

Dr. Tom Lawrence: a life in chiropractic

Joseph C Keating, Jr, PhD, LittD(hon)*

He dwelt within the chiropractic orbit from the cradle to the grave. Second-generation chiropractor Tom Lawrence was a successful professional and family man who followed in his father's footsteps and fought the good fight to improve chiropractic within his state and nation. His passing closes a chapter of living memory of the middle years of the first chiropractic century.
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KEY WORDS: Lawrence, chiropractic.

The First Generation

Thomas Lawrence, D.C. ("Tom" to his friends) passed away on Thursday, 17 June 2005 in his hometown of Meridian, Mississippi [1]. He is not widely remembered in the chiropractic profession today, but he should be. His was a life of quiet and persistent commitment to his family, his community and to the profession he loved so well. His life and career spanned most of the first chiropractic century.

Tom was born in Meridian on 27 February 1918, the son of J. Wilbern Lawrence, D.C., a 1917 graduate of the Carver Chiropractic College of Oklahoma City. His father promptly became involved in professional affairs, and by 1920 was serving as president of the Mississippi State Chiropractic Association [e.g., 2]. By no later than 1927 Dr. Wilbern Lawrence had grown active in the

Il est demeuré dans l'univers de la chiropractie du berceau à la tombe. Tom Lawrence, un chiropraticien de deuxième génération, était un professionnel productif et un homme marié. Il a suivi les traces de son père, qui a combattu pour la bonne cause, afin d'améliorer la chiropractie, à l'intérieur de son état et de sa nation. Son décès met fin à un chapitre de mémoire d'homme sur les années intermédiaires du premier siècle de la chiropractie.
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MOTS CLÉS : Lawrence, chiropractie.

American Chiropractic Association (ACA), a national membership society established in 1922 to offer an alter-



*Figure 1c: J. Wilbern Lawrence, D.C., from the 1917 Carver College yearbook, *The Pioneer*.*

* Member, Board of Directors, National Institute of Chiropractic Research.

Residence: 6135 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix AZ 85012 USA. Phone (602) 264-3182; E-mail JCKeating@aol.com
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Figure 1a: Willard Carver, LL.B., D.C., circa 1914.



Figure 1b: Portion of the campus of Carver Chiropractic College in Oklahoma City, from the College's 1916 yearbook, *The Pioneer*.

native to the B.J. Palmer-dominated Universal Chiropractors' Association (UCA) [3]. In 1928 Wilbern was elected a member of the ACA's board of directors. Young Tom, then just 10 years old, fondly recalled the family's vacation that year, which involved traveling by car to the ACA's convention at Yellowstone National Park. He marveled at the trip in retrospect:

I wonder now how my father could have had the courage to undertake such a venture. That was almost three-quarters of a century ago, long before the development of roadside conveniences for highway travelers. There were no motels as we know them today. At far spaced intervals, tourist "camps" could be found, where there would be a few tiny cabins, which were slightly larger than the bed, all of which were served by a communal toilet and bathhouse which would be a brisk walk down the path from the cabin.

There were no numbered highways with signs to designate your route. You depended on signs at the crossroads to point you toward the next city on your itinerary. A big percentage of highways were unpaved. There were many single lane bridges and in the Rockies, where the highway had been carved out of the side of the mountain, there were one lane stretches. On two occasions, we were involved in traffic jams when cars from opposite directions met on a stretch of

single lane. At those times, Dad and the other drivers would engage in a lengthy debate over which cars should back up to let the others pass. I remember my Mother got herself and her children out of the car and in a loud clear voice gave Dad instructions about how to drive during those maneuvers. "Cut it the other way! Stop! Go back just this far! Go Slow! STOP!!!"

In some areas, filling stations were miles apart, so it was advisable to carry a gallon or two of reserve gasoline in a container attached to the outside of the car. Most drivers preferred to take along two spare tires for out of town trips, and an extra inner tube and a patching kit for repairing punctured tubes was standard equipment. It was advisable to have on hand a large container of water for the radiator.

