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4-12-1937

### Palmer, Dr. Benjamin Robinson (1815 - 1882)

Dorothy Hansmann

Tresa Gruber

Melba Peterson

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#### Recommended Citation

Hansmann, Dorothy; Gruber, Tresa; and Peterson, Melba, "Palmer, Dr. Benjamin Robinson (1815 - 1882)" (1937). *WPA Biographic Summaries*. 966.

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PALMER, DOCTOR B. R.

File No. B-1003

Doctor B. R. Palmer was the pioneer physician and surgeon of this locality, and had amply prepared himself for the practice of his profession. A portion of his medical education had been acquired in Paris. At the completion of his Collegiate Course, he had selected his native state of Pennsylvania as the region where he should apply himself to his life's work. But he found himself the victim of tubercular pulmonary hemorrhages forcing him to a change in climate.

He came to Minnesota, because of the reputation the state had already gained for an atmosphere favorable for the amelioration of pulmonary infections.

The Indian outbreak occurring at the time prompted him to lend his surgical assistance to the government, and brought him to the stockade erected at Sauk Centre, which new settlement with its surrounding territory was destined to be his life home. He engaged in what has been called a rough and tumble practice.

The long distances he had to travel in the country dependant upon Sauk Centre in meeting the calls for his professional assistance forced him virtually to a life in the open air which brought to him a restoration of health. In his life on the frontier he was stripped of the many aids which come to those attending the sick and disabled in the older communities, but his wonderful resourcefulness was drafted to make good the deficiency and he was eminently successful. And in his devotion to his duty he did still more. He placed himself permanently in the affections of his patients. Of course the adult generation to whom he ministered has passed away, for Doctor Palmer has been in his grave nearly fifty years, but there are many gray-haired men and women who were his child patients who are fond of mentioning his kindness. And so

PALMER, DOCTOR B. R.

Page No. 2

abiding was the human touch he seemed to establish with them that from the storage of their memory they enjoy bringing many an incident in which the halo surrounds Doctor Palmer.

Copied from: Sauk Centre Herald of June 28, 1931  
Date: December 11, 1936  
Copied by: Dorothy Hansmann



PALMER, BENJAMIN ROBINSON

File No. B-1001 -

Benjamin R. Palmer, physician, born in South Berwick, Maine, March 15, 1815; died in Sauk Centre, Minnesota, May 6, 1882. He came to Minnesota in 1856, settling in St. Cloud; was assistant surgeon in the United States Army, 1862 to 1866, being stationed at Sauk Centre and Fort Ripley, Minnesota; lived afterward at Sauk Centre, and had an extensive practice.

Copied from: Minnesota Biographies Page 576  
Date Copied: March 22, 1937  
Copied by: Tresa Gruber

TAKEN FROM THE CENSUS RECORDS OF 1860

Enumerated June 1, 1860 By-- C. Grandelmeyer

Post Office -- St. Cloud

Page Number 3

Benjamin Robinson Palmer

Age 45

Sex

Male

Occupation

Physician

Born

Maine

Anna B. Palmer

Age 25

Sex

Female

Born

Maine



PALMER, DR. BENJAMIN R.

File No. B-1002

Benjamin Palmer was born in South Berwick, Maine, on March 15, 1815. He had a great fondness to study and wanted a college course so he prepared at Dover and Derry, New Hampshire. In 1834, he entered Bowdoin College, but was forced to quit when a sophomore because of ill health.

Later Benjamin Palmer began reading medicine with Dr. M. Hawks of Eastport, Maine. He finished with Dr. Peter Fahnestock of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania and received his diploma from the University of Maryland in Baltimore, in 1844. He also studied in Paris, France.

In May, 1852, Dr. Benjamin Palmer married Julia Brewer of Pittsburg. She died in November of 1855. Benjamin Palmer practiced in Pittsburg for about eleven or twelve years when he discovered he had tubercular pulmonary hemorrhages and had to change climates.

In 1856, Benjamin Palmer came to Minnesota.

In August of 1858, Benjamin R. Palmer married Anna B. D. Barrows of Fryeburgh, Maine.

In 1862, Benjamin Palmer became Acting Assistant Surgeon of the U. S. Army. He served for about four years. Most of this time he was at Fort Ridgely and Sauk Centre. He became the first resident physician in Sauk Centre where he lived almost the remainder of his life. While at the stockade he was appointed assistant surgeon and First Lieutenant of the U. S. Army. He was on duty in Sauk Centre for over three years. He treated the sick from the 8th and 9th Regiments of Infantry, 1st Regiment of Cavalry, Hotches' Battalion and the second Cavalry Regiment who were stationed at Sauk Centre at different periods or brought in from other

PALMER, DR. BENJAMIN R.

Page 2

posts. Dr. Palmer was the most popular officer at the Post.

Benjamin Palmer was active in the organization of the Grand Army Post in Sauk Centre.

Dr. Benjamin R. Palmer is buried in Sauk Centre in Oakland cemetery. A memorial was dedicated to him on Sunday, September 27, 1931 by the Daughters of the American Revolution. The words inscribed on the face of it are:

"So rare was his skill and so great his devotion to the duties placed upon him that his name has a paramount place in the annals of the community he helped to build."

Taken from: S. C. Herald of September 24, 1931 and  
History of Upper Mississippi Valley Page 472  
Date Copied: April 12, 1937  
Copied by: Melba Peterson



TAKEN FROM THE CENSUS RECORDS OF 1860

Enumerated June 1, 1860 By -- C. Grandelmeyer

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Page Number -- 3

Benjamin R. Palmer

Age 45

Sex

Male

Occupation

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Anna B. Palmer

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Female

Occupation

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FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE DR. BENJAMIN R. PALMER BIOGRAPHY

NO LEGAL RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE DOCTOR B. R. PALMER BIOGRAPHY

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