

Harvey Washington Wiley, M.D.

First Head of Bureau of Chemistry (today's FDA) from January 1, 1907 until March 15, 1912

Harvey Washington Wiley was born in a log farmhouse in Indiana, in 1844. A top graduate of Hanover College (1867), Wiley then studied at Indiana Medical College where he received his M.D. in 1871. After he graduated, Wiley accepted a position teaching chemistry at the medical college, where he taught Indiana's first laboratory course in chemistry beginning in 1873. Following a brief interlude at Harvard, where he was awarded a B.S. degree after only a few months of intense effort, he accepted a faculty position in chemistry at the newly opened Purdue University in 1874. In 1878, Wiley traveled overseas where he attended the lectures of August Wilhelm von Hoffman the celebrated German discoverer of several organic tar derivatives, including aniline. While in Germany, Wiley was elected to the prestigious German Chemical Society founded by Hoffman. Wiley spent most of his time in the Imperial Food Laboratory in Bismarck working with Eugene Sell, mastering the use of the polariscope and studying sugar chemistry. Upon his return to Purdue, Wiley was asked by the Indiana State Board of Health to analyze the sugars and syrups on sale in the state to detect any adulteration. He spent his last years at Purdue studying sorghum culture and sugar chemistry, hoping, as did others, to help the United States develop a strong domestic sugar industry. His first published paper in 1881 discussed the adulteration of sugar with glucose.

Wiley was offered the position of Chief Chemist in the U. S. Department of Agriculture by George Loring, the Commissioner of Agriculture, in 1882. Loring was seeking to replace Peter Collier, his current Chief Chemist, with someone who could employ a more objective approach to the study of sorghum, the potential of which as a sugar source, was far from proven. Wiley accepted the offer after being passed over for the presidency of Purdue, allegedly because he was "too young and too jovial," unorthodox in his religious beliefs, and also a bachelor. Wiley brought with him to Washington a practical knowledge of agriculture, a sympathetic approach to the problems of agricultural industry and an untapped talent for public relations. After assisting Congress in their earliest questions regarding the safety of the chemical preservatives then being employed in foods, Wiley was appropriated \$5,000 in 1902 to study the effects of a diet consisting in part of the various preservatives on human volunteers. These famous "poison squad" studies drew national attention to the need for a federal food and drug law. Wiley soon became a crusader and coalition builder in support of national food and drug regulation which earned him the title of "Father

of the Pure Food and Drugs Act" when it became law in 1906. Wiley authored two editions of Foods and Their Adulteration (1907 and 1911), which detailed for a broad audience the history, preparation and subsequent adulteration of basic foodstuffs. He was also a founding father of the Association of Official Analytic Chemists, and left a legacy to the American pure food movement as its "crusading chemist" that was both broad and substantial.

The fact that enforcement of the federal Pure Food and Drugs Act of 1906 was given to the Bureau of Chemistry rather than placed in the Department of Commerce or the Department of the Interior is a tribute to the scientific qualifications which the Bureau of Chemistry brought to the study of food and drug adulteration and misbranding. The first food and drug inspectors were hired to complement the work of the laboratory scientists, and an inspection program was launched which revolutionized the country's food supply within the first decade under the new federal law. Wiley's tenure, however, was marked by controversy over the administration of the 1906 statute which he had worked so hard to secure. Concerns over preserving chemicals, which had not been specifically addressed in the law, continued to be controversial. The Secretary of Agriculture appointed a Referee Board of Consulting Scientists, headed by Ira Remsen at Johns Hopkins to repeat Wiley's human trials of preservatives. The use of saccharin, bleached flour, caffeine, and benzoate of soda were all important issues which had to be ultimately settled by the courts in the early days under the new law. Under Wiley's leadership, however, the Bureau of Chemistry grew significantly, both in strength and in stature after assuming responsibility for the enforcement of the 1906 Act. Between 1906 and 1912, Wiley's staff expanded from 110 to 146 and in 1910 the Bureau moved into its own building. Appropriations, which had been only \$155,000 in 1906 were \$963,780 in 1912. In 1912, Wiley resigned and took over the laboratories of Good Housekeeping Magazine where he established the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval and worked tirelessly on behalf of the consuming public. Harvey Wiley died at his home in Washington in 1930, and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Our soils have only a fraction of the mineral nutrients in them today compared to a hundred years ago.

Minerals are like sparkplugs to help us use vitamins and calories. See Senate Document link at bottom menu on this page.

