

[Main](#)

The University of Iowa Homeopathic Medical Department.

Medical Museum - University of Iowa Health Care.

www.uihealthcare.com/medmuseum/

Presented by Sylvain Cazalet



Homeopathic Hospital, Iowa City, Iowa.

The University of Iowa Homeopathic Medical Department (1876-1919)

1870s

1870 - Hahnemann Medical Association is established in Iowa.

1871 - Begin the 1st Homeopathic coursework at the University of Iowa.

1872 - 13 local and state organizations and 10,000 people petition Board of Regents for funds to begin UI Homeopathic Medical Department; Board says "no."

1876 - UI Homeopathic Medical Department established.

1877 - Controversy of homeopathic students required to attend regular Medical Department lectures despite contradictions.

1878 - First student graduates from homeopathic department.

Program awarded \$1600 to erect a building between Jefferson and Iowa Streets.



Homeopathic Medical Hospital, Summer

1880s

1880 - 47 undergraduate and 9 graduate students in program.



60. UI Homeopathy Class of 1882

1882

Courtesy of the UI College of Medicine

1883 - Increased academic standards by requiring preliminary exams.

Filed request for \$30,000 for homeopathic hospital; denied.

1887 - 2nd request for hospital filed; denied. Rented space for hospital.



Old Homeopathic Hospital Interior, ward view



Old Homeopathic Hospital Interior

1890s

1890 - Regents allocate \$15,000 for combined homeopathic school building and hospital.

1894 - Hospital saw 139 admissions, 96 outpatients during schoolyear.

61. University of Iowa Homeopathic Medical Building and Hospital
1895

Located at the corner of Jefferson and Dubuque Streets.

Courtesy of University of Iowa Archives



1895 - New homeopathic hospital opened.

62. Ward no. 2 UI Homeopathic Medical Building
1895
Courtesy of University of Iowa Archives



Old Homeopathic Hospital Interior (1911)

1900

1900 - Official establishment of College of Homeopathic Medicine with 5 professors, 8 assistants, 11 teachers.

22 homeopathic medical colleges in the country.

1908 - W. Max Rohrbacher entered the program.

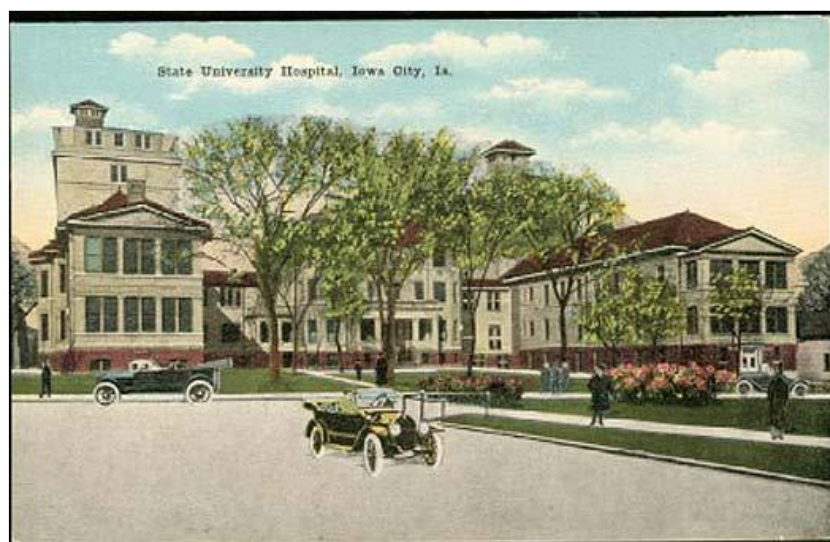
1910 - Begin decline of homeopathy: graduates dropped, number of colleges nationwide dropped to 15.

1912 - W. Max Rohrbacher graduated with Degree of Dr. of Medicine with 5 other medical students and 3 nurses.

1913 - State legislature refuse health care payments for homeopathic hospital.

1914 - Hospital seeing 600 patients compared to 2,436 at regular hospital

1919 - UI homeopathic hospital closed.



State University Hospital, Iowa City, Ia.

1920s

1920 - Dr. Rohrbacher opened his own homeopathic hospital at 811 East College Street in Iowa City.

1929 - UI Homeopathic Hospital building went down in flames.



Homeopathic Hospital, trees bare

1940s

No more courses in homeopathy taught in the U.S.



Homeopathic Hospital, Iowa City, Iowa.

Today

Courses taught by National Center for Homeopathy.

Homeopathic institutes located in Canada, Germany and India



63. Pages from Dr. George Royal's Composition Books

no date

Courtesy of University of Iowa Archives



64. Pages from Medical Homeopathic Case Record

1917

Note Dr. Rohrbacher's name included in several records and the record of Mrs. Rohrbacher's breech birth on January 30, 1917.

Courtesy of University of Iowa Archives



Homeopathic Hospital, Iowa City, Iowa.

Dr. William Max Rohrbacher (1887-1972): Practicing Homeopathic Medicine in Johnson County

A Brief Biography

Born on November 28, 1887 in Big Grove Township, a farm community near Iowa City, William Max Rohrbacher was determined, as a young man, to avoid a career in farming. He tried business school, book-keeping and other odd jobs until, while waiting tables at Merchant's Restaurant in Iowa City, he befriended a homeopathic professor who encouraged his enrollment in the UI Homeopathic Medical College.

