

Daniel E. Baughman, D.V.S., Founder of Fort Dodge Laboratories: A Pioneer in Veterinary Medicine

Kenneth E. Baughman

“Few companies today talk about putting roots in a community. But Fort Dodge Animal Health did just that, 86 years ago when Dr. Baughman planted the seed here, where it took root and grew into one of the world’s leading manufacturers of veterinary pharmaceuticals and biologicals. Today, the Fort Dodge name is carried to more than 54 countries throughout the world on products that benefit both humans and animals.”

Fort Dodge Animal Health, *The Messenger*, Oct. 29, 1998.

Fort Dodge Laboratories, the largest industry in Fort Dodge, Iowa, that later became known as Fort Dodge Animal Health, a subsidiary of American Home Products in 1945, employing over 750 individuals, was founded by a boy raised in the Mennonite faith who attended the Flanagan Mennonite Church. Dr. Baughman in his career was a leader in animal serum and vaccine manufacturing, was president of the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association in 1931 and was considered one of the most influential Republican financial contributors in the State of Iowa. Dr. Baughman also enjoyed helping veterinary students finance their education at Iowa State College, now, Iowa State University, in Ames. The county veterinarian of Tazewell County, Illinois, in 1965, recounted how he loaned him the money in 1933 in order to complete his training at Iowa State during the Depression. Iowa State College established the first Land Grant veterinary college in the nation in 1879. During World War II, he was a member of the Pharmaceutical

Manufacturers’ Industry Advisory Committee to the War Production Board.

Early Years

Daniel Edward Baughman (1867-1960) (Fig. 1) was born April 18, 1867, on the homestead of his parents, John Baughman (Bachmann) (1833-1914)* and Catherine Naffziger Baughman (1836-1914) located in Panola Township, Woodford County, Illinois. He attended the Flanagan Mennonite Congregation, which was cofounded by his parents in 1876 as an alternative to the long buggy ride to attend the Waldo Mennonite Church. His first money was earned helping a neighbor drive cattle to market—the 50 cents a day he and his siblings earned in doing farm work was kept by his father.

Being the fifth of the twelve children, Daniel also lived in the same household with his grandparents, Jacob and Barbara Naffziger. Jacob Naffziger (1798-1888) was an early Amish minister and brother of Peter “the Apostle” Naffziger, both natives of Hochheim in Hesse bei Worms, Germany. Jacob Naffziger died in 1888 and is buried next to his wife in the Baughman Cemetery located on the farm. Jacob Naffziger and his wife Barbara Krehbiel Naffziger (1797-1876) migrated to Butler County, Ohio, in 1830 upon the recommendation of brother Peter Naffziger.** Barbara Krehbiel was a member of the family that settled in the region of Weikersweiler-Weierhof-Dreisen, migrating from Switzerland in the 1600s to the Palatinate, (now being part of the state of Rheinland-Pfalz) some 30 kilometers west of Worms. Dr. Baughman’s younger sister, Lena Baughman (1869-75), who died of diphtheria on July 7, 1875, at the age of 6 years, was also buried in the same cemetery after her funeral was held in the barn.

In his youth, he met Anna R. King [Konig] (1867-1959), daughter of John King and Mary Rinkenberger King, also a native of the Flanagan Mennonite Congregation. The couple were married on Christmas Eve in 1889 by the Reverend ‘Father’ Joseph Stuckey at Danvers, an Amish Mennonite minister who is known for the 11 congregations in central Illinois which were named after him. This marriage would last 70 years (Figs. 2 and 3). The couple had one daughter Ethel Baughman (1896-1976) who married Dr. Veal Heater, a star athlete and recent graduate of the Iowa State College School of Veterinary Medicine, who also became a manager in the business. He died unexpectedly in 1925 of an infectious disease, which had turned into pneumonia. As a result of his unfulfilled dream to turn the



Figure 1 Dr. D.E. Baughman, President and General Manager, Fort Dodge Laboratories.



