

# **Bibliography of Publications by Shaker Physicians William Pennebaker and Frank Tripp**

*Compiled by Randall L. Ericson*

While in discussion with Aaron Genton about his article on William Pennebaker and the 1871 “fracas,” he revealed that scrapbooks at Pleasant Hill contained a number of articles by William Pennebaker and Frank Tripp on a wide variety of medical topics. I searched for these articles in online databases so that I could provide complete bibliographic descriptions for the articles held at Pleasant Hill. I broadened my search and found many additional articles. This bibliography is a result of my research. Pennebaker and Tripp served as doctors to the Pleasant Hill Shaker community. These articles published in regional and national journals, reveal how thoroughly they were part of the medical community in Kentucky and the nation.

William F. Pennebaker was officially appointed by the Ministry to the position of Physician for the Society at Pleasant Hill, Ky., in 1876, though there is some evidence that he was operating in some kind of medical capacity earlier than this.<sup>1</sup> He appeared to serve both Shakers and non-Shakers, although the details of how this worked are unclear. The most commonly repeated view is that he was received his medical education in Cincinnati and that the Shakers sent him there to get that education.<sup>2</sup> There were also claims that he was educated in Louisville and New York,<sup>3</sup> Indianapolis,<sup>4</sup> and even Johns Hopkins.<sup>5</sup> There is, however, no documentary

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1 A Ministerial Journal, October 24, 1868–September 30, 1880, April 18, 1874 (Mss. BA S527 vol.16), Filson Historical Society.

2. Obituary, *Harrodsburg Herald*, March 10, 1922

3. Ella Hutchison Ellwanger, “Shakertown, Its Present and Its Past,” *Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society*, v 10, no.51 (September 1919): 35.

4. Marywebb Gibson, *Shakerism in Kentucky* (Cynthiana, Ky.: Hobson Press, 1942), 76. Gibson claims he studied electro-physics and therapeutics in Indianapolis.

5. Mate Reid Sewell, “Passing of Shakerism,” undated newspaper clipping in Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill archives; internal evidence indicates approximately 1923).



William Pennebaker. (Courtesy of Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill Collection)



evidence for any of these claims (i.e., no enrollment records, diploma, or even Shaker records). The Cincinnati story is repeated in an interview with an older lady some thirty years after Pennebaker's death who remembers once being in Dr. Pennebaker's office and seeing a diploma on the wall from the University of Cincinnati.<sup>6</sup> Even if true, the diploma may have been for Frank Tripp rather than William Pennebaker. Genton has seen confirmation that Tripp attended the University of Cincinnati. While we don't know details about Pennebaker's medical training, it must have been pretty good, considering his presence in these medical journals. Here is one description of his prowess as a doctor: "Demise Abram N. Kulp was taken suddenly ill out in the Horse Lot, & by the time they carried him home he was dead to all appearance, so that some thought he would never breathe again! But the vigorous exertions of Dr. Wm. Pennebaker & others present finally resuscitated him & he revived again!!!"<sup>7</sup> Pennebaker was a member of the Mercer County Medical Society and was called on to perform post-mortem exams. He was a Shaker until death, the second to last Shaker at Pleasant Hill, dying in 1922.

Dr. Frank Silsby Tripp is an interesting case. There's a great opportunity there for more research, because we don't really know a lot about him. According to Genton, it appears that he was a Shaker at Pleasant Hill, and at some point he left. Perhaps while he was gone he pursued an education, possibly at Cornell and the University of Cincinnati. He must have kept close contact with the Pennebakers, coming back to visit regularly, and ultimately establishing a medical practice with William Pennebaker, although it doesn't appear that he ever repented and rejoined the Shaker community. At some point, Tripp married a young girl who was also raised at Pleasant Hill, Jessie Neligh, and they lived in Waynesville, Ohio, for some period of time. Another legend is that Pennebaker didn't approve of this marriage, and this led to a strained relationship between the two.<sup>8</sup>

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6. Interview with Mrs. Charles Bell, Harrodsburg, Kentucky, July 15, 1954, in F. Gerald Ham, *Pleasant Hill: A Century of Shakerism, 1805-1910* (M.A. thesis, University of Kentucky, 1955), 239n33.