As I revel in my memories of that great adventure, I now realize that a great part of the pleasure of each day was meeting people and developing a substantial friendship in a very brief time together. Dad was a friendly person. He loved life, he had a sense of humor and was filled with curiosity about everything in the world around him. It was just natural for him to strike up a conversation with everyone we met along the way. I can remember the first questions men usually asked were, "Where are you from?" and "Where are you headed?" I think the first question we kids would ask was, "What grade are you in?" Every man was always

pleased to give advice to anyone who was about to travel the road he had just come over. Which route to take, what sights to see, and most important of all – where to find a good campsite ...

Dad’s purpose for making this trip was to attend the convention of the American Chiropractic Association in Yellowstone Park in August of 1928. The convention was held at Old Faithful Inn, however, our family did not stay in the hotel. We established our domicile in the campground. My brother and I and the other young people who could not

participate in the business sessions spent all of our time exploring...

We attended many functions at the convention and met everyone who was there, but alas, I can remember only a few. I remember Dr. Gordon Goodfellow of Los Angeles, because he gave cowboy hats to my brother and me. Thus began my lifelong friendship with Dr. Goodfellow. We later served together in many activities of the National Chiropractic Association and were representatives of the NCA on a Coordinating Committee, which had members of the Na-



Figure 2: The Lawrence family on the road to Yellowstone Park, 1928.



Figure 3: Benjamin A. Sauer, D.C., secretary-treasurer of the ACA, 1928 at Yellowstone Park.



Figure 4: Frank R. Margetts, LL.B., D.C., president of the ACA, at Yellowstone Park in 1928.

Table 1: Boards of Directors of ACA and UCA who met in Chicago in October 1930 to amalgamate the UCA and ACA, thereby producing the NCA

ACA Board Members	UCA Board Members
Paul Strand, D.C., Youngstown OH	J.H. Durham, D.C., Louisville KY
Wilbern Lawrence, D.C., Meridian MS	Arthur W. Schwietert, D.C., Sioux Falls SD
P.N. Hanson, D.C., Wichita KS	J.H. Legge, D.C., San Antonio TX
Ruland W. Lee, D.C., Newark NJ	G.M. Guyselman, D.C., Jackson MI
B.F. Gilman, D.C., Brooklyn NY	T.W. Snyder, D.C., Shamokin PA

tional Chiropractic Association, the International Chiropractors Association and the Canadian Chiropractic Association and resulted in the amalgamation of the NCA and some members of the ICA into the new American Chiropractic Association.

Dad was elected a member of the ACA Board of Directors at that convention, and served in that office for many years in the ACA and subsequently in the National Chiropractic Association [4].

In 1926, following a failed bid for re-election to the secretariat of the UCA, B.J. Palmer, D.C. organized the Chiropractic Health Bureau (today's International Chiropractors' Association). With Palmer out of the UCA, the leadership of the ACA and UCA began to discuss amalgamation. Tom's father was a member of the group (see Table 1) which accomplished the merger and thereby created the National Chiropractic Association (NCA) in 1930 [5]. Wilbern Lawrence continued to serve on the NCA's board of directors until 1942.



Figure 5: Conventioneer families at ACA's 1928 meeting in Yellowstone Park; boy at left is Tom, age 10; next to him is his father, J. Wilbern Lawrence, D.C.; boy squatting center is Charles Lawrence, age 12 (Tom's brother).

Second Generation Chiropractor

Meanwhile, young Tom followed in his father's footsteps, and enrolled at Carver College on 1 September 1936. He graduated on 30 September 1938; his training at Carver had consisted of some 2,670 hours (see Table 2). He nurtured memories of his days in chiropractic college for decades:

I consider the faculty to have been competent and capable. Dr. Clora Norris, a recent graduate, was an anatomy instructor. She was quite knowledgeable and an excellent teacher. Dr. Willard Carver's son, Dr. Ronald Carver, was Technique Instructor and Clinic Director. Other faculty members were Dr. Frank Brooks, Dr. Bera Smith, Dr. Sturdivant and Dr. Sowell. There were many others whose names I cannot recall. Oftentimes, a doctor in private practice or a visiting dignitary from the field of education would lecture to us.

