



Dr. C. N. Barber Veterinary Remedies

The Barber clan had resided in Barre, Vermont since 1810. Cyrus Barber, born in 1784, moved from Warwick, Massachusetts in 1810 and established a family farm in Barre. Two years later he was off to New York to fight in the War of 1812. On his return, he married his wife Caroline, and proceeded to have 8 children. He lived a long and productive life, dying in 1867 at the age of 83.

Cyrus' third child, Cyrus Whitney Barber was born on the family homestead in 1823. He was a dairy farmer and spent his entire life in Barre. On February 26, 1846 he married Elvira Willey, then 24 years old. This union produced three children, Charles Newell, Edwin C., and a daughter Ella. Cyrus W. Barber died on January 27th, 1892 in the same house in which he had been born 69 years before.

Our interest lies with Charles Newell or C. N. Barber as he was known. C. N. was born on the same family farm on April 13, 1852. He had his early education in the Barre, Vermont public schools and worked on the family dairy farm. Like most veterinarians to be, this formative time established a desire to further his education in the animal sciences. The 1892 "Vermont Historical Gazetteer" states that when Charles "came of age", he traveled to Manchester, New Hampshire. Here he held a

preceptorship under Dr. Alexander, a noted Veterinary Surgeon of the area. At some point, he returned to Barre and established his own veterinary practice.

On February 27, 1881 C. N. married Ella Granger. They would have three children before her untimely death in 1894. Charles remarried in 1897 to Bessie May Morrill and had three more children with her. The last child being born in 1903 when C. N. was 51, and his wife 28.

C. N. led an active life within the Barre, Vermont township. The 1894 "Historical Souvenir of Barre" lists him as a dairy farmer, auctioneer, and practicing Veterinary Surgeon. The 1903 "Genealogical and Family History of

Vermont" states that as a result of his training under Dr. Alexander and his fine library on veterinary science, he had a large practice in both Vermont and New Hampshire. This same book also tells us that he was a Justice of the Peace, town auditor, grand juror, and finally, elected to the state legislature in 1900.

The 1903 listing does not make mention of the Dr. Barber Medicine Company, but we must be assured that he established the company soon after the turn of the century. Dr. Barber's own published advertising booklet, "Counsel Book for Horsemen and Stockmen" stated that "After over thirty years of painstaking study and practice, marked with singular success, Dr. Barber presents his remedies to the public." Factoring in his 1852 birth,



[Fig. 1]



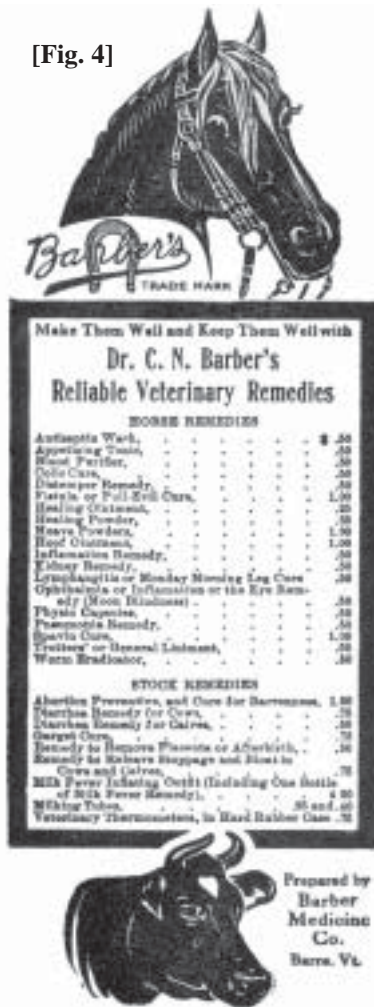
[Fig. 2]



[Fig. 3]



[Fig. 4]



this leaves a window of 1900-1905. No doubt he was selling veterinary remedies to his clients and neighbors long before he started his veterinary remedy company.

Like most early veterinary patent medicine companies, Dr. Barber's medicines were originally listed as "Cures." This would seem to predate the 1906 Pure Food and Drug Act. One company booklet I have seen is dated 1911 and the product names have been changed to "Remedies".

I was unable to discover the date of Dr. Barber's death or of the demise of his Veterinary Medicine Company. The

[Fig. 5]



scarcity of Dr. Barber remedies to today's collectors, however, makes two points seem clear. Production of Barber remedies was limited and short lived. The company never expanded very far out of the Vermont / New Hampshire area.

Dr. Barber did produce a surprising number of medicines for a small company. Nineteen remedies for horses and six for cows were manufactured. Along with the relative standard Spavin, Colic, and Heave Cures, he produced several very unusual remedies. Lymphangitis Cure was used for treatment of diseases of the lymph nodes. Ophthalmia Remedy was a general cure for all diseases of the eye. He offered several medicines for cows, which to my knowledge, are rare if not unique to the field of veterinary patent medicines. His cow remedies included: Cure for Barrenness, Remedy to Remove Placenta, and Remedy to Relieve Stoppage and Bloat in Cows. Certainly these are some very interesting cures, which I am sure, can be traced back to Dr. Barber's lifelong work with dairy cows.

From the collector point of view, Dr. Barber medicines are considered very uncommon. Dr. Barber bottles were never embossed. His medicines were identified only by their label and because of this, a relatively few have survived. Barber medicines were produced in only one size for each remedy, but the size of the bottle varied greatly. The majority of the bottles were either 3 1/4" tall or 6 1/2" tall, quite a difference in volume when you consider the dose for a horse or cow. Keep an eye out for these bottles with distinctive green labels. They make a nice addition to any collection.

I look forward to hearing from any collector with information or seeking information concerning the history of veterinary patent medicines.

I can be reached by mail at: 7431 Covington Hwy., Lithonia, GA 30058 or by phone at: 770-979-3239.

Photo Captions

[Fig. 1] Clear, label only bottle for Dr. Barber's Abortion Preventive and Remedy for Barrenness in Cows. 6 1/2" x 2 1/2" x 2". Label claims to "Build up the generative organs", "insures a herd against contagion", and "makes a barren cow fertile."

[Fig. 2] Bottle with box. 3 1/2" x 1 3/8" x 1". Worm Eradicator for horses.



[Fig. 6]

[Fig. 3] Label claims to be an "Antiseptic wash for cleansing sores, cuts, kicks, calks and diseased skin, especially good for mange, eczema and lice on dogs."

[Fig. 4] Advertising ink blotter listing all of Dr. Barber's medicines.

[Fig. 5] Country store metal display cabinet for the storage and sale of Dr. Barber Remedies. Front is hinged at bottom and opens down to reveal the interior.

[Fig. 6] Image of Dr. C. N. Barber c. 1911.

[Fig. 7, below] Unopened cardboard box with original contents. 4" x 4" x 2 1/2". Remedy to Remove Placenta or Afterbirth From Cows. Probably a unique category of remedy for veterinary patent medicines. Many of Dr. Barber's remedies were geared toward the reproductive health of cows.

