Glasgow Physician Performed Plastic Surgery Before Civil War

In an issue of the Glasgow Weekly Times of September 16th, 1858, appears the following story of the proficiency of Dr. Isaac Pleasant Vaughan as a surgeon.

"Dr. Vaughan, of this place, performed a difficult but successful operation, a short time since, on Mr. Joseph Salmon of Saline county. It consisted in making a new nose for the patient. The end of his nose had been eaten away by disease in such a way as to greatly disfigure his countenance.

A piece of flesh sufficiently large to render the nose perfect and symmetrical was taken from the forehead, placed in the proper position, and in a short time was as permanently fixed as if it had originally grown there. The patient was himself again, and went on his way rejoicing with as perfect a nose as he was born with.

"But a short time since, Dr. Vaughan performed a similar operation, making for his patient a new upper lip, greatly improving his personal appearance and speech.

"The effects of nature or the ravages of disease are speedily remedied by his skillful knife. There is no need of traveling to far off lands to be healed, for, lo, there is a physician at your door.

In 1875 the American Bible Society, which was instituted in the year 1816, was publishing the New Testament in two volumes with raised letters which the blind might read through the sense of touch. Each volume was 15 by 12 inches and 5 1/2 inches thick.

James P. Hackley, who as a boy of 11 years, came with his father, Lott Hackley, from Mercer county, Kentucky, to Howard county, Missouri, in 1824, died at his farm home a short distance north of Tick Ridge church and school in 1887.

For some 14 years before his death he was blind. He had long been a devout Bible scholar and when he became afflicted, it was a great cross for him that he could no longer study the Book.

Mr. Hackley had two sons, James and Charles, who solved this difficulty for their father. They learned the New Testament, with raised letters which was being published by the American Bible Society and ordered it at a cost of what is remembered today as $75.00.

Then they made a set of wooden letters like those on the imprinted pages of the books, and their father became proficient with their outlines through the sense of touch. Soon Mr. Hackley was running two of his fingers along the lines of imprinted letters in the books which were placed on an adjustable stand by his chair.

He derived great pleasure from this reading and at the time of his death knew most of the New Testament by memory.

George Owen, a grandson of the late James P. Hackley who resides on the old Hackley homestead, is the proud possessor of one volume of this unusual New Testament. The other volume is owned by David Hackley of Dallas, Texas.

Thomas Frisoe was converted and baptized in the Baptist church in 1817, and came to Missouri in 1818, where he was ordained a preacher in 1822. For thirty years he was pastor of Old Charlton church which was located first at the town of Charlton from the time of its organization in 1820 until 1827, and then at a point about two miles northeast from Glasgow where it remained until 1861.

During his long ministry, Elder Frisoe kept a record of all marriages performed by him. Between January 23, 1827, and October 27, 1871, he joined 318 couples in the bonds of matrimony.

His record book, now in the possession of the State Historical Society of Columbia, indicates that 50% of these were white people and that no negroes were married by him, until the close of the war in 1865, after which ten couples were united in marriage between that time and April of 1867.

Thomas Frisoe died March 2, 1872, and was buried at Old Charlton cemetery. A beautiful white marble shaft was erected at his grave and on its face is engraved this fine tribute:

"In all the relations of life as husband, father, pastor, citizen and neighbor, Elder Frisoe was faithful and true. He was distinguished by an unaffected humility, unswerving and inflexible purpose; over all was thrown the charm of an unquestioned piety, a religious spirit pervaded the whole character; though dead he yet speaks."

From History of Howard and Cooper counties, 1883. Frisoe papers at State Hist. Soc. Frisoe monument.