subjects, with the number of hours per week devoted to teaching each subject in parenthesis: *Chemistry and Toxicology* (6); *Theory and Practice of Equine Medicine* (5); *Materia Medica and Therapeutics* (6); *Surgery and Obstetrics* (12); *Physiology and Embryology* (6); *Pathology and Morbid Anatomy* (6); *Anatomy, Operative Surgery, and Dentistry* (15); *Histology and Bacteriology* (5); *Cattle Pathology, Meat, and Milk Inspection* (8); *Ophthalmology and Microscopy* (3); *Lameness and Shoeing* (2); *Canine Practice* (2); *Pharmacy and Chemistry* (3); *Helminthology* (2); *Veterinary Jurisprudence* (2); *Medical Clinics daily*.⁷⁵

“This school gave a three year graded course. Twenty hours a week were devoted to teaching the first year class, thirty-seven hours to the second year class, and thirty-eight hours to the third year class. Laboratory instruction in the first year was eight hours per week, in the second year it was ten hours, and in the third year it was ten hours. Clinical instruction was ten hours per week in the first year, twelve hours per week in the second year, and twelve hours per week in the third year.”

Sessions began on October 2nd and closed on March 30 each year. “The actual number of days devoted to teaching in the first year was 132 days, in the second year 132 days, and in the

third year 144 days. Eight hours per day was devoted to teaching. This institution gave a complete veterinary course and had 48 students in 1905, divided as follows, during the last session: first year, thirty-one; second year, twelve; third year, five.”

“Requirements to enter the Indiana Veterinary College in 1905 were “a common school education.” Requirements for graduation were: (1) “a good moral character, which must be manifest while in attendance, and having attained the age of twenty-one years;” (2) “having attended at least three full courses of lectures, the last of which must be in this college;” (3) “examinations will be written and oral, and each candidate for graduation must maintain an honorable standing in each department;” (4) applicant must present a receipt in full for all dues to the college.”

Being a private institution, it received no endowment from any public source other than tuition and stockholders. “The tuition was \$75.00 per session, and they conferred the degree of V.M.D. upon its graduates. In 1903 the course was changed from two to three years. No night or post-graduate course was given.”

The AVMA Committee’s work led to a national on-site inspection program in 1906. Out of 10 or 11 schools visited, the Indiana Veterinary College was among the six private schools included in this first-ever inspection.⁷⁵

At the 43rd AVMA meeting in 1906, the Committee endorsed some schools’ graduates for membership, but the Indiana Veterinary College was among six private schools considered ineligible “pending further investigation and report.”⁷⁶ The *Proceedings* of that meeting also included a report⁷⁷ from Professor A.W. Bitting who was head of the Veterinary Science Department at Purdue University and State Veterinarian. Having been selected to review the Indiana Veterinary College, Stockton indicated that Dr. Bitting’s “report was generally favorable...and stated that the report made by Dr. F.A. Mueller...the previous year, was correct with respect to curriculum and instructional staff. He also said that he believed the faculty members made a greater effort and did better work than was the case in many other colleges which had far better reputations. The work bearing directly on veterinary medicine was as good as or better than that given at most schools.”⁷⁸ Given that Dr. Bitting was “one of the leading food bacteriologists of his day,” his report indicated that students should do more work in the laboratory rather than by lecture or demonstration.

Two years later at the 45th Annual Meeting in 1908, the school appeared on the endorsed list as qualifying its graduates for AVMA membership for 1909.⁷⁹ In addition, the Indiana Veterinary College was one of four active private veterinary schools to receive Class A approval as the result of the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture committee’s visit to 18 schools in 1908^{80,81} qualifying graduates for Civil Service Commission examinations for work with the Bureau of Animal Industry as inspectors under the Meat Inspection Act of 1906.

Classes & Commencement Exercises

Each year, the Indiana Veterinary College held a formal commencement exercise for its graduating class. These typically included opening remarks by the president and short, appropriate comments by other faculty, at the conclusion of which V.S. and later D.V.M. degrees were conferred. Two classes provide examples worthy of note.

□ Class of 1897

The Indiana Veterinary College held its Sixth Annual Commencement Exercises⁸² on March 26, 1897 at the college building, 18-24 S. East Street. The exercises consisted of addresses by Dr. Louis A. Greiner, Secretary of the College, Dr. Thomas Gaddes, Dr. E. H. Pritchard, and Dr. F. A. Mueller, after which Dr. T. L. Armstrong awarded the diplomas to the following: Clarkson Gause, Carthage, Ind.; David Waugh, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Robert F. Harper, Indianapolis, Ind.