I remember several lectures were presented by [John C.] Hubbard, M.D.[D.C.], who owned and operated Hubbard Hospital, located a few blocks from the college. Drs. Hubbard and Carver were friends and respected each other. Dr. Carver many times recommended circumcision for patients, both male and female. Those patients were referred to Dr. Hubbard for the surgery.

Dr. Carver lectured frequently, always in the auditorium and to the student body. He was a great public speaker. He had a strong, resonant, deep toned voice with meticulous enunciation and a convincing demeanor. I followed his every word. I am not sure now if it was because I felt that I should pay attention or if it was because I was afraid not to. He spent a lot of time delineating the problems of the profession, and outlining his recommendations for what should be done to alter the flow of events and to correct the flaws in the philosophy, art and practice, of Chiropractic. His favorite target for criticism and invective was Dr. B.J. Palmer ...



Figure 6: Dr. Wilbern Lawrence, from the cover of the April 1940 issue of the NCA's Journal.

Table 2: Subjects and hours of study at Carver Chiropractic College; from a transcript provided by William N. Coggins, D.C. for 1938 Carver graduate Tom Lawrence, D.C. on 29 November 1961

Subject	Hours	Subject	Hours	Subject	Hours
Histology	35	Hygiene & Sanitation	73	Nutrition & Dietetics	33
Anatomy	907	Chemistry	37	Chiropractic Principles	268
Physiology	235	Physical Diagnosis	83	Adjustology	623
Pathology	187	Symptomatology	156	Jurisprudence	33
					TOTAL 2,670

When I was in school, the minimum course of study was three years of six months each. I remained at the school several months longer, primarily to gain more experience in the clinic. After graduation, my father arranged for me to intern with a successful doctor in Alabama ... [6].

Tom joined his father in practice in Meridian, and became active in state professional affairs. By 1940 he had been elected an officer in his state society. He recalled the warm relationships that his father enjoyed with all his patients, and how no one was ever turned away for lack of ability to pay. Although Wilbern Lawrence had trained in

the straight-oriented Carver College, he always construed himself as a family physician and practiced a broader-than-typical scope of practice.

Dr. Tom Lawrence would eventually serve as president of the state organization [7], this following service with the U.S. Army during World War II [8]. He was witness to his father's involvement [e.g., 9–11] in some of the clashes between college leaders precipitated by the NCA's efforts to upgrade, standardize and accredit chiropractic schools [12, 13]. These disputes were not unlike the many future conflicts Tom would come to know only too well.



Figure 7: The NCA's official family, 1938; left to right are: Drs. Frank Logic, L.M. Rogers, C. Sterling Cooley, E.M. Gustafson, Kelly C. Robinson, Jack Schnick, Attorney Arthur Holmes, and Drs. Wilbern Lawrence and C.O. Watkins.



Figure 8: Recently elected officers of the Mississippi Chiropractic Association as they appeared in the December 1940 issue of the *National Chiropractic Journal*. Left to right, front row: Drs. Clayton J. Overton of Jackson; Tom Lawrence of Meridian; E.A. Russell of McComb. Left to right, back row: Drs. Wilbern Lawrence of Meridian; Richard Cahill of Gulfport; Tom Gresham of Jackson.



Figure 9: Tom Lawrence and friends on outing, circa 1940; left to right, front row are: Dr. McCoy of Paris TX and his daughter Gerry; left to right back row are: Tom Lawrence, D.C., Mrs. McCoy, H.E. March, D.C. of Vicksburg and C.J. Overton, D.C. of Jackson, Mississippi.



Figure 10: Gathered during a convention of the Mississippi Chiropractic Association in the mid-1950s are, left to right: Drs. Bera Smith, president of the Carver Chiropractic College; Joseph Ashworth, Jr.; Tom Lawrence; A.B. Crenshaw and Wilbern Lawrence.



Figure 11: this image appeared in the October 1955 issue of the *ICA Review*; caption reads: "PUBLIC RELATIONS CONFERENCE DELEGATES from three chiropractic associations, who participated in the Chicago meeting to jointly sponsor an annual PR session were (seated, from left) Dr. Karl Lindquist, Dr. Don C. Sutherland, Dr. Tom Lawrence, (standing, from left) Dr. Gordon M. Goodfellow, Dr. Stephen B. Hindle, Dr. R.W. Tyler, Dr. F.L. Wheaton and Dr. L.K. Griffin."

