

The Los Angeles Public Library
Local History Collection
Biography

NAME Lindley, Dr. Walter (deceased January 24,
1922)

Occupation Physician and Surgeon

Address _____

Birth (Date and Place) January 13, 1852, Monrovia, Indiana

FATHER Milton Lindley

Birth (Date and Place) 1820, Guilford County, North
Carolina

If Deceased, When May 11, 1895, Los Angeles

MOTHER Mary Elizabeth Banta

Birth (Date and Place) 1830

If Deceased, When November 3, 1913, Los Angeles

IF MARRIED, TO WHOM Florence Haynes

Birth of Same (Date and Place) _____

If Deceased, When _____

When Married July 18, 1894, Los Angeles

CHILDREN (Married Names of Daughters)

Flora: Mrs. Kitchin

Myra: Mrs. Samuel F. Bothwell

Dorothy: Mrs. Robert P. Fite

Francis Haynes

TITLES OF BOOKS, ARTICLES, MUSIC, OR OTHER CREATIVE WORK

(In the case of printed matter, please give date and publisher; of periodical publications also name of magazine and date.)

Author of:

CALIFORNIA OF THE SOUTH

THE DELINQUENT CHILD IN GREAT BRITAIN AND
FRANCE

IRISH DRAMATISTS AND THE IRISH DRAMA

THE TRADUCERS OF SHAKESPEARE

Articles, papers, contributions, and pamphlets
on medical, social and literary matters.

Creator and editor of "The Southern California
Practitioner" a publication devoted to advancing
the standards of his profession.

REVIEWS, CRITICISMS, AND OTHER BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES

(Please note printed matter concerning yourself or your work. We would appreciate any such material you may send, clippings, reviews, portrait.)

Press Reference Library, 1912, p 25

Press Reference Library, 1913, p 59

Wolfe, Men of California, p 206

Guinn, History of California, Los Angeles and
Environs, vol 11 p 384

McGroarty, History of Los Angeles County, vol 1

McGroarty, Los Angeles From the Mountains to the
Sea, vol 111, p 604

Spalding, History and Reminiscences of Los Ange-
les City and County, vol 1

Wilson, History of Los Angeles County, p 113, 114

ANCESTORS OF DISTINCTION OR LOCAL INTEREST

(Please include names of local interest as "forty-niners," or any one connected with the affairs or development of the state or city, as officials, professional men, merchants, etc.)

Subject's parents pioneered to Los Angeles in 1875 when the city's population was about 5000 persons. Father, Milton Lindley, was a pioneer realtor and city builder, who was prominent in Republican politics and served as county treasurer and supervisor during the Eighties. His mother was one of the founders of the first kindergarten school in Los Angeles and prominent in welfare and social work.

EDUCATION (Schools, Colleges, Degrees, Etc.)

High school, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Central Normal School, Kokomo, Indiana; Keen School of Anatomy, Philadelphia; Long Island College Hospital, Brooklyn, N.Y.; St. Vincent's College, Los Angeles

CLUBS, LEARNED SOCIETIES, ETC. California Club; University Club; Los Angeles County, American, Southern California, and California State Medical Associations; Sunset Club; Los Angeles Country Club; Mason

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION Protestant Episcopal

POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS Republican

RESIDENCE IN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1875

SKETCH

(Please make this as full as possible, giving business affiliations, positions of honor or trust with dates if possible.)

Doctor Walter Lindley was born January 13, 1852, in Monrovia, Indiana. His preliminary education was received in public schools; his professional in Keen School of Anatomy, Philadelphia, and Long Island College Hospital, Brooklyn, New York.

Coming to Los Angeles in 1875 at the time he received his M.D. degree he began the practice of medicine when the city was little more than a Mexican pueblo.

In his professional career Doctor Lindley was one of the great constructive factors in the modernization and development of Los Angeles. From the outset he worked among the poor and pioneered for the establishment of public health and sanitation.

Beginning with a free dispensary, which he established in 1887 on Requena (Market) Street, he followed this with the foundation, establishment, and organization of what are now many of the city and state public institutions.

The year of Doctor Lindley's service as Los Angeles Health Officer in 1879, he established the first system for registration of births and deaths, a sewer system, and the inauguration of free vaccination. There was no city health department at that time and many practices which Doctor Lindley initiated have become city institutions since then.

The first training school for nurses in Southern California was organized by him. He founded the Whittier State School of California, a penologic and educative institution for the youth of both sexes, as he was one of the first medical men to pioneer in the field of juvenile delinquency. Doctor Lindley served as president of Whittier's board of trustees many years.

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Other city institutions of which he was a founder are: Los Angeles Orphans' Home; Los Angeles Humane Society; the College of Medicine, University of Southern California; and smaller foundations which in time have become absorbed by modernized foundations.

Probably Doctor Lindley's greatest work however, is the California Hospital. With a small group of physicians and surgeons he founded the hospital in 1879, and remained medical director, secretary and president of the board for many years.

After retiring from this position, though remaining a member of the staff, he served on the State Board of Medicine.

In addition to professional activities, Doctor Lindley was a voluminous writer, on both technical and literary subjects, and a progressive director on numerous civic organizations, banks, and institutions of learning.

He served on the Board of Education during 1880 and 1881, and was a member of the Board of Library Directors at the time of his death.

Doctor Lindley, who practiced medicine until 1920, died January 24, 1922, in the family home, 2207 South Figueroa Street.