Figures 2 and 3. Dr. Daniel E. Baughman and his wife, Anna King Baughman

business over to his son-in-law, Dr. Baughman had to run the business himself until he was 78 years old until it was sold to American Home Products in 1945.

Baughman decided to attend veterinary school in Chicago against his father's wishes. He graduated in 1892 with a Doctor of Veterinary Science degree from a two-year course of training at the Chicago Veterinary College, one of the premier and largest private veterinary schools of its day. He then set up practice in the community of Danvers, Illinois, where his grandparents, John Bachmann (1800-1880) and Anna Staker Bachmann (1805-1890), and aunts, Barbara Bachmann Schertz and Francis (Fanny) Bachmann Augsburgers had moved with their families from Butler County, Ohio, in 1874. All are buried west of Danvers in the Stout's Grove Cemetery. Most of them were followers of Peter Naffziger's "Button Church" or "Hessan Church." Dr. Baughman, being fond of horses, became a sought after veterinarian in the area, but conflict with the Amish ways caused him to look elsewhere. It seems he had engaged in the verboten conduct of purchasing life insurance. There was a belief common to both German and Scandinavian immigrant farmers that the purchase of life insurance was a sin because one was in effect gambling with one's own life.

Relocated to Fort Dodge

In 1892 his father, John Baughman, and older brother, Jacob N. Baughman (1861-1959), purchased 720 acres near Manson, in Calhoun County, Iowa, becoming the first Mennonites to locate in this area. Dr. Baughman upon a visit to Manson in the fall of 1897 discovered an opportunity in nearby Fort Dodge to move his veterinary practice. Thus, he moved his wife Anna and daughter Ethel Baughman to Fort Dodge from Danvers in the following January of 1898. He thereupon became the first licensed veterinarian in the northern half of Iowa to be a graduate of a veterinary college. His advice was sought from other veterinarians from a wide area. Dan and Anna became members of the Fort Dodge Presbyterian Church whose benefactors they would both endow with substantial gifts before and after their deaths. He also was a prominent Mason and Shriner.

In those early years, Dr. Baughman was primarily a large animal practitioner with emphasis on horses. Small animal practice in those times was an anachronism. Cats and dogs were an unnecessary appendage to the typical Midwestern farming enterprise. They shared the same skim milk that was used to slop the hogs. The veterinary care they received was performed gratuitously to the delight of the children of the farm family.

Dr. Baughman's father was a breeder of Percheron draft horses in Manson, forming the German American Horse Company. A Percheron horse had the same value in the 1890s as a 160-acre farm. The old "doc" enjoyed telling the story of a farmer in an agitated state coming to his residence and asking for immediate help in curing his ill mare. He recounted how he stopped his supper to saddle his horse to head out with the farmer to care for his seriously ill horse. When he arrived at the farm he asked the farmer where the ill horse was kept and he was surprised to hear the farmer say that he had ridden the ill horse behind Dr. Baughman all the way to his farm. This was the oft-told story of Dr. Baughman related to groups before which he appeared.

Serum Company Founded

In 1912, an opportunity arose to manufacture, retail and counsel with respect to a new serum to cure hog cholera. Hog cholera was one of the most costly diseases to the economy of the state of Iowa and it was for that reason that it financed the research on this disease at a farm near Ames, Iowa. The anti-hog cholera serum was discovered by employees of the United States Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry in 1906 and was first used on farms in 1907. The process was patented by the government. Dr. Baughman bought the serum from the government and started injecting it in swine at Ames, Iowa, through a business he established with a former employee of the Bureau of Animal Industry, Mr. John Hambleton, which they called the Ames Vaccine Company. Dr. Baughman hired Hambleton because of his experience in working with the manufacture of the serum for the federal government at the USDA's Hog Cholera Station in Ames.

Anti-Hog Cholera Serum

We wish to announce that the Ames Vaccine Company has moved its office and plant from Ames to Fort Dodge, Iowa, where we are building a plant which, when completed, will be the most sanitary and up-to-date plant of its kind in existence.

We will keep our serum up to the highest standard of potency, which reputation it has earned in the past. We do not buy sick hogs on the market, which are frequently affected with mixed infections and different stages of diseases from which to make our serum.

