

THE PALIMPSEST

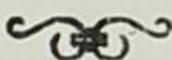
EDITED BY WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

VOL. LII

ISSUED IN APRIL 1971

No. 4

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Dr. Henry G. Moershel

Dr. Henry George Moershel was born of good Amana stock at Homestead in 1891. He graduated from Iowa City high school in 1910, received his M.D. from the University of Iowa in 1917, and was commissioned a First Lieutenant in the Medical Corps in World War I. He was discharged from the service December 20, 1918.

From 1918 to 1971, Dr. Moershel practiced medicine at Homestead, serving all the Amana villages, as well as the surrounding countryside. A member of numerous professional societies, Dr. Moershel served on the Mercy Hospital staff at Cedar Rapids and as local surgeon for the Rock Island Railroad.

In addition to his medical services, Dr. Moershel will always be remembered and revered for his spiritual guidance of the Inspirationists. He served as president of the Welfare Club from 1920 to 1929, as a director and president of the Amana Society from 1932 to 1955; and as president of the Amana Church Society from 1931 to

his death in March, 1971. His own personal faith in the Community of True Inspiration won for him the undying devotion of the Amana people.

In August of 1959, Dr. Moershel was presented the Order of Merit of the Republic of West Germany for his efforts to keep alive the German tradition in the Amana Society. Only 19 Americans had received this award.

As the evening shadows began to gather about him the valiant doctor discerned a new danger in the form of a Freeway that would cut through the jugular vein of the colonies. On January 15, 1971, he wrote the Federal Government that "most of the Amana people are not in favor of this project and almost 500 have voiced this opinion in the enclosed petition." Truly, all Amana will miss this gentle, courageous soul, whose wise counsel served as a shield for his people in times of trouble.

This issue of *The Palimpsest* is dedicated to Dr. Henry G. Moershel—a Life Member, Curator, and stalwart friend of the State Historical Society.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN