

“Cranford’s First Doctors”

Cranford’s first Doctor arrived in 1869 ten months before the township was formally organized. He was Dr. J.K. MacConnell, who previously served as a house surgeon at the Ohio State Prison in Columbus, Ohio. He was asked to come to Cranford by his brother, A.A. MacConnell, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. The Doctor lived and practiced at a home at Eastman and Miln Streets which later became a restaurant called “Hayashi.” When the restaurant was torn down in 1936, the new Cranford Post Office was built.

Dr. MacConnell’s son also practiced here and served as county coroner. MacConnell Park was named in honor of the first doctor.

By the turn of the century, Cranford had six physicians. Dr. Carl Hanson was one of them and practiced at his home/office at 38 Springfield Avenue for many years. Now it is owned by the Township of Cranford and it is the office of the Cranford Historical Society, Union County Historical Society and the Hanson Park Conservancy. It is also used by many local civic groups as a meeting place.

The first dentist to arrive and practice in Cranford was Dr. Charles W.H. Brockett who located here in 1897. He set up practice at 113 Miln Street. It wasn’t until 1903 that another dentist arrived.

Today, we have many doctors and dentists in Cranford to choose from and are thankful for their service.