We buy only healthy pigs that we know are susceptible, these pigs are inoculated with a virulent strain of cholera virus that has been bred up for a number of years and is known to be free from mixed infections.

We do not sell to farmers, jobbers or druggists. We sell only to veterinarians.

AMES VACCINE COMPANY
FORT DODGE, IOWA

Figure 4. Announcement of the company's relocation to Fort Dodge, Iowa. Source: *American Journal of Veterinary Medicine*, VIII(3):14, 1913 Mar. *HathiTrust Digital Library*, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/msu.31293029797226>

Within a year he moved the business to Fort Dodge where he renamed it the Fort Dodge Serum Company. (Figs. 4 and 5) Hambleton stayed on for four years before moving west. Although there were other makers of the serum, Dr. Baughman became the dominant producer because of his excellent management capabilities.

An Ethical Company

As noted by Stalheim, *“From the beginning, Dr. Baughman insisted that veterinarians use his products properly. He understood that the simultaneous administration of hog cholera virus and its antiserum to swine was a dangerous procedure and that it only could succeed if the pig had a fully competent immune system capable of overcoming the pathogenic capabilities of the virus. Only pigs in good health should be subjected to the procedure, and only trained and qualified people should be entrusted to decide if a specific herd of pigs was suitable for the procedure. Baughman, therefore, instituted a policy of sales only to licensed veterinarians, a policy from which the company has not deviated. As other companies concurred, the industry divided into two groups: those who sold only to veterinarians (so-called ethical companies) and those who sold directly to dealers, farmers, and stockman (lay companies).”*

Dr. Howard J. Shore Hired

One of the keys to his success was the hiring of Dr. Howard J. Shore of the US Bureau of Animal Industry to be his production supervisor and laboratory director in 1919. He held that position until his death in 1952. Shore, being a former employee of the Virus and Serum Division of the Department, played a key role in obtaining approval of the USDA of the serums developed by the company. In 1932, because of the addition of many biological and pharmaceutical products to its line, the company’s name was changed to Fort Dodge Laboratories.

Fort Dodge Laboratories Expands

In 1919 Baughman also hired Scott L. Barrett from Cutter Laboratories in Chicago as sales manager, who subsequently became president of the company when Dr. Baughman sold it in 1945 to American Home Products. Additionally, he hired Dr. H. P. Lefler in 1919, also formerly with the USDA’s Bureau of Animal Industry as the director of the production of hog cholera serum and virus. These three men—Shore, Barrett and Lefler—with Dr. Baughman, directed the affairs of the company until 1945 when it was sold. The success of the vaccination effort nationwide was realized when hog cholera in the United States was eradicated even though the highest vaccination rate at any time in the past did not exceed 60%. The United States was declared free of hog cholera on January 31, 1978 by USDA Secretary Bob Bergland, about 99 years after the Department had begun hog cholera research.

The company joined in the building of a plant in Spain in 1933, which was sold to the Spanish partners soon after American Home Products purchased the company in 1945. Dr. Lefler spent four years in Spain building that plant. This also necessitated Dr. Baughman spending some time there where he had to learn to drink beer as the alternative to the bad local



Figure 5. Postcard showing an aerial view of the Fort Dodge Serum Company, Fort Dodge, Iowa, date unknown. Image courtesy of CT Boyd.

water. (The company in recent years built a plant in Northern Ireland to try to break into the virtually closed European Common Market.) Dr. Baughman traveled by train and car and did some of his business out of a room in the Palmer House Hotel in Chicago. In 1935 he hired a young man, D.A. “Pete” Peterson of Dayton, Iowa, as his private secretary and car driver. He was a frequent visitor to Mennonite communities where he and his wife’s families lived such as Milford, Nebraska, and Gridley and Normal, Illinois. The author remembers his many visits to his home in Fort Dodge and of Uncle Dan to the Jacob Baughman farm near Manson.

