

Rev. Thomas S. McNeil

This section of *The Chronicle* includes two articles on United Brethren preacher Thomas Sudden McNeil. The first we have titled “Thomas S. McNeil: An Enterprising Pastor” and the second, Thomas S. McNeil: The Rest of the Story.”

The first article is a reprint, by permission of the authors, of the paper “The rise and demise of pain exterminator Thomas S. McNeil: Every rose has its thorns” by N.I. Alcodray¹ and G.S. Bause.² That paper originally appeared in the *Journal of Anesthesia History*, 2020:6(3), pages 158-160. *The Chronicle* greatly appreciates the privilege of sharing this paper with its readership – and calls special attention to the footnotes referencing the professional expertise in matters of medicine, history and church.

The abstract for that paper, as printed in the scientific journals, is as follows: “United Brethren minister Thomas S. McNeil formulated an analgesic nostrum in 1848, most likely from opium, alcohol, ether, and other proprietary ingredients. Massaged on externally as a pain liniment, his so-called pain exterminator could also be mixed in sweetened water and imbibed as an analgesic, antitussive, and anti-diarrheal. A familiar antebellum remedy both for Union and Confederate forces in the Civil War, McNeil’s Pain Exterminator would be manufactured by McNeil’s pastor and then successors, for more than a half-century after McNeil’s accidental drowning in 1874.”

The second article was prepared to give more detailed information about the pastoral service of Rev. McNeil, both within our present conference boundaries and across the United Brethren denomination, and about the fate of the McNeil Medicine Company established in Harrisburg by his successors.

Taken together, the two articles provide an interesting and informative contribution to the **unexpected disruptions** theme of this issue of *The Chronicle*. In particular, the narrative demonstrates how the call into the business world can redirect the calling to pastoral ministry (in the cases of Rev. McNeil and Rev. Quigley) or the practice of medicine (in the case of Dr. Clark) – while still allowing a person to be actively involved in the work and financial support of the local church.

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