An alumni association was organized after the 1897 March commencement exercises. “The objectives of this Association were to promote and perpetuate the sentiments of general brotherhood among the graduates, to advance the interests and extend the influence of the Indiana Veterinary College and to encourage a high standard of veterinary education.”⁸³

Dr. Robert F. Harper (Fig.10) was one of three students graduating in 1897. He was the first African-American graduate of that private school, and possibly the second only black veterinary graduate in the United States. Henry Stockton Lewis graduated from Harvard University Veterinary Department in 1889 and Augustus Nathaniel Lushington from the University of Pennsylvania also in 1897, but probably later in the year.

An article in *The Freeman* noted, “Dr. Harper had the courage and daring to launch his sail upon ‘untried seas.’ At the time he entered upon his profession seventeen years ago, there were very few colored men in the United States who had entered a like career. While in receiving his diploma from the Indiana Veterinary College in 1897, he set a precedent in his own State, and set a high water mark for colored boys who shrink from entering the professions which had not been ‘tried and tested’ thoroughly for colored men.”⁸⁴

Dr. Harper was born in Snow Hill, North Carolina on June 15, 1875. He first moved to Crawfordsville, Indiana at age thirteen to live with his sister and brother-in-law where he finished public school before relocating to Indianapolis. Experiencing difficulty making enough money to pursue an education, he was not afraid working hard by waiting table during the day for a private family for board and room while attending night school. Deciding to study veterinary medicine, he took the examination to enter the Indiana Veterinary College, the first African-American to apply, and graduated with honors in 1897.

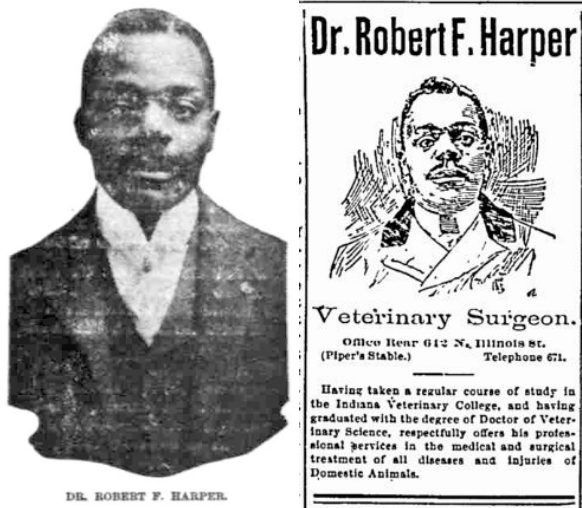


Figure 10. Photo accompanying an article in *The Broad Ax*, March 14, 1914. Source: *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

Figure 11. Example of a weekly advertisement for Dr. Harper's new practice. Source: *The Freeman: An Illustrated Colored Newspaper*. 9(36): 8, 1897 Sept 4.

After receiving his degree, Dr. Harper immediately placed weekly newspaper advertisements in *The Freeman* in which he “respectfully offers his professional services in the medical and surgical treatment of all diseases and injuries of Domestic Animals.”⁸⁵ (Fig. 11). He established a successful veterinary practice and owned his own hospital. Recognizing his ability, the city administration appointed him City Veterinary Surgeon with special work. At that time, he was the only black member of the Indiana Veterinary Medical Association and regularly attended annual meetings with a “cordial welcome.”⁸⁶ Dr. Harper attended the 1908 AVMA Meeting in Philadelphia as a guest.⁸⁷

In addition to veterinary medicine, Dr. Harper was active as an elder of his church and in the community. He was also ranked among the leading Odd Fellows in Indiana, was permanent secretary of the local lodge for many years, and elected an officer at state and national levels. His wife, Susan, was also active in the community and their only son, Robert F. Harper, Jr. attended college becoming a teacher. Having become a “prominent negro veterinarian in Indianapolis,” Dr. Harper died at age 60 at his home, 1236 North West Street on July 28, 1935^{88,89,90} and was buried in Floral Park Cemetery.

□ Class of 1912

The class of 1912 pictured in Figure 12 shows 16 faculty and 51 students. The President was George H. Roberts, V.S.; Vice-President, Joseph W. Klotz, V.S.; Secretary-Treasurer, Ferd A. Mueller, Ph.G., V.S.; and Dean, William B. Craig, M.D., V.S. One of the faculty members was Helene Knabe, M.D. who was murdered on October 24, 1911, shortly after this photo was taken.



