



The World of the Drs. Fulton

Dr. Abigail Mary (Redman) Fulton (1827-1911)
and
Dr. Alexander Fulton (1805-1888)

"Looking Backward: Dr. Alexander Fulton"

Newspaper article by Herbert T. Silsby II, The Ellsworth American, February 1, 2001

Location of the Drs. Fulton house and offices in Ellsworth, Maine, 1881
Annotated map of the city of Ellsworth, Village Plan No 2,
Atlas of Hancock County, Maine, published by S.F. Colby & Co., 1881

Two photographs of the Drs. Fulton House and Office in Ellsworth
Photographer – Charlotte R. Morrill

Dr. Fulton's office and residence were on the northeast corner of Main Street and School Street (now 194 Main Street, Tax Map 136 – Lot 210) in Ellsworth. The building has an ell on School Street with a separate entrance. This was typical of Dr.'s offices of the time and probably served both Alexander and Abby's patients. In 1883 Alexander Fulton was listed as a member of the Board of Health in Ellsworth, Maine. Physicians practicing in Ellsworth were: Emerson Googins, L. W. Hodgkins, Geo. Parcher, K. H. Swett, Alexander Fulton, Mrs. Abby Fulton, G. A. Phillips, O. M. Drake and Walter M. Haines, Hon. Alexander was still practicing in Ellsworth in 1887.

Looking Backward

Dr. Alexander Fulton

By Herbert T. Silsby II

The Ellsworth American, Thursday, February 1, 2001

Dr. Alexander Fulton practiced medicine in Blue Hill for more than 29 years, beginning in 1840. On Dec. 14, 1849, he married Abby M. Redman. They soon established a home in Blue Hill. Their home was a "house of hospitality: generous, free, courteous and affable."

He was born in Londonderry, Nova Scotia, in 1814. He attended the common schools and was admitted to the Medical School of Maine at Bowdoin College. Upon completion of his studies he settled in the town of Blue Hill, where he remained until about 1869. In 1866, he was in the Legislature listed as of Blue Hill. He served in the Senate in 1867 and 1868. It was said that at the close of the Civil War in the autumn of 1865 he visited his native Province of Nova Scotia. While at Halifax he learned much to his surprise that he had been elected Representative of the House. Upon formation of the Republican party he had registered as a Republican.

He believed in the principles of freedom of the slaves and maintaining the union. During the war he was a "medical inspector for drafted men."