On June 12, 1912, after four years of study, Rohrbacher graduated with the degree of Doctor of Medicine and, that night, married Elizabeth Petsel, also of the Iowa City area. After he served a one-year internship at the Massachusetts Homeopathic Hospital in Boston, they returned to Iowa City and Rohrbacher worked as a staff doctor and substitute lecturer for the UI Homeopathic Medical College until its close in 1919.



65. William Max Rohrbacher
June 12, 1912

Wedding photograph.

Courtesy of Helen Rohrbacher Odom



66. Elizabeth Petsel Rohrbacher
June 12, 1912

Wedding photograph.

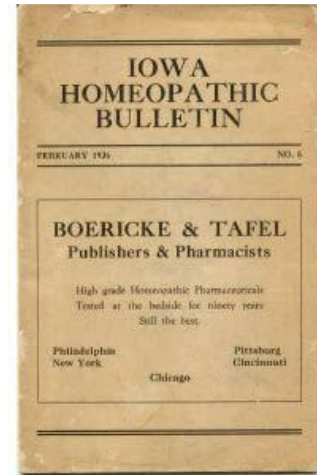
Courtesy of Helen Rohrbacher Odom

Soon after the college closed, the Rohrbachers purchased a building at 811 East College Street in

Iowa City. The back section became their home and the rest was converted into a homeopathic hospital, which they named "Rohrbacher's Sanitarium." Although the hospital burned down in 1931, it was rebuilt soon after, functioning a total of 51 years.



67. Dr. Rohrbacher's homeopathic hospital and home at 811 East College Street, Iowa City, destroyed in a fire February 8, 1931
Courtesy of Helen Rohrbacher Odom



68. Dr. Rohrbacher's homeopathic hospital and home rebuilt after the fire of February 8, 1931
Courtesy of Helen Rohrbacher Odom



69. Dr. Rohrbacher's hospital staff
July 5, 1971

Helen Gay (left) was the receptionist and secretary for 30 years; Iva Hayes (right) was the office nurse for 50 years.

Courtesy of Helen Rohrbacher Odom

Dr. Rohrbacher died at age 85, after his 60th wedding anniversary in 1972. Today, "Rohrbacher's Sanitarium" is an apartment building; two of his four daughters are still living, both in California, and numerous Johnson County residents remember his service to their families.

70. Dr. and Mrs. Rohrbacher on 60th wedding anniversary June 12, 1972
Courtesy of Helen Rohrbacher Odom



Statements by Dr. Rohrbacher's Patients

"Dr. Rohrbacher delivered many babies during his career. My sister was one of the first babies that the doctor delivered in 1914. Then my niece was the last one he delivered. He delivered all my parent's children and their grandchildren."

Dorothea Grout of Kalona, IA patient of Dr. Rohrbacher

"If you had a sore throat he, or usually his nurse, used this glass tube, different ones for throat and nose. That was uncomfortable sometimes, but it worked This little thing was screwed onto the end of the ultra-violet machine, sort of a box-like shape that sat on the floor. This tube came out from it; they would use a straight tube for your nose or a curved one for your throat."

Marj Dane of Iowa City patient of Dr. Rohrbacher

"Many people could not afford to pay the doctor during the Depression. One night, it was 10:30, and the doctor had been out for three nights late in a row. He came home and when he got to the entryway, there he saw a burlap sack which had two old hens inside. He had to butcher and clean them yet that night. Someone had brought that to him as payment for services."

Alan Williams of Des Moines, IA son-in-law of Dr. Rohrbacher

71. Dr. William Max Rohrbacher
no date



Taken at Townsend Studio in Iowa City, IA.

Courtesy of Helen Rohrbacher Odom

"They used to pay \$2.50 for the visit, that included the consultation, the medicine and everything else

He was never cross, took as much time as each patient wanted with him and had a good sense of humor. He was interested in people and often traded for his services.

Each afternoon we would have an orange juice break in the office. All the workers would go to the back and drink orange juice with the doctor while the patients waited."

Helen Gay of Iowa City secretary for Dr. Rohrbacher for 30 years



72. Dr. William Max Rohrbacher
June 12, 1952

On the occasion of his 40th wedding anniversary, he was presented with this bouquet of yellow roses which, according to his daughter, represented the many babies he brought into the world.

Courtesy of Helen Rohrbacher Odom

"I had been off work for a severe ear infection. I couldn't do anything. . . . So, I just said to my wife "I'm going to call Dr. Rohrbacher." I knew he had very unorthodox methods of doing things, but I also knew he was an M.D. and was fully capable of doing traditional medicine.

Dr. Rohrbacher said, "Sure. I'll be down in the morning, 7 o'clock, at your house and we'll have you up and around." He came in and he brought in all these bottles: arsenic, belladonna and strychnine*. He put them in little packages and he gave very strict directions.

"By 10:00 you are going to be in a sweat like you've never sweat in your life and then," he said, "you'll be getting better. I think you could probably go back to work this afternoon." I laughed because I hadn't been back there for more than a week.

But what he said was actually true. By 10:00 I was sweating it out. He explained that they would drive out the other poisons that were working and he was right. I didn't go to work that afternoon, but the next day I went to work."

John Bixler of Iowa City Neighbor of Dr. Rohrbacher

73. Dr. William Max Rohrbacher
no date

In front of his home and hospital.

Courtesy of Helen Rohrbacher Odom



Homeopathic Hospital, Iowa City, Iowa.

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[Main](#)