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CITIZENS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUILDING
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
STEPHEN C. NOLAND, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

EXPIRED

William Niles Wishard, M. D.

William N. Wishard was born October 10, 1851, at Greenwood, Indiana. He is a son of Dr. William Henry and Harriet Newell (Moreland) Wishard.

Dr. William H. Wishard was born January 17, 1816, in Nicholas County, Kentucky, a son of Colonel John and Agnes H. (Oliver) Wishard. Colonel John Wishard was born in 1792 in Pennsylvania. He came to Johnson County, Indiana, from Kentucky in 1826 and served in the Black Hawk War as a colonel of the 57th Indiana Militia. He died September 8, 1878, at Greenwood, Indiana. His wife, Agnes H. (Oliver) Wishard, was born in 1792 in Kentucky, a daughter of John and Martha (Henderson) Oliver. John Oliver was of English descent, a native of Virginia, who settled in Kentucky in 1782. He was a friend of Daniel Boone and helped to build a blockhouse at Lexington, Kentucky, in which his eldest child was born.

Colonel John Wishard was a son of William Wishard (originally spelled Wishart). William Wishard was a native of St. Andrews, Scotland, and a member of the Covenanters. He was a descendant of the house of Pitarrow to which belonged George Wishart, who died a martyr of religious persecution in Scotland. William Wishard went to County Tyrone, Ireland, and came to the American Colonies in 1774, first to Delaware, then to Pennsylvania. He was a minute man in the early days of the American Revolution and later fought at Brandywine and Germantown. He was commissioned in Captain William Guthrie's company of Westmoreland County militia and served on the frontier of western Pennsylvania during and after the war. He located at Redstone Fort (now Brownsville), Pennsylvania, and in 1794 moved to Nicholas County, Kentucky, then far in the Western wilderness. He was the father of fifteen children and lived to an advanced age.

The Wishards have been of remarkable longevity. Colonel John Wishard reached the age of 86 and his son, Dr. William H. Wishard, was near the age of 98 when he departed this life December 9, 1913. A brother of Dr. William H. Wishard, the Rev. Samuel E. Wishard, distinguished Presbyterian minister, died at Los Angeles, Calif., at the age of 90. An uncle also lived to be 90 and an aunt attained the age of 95 years 7 days.

Dr. William Henry Wishard was married December 17, 1840, to Harriet N. Moreland, youngest daughter of the Rev. John R. and Rachel (McGohon) Moreland. Nine children were born to Doctor and Mrs. Wishard. The four oldest children died in childhood. Those surviving were: William Niles; Albert W.; George W.; Harriet Jane, who married Dr. John G. Wishard of Wooster, Ohio; and Elizabeth M. Harriet N. (Moreland) Wishard died April 28, 1902, at Indianapolis.

Dr. William H. Wishard was one of the best known physicians and surgeons of Indiana for a period of more than sixty-five years. He began the study of medicine in 1838 under the tutorship of Dr. Benjamin S. Noble of Greenwood, Indiana, with whom he afterward practiced in partnership for ten years. He was graduated from Laporte (Ind.) Medical College and later attended Ohio Medical College, and practiced continuously from April 22, 1840, until January, 1905, first at Greenwood then at Southport, Indiana, and in the latter days of his life a resident of Indianapolis.

INDIANA CLIPPING FILE BIOGRAPHICAL - Wishard

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During the Civil War Doctor Wishard served as surgeon of the 59th Indiana Regiment and later of the 83rd Indiana Regiment. He was at the siege of Vicksburg and on the morning of July 4, 1863, entered that city with General Grant's army. In the spring of 1864 Doctor Wishard moved his family to Southport, Indiana, where he was in practice until 1876. In the autumn of 1876 he was elected coroner of Marion County and served four years in that office. He moved to Indianapolis in 1877 and continued in practice there until 1905, retiring from active practice on his 89th birthday. He died December 9, 1913.