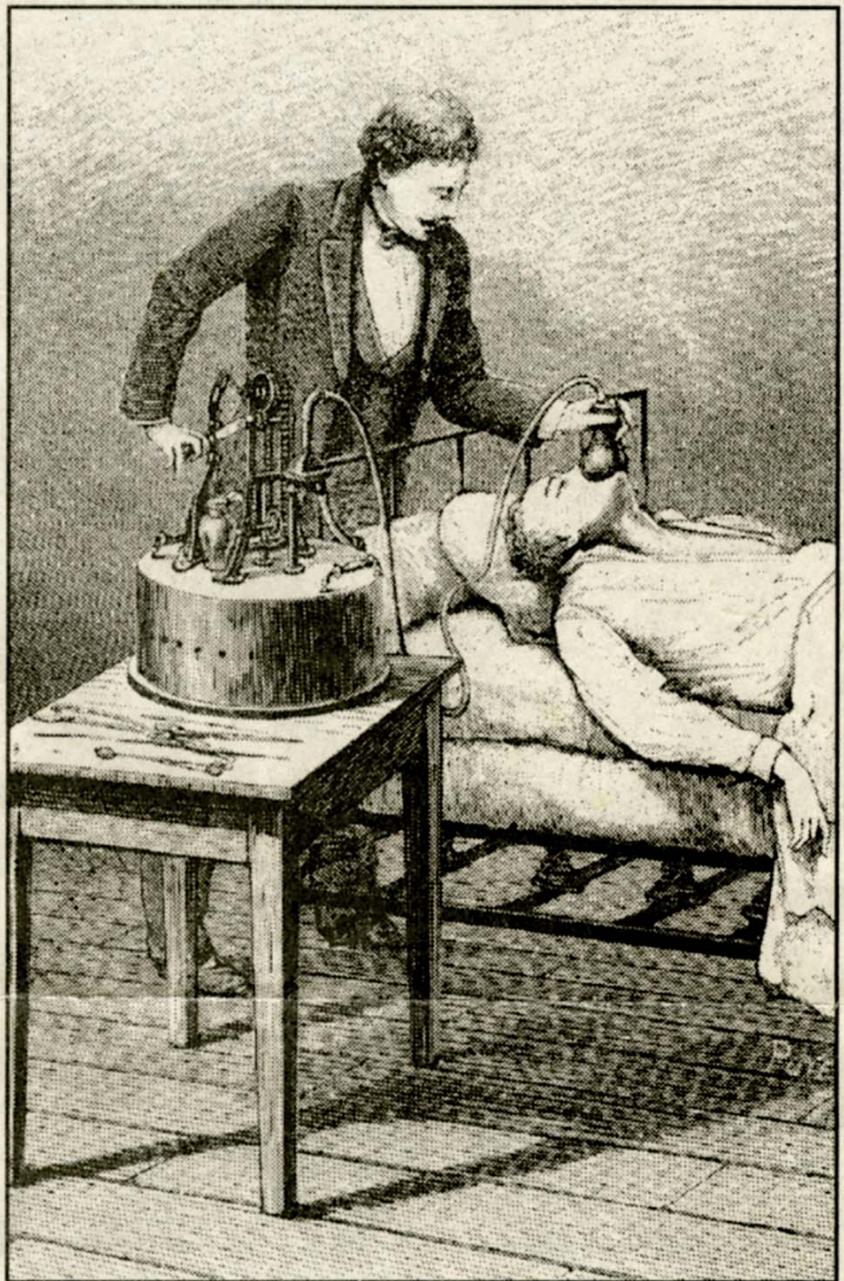
Previous to coming to Maine, Dr. Fulton had studied medicine, it was said, "with an eminent English physician and surgeon."

When Dr. Fulton opened an office at Blue Hill, Dr. Nathan Tenney, who had been in practice there for many years and was in his declining and advanced years, welcomed him. The young and vigorous Dr. Fulton relieved Dr. Tenney from the heavy burdens of a country practice in Blue Hill and surrounding towns. It was reported in the *American* that when the young and skillful new physician took over much of Dr. Tenney's extensive practice, "combining tact and skill with modesty, perseverance and strict integrity, he fast gained the confidence and esteem of the entire community, and his practice extended to nearly every town in the western part of the county. For many years he was the consulting physician and fast friend of Dr. Joseph L. Stevens of Castine."

It was further reported that in Blue Hill Dr. Fulton accomplished "the great professional work of his life and how many families are indebted to him, for braving the fierce tempest, and the dark and gloomy night, to relieve, if possible, some one of their number from suffering. He was successful in his practice. As an illustration we are informed that during his practice he attended the bringing into this world of over four thousand souls and never lost a mother."

He was a good businessman, being practical, honest and upright in all his dealings. He early took a lively interest in all the business enterprises in Blue Hill. For many years hardly a vessel was built in that town in which he was not an investor. He was said to have a "handsome competency."

His wife, formerly Abby M. Redman, was the daughter of John R. Redman. The Redman family was prominent in Ellsworth and indeed in the whole of Hancock County. Her father died Sept. 20, 1872, after a lingering illness of two years. Her mother had died a few months before her father. In 1869, owing to the illness of her parents, who re-