From NCA to ACA

Tom was elected state delegate from Mississippi to the NCA and subsequently to today's American Chiropractic Association (ACA), an organization he helped to establish in 1963–64. (Today's ACA is at least the fifth organization to bear this name.) For 20 years Tom was a voting member of the NCA/ACA House of Delegates [8]. He was perceived as one of the old-time allies of Loren M. Rogers, D.C. [14], secretary-treasurer of the NCA [15, 16]. Rogers was the focus of a revolt during the ACA's tumultuous first convention in Denver in 1964. The rebellion was orchestrated in part by Maurice Hollod D.C., ACA delegate from Washington, D.C., and Stanley Hayes, D.C. of Tucson, Arizona, editor and publisher of the *Bulletin of Rational Chiropractic* (who was not in attendance). Dr. Lawrence recalled the experience in Denver 38 years later:

I venture to say the revolt was against L.M. Rogers, however, there was an "old guard" who rallied around him at the Denver blitzkrieg. I think of Clyde Martyn, Cecil Martin, Gordon Goodfellow, Lorne Wheaton and me and many others. There was enough animosity at the meeting to give a good share to each of us. I am still amazed at the enormity and of the success of the battle plan Dr. Hollod and his group had devised. I think that none of the NCA officers and a majority of the members of the H of D knew anything about the revolt until we convened at Denver. I do think that at least one member of the NCA staff in Webster City was in on the plot. We must remember that there is a struggle for power in many organizations of all types. Hollod's wrath was aroused by Emmett Murphy's fall from favor. There was a similar unpleasant upheaval when Dr. Nugent lost some of his dictatorial power and resigned. There have been other rebellions, involved in efforts to gain control of the Board and of the Executive Director's position.

Good planning and good vote counting enabled the coup to unseat President Clyde Martyn and seat Dr. Lentz as chairman of the Committee of the Whole. A professional parliamentarian was engaged to oversee the entire meeting. It was unfortunate that I was the only member of the committee that served for two or three years to foster the amalgamation, who was seated in the meeting of the Committee of the Whole. The NCA officers could not speak at the meeting. Nor could the leaders of the group of ICA members who had come to Denver to become charter members of

the ACA, or anyone else who was not a H of D member. They could attend and sit in the back of the room but could not participate in the meeting in any way.

I had served on the Constitution and Bylaws Committee with Lorne Wheaton and Leonard Griffin. We had met in Webster City a short time before the Denver meeting and with help from L.M. Rogers and NCA Attorney Jim Bunker, we had drafted what I still consider to be a worthwhile document. As I remember, just about all of the business of the Committee of the Whole concerned the discussion, amending and adopting of those proposed bylaws. I was called on to answer questions about the proposed document and on occasions arose to argue and defend the articles therein. As a result, the chairman had a personal microphone installed at my seat.

We won some and lost some. The biggest hang-up was over the method of electing members of the Board. The proposed bylaws called for each Board member to represent a geographical district and to be elected by the entire House of Counselors. The opposition insisted that the voting on each Board member should be only by H of C members representing states in the district of each individual Board member, with the delegates voting their "strength" i.e., casting the number of votes allotted to them resulting from the total number of members they represented. There was such contention over this matter that many of my friends advised that we should abandon the effort to form the ACA and go home and continue with what we had. As a result of a long discussion with Gordon Goodfellow, we decided to accept defeat on this issue, with the hope of later amending the article to conform with what we considered to be the rational method as was presented in the proposed document. This we were never able to do.

I regret that I can't recall the names of the Charter officers. As I remember, I would have supported Dr. Al Adams as president or for some office, I thought Dr. Richard Tyler and Dr. Leonard Griffin should have been on the board. As it turned out, Dr. O.B. Inman, delegate from Georgia, mounted a big campaign to elect Dr. Leiter from Georgia as president. Dr. Inman never convinced me that he was a member of the loyal contingent at Denver. He attended some of our caucuses, however, he left me with the impression that he was courting both sides. Leiter was elected and in a short time resigned and retired from the profession. As I remember, none of the leaders of the effort from the ICA was elected to the board. Dr. Devere Biser, a former ICA officer was elect-



Figure 12: Drs. Tom Lawrence, Goldia Young and Tom's good friend, Herman Schwartz, members of the NCA Council on Mental Health, from the August 1962 issue of the *Journal of the NCA*: Tom served as vice president of the Council.



