

DR. MILES ANDREW ROYALL

Dr. Miles Andrew Royall was born December 28, 1861 in Yadkin County, near Old Center Church. His parents were William and Fanny Holcomb Royall.

As a young man he went to school in Boonville and later attended Table Rock School in Burke County. Before he had any medical training, he "read" medicine under Dr. L. P. Sommers of Iredell County, a prominent country physician. He received his degree in medicine from Jefferson Medical College in Baltimore in 1885. Later he did graduate work in Philadelphia and New York.

Dr. Royall first began practicing medicine in Hamptonville. From 1896-1912, he lived and practiced in Yadkinville. While living there he decided to specialize in diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat, and went North for further study in this field. In 1912, he moved to Elkin where he practiced his specialty until his retirement.

Dr. Royall served as Mayor of Elkin for two separate terms from 1929 to 1935. While living in Yadkinville, he represented Yadkin County in the State Legislature for one term.

Around the turn of the century, Dr. Royall performed what was said to be the first appendectomy in North Carolina. The patient was Charles A. Cozart of Hamptonville. When Dr. Royall diagnosed the man's condition as appendicitis, he traveled North to study with Dr. John B. Deaver to learn how to perform the needed surgery. When he returned to North Carolina, Dr. Royall performed the operation on the kitchen table of Mr. Cozart's home, using the instruments from his doctor's bag. The operation was successful and Mr. Cozart recovered to live for several years (until 1949).

Dr. Royall was twice married. His first wife was Rachel Reynolds. The seven children by this marriage were Blanche, Fanny, William, Miles, Rachel, George and Hugh. His second

marriage was to Nora Dixon and their two children were Flora and Joseph. Dr. Royall had fifteen grandchildren.

His first office in Elkin was on Main Street, upstairs over Graham and Click 5¢ and 10¢ Store. People from all over this area came there to be fitted with glasses. It was in this office that he performed such surgery as tonsillectomy, mastoidectomy and cataract removal. When a patient came from out-of-town, usually accompanied by a relative, the night after the operation was spent in the doctor's home. After Drs. Salmon and Garvey opened their small hospital, all surgery was performed there. Later Dr. Royall served on the staff of Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital.

He was a Mason, a Kiwanian, and a member of the First Baptist Church. He was also a member of the North Carolina Medical Society.

After Dr. Salmons closed his hospital this space was used for offices by Dr. Salmons, Dr. Royall, Dr. Hugh Parks and Dr. Roy B. Harrell.

Dr. Royall continued to practice medicine until he was nearly eighty years old. He lived until October 11, 1952, dying just two months before his ninety-second birthday.

He saw great changes take place during his long life. This was true in his profession as in every other aspect of life. When he began practicing in the 1880's, he traveled in a buggy, or rode horseback in bad weather. It was said that he always drove beautiful horses. As there were no drug stores, he supplied his own medicine which he kept in his small office building. When he had a critically ill patient or was expecting a woman to deliver, he often spent hours and even days attending the patient in the home.

Once he went by train to Baltimore to take a patient who had cancer of the face, to seek medical help.

Patients who were unable to pay him in money often paid with farm produce instead.

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During his nearly sixty years of practicing, Dr. Royall had seen unbelievable changes in life style and undreamed of advances in medicine.

Floora Royall Johnson