

JAMES MOHN FITZGERALD, M. D.  
Eagle, Wis.

Born February 25, 1870--

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REFERENCES:

Questionnaire--

Dr. J. J. Fitzgerald, and  
County Histories.

Biographical Sketch

T. W. Haight's "Memoirs of Waukesha  
County," 1894 pp. 434-436.

Items of Interest:

Death of Mrs. J. J.  
Fitzgerald.

Wisconsin Free Press, Oconomowoc, Wis.  
April 20, 1901.

Dr. Fitzgerald a Bank  
Director.

Wisconsin Free Press, Feb. 25, 1904.

Short Biographical  
Sketch.

Oconomowoc Enterprise, Feb. 8, 1929.

Appointed Member of  
Recreational Survey  
Committee of Waukesha  
County.

Waukesha Freeman, September 30, 1936.

Attends Railway Surgeons' C  
Convention in Chicago,  
also Giants vs. Cubs  
Baseball game.

Eagle News, Waukesha Freeman, Oct. 1, 1937

Honored for Fifty Years  
of Practice and Medical  
Service by the Wisconsin  
State Medical Society.

Wisconsin Medical Journal, June, 1948  
Waukesha Freeman, undated.



J. J. Fitzgerald, M. D.,  
Eagle, Wis.

1870- 1952

J. J. Fitzgerald, M. D.,  
References

Items of Interest:

- Attended a medical defense service at Avalon Hotel, Waukesha. Waukesha Freeman, Mar. 4, 1942.
- Attended 50th Anniversary for Dr. M. R. Wilkinson, Oconomowoc; Dr. E. M. Caples, Waukesha, and Dr. Donnelly, Merton, at Draper Hall, Oconomowoc. Waukesha Freeman, June 4, 1943
- Celebrated his Golden Jubilee, of fifty years of medical service at Eagle. Wisconsin Medical Journal, August, 1945.
- Attended the annual Bachelor's Club dinner, at Oconomowoc, of which he was a charter member. Waukesha Freeman, Mar. 5, 1946.
- Attended the testimonial dinner at Waukesha Memorial Hospital for honoring Dr. H. E. Davies, Waukesha, fifty years of medical practice. Waukesha Freeman, Sep. 9, 1946.
- Honored for Fifty Years of Practice. Wisconsin Medical Journal, June, 1948
- Veteran Doctor of Eagle Served Area 50 Years. Waukesha Freeman, Dec. 11, 1952.  
Obituary of Death, Dec.10,1952

MEDICAL HISTORY DATA

COMPILED BY

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY OF THE WAUKESHA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

FOR THE

STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

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PHYSICIANS

Name FITZGERALD, JAMES JOHN, M. D.,

Address Eagle, Wis.

Date of Birth Feb. 25, 1870. Place of Birth Oconomowoc, Wis

Father's Name Patrick Fitzgerald

Mother's Name Catherine Madden

Schooling Oconomowoc,

Whitewater Normal,

Valparaiso, Indiana, Teacher's Course,

Where Graduated Rush Medical College, 1895.

Degrees M. D.

Where first started practice of medicine Eagle, Wis.

And other places \_\_\_\_\_

Date of coming to Waukesha County Born in county.

Place of residence \_\_\_\_\_

Date of marriage 1st, June 30, 1897; 2nd, 1929, Sept. 30.

To Whom 1st, Theresa Lawless, Daughter of Patrick & Ella Lawless.

2nd, Hannah Connell dau <sup>of</sup> Timothy & Hane Connell.  
Son of \_\_\_\_\_

Born \_\_\_\_\_

Children if any: By 1st marriage

1 infant daughter, b. Dec 7, 1898; d. Dec. 16, 1898.

Church Affiliation Roman Catholic

Member of ( American Medical Association Yes  
( State Medical Society Yes  
( County Medical Society Yes

Outstanding events in medical career; characteristics, honors, special hospital interests, war service, etc:

In 1894 he was the only physician in Eagle, Wis

He conducted a private hospital since 1914.

Director of the Bank of Eagle.

Vice President of Eagle Telephone Co., (1894)

Member of Elks Club

" " Waukesha Lodge, Knights of Columbus,

" " Milwaukee Council, Modern Woodmen of America

" " Foresters, at Eagle,

Member of School Board 1 term.

Made a member of the "50 Year Club" of the State Medical Society in 1948, to honor 50 years of active service in his profession.