Figure 12. Composite photo of the Class of 1912, Indiana Veterinary College. Source: Photos and Design by Nicholson Bros., Indianapolis

Helene Elise Hermine Knabe (Fig. 13) was born on December 22, 1875 in Rugenwalder-munde, Germany, Prussia (now part of Poland). In 1896 she moved to Indiana to become a physician because it was not allowed in Prussia at the time. In addition to taking some business and liberal arts classes at Butler University without earning a degree, she was awarded an M.D. from the Medical College of Indiana in 1904, only one of two women who graduated that year. Dr. Knabe taught at the Indiana School of Medicine (and briefly at Purdue's School of Medicine) and published many articles on medical subjects. She became a health officer, proved the existence of rabies in Indiana and studied ways to eradicate and treat it. She was an excellent bacteriologist and pathologist. From 1905-1908 Dr. Knabe worked for the State Board of Health as a bacteriologist and became the Superintendent for a time.

In 1909, Dr. Knabe joined the faculty of the Indiana Veterinary College. She was also the first woman to hold a departmental chair position at the Indiana Veterinary College as the Chair of the Zoology Department. From 1908-1911 she continued to teach as well as getting certified to be an instructor at the North American Gymnasts Union. She remained active in community outreach programs on hygiene (including early sex education) through the YWCA, traveling to conferences and giving workshops. Her private practice consisted of people in her neighborhood where she bartered for goods and services in exchange for her medical expertise. Most of her money was sent back to Germany to the uncle who raised her.

Sadly, Dr. Knabe was brutally and mercilessly killed on October 24, 1911. Two men were indicted and acquitted; they were Dr. William B. Craig, dean of the Indiana Veterinary College, and Alonzo M. Ragsdale, the undertaker. When this case went to trial two years later in December 1913, it generated considerable attention in the national press. Although Dr. Craig was

acquitted, her murder was officially unsolved, although many people believed the right people were on trial.^{91,92,93,94}



Figure 13. Helene Knabe, M.D., Chair of Zoology Department, Indiana Veterinary College. Source: Composite photo of the Class of 1912, Indiana Veterinary College.

Bulletin of Comparative Medicine and Surgery

The *Bulletin of Comparative Medicine and Surgery* was a quarterly publication owned and wholly controlled by the Indiana Veterinary College. Dr. Alfred S. Jaeger served as Editor-in-Chief and also as Professor of Comparative Pathology, Histology and Embryology at the College. It was published from 1914 to 1917. The editor extracted articles from other journals in addition to adding editorials and clinical cases reported by IVC faculty, graduates, and students.

Dr. Alfred S. Jaeger (Fig. 14) was born in New York City on May 28, 1874. He earned an A.B. degree from the City College in New York in 1892 at age 17 and an M.D. degree from the Missouri Medical College in 1897. He was an Obstetrical Surgeon, Indianapolis City Hospital; Abdominal Surgeon and Diseases of Women—Deaconess Hospital and Eastman Hospital. He was a member of the American Medical Association and the Indiana State Medical Association.⁹⁵ In addition to his earlier medical degree, Dr. Jaeger earned a D.V.M. degree from the Indiana Veterinary College in 1916.⁹⁶

Dr. Jaeger was President of the Indiana Veterinary College in 1902⁹⁷ and became a Trustee of the College in 1904.⁹⁸ Dr. Jaeger was elected chairman of the Section of Surgery at a meeting of the Indiana State Medical Association. He was also a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, staff surgeon of the Indianapolis City Hospital, Methodist Episcopal Hospital, surgeon for the Jewish Federation and other institutions.⁹⁹ He did post-graduate work at Washington University in St. Louis and at the University of Heidelberg.¹⁰⁰ Dr. Jaeger died on June 4, 1963 at age 88. The obituary noted he was past president of the Indiana, Seventh District, Marion County, and Indianapolis Medical Associations.



Figure 14. Alfred S. Jaeger, A.B., M.D., D.V.M., F.A.C.S., Trustee and Professor of Comparative Pathology Histology and Embryology, Indiana Veterinary College; Editor-in-Chief, *Bulletin of Comparative Medicine and Surgery*. From: Composite photo of the Class of 1912, Indiana Veterinary College.

Class notes and news items frequently accompanied clinical articles in issues of the *Bulletin*.¹⁰¹ For example, it was reported in 1914 that Dr. William B. Craig, Dean of the Indiana Veterinary College, had “taken unto himself a wife.” In the same issue, there were reports on an epidemic of foot and mouth disease in the state of Indiana while the next issue was devoted to articles on this disease. Some questions and dates of various state veterinary licensing examinations were included over the years.

Also cited were reports of the Indiana Veterinary College’s musical band and glee club along with a notice that an athletic association for playing football had been formed in 1914 by the students with basketball and bowling teams in the future.

