

Dr. Robert Lafayette Whipple
Biographical Sketch

Robert Lafayette Whipple, known as Rob, was born Aug. 12, 1873, on his father's plantation near Turkey Creek and the town of Dudley in Laurens County, Georgia. He was the fifth son of Stephen Bennett Whipple (1833-1915) and Sarah Ann Holliman Whipple (1839- 1913).

His father retired from farming in January, 1886, moving the family to the nearby town of Cochran, Ga., for the educational advantages available for his eight sons. At the age of 13 Rob entered the New Ebenezer College.

In September, 1890, he entered the Gordon Institute, Barnesville, Ga., and was graduated from there in 1893. During the summer between his junior and senior years he taught school at Brooks Station in Fayette County, Ga.

After receiving his diploma from Gordon Institute he began the study of medicine under his brother, Dr. William Holliman Whipple, who was then practicing medicine in Vienna, Ga. In October, 1893, he entered Southern Medical College, Atlanta, later becoming the Emory University School of Medicine. He graduated with first honor from that institution in the class of 1896 at the age of 23, receiving the degree of Doctor of Medicine.

After graduation he returned to his hometown for the practice of medicine. He kept current in his practice through the years with three post graduate studies at Bellevue Medical College, New York City.

He served for several years as County Physician and as a member of the Board of Health. A special project during his later years was a maternal and child health clinic which he operated in conjunction with the Bleckley County Department of Public Health. He died in his office on Dec. 28, 1954 while administering to a patient. He is buried in the Cochran Cemetery

He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Cochran in which he served for many years as a deacon.

His business interest included the State bank of Cochran and the Cochran Oil Mill and Ginnery. He served for many years on the board of directors of both firms. He also owned a farm near Cochran.

On July 24, 1912, he was married to Gladys Elizabeth Harvard who was born near Cochran on March 10, 1891 and died Mar. 2, 1955. She is buried in the Cochran cemetery. She was the daughter of Dave Harvard (1859-1922) and Lina O'Berry (1871-1936) both are buried in the Cochran cemetery.