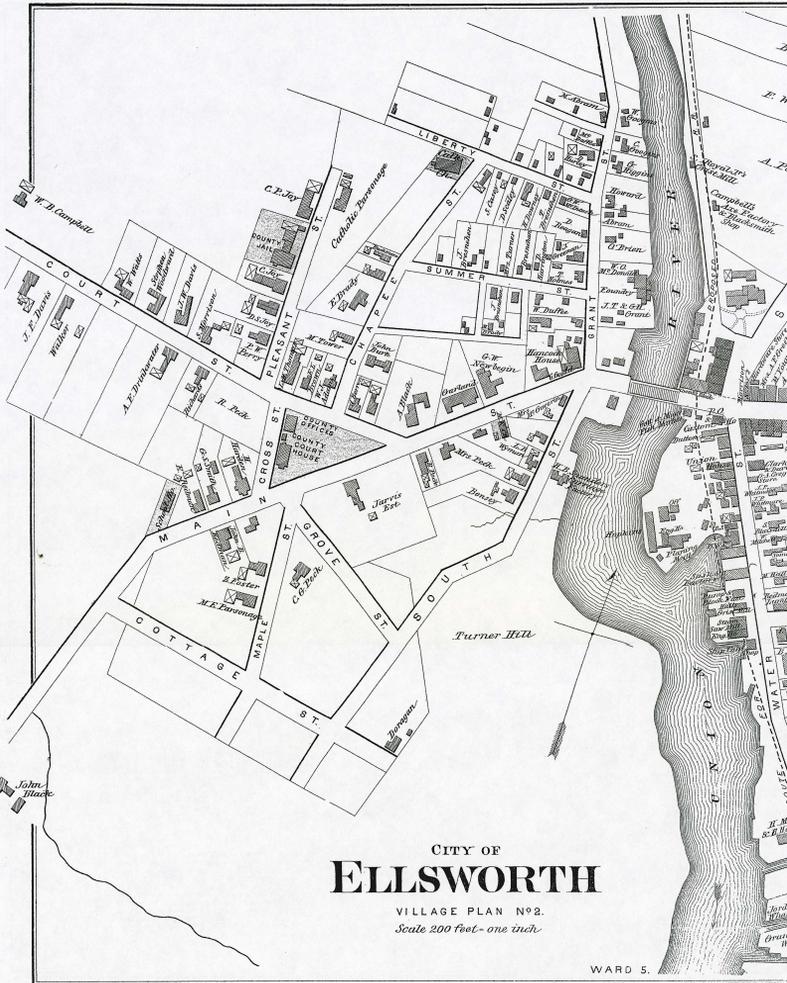
quired constant care, Dr. Fulton moved to Ellsworth with his wife. They lived in the house at the upper corner of Main and School streets.

After her parents died, Abby entered Boston University Medical School. She practiced in Ellsworth after her graduation. In subsequent years she practiced and studied medicine in Paris and London and became clinical assistant to Dr. Prothero Smith, famous in his day, for establishing Soho Hospital for women.

When she returned to practice in Ellsworth she became a vigorous supporter of the cause of women's suffrage, speaking and writing effectively for it. She died Dec. 16, 1911. Her husband had died March 6, 1888.

In his last years he lost much of his mental ability. He longed to return to Blue Hill. "He looked about him," it was reported, "for some suitable memento to present to his old town as a reminder of his friendship. He and his wife, Dr. Abby Fulton, jointly decided upon a town clock, a most beautiful and timely gift, and what citizen since Wednesday morning last, that has not each hour been forcibly reminded of the donor's friendship and love, and though his tongue is mute and silent, each and every hour hence on the tongue of that bell will speak his memory."

The following appeared in his obituary: "Into the great silence, into the long forever, has passed another as familiar to all citizens of Blue Hill as household words, and words of sorrow are heard on every side. Silence and gloom enter almost every house, at the announcement that Dr. Alexander Fulton is dead."



CITY OF
ELLSWORTH

VILLAGE PLAN NO. 2.
Scale 200 Feet - one inch.

WARD 5.







10 MAIN STREET
Municipal Health Department
COMMUNITY CENTER
COURTNEY TERRACE

PARKING
THIS SIDE
OF STREET

Protheroe Smith, M.D. - Mentor to Dr. Abigail Mary (Redman) Fulton

Protheroe Smith, M.D., F.R.C.P., was an obstetrician and gynecologist and inventor of many instruments connected with his specialty and founder of the first hospital for women in London in 1842. While some of his inventions and theories were later proved to be misguided, he was a remarkable physician of his time and an interesting mentor for Abby Fulton.