Figure 13: Seen during the ACA's 1964 Denver convention are Drs. Tom Lawrence (at microphone), and W.F. Lentz and Harold Kieffer, alternate and state delegates, respectively, for Minnesota [18].



Figure 14: Dr. Tom Lawrence, from the December 1967 issue of the *ACA Journal of Chiropractic* [19].

ed to the board. I had never heard of Biser and knew of nothing he had done to help with the formation of the ACA. I surmised, at that time, that he might have been a member of the coup [17].

Despite all the political maneuvering, Tom felt that the fundamental purposes for which the national membership society had been organized were accomplished to a significant extent. He noted in 2002:

... I served in the ACA House of Delegates for many years and developed friendships with many of those adversaries I had faced at Denver. I found them to be sincere and earnest colleagues, the same kind of persons I had always worked with in that House. I considered the purposes for which the ACA was founded, as had been envisioned by those members of that founding committee, were being fulfilled.

There have been other revolts and attempts to take over control of the Board of Directors and of the Executive Office. Some were successful and some failed ... [6].



Figure 15: Seated left to right during a meeting of the Eastern Mississippi Chiropractic Society in the 1960s are Drs. Wilbern Lawrence, Markey Paschal and Barbara Boatright; standing left to right are Drs. A.B. Crenshaw, D.C., Tom Walker, D.C., unknown, Robert Bender and Tom Lawrence.

Back in Mississippi

Tom remained a loyal member of the new society, and wrote of its democratic structure [19], a sentiment that would be echoed by several of the former ICA members who had joined the new association. However, his attention was only partially focused on the national scene. Wilbern Lawrence, D.C. passed away in 1968, too early to see his son's involvement in the long but eventually successful effort to pass a chiropractic statute in the "Magnolia State." This story of struggle against allopathic hegemony has yet to be told in detail. Tom recalled some of the effort that went into obtaining the law, and credited Dr. Gerald Brassard of the ACA for its acquisition:

... we finally got the licensing bill passed. Oh, Happy Day, but it was not entirely the result of our well planned scheme. That was the year when the Chairman of the Senate Public Health Committee bumped into Dr. Jerry Brassard, the Executive Director of the ACA, and some other ACA officials at a National Conference of State Legislators. Jerry gave him a good sales pitch accompanied by some facts and salient information. It was at a moment when that Chairman was fed up with our bickering and infighting, so he came home and personally saw to it that the Chiropractic licensing act was enacted into law. It was not an ideal law. No one was



Figure 16a: Dr. Gerry Brassard, circa 1968.

well pleased, but through the years, it has been honed and polished and now it pleases almost everyone ... [6].

Dr. Tom Lawrence was appointed to Mississippi's Board of Chiropractic Examiners (BCE), where he served for five years. His time on the BCE was an experience that mirrored in some respects the wider conflicts in the profession. He explained that:



Figure 16b: The *Jackson Daily News* for 30 March 1973 reported: Gov. Bill Waller signed into law Thursday an act to license and regulate the practice of chiropractic. Present at the ceremony were, from left: Dr. R.A. McMullan of Morton; Dr. Willie Maxwell of Natchez; Dr. Hubert Smith of Gulfport; Sen. Ray Montgomery of Canton (seated); Sen. Willard McIlwain of Greenville; Dr. Tom Lawrence of Meridian; Sen. Theodore Smith of Corinth; Dr. D.J. Herrington of Lucedale; and Dr. John Charles of Jackson.



Figure 17: William Waller (left), Governor of Mississippi, was the father-in-law of Dr. C.J. Overton of Jackson, a Palmer graduate. This picture was taken in Governor's office, when he appointed Dr. Tom Lawrence to the Board of Examiners in the 1970s. Dr. Lawrence also served as a colonel on the Governor's staff.

