

The Hoffman Fund

Dr. George Hoffman was a very well-known individual who called Fulton County home. He was a beloved physician in Rochester from 1893 until his passing in 1951, and he was very involved with the medical field throughout the state. The main focus of his research was mental health. He wrote articles for medical journals about his studies and was said to have treated and cured people whom other doctors had given up on. He was on the staff at Longcliff Hospital, which is now known as Logansport State Hospital.



After his wife's death in 1924, just four years after their marriage, his two-year-old son, Frederick, went to live with his maternal grandparents. Their farm was north of Macy, and Dr. Hoffman could often be seen riding his motorcycle to see his son. Once Frederick started school, his father would pick him up in the morning and drive him all the way to Rochester. George liked the Rochester school system the most and enrolled his son there. He also took his son on rounds as County Health Officer and on house calls to his patients.

George was an avid collector throughout his life. He gathered violins (which he never learned to play), radios, cameras, guns, telescopes, microscopes, and magazines. The collection he so admired eventually started filling his entire house. He built his own dark room and observatory in his home on Madison Street so he could use some of the pieces he collected. Many visitors flocked to his house to look at his odd collection of items, and he would talk for hours about what each thing meant and where he got it. His collection was his main focus later in his life.

After his passing on November 7, 1951, Dr. Hoffman's collection of memorabilia was donated to the Fulton County Historical Society. His unusual items, such as his 50 pistols, 40 cameras, and 20 violins, made a very nice addition to the county museum. His son decided long after his father's death that something needed to be done to preserve his legacy, so a donation was made to the historical society in the form of a fund in his father's name. Frederick's donation and George's collection were assets that contributed to the Fulton County Historical Society and to the community. Dr. Hoffman's honor will live on along with his prized collection.