Date of death \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

Place of burial \_\_\_\_\_

**JAMES JOHN FITZGERALD, M.D.**

James John Fitzgerald, M. D., was born on Feb. 25th, 1870, at Oconomowoc, Wis., and is a son of Patrick and Catherine (Madden) Fitzgerald. The former is a native of Ireland, born Nov. 9, 1837, in County Roscommon, and came to the United States in the early 50's. He located at Menomonee, Waukesha Co., where he learned the cooper's trade, and in 1859 went to Oconomowoc where he built a shop and began business for himself. Being unable to get satisfactory freight rates on his shipments of pork barrels he shipped them, himself, by team. He then decided to open a grocery store in Oconomowoc so as to get the benefit of the return trips from the city. He built a store and opened this line of business in 1875, in partnership with his brother-in-law, Nicholas Madden. They continued the same until about 1880, when Mr. Fitzgerald bought out his partner, gave up his cooperage and devoted his energies exclusively to the grocery business. His store was, at one time, the best in its line of any in the city of Oconomowoc. He continued in this business until 1906, when he retired from active life. He is still a resident of Oconomowoc, where he is enjoying the fruits of an industrious and successful business life. Mr. Fitzgerald has taken considerable interest in local politics, has served on the County Board a number of times, and also acted as alderman for two years. He was formerly a staunch Democrat, but in recent years is less bound by party ties, and usually exercises his independent judgment upon the men and issues that are presented.

Mrs. Patrick Fitzgerald was born in the town of Menomonee, Waukesha County, in 1849, and is the daughter of James Madden, one of the first settlers of that locality, and of Irish descent. She was reared and educated in the county and taught school for two years previous to her marriage.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald, of whom Dr. Fitzgerald, the subject of this sketch is the oldest. The others are Mary, born in September, 1873. She was educated in the grade and high school of Oconomowoc, the Whitewater Normal, and later in the Illinois Training School for Nurses. For two years she was a teacher in the Milwaukee schools, but left that profession for that of a trained nurse which she is now pursuing in Chicago. Katherine, born Jan. 1, 1877, is also a graduate of the Oconomowoc High School, and went to Chicago in 1895 where she has since been engaged in teaching; Helen Elizabeth, born May 3, 1882, was graduated at the Oconomowoc High School, Milwaukee Normal, and the College of Letters and Science of the University of Wisconsin, in 1905, with the degree of Ph. B. She is, at present, a teacher of Latin in the State Normal School of Superior, Wis. Leo, born in 1884, died in 1893.

Dr. Fitzgerald remained at home until he was 18 years of age and attended the High School of the city for four years. In the fall of 1868, he began teaching school in Jefferson Co., and continued for three years, spending a part of the time at the Whitewater Normal School in fitting himself for this work. In 1890-91, he attended the college at Valparaiso, Ind., taking the teachers' course, and taught one year after finishing his work at college. He then decided to take up the study of

medicine and entered Rush Medical College of Chicago, where he graduated with the Class of 1895.

The following June, (1895) he located in Eagle and began the practice of his profession. He has built up a large and lucrative practice, being, at the present time, the only physician in that place. He has a number of other interests, being one of the directors of the Bank of Eagle, a flourishing institution, and the vice-president of the Eagle Telephone Co.

He is a member of the Order of Elks; Waukesha Lodge, Knights of Columbus; Milwaukee Council, Modern Woodmen of America; and the Foresters at Eagle. He is also a member of the Catholic Church. In politics he is independent and has served on the School Board, one year.

He was married on June 30, 1897, to Miss Theresa Lawless, who was born in Jefferson Co., Wis., in 1877, and who died in April, 1902. She was the daughter of Patrick and Ella Lawless. The former was a native of Ireland, but reared in Wisconsin, to which state he came as a child. He has been a farmer for the greater part of his life but is now living, retired, at Palmyra, Wis., his family circle consisting of himself, his wife, and two unmarried daughters. Mrs. Fitzgerald was a graduate of the Palmyra High School and remained at home until her marriage.

From T. W. Haight's "Memoirs of Waukesha County," 1894. p.434-36.

J. J. Fitzgerald, M. D.

Items of Interest:

Death of Mrs. J. J. Fitzgerald.

Mrs. J. J. Fitzgerald died at her home in Eagle last Monday, after a lingering illness, although able to be up and around until a month ago.

Mrs. Fitzgerald whose maiden name was Theresa Lawless was 24 years of age. She was born and grew up in Eagle and was married to Dr. Fitzgerald in June, 1897. About a month ago when her serious illness became apparent physicians from Milwaukee were summoned but her disease baffled the skill of the doctors. She left no children, her only one, an infant, died about a year ago. Funeral services were held at the Catholic Church.

Wisconsin Free Press (Oconomowoc), Wis.,  
April 20, 1901.