... they were memorable years, because we were striving to bring order out of the chaos that prevailed during the decades before the licensing act was enacted, when there was no control over the practice of the profession.

Controversy raged throughout the years I served on the Board, but it was a new kind of controversy, brought on by two occurrences.

First: Theretofore, the profession was divided into straights and mixers and then a funny thing happened. Overnight, many of the straights bought modalities and became prolific mixers. I do not know all of the causes of this phenomenon. This was at a time when Practice Building Course entrepreneurs were explaining some of the benefits accruing to the patient and to the provider from the providing of supplemental services. Could the transition be related to those teachings?

Second: A change originated in your Maricopa County [Arizona], when two attorneys complained through a case in court that their rights were being violated by rules and regulations of the Bar, which prohibited advertising. They won a Supreme Court ruling, which overturned the prohibition. That is when the flood gates were opened for the legal, medical, chiropractic and all other professions, however, we

were informed that the Board was obligated to provide parameters that would prevent fraudulent and deceptive advertising. The chairman, Dr. Tom Morgan, circulated a notice directing that examples of questionable advertising be brought to the attention of the Board. The profession was divided by arguments over the freedoms and curtailments that were involved in the rules and regulations. I received multiple copies of newspaper ads published by one doctor. I copied them to the Board and a hearing was scheduled. The result – the doctor was exonerated. The result – I was thanked by some doctors for doing my duty as I saw it; I also was ridiculed for acting as a tyrant. At any rate, thereafter we had a division based on the meaning of “freedom” to advertise ...

On another occasion, the Board went into executive session to hear some facts related to a case wherein a patient had charged a doctor with improper conduct. The case was to be heard after we returned from executive session. I had trepidations arising from the fact that the Secretary of the State Board of Health, an M.D., or “his appointed representative” was a member of the Board. The Secretary did not attend that meeting, but sent an investigator from his office, who had investigated the complaint and was attending the meeting to report his findings and also sit as a voting member of the Board, substituting for the Secretary.

When the chairman announced we were going into executive session, he stated that he would allow his wife and the wife of the Secretary of the Board to sit in on the session. I had my personal lawyer at the meeting and he remained in the room. The Chairman asked him to leave, but I insisted that I required him to be present because of the peculiar circumstances of the occasion resulting from the fact that the investigator, who had made the investigation and was presenting his report and acting as the prosecutor also was acting as a judge. I explained that I needed counsel for protection against liability. The chairman would not agree to allow my lawyer to remain, however, I directed him to remain and he did remain during the executive session. All of the furor was of no consequence, because the complainant in the case failed to appear and the case was dismissed.

The vehement objection to this lawyer's presence was a segment of a chain of events that had transpired over an extended period of time.

As a result of cooperative efforts of the ICA and the medical profession in Mississippi, a case was brought against Dr. L.A. Norville of Jackson, charging him with the illegal



Figure 18: L.A. Norville, D.C.

use of modalities. I don't remember the intricacies of the charges and the decision ... The ruling granted permission to Chiropractors to use certain modalities and forbid the use of others. One peculiar result was that we were denied the right to use diet counseling, meaning that we could not recommend supplements (vitamins), and, believe it or not, we could not even recommend that a patient drink more water.

The Mississippi Chiropractic Association accepted this case as a problem of the profession and engaged Dr. Abe Rotwein to defend Dr. Norville. At the conclusion of the case, the Board of Examiners engaged Mr. Rotwein as Attorney for the Board. This was under the administration of a previous Board Chairman. When Dr. Morgan became Chairman, Mr. Rotwein was fired. It was Mr. Rotwein who I engaged and paid a retainer fee to accompany me to that executive meeting of the Board [20].