Promotion & Advertising

Early in the 20th century, it was common for some veterinary schools to advertise their qualifications and course offerings in professional journals as they competed for and tried to attract qualified college-age students to fill their classes. For example, the Indiana Veterinary College’s *Bulletin of Comparative Medicine and Surgery* included an ad in each issue, such as the one in the publication’s last issue. (Fig 15)

The
Indiana Veterinary College
East Market St., Cor. N. Davidson St.
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Instructions covers a graded course extending over a period of four years, of not less than seven months each, leading to the degree of

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Laboratory courses in botany, Pharmacy, Chemistry, Zoology, Histology, Comparative Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, Bacteriology, etc. Systemized didactic courses. Daily clinics in Bovine, Canine and Feline surgery and medicine.

Graduates of this college are recognized by the American Veterinary Association and State Veterinary Associations and are eligible to examination by State Examining Boards.

Graduates are also eligible to examination for appointments as U. S. Veterinary Inspectors, B. A. I. and U. S. Army Veterinarians.

Session 1917-1918 begins September 26th 1917.
Matriculation books close October 11th 1917.

Applicants desiring to take entrance examination on dates other than those given above may do so at any time by arranging with the clerk of the college. The latest day on which the entrance examination may be taken, however, is October 11, 1917.

Catalogues and full information will be sent on request by addressing

THE INDIANA VETERINARY COLLEGE
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

THE POST GRADUATE COURSE
Indiana Veterinary College
Beginning January 15, 1923

Consisting of two weeks of intensive, concise instruction with demonstrations and operations

W. L. WILLIAMS, Diseases of the Reproductive Organs	Ithaca, New York
A. T. KINSLEY, Diseases of Swine	Kansas City, Missouri
L. A. MERRILLAT, Equine Medicine and Surgery	Chicago, Illinois
T. H. FERGUSON, Bovine Medicine and Surgery	Lake Geneva, Wisconsin
J. C. FLYNN, Diseases and Surgery of Small Animals	Kansas City, Missouri
F. R. BEAUDETTE, Diseases of Poultry	Manhattan, Kansas

These gentlemen need no introduction. You cannot afford to miss this Course. We will gladly furnish any further information, but are not sending out general circular letters or folders.

Open to graduate licensed Veterinarians only
Fee \$75.00

INDIANA VETERINARY COLLEGE
INDIANAPOLIS

Figure 15. Ad for the Indiana Veterinary College appearing in the *Bulletin of Comparative Medicine and Surgery*. Source: *Bulletin of Comparative Medicine and Surgery*. 3(4): 33, 1917.

Figure 16. Ad for Post-Graduate Veterinary Course appearing in *Veterinary Medicine*. Source: *Veterinary Medicine*. 18(1): 8, 1923 Jun.

During the postwar 1920s, all veterinary colleges were experiencing a noticeable decrease in new student enrollment that resulted after World War I.¹⁰² For the private commercial schools, this situation caused particular difficulties in obtaining enough students to make their veterinary educational operations financially viable and profitable forcing a number to cease operation. In the case of the Indiana Veterinary College, the first 12 pages of its 35-page *1922-23 Year Book* for prospective students were devoted to justifying the value and advantages of entering the veterinary profession in general, emphasizing the vital importance of the work done, and presenting broad employment and service opportunities for veterinarians.¹⁰³

In addition to describing the attractiveness and future of this “uncrowded profession,” the catalog presented advantages of a specialized college over large state university departments in getting personalized instruction “devoted solely for the teaching of veterinary science” from thoroughly trained professors. These faculty specialists with large, active practices would offer opportunities for students to participate directly in clinical and field work.¹⁰⁴

Post-Graduate Veterinary Courses

In addition to its regular curriculum for veterinary students, the Indiana Veterinary College offered several weeks of post-graduate instruction for established practitioners. The College’s *Announcements* between 1904-05 and 1907-08¹⁰⁵ noted ten weeks of post-graduate education held annually beginning the first week in January, but it is uncertain whether these courses were actually held and for that long number of weeks.