William N. Wishard obtained his early education in the public schools of Southport. He attended Wabash College, at Crawfordsville, Indiana, in 1870-1872. He began the study of medicine and was graduated from Indiana Medical College in 1874 with the degree of Doctor of Medicine and from Miami Medical College, Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1876 with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Honorary degrees have been conferred on Doctor Wishard as follows: Wabash College, 1890, Master of Arts; College of Wooster, Ohio, 1919, Doctor of Laws; Indiana University, 1924, Doctor of Laws; DePauw University, 1928, Doctor of Science; and Hanover College, 1933, Doctor of Science.

Dr. William N. Wishard engaged in the practice of his profession in 1874 as an associate of his father at Southport. In 1875 he moved to Indianapolis where he has been located since. He has been in the practice of genito-urinary surgery longer probably than any other surgeon in Indiana, or possibly in the United States, having entered this field in 1887.

From 1876 to 1879 he was deputy coroner of Marion County and was in general medical practice and conducted autopsies incidental to his office. In 1879 he became superintendent of the Indianapolis City Hospital, a position he held until 1887. As superintendent of the hospital much of the surgical work devolved upon him. These cases comprised accident surgery such as reducing fractures and dislocations, and performing amputations. At that time very little abdominal surgery was done by anyone, that branch of surgical science developing somewhat later.

Some lower pelvic operations were being performed, repair of lacerations of the cervix, also perineum, rectocele and cystocele, and urethrocele. Likewise removal of stone and a few urethrotomies. Supra-pubic cystotomy was then rare. Urological surgery consisted of surgery of the bladder, urethra and external genitals. Up to 1887 no surgeon in Indiana had performed a nephrectomy. The first was done by Dr. L. H. Dunning, now deceased, at South Bend. Doctor Dunning later located at Indianapolis. Doctor Wishard performed the second nephrectomy in Indiana in 1889.

Doctor Wishard's interest in urology was inspired in 1879 through an aged patient in the City Hospital whose condition required a trocar puncture which had to be repeated daily. The man died. Post mortem examination disclosed a growth which might have been easily removed, and Doctor

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Wishard realized that the patient's life might have been saved. He began an intensive study of such cases and his great knowledge of urology developed from the incident.

Early in 1887 he took post-graduate work at the New York Post Graduate Medical School and Hospital and at the New York Polyclinic. At that time he met Dr. Fessenden W. Otis and through him Dr. Eugene Fuller and Dr. Frederick R. Sturgis. He became a private pupil of the two last-mentioned and has always regarded that tutelage as a valuable part of his post-graduate training. In the spring of 1888 he again attended the New York Post Graduate Medical School and in the winters of 1887-1888 and 1889-1890 attended the Polyclinic at Chicago. In June, 1890, he visited Berlin to attend the International Medical Congress, where he first saw Nitze's cystoscope used. He visited the hospitals of Berlin and Vienna, and at London attended clinics at St. Peter's Hospital for Stone, and at St. Thomas' and St. Bartholomew's Hospitals. In 1902 and in 1909 he again visited London and attended clinics at Guy's and St. Thomas' Hospitals.

From 1887 to 1890, Doctor Wishard performed many palliative operations in prostatic cases and his work as a specialist steadily developed. During the closing decade of the 19th Century he grew in technical knowledge and in skill. He was also able to devise improvements of certain important instruments for cauterization and visualization of the operative area.

Doctor Wishard was one of the first surgeons to call attention to the influence of cauterization in prostatic hypertrophy. In 1890 he was the first surgeon to apply cauterization under visual observation for removal of prostatic obstruction and he devised a method for this procedure which he reported to the American Association of Genito-Urinary Surgeons at Washington, D. C., in September, 1891. A modification of this method is now in general use. He was of opinion that its use was of value in special cases, but should not be taken as wholly to displace removal of obstructing growth. He was the first surgeon in Indiana to remove the enlarged prostate, which he did at Shelbyville, Indiana, in 1890.

In 1895 he developed a new method of catheter drainage following suprapubic trocar puncture. He developed two forms of catheter which have long been in general use in this and other countries. In 1883 Doctor Wishard was appointed assistant to the chair of general medicine in the Medical College of Indiana, now Indiana University School of Medicine, and he continued in that capacity until 1887 when the chair of genito-urinary surgery was established and he became professor and head of the department. He has held the latter position continuously since, making a period of fifty years as an instructor. He conducted part of the Indianapolis City Hospital clinics in internal medicine and in gynecology, 1883-1887.