In Later Years

Tom was delighted to learn that the Texas Chiropractic College (TCC) had chosen his mentor, Willard Carver, LL.B., D.C., for posthumous "enshrinement" in TCC's Hall of Honor in 1984. The ceremonies, held on TCC's campus in Pasadena, also honored former college presidents William N. Coggins, Ph.G., D.C. of Logan College of Chiropractic and Joseph Janse, D.C., N.D. of the National College of Chiropractic. It was a nostalgic moment for all concerned, and Tom had been significantly involved in its planning:

Dr. Willard Carver will be commemorated into the Texas Chiropractic College HALL OF HONOR in July of 1984. I am working with a committee to help plan for this auspicious occasion. We propose to raise funds to defray the costs of a sculpture of Dr. Carver; use any surplus money to establish at TCC, some continuing memorial to Dr. Carver, such as a Carver scholarship; establish a Carver archives at TCC and solicit materials to be preserved, therein, such as books, pictures, news items and any other relics and memorabilia; promote a Carver reunion at the time of the commemoration; publicize the event in every possible way; and compile a Carver alumni mailing list, including retired doctors. On this item we need your help. Would you please make additions and corrections on the enclosed list of Carver graduates, including retired doctors and even surviving family members – and return it to me.

Sincerely, Tom Lawrence, D.C [21].

Dr. Lawrence retired from clinical practice circa 1985 but maintained a rather active and stimulating life. He and his wife, Betty, enjoyed an avocation as enthusiasts of American history; Tom reviewed some of this activity in a letter to this writer in June 2002:

I am enjoying my correspondence with you because it gives me some information about dear old friends and about my profession and because I have an interest in History. I am a member of three county historical societies, the Mississippi and the Alabama Historical Societies, The Sons of Confederate Veterans, The Sons of the American Revolution, The Civil War Round Table and am active in several other organizations. I attend most of the national conventions of the two Sons organization, and will attend the annual Congress of the Sons of the American Revolution next week. Occasionally, I am asked to speak on historical subjects, last week on the history of the Meridian Optimist Club, of which I was a charter member in 1941. I have spoken a number of times about my visit to the American Civil War Round Table in Australia, a fantastic organization with more than 300 members in chapters in three cities. I am now very busy compiling into the computer a wealth of information I have amassed, which will be included in a revised edition of "A History of Lauderdale Springs, Mississippi," which was published by my wife [22].

Betty Lawrence passed away in 1993, and left a hole in



Figure 19: Carver family gather around the bust of Dr. Willard Carver unveiled in TCC's Hall of Honor in July 1984.



Figure 20: Drs. Tom Lawrence and Joseph Janse during the TCC Alumni banquet accompanying "enshrinement" ceremonies for Dr. Janse in TCC's Hall of Honor.



Figure 21: Johnny B. Barfoot, D.C., president of Texas Chiropractic College, receives meritorious service award presented by Tom Lawrence, D.C., July 1984.



Figure 22: Dr. Tom Lawrence and Congressman "Sonny" Montgomery during an annual ACA-ICA legislative conference in Washington, D.C., November 1984.

Tom Lawrence's life that could never be filled. However, he continued his work as an amateur historian, and tried his hand at revising some of his wife's published works [23]. He felt isolated from his profession, and was pleased to correspond with several others (e.g., Robert Leach, D.C. of Starkville, Mississippi) interested in the chiropractic saga. Tom was an enthusiastic member of the Association for the History of Chiropractic.

This writer never had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Tom Lawrence face-to-face, but enjoyed a correspondence of several years by phone, postal service and e-mail. Tom was comfortable at the keyboard, and the result has been many written accounts of chiropractic events throughout the 87 years of his life. I shall miss our exchanges, and I suggest that the chiropractic profession has lost a noble member whose lifetime contributions merit recognition.



Figure 23: Tom Lawrence, D.C. decorates the grave of Capt. James Gunn Jeffares, 4th Calvalry, Confederate States of America, at Memorial Day services, 1999.



Figure 24: Tom Lawrence, D.C. presiding at meeting of Patrick Boggan Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

