

Early Medicine

In the early 1800s, local doctors relied on remedies they made themselves from plants. Most had been trained by another doctor rather than in medical school. Their reference book was *Domestic Medicine* first published in 1790.



In this area, doctors were scarce. Housewives used home remedies for everyday ailments. They spooned out **castor oil** and **turpentine** every Saturday whether needed or not.



Jayne's Expectorant, **Vinegar Bitters**, and **S.S.S.** and other patent medicines could be bought in a few stores. A traveling medicine show might come to town.

Dr. Laird's Tonic claimed to be necessary whenever exercise resulted in a rapid heartbeat, a full stomach occurred after overeating, or if someone procrastinated getting out of bed on cold mornings.

Country Doctors

Babies were born at home with the help of a good midwife.

The rare examination by a country doctor included checking the tongue, asking some questions, and checking the pulse. Doctors were more apothecaries than physicians.



Dr. Goodman practiced homeopathic medicine in Calico Rock in the late 1800s. Dr. Goodman ground animal, plant or mineral substances known to cause illness in minute amounts. He diluted the substance up to six times in water or alcohol. He shook and pounded the solution ten times. Then, gave the patient a dose.

Surprisingly, many of his cures worked, though there is no medical evidence why it worked.

Home Remedies

Colic, Croup or Hives	Calamus root, senna tea, Jerusalem oak with honey, sassafras bark tea
Rheumatism	Wahoo bark, wild cherry bark bitters, Virginia snakeroot
Coughs & colds	Compound of burdock root, wild cherry, prickly ash bark, sarsaparilla, horehound and honey (tea cup four times a day)
Eye Irritations	Thick leaf of prickly pear, burn off spines, roast in hot ashes, split in two, place over the eye cut side down, tie in place and let set overnight
Soreness	Goose grease
Chapped Hands	Mutton tallow

Longest Operating Business

In 1879, **Roby & Galloway** opened an apothecary. The business is the longest continually operating business in Izard County.

In 1885, they sold the drug store to **Schenck and Goodman**. They were medical doctors and practicing apothecaries. A fire destroyed the inside of their store in 1885, but the insurance provided enough money to reopen.

Leonard and Levi Evans purchased the drug store and renamed it **Evans Brothers Drug Store**. They moved the pharmacy to present-day Clinkingbeard's Soda Fountain.

The Evans heirs sold the business to **Richard Armstrong** in about 1940. Mr. Armstrong was not a druggist, so he hired **Otis Forrest**. The Foremost Ice Cream sign, mirror behind the soda fountain, and stools were installed by Mr. Armstrong and remain in the building today.

Reed M. Perryman bought the pharmacy and called it **City Drug Store** in 1951. In 1969, he incorporated and changed the name to **Perryman Drug Store**. His daughter, Brenda Ward, owned the pharmacy from 1990-2000. In 2000, the pharmacy was purchased by Sarah and Steven Mitchell and the name was again changed to **Mitchell's Park Street Pharmacy**.

Despite ownership and name changes, the pharmacy is the longest continually operating business in the county.

Dr. Henry H. Smith

In 1881, Dr. Henry Harlin Smith was born at Spring Creek. Four of his siblings died of **childhood diseases**, perhaps encouraging him toward a medical degree. He attended Barren Forks College and spent several months “**reading**” under Dr. Jim Roe. He graduated from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in 1906.

He continued his medical education at the University of Kansas School of Medicine, Tulane University, and medical schools in Tennessee, Chicago and St. Louis. He was a **life-long learner**.

During his career, he performed the **first surgery** in Izard County. He laid the patient out on a kitchen table and performed the operation by lantern light.

He was the Izard County Coroner and the local surgeon for the Missouri-Pacific Railroad from 1906-1931. He was instrumental in eliminating the **common communion cup** at Methodist services, of which he was a lifelong member, for sanitary purposes.

He was community-minded organizing the first Four County Fair, serving on the school board, and organizing the **Hoss Hair Pullers**. He loved music, the arts, and traveling.

Dr. Smith suffered a cerebral hemorrhage on a trip to Little Rock on **October 14, 1931**. At his funeral, Congressman John E. Miller eulogized Dr. Smith before an estimated crowd of over 1,000 mourners.

Dr. Noel “Buck” Copp

Dr. Noel “Buck” Copp graduated from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in 1930. His wife, Gaye, graduated from St. Vincent Infirmary as a nurse in 1926. They married in 1931 and began a **life-long medical career and partnership**.

On June 26, 1931, they **delivered their first baby**, Eulice Gillihan. When the family came to town looking for Dr. Smith, he was at another call. Doc and Gaye went out to the house. When they got to the house, a lady came on the porch and said, **“We don’t need no company, we got sick folks.”** Doc told her they’d come to deliver a baby and he did just that.

By 1943, Doc and Gaye had become very busy. During their long career, they delivered over **1,000 babies**. On two different occasions, they delivered **four babies in one day** in different parts of the county. There were many occasions where they delivered **three babies in a day**.

Doc had an office on the second floor of the State Bank of Calico Rock building on Main Street. He also saw patients at the back of the **Evans Brothers Drug Store** for a time.

Dr. Copp was community-minded. He was a **32nd Degree Mason** and member of the school board. He organized a Boy Scout troop and led an annual week-long trip to **Blanchard Springs**. Any boy that could get a horse or mule could go.

Doc Copp never retired, though he did slow down a bit before his death in 1976.

Dr. Hildred Meade

Dr. Hildred Meade was born in Kansas in 1837. She retired as a successful Dentist to Calico Rock. In 1943, Doc Copp convinced her to come out of retirement and be the first Dentist in Calico Rock. She was the **second female Dentist in Arkansas history**.

She had an aptitude for making **dentures, crowns, and partial plates**. She retired after over 30 years in Dentistry. As soon as her neighbors heard about her background, they convinced her to pull teeth. She had sold her equipment to make crowns and dental hardware.

Doc Copp had a patient in extreme pain. Dr. Meade was eating lunch at a local restaurant and Doc Copp convinced her to pull the tooth using his instruments.

She rented two rooms in the **River View Hotel** for her first practice. Doc Copp was one of her first patients. She made him a set of dentures, which **cost \$35** at the time.

Dr. Meade rarely, if ever, used **pain killers**.

In 1954, she married and moved to Bexar. She stopped extracting teeth, but continued to make dentures. Dr. Meade suffered a debilitating stroke in 1972 and died a year later.

The Little White House

In 1952, **Dr. Anthony Meryl Grasse** and his wife, Gladys, established their medical practice in Calico Rock.

His first practice was in the **Shaver Hotel** behind Main Street. There was no hospital in Calico Rock at that time.

Dr. Grasse, his brother, John, and their wives began a small hospital. The **first hospital** was in a little white house along Park Street. Mr. **H.H. Ducker** had built two white houses on Park Street for men working at his lumber company. The lumber company had been moved to Pineville and the houses were vacant.

The little white house still stands today. Behind it, the modern **Community Medical Center of IZARD County** includes ten doctors on staff, modern diagnostic and surgical suites, and a thirty bed hospital.

Dr. Grasse performed countless surgeries and delivered endless babies during his career.

Dr. Grasse officially retired in 2011, but continues assisting the medical clinic and hospital, which are his life's passion.