Dr. Fitzgerald a Bank Director.

Dr. J. J. Fitzgerald who settled in Eagle after fitting himself for the practice of medicine has not only built up an exceedingly fine practice but is held in high esteem by the community in which he has become identified. Dr. Fitzgerald is one of the directors of the Bank of Eagle, an institution organized in 1901, and incorporated as a State Bank in 1903. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. P. Fitzgerald.

Wisconsin Free Press, Oconomowoc, Wis.  
February 25, 1904.

Dr. J. J. Fitzgerald, of Eagle.

Oconomowoc is Dr. Fitzgerald's old home town where he attended public schools and grew to young manhood and laid the foundations for a successful career in the science of medicine and surgery. After his diploma was obtained he went to Eagle where he built up a large practice and, of late years, has been conducting a hospital.

Oconomowoc Enterprise, February 8, 1929.

Dr. J. J. Fitzgerald, Eagle, has been appointed a member of the Recreational Survey Committee of Waukesha County.

Waukesha Freeman, September 30, 1936.

Dr. and Mrs. J. J. Fitzgerald attended the Railway Surgeons' Convention at the Palmer House, Chicago, Tuesday morning, and in the afternoon saw the ball-game of the Giants and Cubs.

Eagle News, Waukesha Freeman, Oct. 1, 1937.

Items of Interest:

Dr. J. J. Fitzgerald attended a medical defense service at the Avalon Hotel, Waukesha.

Waukesha Freeman, Mar. 4, 1942.

Dr. and Mrs. J. J. Fitzgerald attended the 50th Anniversary by the Waukesha County Medical Society for Dr. M. R. Wilkinson, Oconomowoc; Dr. E. M. Caples, Waukesha, and Dr. Donnelly, Merton, at Draper Hall, Oconomowoc.

Eagle News, Waukesha Freeman, June 4, 1943.

Dr. James J. Fitzgerald, 75, of Eagle, celebrated his golden jubilee June 15th, after completing fifty years of service to residents of Eagle and near-by vicinities.

After Dr. Fitzgerald's graduation from Rush Medical College in 1895, he began practice in Eagle. At that time there was no other physician in the area but, nevertheless, patients were slow to realize the merits of the young doctor. His friends recall that when he was about to give up hope of a practice, he hit upon an idea. Knowing people to follow "what the other fellow would do," he hitched up a team of horses and at a time when he was residents would be doing their morning shopping, he drove through the streets of Eagle at break-neck speed. It didn't take long for the word to spread that Dr. Fitzgerald was answering "emergency calls." Before long, the doctor's practice had been established.

Dr. Fitzgerald is an associate member of the staff at Memorial Hospital, Waukesha, and a member of the Waukesha County Medical Society, the State Medical Society of Wisconsin, and the American Medical Association.

Wisconsin Medical Journal, August, 1945.

Dr. J. J. Fitzgerald attended the annual Bachelor's Club dinner at Oconomowoc, Feb. 25th, at 7 P.M. in the Land of Lakes Hotel.

Dr. Fitzgerald was one of the 21 charter members. Now Dr. Fitzgerald is one of the two living charter members. The occasion happened to fall on the doctor's birthday.

Waukesha Freeman, March 5, 1946

Dr. and Mrs. J. J. Fitzgerald attended the testimonial dinner at Waukesha Memorial Hospital on Wednesday in honor of Dr. R. E. Davies who had practiced for 50 years. Dr. Fitzgerald celebrated his 50 years of practice in June.

Waukesha Freeman, Sept. 9, 1946.

J. J. Fitzgerald, M. D.,

Items of Interest, ctd.

HONORED FOR FIFTY YEARS OF PRACTICE.

Dr. J. J. Fitzgerald, Eagle, was one of seven other Waukesha County physicians who were honored by the Wisconsin State Medical Society for fifty years of practice and medical service to their community.

He was awarded a gold lapel pin designating him as a member of the "50 Year Club."

He was one of 75 physicians of the state, who received an engraved certificate and letter describing the pin as a "symbol of the service and devotion expressed in your long years of service."

He became a member of the "50 Year Club" at the time of the annual meeting of the State Society.

Wisconsin Medical Journal, June 1948.

Waukesha Freeman, undated.

James J. Fitzgerald, M. D.

Items of Interest, etd.

VETERAN EAGLE DOCTOR SERVED AREA 50 YEARS.

Dr. James J. Fitzgerald, physician in the village of Eagle, for the past 57 years died Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 10th, at St. Mary's Hospital, Milwaukee. He had been admitted to the hospital a week ago.