During his superintendency of the Indianapolis City Hospital Doctor Wishard secured the erection of new hospital buildings, the cornerstone of which was laid in April, 1883, and other wings completed in 1884-1885. Through his efforts and those of the Flower Mission, the first training school for

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nurses in Indiana was established in 1863, known as the Flower Mission Training School for Nurses and operated in connection with the Indianapolis City Hospital. This school was the second of its kind established in the Northern States and west of the Alleghenies.

It was in part through Doctor Wishard's influence also that the three schools of medicine at that time existent in Indiana—the Medical College of Indiana, the Central College of Physicians and Surgeons, Indianapolis, and the Fort Wayne Medical School—were merged into one school called, at first, the Indiana Medical College and later the Indiana University School of Medicine.

Doctor Wishard was president of the Indianapolis Surgical Society (now non-existent) in 1890 and of the Indianapolis Medical Society in 1894. He was president of the Mississippi Valley Medical Association in 1895, of the Indiana State Medical Association in 1898 and of the American Urological Association in 1905. He was first vice-president of the American Medical Association, 1918-1919. He was a member of the first House of Delegates of the American Medical Association, formed in 1902, and was continuously a member until 1913.

He is an honorary member of the Association Francaise d'Urologie, of the American Association of Genito-Urinary Surgeons and of the Michigan State Medical Society. He served as surgeon general of the Indiana National Guard, with the rank of colonel, 1890-1892. He is a member of Phi Rho Sigma, a medical fraternity. He was chairman of the committee on public policy and legislation, of the Indiana Medical Society, 1896-1922, becoming in the latter year, chairman of the bureau of publicity of the same body, a position he now holds. Since 1896 he has served continuously, except for two years, as chairman of a standing committee of the Indiana State Medical Association, one of which years he was president of the Association. The medical law of Indiana, enacted in 1897, was passed chiefly through his influence. He wrote the original draft of the act which remains unchanged in other than minor amendments. He has contributed widely to medical literature on urological and related subjects.

Doctor Wishard has served on the staff of St. Vincent's Hospital, of the Methodist Hospital and of the City Hospital, all of Indianapolis, since 1887. Since 1910 he has performed most of his operative work at the Methodist Hospital, Indianapolis. He is consulting surgical urologist of the Indianapolis City Hospital, of Indiana University Hospitals and of the Methodist Hospital. He is a trustee of Long College for Women, of Indianapolis. He is chairman of the committee on professional standards of the Methodist Hospital, chairman of the museum committee of Indiana University School of Medicine and chairman of the portrait committee of the Indianapolis Medical Society.

William Niles Wishard was married May 20, 1880, to Alice M. Woollen, a daughter of William Wesley and Sarah (Young) Woollen, of Indianapolis.

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Mrs. Wishard died in December of the same year. Doctor Wishard was again married June 17, 1896, to Frances C. Scoville, a daughter of Charles E. and Frances (Howell) Scoville, of Evansville, Indiana. Five children were born of the second marriage, three of whom died in infancy. The two surviving are: William Niles Jr.; and Charles Scoville.

William Niles Wishard Jr. followed the example of his father and grandfather in adopting the profession of medicine and surgery. Dr. William N. Wishard Jr. is associated with his father in his professional work.

Charles Scoville Wishard is a Presbyterian minister. The Reverend C. S. Wishard is pastor of a church at Summit, N. J. He and his wife are the parents of two children: Frances McMurtrie; and William VanDusen.

Dr. William N. Wishard Sr. is a ruling elder of the First Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis and has served as a commissioner of the Church General Assembly. He is a Republican. His clubs are: Columbia, of which he is a charter member, and Contemporary, of which he is a former member. He is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and of the Society of Indiana Pioneers.

His maternal grandfather, the Rev. John Robertson Moreland, was a pioneer preacher in Indiana. He became pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis in 1828. He organized churches in the state and in 1831 went as a commissioner to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church at Philadelphia, a journey of six weeks on horseback each way.

January, 1934