The business fell upon hard times in the Depression when farmers simply did not have the money to have their hogs vaccinated. But the company had the good fortune in 1938 to develop a vaccine for sleeping sickness in horses, a disease that was plaguing the draft horse population in Iowa and southern Minnesota. It was a virus that affected the brain of the horse, causing it to walk to one side in circles and eventually go down and die. This development secured the company’s future, but it marked the beginning of the end for the draft horse as farmers now had an excuse to buy their first tractor.

Dr. Baughman’s Legacy

There are few associates of Dr. Baughman still living, but many of those associates, including secretaries, who held even a few shares of stock in his company, which was eventually converted to American Home Products stock, became wealthy. One pharmaceutical publication described Dr. Baughman at the time of his death on July 8, 1960, as “a man of courage and unquestioned integrity.”

* Dr. D.E. Baughman’s father, John Baughman, came to Butler County, Ohio, with his parents at the age of 4 years in 1837. He is believed to have been born in Saarburg, Germany. He married Catherine Naffaziger in Butler County, Ohio, on January 4, 1859, and their first child, John, was born on October, 31, 1859, after they had moved to their homestead in Panola Township, Woodford County, Illinois. They would live there until they moved to Manson, Iowa in 1896. They lived in Manson, Iowa, until their deaths in 1914. Being native Anabaptist residents of the desolate Vosges

Mountain region of France, few of them could afford horses. Thus, it became common for them to walk great distances. Consequently, John Baughman adapted to walking from Ohio to Illinois in 12 days. Dr. Robert Baecher of Pfafstatt, Alsace, France, a researcher for L'Association Francaise D'Histoire Anabaptiste-Mennonite, stated that it was his belief that all the people with the name "Bachmann" who emigrated from the Alsace-Lorraine were descendants of Johannes (Hans or Jean) Bachmann who emigrated from Richterswil near Zurich, Switzerland in 1692 to Heidolsheim, Alsace, and as an Anabaptist minister participated in the great debate with Jacob Amman, also of Heidolsheim. There is evidence that some of the Bachmanns moved out of the Alsace to the Palatinate pursuant to the decree evicting all Protestants from France by Louis XIV in 1712. They subsequently returned to the Alsace after the death of Louis XIV in 1730. John Baughman changed his name from Bachmann to differentiate himself from the many Bachmann cousins who had settled in Butler County, Ohio. The English "gh" was not a good substitute for the German hard sounding "ch" as most English speakers mispronounce the name "Bauman."

** See "Amish Emigration Through Le Harve: Two October 1930 Departures." *Illinois Mennonite Heritage*, March 1992, p. 5; and, "Letter from Peter Naffziger to Johannes Gungerich, July 25, 1829," *Illinois Mennonite Heritage*, June 1998, p. 30.

SOURCES

The author desires to attribute sources as follows: Alpha E. Baughman (1888-1980), Normal, Illinois; Lydia Somer Baughman (1891-1990), Meadows, Illinois; Ethel Baughman Heater (1896-1976), Ft. Dodge, Iowa; D.A. Peterson, Ft. Dodge, Iowa, Dr. Baughman's former assistant and company president from 1965-75; and Walter Stevens, Editor Emeritus of the *Ft. Dodge Messenger* newspaper.

Stalheim OHV. Fort Dodge Laboratories: from a one-man laboratory to an international conglomerate. *The Winning of Animal Health: 100 years of Veterinary Medicine*. Ames, IA: Iowa State University Press, 1994; pp. 120-121.

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BOOK – Dunlop RH, Williams DJ. *Veterinary Medicine: An Illustrated History*. St. Louis: Mosby, 1996; p. 7. For more than two authors (book or journal article) use first two authors and *et al.*

Ibid. pp. 220-221. (Used for second citation of same source, if immediately following.) If other citations intervene, use author, reference number, and paging, e.g.: Dunlop, Williams (Ref. 1) p. 104.

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JOURNAL ARTICLE – Steele JH. A personal history of veterinary public health. *Vet Herit.* 19: 38-44, 1996.

NOTE – Missouri farmers' actions coincided with the practice of trail driving from Texas.

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