Dr. Fitzgerald, who was 82 years of age, last February, had practiced in Eagle since shortly after he completed his studies as a young doctor at Rush Medical College.

He was born in Oconomowoc, the son of Patrick and Catherine Madden Fitzgerald, in 1870.

He might be classified as the typical small town doctor. He kept abreast of the times in his profession, as specialization narrowed the field of practice.

He established a 5 bed clinic in Eagle, complete for operating in facilities and, also, compounded many of the prescriptions he gave to his patients, since there is no pharmacy in the village.

A friendly, witty man, he took a special interest in the young people of the village. He donated money for balls and bats for the Community Ball Club and, also, allowed and invited Eagle youngsters to use his tennis court and the swimming beach he formerly owned on Eagle Lake.

He found time to participate in many civic and political activities of the community.

A member of the State and County Medical Societies, he was recently honored by being named a member of the 50 Year Club of the Waukesha County Medical Society.

Dr. Fitzgerald is survived by his wife, Hannah Connell Fitzgerald; two sisters, Mrs. Katherine Grant, Miami, Fla., and Mrs. Helen Whipple, Madison; and two nieces, Mrs. Helen Carlson, Madison and Mrs. Kay Strong, Miami, Fla.

Funeral services will be held at 9:30 a.m., Friday, at St. Theresa's Catholic Church, Eagle. The Rev. George Budde will officiate. Burial will be in the parish cemetery. Friends may call at the residence after 2 p.m. Thursday.

Waukesha Freeman, December 11, 1952

Items of Interest, ctd.

EAGLE DOCTOR HAS JUBILEE.

"STUNT" IN 1895 HELPED YOUNG DR. FITZGERALD TO SET UP PRACTICE.

Dr. James J. Fitzgerald, 75, of Eagle, celebrated his golden jubilee in medicine last week when he completed 50 years of service to residents of Eagle and the vicinity.

One of five children, the doctor was born in Oconomowoc in February, 1870. His father was Patrick Fitzgerald, an Irish immigrant who established a cooper business there. He attended High School at Oconomowoc and later was a student at Whitewater Normal. He taught school in Jefferson Co., and then attended Valparaiso University. Then he decided upon medicine as a career.

PRACTICE SLOW.

After his graduation from Rush Medical College in 1895 he began to practice here. At that time there was no other physician in the area. but, nevertheless, patients were slow to realize the merits of the young doctor. His friends recall that when he was about to give up hope of a practice he hit upon an idea. Knowing people to follow "what the other fellow would do" he would hitch up his team of horses and, at a time that he was sure the residents would be doing their morning shopping, he would drive through the streets of Eagle, at breakneck speed. It didn't take long for the word to spread that Dr. Fitzgerald was "answering emergency calls." Before long the doctor's practice had been established.

In a copy of the Wisconsin Free Press of Feb., 1904, appeared this item: "Dr. J. W. Fitzgerald, who settled in Eagle, after fitting himself in the practice of medicine, has not only built up an exceedingly fine practice but is held in high esteem by the community with which he has become identified."

SET UP HOSPITAL.

It was in 1914 that he established his own hospital on the second floor of his home. Here there were accommodations for several patients as well as a fully equipped operating room. The nurses that helped him were the best that could be found. One of these was Hannah Connell of Darling--who was later to become Mrs. Fitzgerald.

One of his oldest patients was Col. Francis Draper, well-known throughout the State, who died four years ago at the age of 99.

When the shortage of nurses became acute the doctor was forced to close the little hospital.

Dr. Fitzgerald is a member of the staff at Memorial Hospital at Waukesha, a member of the American Medical Society and the State and County Medical Societies, and has served his community as a member of the School Board, a director of the Eagle Bank and Vice-president of the Eagle Telephone Co. He is affiliated with the Elks, Knights of Columbus, Milwaukee Council of the Woodmen of America and the Eagle Foresters.

Milwaukee Journal, June 17, 1945.

OBITUARY

Dr. James J. Fitzgerald, 82, physician in the village of Eagle for the past 57 years, died on December 9 in a Milwaukee hospital. He was born in Oconomowoc on February 25, 1870.

The doctor's first career was teaching. He later decided to become a physician and was graduated from Rush Medical College, Chicago. He began his practice in Eagle in 1895.

Doctor Fitzgerald found time to participate in many civic activities of his community, including serving as a member of the school board, as director of the Eagle Band and as vice-president of the Eagle Telephone Company. He was a member of the Fifty Year Club of the State Medical Society, and was also a member of the Waukesha County Medical Society and the American Medical Association.

Survivors include his wife and two sisters.

WISCONSIN MEDICAL JOURNAL,  
February, 1953.