7. *A Ministerial Journal*, October 1, 1880–December 25, 1890, August 28, 1884 (Mss. BA S527 vol.17), Filson Historical Society

8. I wish to thank Aaron Genton for this background information about William Pennebaker and Frank Tripp.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "Abdominal Surgery—Celiotomy." *Wisconsin Medical Recorder* 8, no. 10 (Oct. 1905): 371-78.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "Acute Appendicitis." *Wisconsin Medical Recorder* 3, no. 6 (June 1900): 149-51.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "Answer to Query 4666 [Condensed Queries Answered]." *Alkaloidal Clinic* 12, no. 5 (May 1905): 537-38.

Pennebaker and Tripp issued a correction to their formula in 12, no. 7 (July 1905): 746.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "Burns." *Medical Brief* (St. Louis, Mo.) 33, no. 2 (Feb. 1905): 171-74; 33, no. 3 (Mar. 1905): 238-41.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "Burns." *Medical Brief* (St. Louis, Mo.) 33, no. 2 (Feb. 1905): 171-74; 33, no. 3 (Mar. 1905): 238-41.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "Catarrhus Ambrosia [Original Communications]." *Medical Summary* (Philadelphia) 21, no. 4 (June 1899): 110.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "Clinical Notes on Heroin." *Journal of Medicine and Science (Portland, Me.)* 8, no. 1 (Dec. 1901): 9-10.

"By W. F. Pennebaker, M.D., and S. [i.e., F. S.] Tripp, M.D., Pleasant Hill, Ky." Reprinted in *Clinical Excerpts* 8, no. 6 (July 1902): 90-91.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "Curing Cancers—Some Further Formulæ." *Medical Brief* (St. Louis, Mo.) 28, no. 2 (Feb. 1900): 222.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "Dermatitis Venevato [Therapeutics]." *Journal of Materia Medica* 34, no. 8 (Aug. 1896): 128.

Signed: *Drs. Pennebaker and Gupp* [i.e., Tripp].

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "A Dressing for Hip Joint Disease." *Medical Brief* (St. Louis, Mo.) 26, no. 5 (May 1898): 796, 798.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "Drugs that Should Not Be Used



*Far left: William Pennebaker; far right: Frank S. Tripp. (Courtesy of Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill Collection)*

or Employed During Pregnancy.” *Medical Brief* (St. Louis, Mo.) 32, no. 12 (Dec. 1904): 1104.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. “Ergot.” *Medical Brief* (St. Louis, Mo.) 26, no. 3 (Mar. 1898): 378.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. “Expectorant Treatment of Pneumonia.” *Practical Medicine* 10, no. 2 (1905): 88.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. “Fracture Box for Infant.” *Medical Brief* (St. Louis, Mo.) 33, no. 1 (Jan. 1905): 78-79.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. “How Did This Happen?” *Medical Brief* (St. Louis, Mo.) 29, no. 11 (Nov. 1901): 1680.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. “Insanity.” *Wisconsin Medical Recorder* 4, no. 3 (Mar. 1901):70-73; 4, no. 4 (Apr. 1901): 100-104.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. “Intestinal Surgery.” *Medical Brief* (St. Louis, Mo.) 33, no. 9 (Sept. 1905): 743-45; 33, no. 10 (Oct. 1905): 833-37.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. “Juniper Cough Syrup [Favorite Prescriptions].” *Medical Summary* (Philadelphia) 20, no. 11 (Jan. 1899): 306.  
Signed: *Drs. Pennebaker and Tripp. Pleasant Hill, Ky.* Provides a cough syrup recipe.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. “Lyssophobia [Original Communications].” *Medical Summary* (Philadelphia) 21, no. 3 (May 1899): 70-71.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. “Nervus of Lower Lip.” *Medical Brief* (St. Louis, Mo.) 28, no. 9 (Sept. 1900): 1343-44.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. “An Obstetrical Monstrosity [Original Communications].” *Medical Summary* (Philadelphia) 20, no. 9 (Nov. 1898): 229.



Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "Obstruction of the Bowels." *Medical Progress* (Louisville, Ky.) 21 (June 1905): 183-85.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "The Origin and Composition of the Mad Stone." *Medical Brief* (St. Louis, Mo.) 32, no. 1 (Jan. 1904): 63-64.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "Pericæcal Abscess.—Operation [Original Communications]." *Medical Summary* (Philadelphia) 20, no. 12 (Feb. 1898): 319-20.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "The Peritoneum and its Relation to Gastro-Intestinal Inflammation." *Medical Era* 17 (1908): 505-8.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "Poisoned Wounds." *Medical Brief* (St. Louis, Mo.) 28 (Dec. 1900): 1904, 1906, 1908, 1910, 1912, 1914, 1916, 1918.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "Puerperal Eclampsia Successfully Treated." *American Journal of Clinical Medicine* 17, no. 3 (Mar. 1910): 334-35.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "Pulmonary Tuberculosis." *Medical Brief* (St. Louis, Mo.) 29, no. 5 (May 1901): 695-98; 29, no. 6 (June 1901): 860-64; 29, no. 8 (Aug. 1901): 1160-63; 29, no. 9 (Sept. 1901): 1323-25; 29, no. 10 (Oct. 1901): 1480-84.

The first installment is in 29, no. 4 (Apr. 1901), but that issue has not been located. The last installment has "To be continued" at the end, but the fact that there is an extensive bibliography at the end of the text of the October installment and that no additional installments were found in the next two issues, leads this bibliographer to conclude that the October 1901 installment is the last of this article.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "Pulmonary Tuberculosis." *Medical Brief* (St. Louis, Mo.) 26, no. 3 (Mar. 1898): 446.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "A Racial Danger." *Medical Brief* (St. Louis, Mo.) 28, no. 10 (Oct. 1900): 1536.

Warns of the use of paris green, which is made up of over 50 percent arsenic, in the cultivation of tobacco.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "Some Observations on Amputations and Resections." *Medical Era* 14, no. 2 (Oct. 1904): [35]-40.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "Spurious Pregnancy [Notes and Queries]." *Medical Summary* (Philadelphia) 20, no. 10 (Dec. 1898): 275-76.  
Signed: *Drs. Pennebaker and Tripp. Pleasant Hill, Ky.*

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "Summer Diarrhoea in Children." *Wisconsin Medical Recorder* 1, no. 8 (Aug. 1898): 182.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "Surgery of the Stomach." *Wisconsin Medical Recorder* 10, no. 6 (June 1907): 182-90.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "Treatment of Catarrhal Phthisis." *Alkoloideal Clinic* 11, no. 12 (Dec. 1904): 1280.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "Tuberculosis: The Question of the Hour." *American Journal of Clinical Medicine* 16 (1909): 762-67.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "Unauthorized Uterine Injections [Original Communications]." *Medical Summary* (Philadelphia) 20, no. 8 (Nov. [i.e., Oct.] 1898): 199.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "Untoward Action of Aconitine in Pneumonia." *American Journal of Clinical Medicine* 17, no. 4 (Apr. 1910): 449.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "Urticaria Tuberosa---Death [Notes and Queries]." *Medical Summary* (Philadelphia) 21, no. 1 (Mar. 1899): 28.

Signed: *Drs. Pennebaker and Tripp. Pleasant Hill, Ky.* Discusses the case of an infant that died suddenly.

Pennebaker, William, and Frank Tripp. "Zoster Subscapularis." *Medical Brief* (St. Louis, Mo.) 28, no. 4 (Apr. 1900): 474.



Two medicine bottles with  
Drs. Pennebaker & Tripp,  
Pleasant Hill, Kentucky, labels.  
(Courtesy of Shaker Village of  
Pleasant Hill Collection)