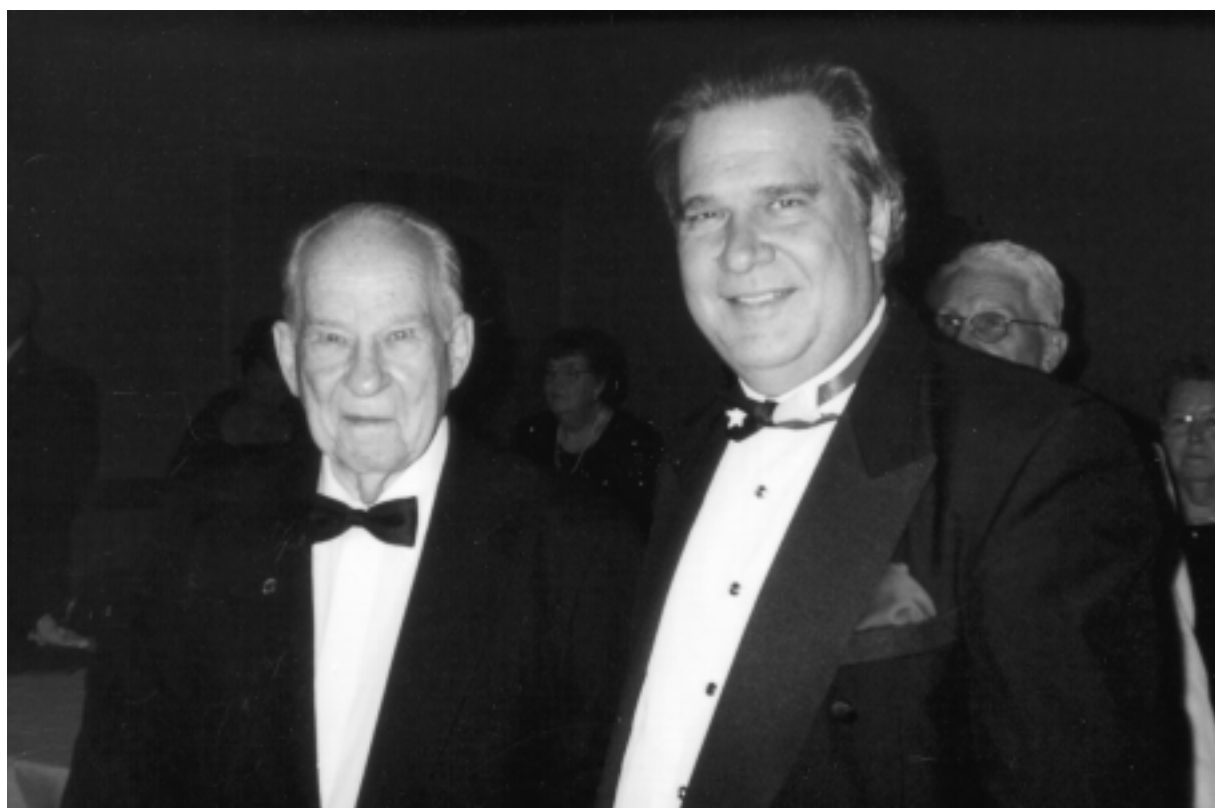


Figure 25: Dr. Tom Lawrence and his son, Judge Thomas E. Lawrence of Houston, during the annual congress of the Sons of the American Revolution in 2001.

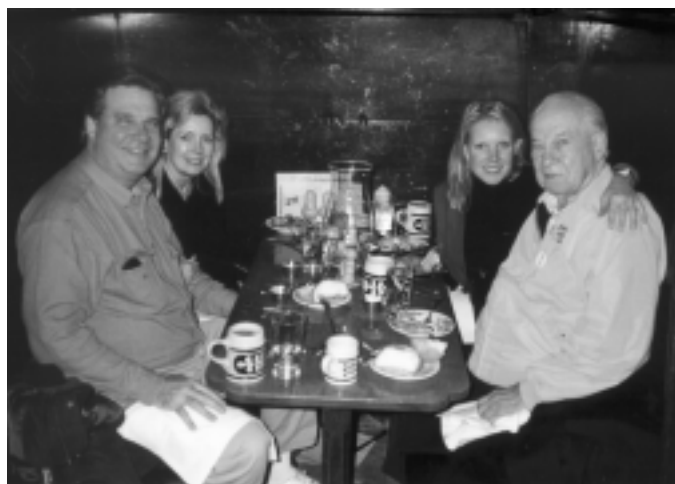


Figure 26: Tom and his family at Christmas 2001; left to right are: son Thomas, his wife, granddaughter and Dr. Lawrence.



Figure 27: Dr. Tom Lawrence, 2002.

Acknowledgments

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