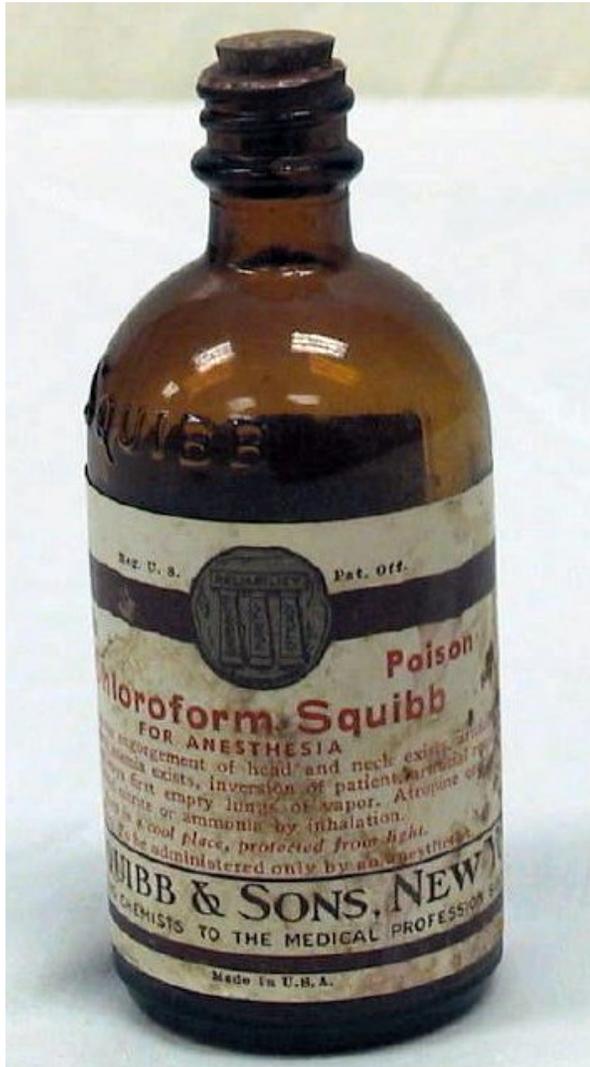


A KENTUCKY HISTORY MOMENT



OHIO COUNTY: COLLARBONE REMOVAL CURES ‘SCROFULOUS AFFECTION’

Charles McCreery, of Hartford, is best remembered for performing the first recorded successful removal of an entire collarbone in 1813. The patient was a 14-year-old Muhlenberg County boy who had a “scrofulous affection” (related to tuberculosis) of the right collar bone. After surgery, he was able to use his arm and lived past middle age, according to McCreery’s family. McCreery was the area’s first real doctor.

Imagine having surgery before the discovery of anesthesia in the middle of the 19th century. Medicine was much different after that. A doctor who practiced in the late 19th and early 20th centuries carried this bottle of chloroform in his traveling obstetrics bag. Kentucky Historical Society, KHS Museum Collection, 1999.59.61.



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