“A New Anaesthetic We learn that Dr. Frothero Smith has been making some observations on the administration by inhalation of the tetrachloride of carbon (CCl₄). It is stated that anaesthesia is rapidly produced by it (in some cases in the space of half a minute), and that its effects pass off very quickly. Dr. Prothero Smith has found it of great value in inducing quick and refreshing sleep.” -
Pharmaceutical journal: A weekly record of pharmacy and allied sciences - 1868

Obituary – Protheroe Smith, M.D., M.R.C.P.
British gynaecological journal, Volume 5 – 1889
By British Gynaecological Society

“It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of another of the Foundation Fellows of the British Gynaecological Society. Dr. Protheroe Smith died on Sunday, the 29th of September, at his residence in Park Street, Grosvenor Square. He had reached the mature age of eighty years. He was one of the first Vice Presidents of the British Gynaecological Society, and was Consulting Physician to the Hospital for Women, Soho. The deceased was born in November, 1809, and educated at Bideford, in Devonshire, where he was apprenticed to his father, Dr. William Smith, a well known and successful practitioner, in that town. In the year 1830 he came up to London, and commenced his medical studies at St Bartholomew's Hospital. During his period of medical study he became the private pupil of Mr. Kiernan, in whose house he had the privilege of residing. Having completed his medical studies, and taken his degree in medicine in the University of Aberdeen, he entered into practice and was soon appointed surgeon to the Farringdon Dispensary, with which institution he was connected as consulting physician at the time of his death. Later he became associated with the well-known Dr. Rigby, as co-lecturer on Midwifery and Diseases of Women at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. From this time forward he resided in Park Street, where he continued to practise until his death. In the year 1842 he founded and successfully started the Hospital for Women in Red Lion Square. This as is well known, was the first hospital of its kind in this country. The old building gradually became inadequate for the demands upon its space, and a new building was erected - the present one in Soho Square.

As a gynaecologist Dr. Protheroe Smith was one of the early pioneers in this country, along with Dr. Robert Ferguson and Dr. Henry Bennet. We believe that he was the first accoucheur in London who resorted to the use of anaesthetics in midwifery, in the year 1847. He also was one of the first English ovariologists, having removed an ovarian tumour in 1842 without anaesthetics. For some time he was a valued contributor of reviews and other articles to *The Lancet*. He was the author of “Scriptural Authority for the use of Chloroform and other Anaesthetics in Midwifery,” “On Flexions of the Uterus,” “Ovarian Dropsy, its Pathology and Treatment,” and other works’ Among the various inventions which he contributed to the gynaecological armamentarium we may mention the following:

Double cylindrical speculum for simultaneous sight and touch. – *Lancet*, February 22nd, 1845.

Uterine sound and dilator, 1846 (previous to Simpson).

Chloroform inhaler, 1848.

Double-bladed hysterostome, 1850.

M. aspirator, 1867 (this was previous to Dieulafoy and shown to Robert, of Paris).

The pelvic band for rectifying pelvic deformity (of axis) in connection with uterine flexions, 1870.

Parallel uterine sound, for indicating the position of the uterus. Masticator for division of pedicles without haemorrhage.

Expanding cylindrical speculum.

Sliding hysterotome.

The elastic pessary for retroflexion.

Detractor for the removal of foreign bodies from the bladder.

Uterine paste-caustique, used with solids or fluids.

Uterine irrigator.

Serrated scissors, which cut without slipping.

Obstetric bandage for aiding expulsion force in labor.

Trocar and canular, for removal of specimens of solid tumours.

Gynaecological vade mecum, a cylindrical spec.

Pneumatic plug for facilitating the introduction of a speculum.

Uterine dilator.

Dr. Protheroe Smith enjoyed a large lucrative practice for many years and left a numerous circle of friends to mourn his loss. He leaves a son, Dr. Heywood Smith, the well known gynaecologist in practice.”