Nevertheless, the need and popularity of short courses nationally had become evident some 20 years later when the College announced its post-graduate veterinary course for January 17-29, 1921. An advertisement in *Veterinary Medicine* stated,^{106,107} “There was never a time when the need and demand for new information on the subject of veterinary science was so great as it is at the present. Men in every field of veterinary work find themselves confronted with problems on which the teaching and literature of even a few years ago is inadequate.” To assist practitioners in meeting those demands, the Indiana Veterinary College was to provide 12 days taught by faculty and specialists of nationwide reputation on immunology and biological therapy, cow sterility treatment, udder diseases, swine diseases, and parasitology at “moderate cost.” The course consisted of practice work and “every minute of the time is fully occupied.”¹⁰⁸ The diseases of small animals and poultry was to be added in 1923.¹⁰⁹

College Closes in 1924

After World War I, “the private veterinary college has been squeezed between the upper and nether milestones of rising costs and diminishing returns”¹¹⁰ depending almost entirely upon student fees as a source of income. Despite efforts to upgrade the College, Stockton points to competition from state universities and lower enrollments being attributed to a perceived decline in opportunities for veterinarians as motorized vehicles replaced horse power.¹¹¹

In August, 1923, it was announced that preparations were being made to handle student enrollment at the College for the fall and the faculty was being strengthened with the addition of several prominent veterinarians, including Dr. L.A. Merillat from Chicago. While the College was solvent, some “disgruntled” minority stockholders filed a petition of receivership. The school was reorganized after the petition was withdrawn and those individuals severed affiliation with the institution.¹¹²

A short editorial in the September, 1923 issue of *Veterinary Medicine* attempted to dispel any concerns.

“The Indiana Veterinary College which is the only accredited, private veterinary school on the continent that has weathered the high-school entrance requirements and four-year curriculum, contrary to unwarranted announcements, that it was about to close its doors, opens its coming session with renewed vigor and with the determination to retain its place among the educational institutions of the country. The budget which assures its existence over a definite term of years and the addition of new blood on its teaching staff announced by the directorate, presage a continuation of past achievements in the matter of giving its patrons the advantages of a thoroughly practical course of instruction which has always featured this old and highly dignified institution of the Middle West.”¹¹³

But, by the following spring as enrollment continued to de-

cline, its financial fate was sealed. The school had no endowment from any public source. “With the closing of the 1923-24 session of the Indiana Veterinary College, on May 20, the last private veterinary college recognized by the A.V.M.A. ceased to exist.”¹¹⁴

An editorial in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* noted that “the Indiana Veterinary College has closed its doors, after an honorable existence of more than thirty years. This institution was the only private veterinary college recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association for the past five years. With the closing of the Indianapolis school, there remain on the recognized list only eleven veterinary colleges [at university and land-grant agricultural college-based schools] in this country, all state institutions.”^{115,116}

With its final commencement exercise, “this event, in Indianapolis, marked the end of the era of private, for profit, veterinary medical schools in the United States.”¹¹⁷

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Howard H. Erickson earned his DVM degree from Kansas State University in 1959 and PhD degree from Iowa State University in veterinary physiology in 1966. He was engaged in private practice in Wahoo, Nebraska from 1959-60, called to active duty in the United States Air Force in 1960, serving from 1960-81, and retiring with the rank of Colonel. He joined the faculty of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University in 1981 a Professor of Physiology and retired in 2011 as Emeritus Professor of Physiology and History of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Erickson continues to teach a course on the history of veterinary medicine at the College.

APPENDIX:

Indiana Veterinary College Graduate “Doc” Parshall Was an Expert Horseman and Harness Racing Leader

Dr. Hugh Maynard “Doc” Parshall was born in Hill-sboro, Ohio. Raised with horses, he started a public stable of trotting horses. In 1920, Parshall had his first 2:10 performer, *Fondabel*, a mare he took with him to veterinary school. He graduated from the Indiana Veterinary College in 1921 having paid for his tuition by piloting mares around Ohio’s tracks, but preferred training and racing horses to practicing veterinary medicine. He was an extraordinary horseman, first training at Washington Court House fairgrounds, but was later based in Urbana, Ohio.



Dr. H. M. Parshall, graduate of the Indiana Veterinary College, champion horseman, winner of the Hambletonian classic and Little Brown Jug.

He first gained national attention when he tamed the renegade pacer *Counterpart* and made him successful. In due time, he developed such top stars as *Chief Counsel*, 1:57¾, *Spintell*, 1:58¾, *Mc I Win*, 1:59¾, plus many others. He won the Hambletonian Stakes classic in 1934 with *Lord Jim* and with *Peter Astra* in 1939. He selected and developed *Lusty Song* and *Dudley Hanover*, winners of the Hambletonian and Little Brown Jug, respectively, in 1950, but was too ill to drive them. In all, “Doc” Parshall drove thirteen 2:00 horses during his career and was inducted into the Hall of Immortals in the Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame in 2004. He died in Urbana, Ohio in 1950.



Dr. Parshall driving *Dudley Hanover*.

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