Food and the Health of a Nation

References: Encyclopedia Britannica, 1953, Adulteration, of commodities and foods, for economic profit and greed. Vol. 1 page 187 "Adulteration of the first kind is probably as old as human greed itself." The parent idea of a provision in our pure food laws comes from the Bible, book of Leviticus, "That which dieth of itself or is torn with beasts, ...shall not be eaten, lest it defile you." Also in Leviticus, a warning is given against eating foods on the third day after they have been offered. There is adulteration of food for profit and greed, and there is that which occurs without that motive. In England, under the reign of Charles II, "...no butter with is old or corrupt, shall be mixed or packed with butter which is new and sound..."

The Britannica article on adulteration of foods goes on to state, page 188 of Vol. 1, 1953

that the **adulteration of foods was increasingly towards the goal of an economic gain** , and that

..the consumer was so far removed from the ...methods of food and drug production that he was powerless to protect himself.

The contest between those chemists who worked for the food manufacturers to increase their profit, and those chemists who worked to protect the consumers has been compared to that which exists between the makers of armour and the makers of armour piercing projectiles. (page 189, Britannica, 1953, Vol 1)

I will show you the claims of fraud and deception made against the food industry spanning a time period of over a hundred years. The first author I refer you to is no less than the Chief Chemist of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Dr. Harvey Washington Wiley (1844-1930).

Was he honorable? Yes. He attained to the **rank of Major** in the military as shown by his picture in full uniform on file in the Library of Congress, dated 1881.

Was he knowledgeable? Yes. Educated at Hanover College (Indiana), and Indiana Medical college and **Harvard**.

He served as state chemist of Indiana and professor of chemistry at Purdue university (1874-83).

In 1883 he became chief of the bureau of chemistry in the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.

From 1899 on he was also professor of agricultural chemistry at George Washington university.

He was the chief force behind the passage of the Pure Food and Drugs Act of 1906. The declarations below come from many different authorities, yet remain largely unknown by the public. I have simply traced for you the thread of books over a span of a hundred years on the subject of food fraud being perpetrated on the public.

Chief Chemist of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

If you go to the Library of Congress web site and do a search by author on Harvey Washington Wiley, you will see a list of over 70 books.

Dr. Wiley was a renowned chemist. He also reached the rank of Major in the military. A picture of him in his uniform with the rank of Major is on file at the Library of Congress, dated 1881. Harvey Washington Wiley, half-length portrait, facing right, as a Major, in uniform. 1881

He played football as a youth as shown by the pictures on file in the Library of Congress,

Harvey Washington Wiley, full-length portrait, standing, facing right, in football uniform, holding football] [graphic]. 1860

Harvey Washington Wiley, full-length portrait, standing, facing right, in football uniform, tossing football. The date is between 1860 and 1870.

He was a man of strength and conviction, and apparently, he prospered with his income from his work, as evidenced by his ownership of the third steam car in Washington, D.C. He was the Chief Chemist of the United States Department of Agriculture.

He worked for pure food. He worked to establish a federal agency to control the purity of American food. After working for years to get the national organization established, he was appointed head of that organization which later came to be called the Food and Drug Administration. He was a man of immense energy dedicated to wholesome foods for American's to eat.

After some years heading up that organization which he had worked so long and hard to establish, he resigned in protest of the fraud and deception being perpetrated on the American people.

I list a few of his books here, to show you an idea of what he covered in his writings;

and then go on to list a few more recent authors to show you the fraud has only continued since the turn of the century.

Consider how suppressed this information is, consider how long it has been published, and how long the problem has been growing.

A hundred years of fraud and deception for the purpose of dollar gain.

And that's in an area of life so basic, so fundamental as the food you eat!

If truth can be prevented from being given to the masses in such a basic area as

the food they eat, do you think it any harder to keep truth from them concerning other areas of life? Chemistry and longevity :

food in its relation to individual and national development.

1900 by H.W. Wiley. New York : [Hundred Year Club], 1900. LC: YA 19087

The Sugar Industry of the United States, 1885

Not by bread alone; the principles of human nutrition,

1915 Wiley, Harvey Washington, 1844-

Foods and their Adulterations, 1st edition, 1907, 3rd edition 1917 Beverages and their Adulterations, 1919

He also wrote a series of health readers for schools in 1919.

Food and Efficiency, 1917

The history of a crime against the food law 1976 Harvey Washington Wiley.

[New York] : Arno Press, 1976, [c1929] LC: KF3869 .W5 1976 Dewey:

344/.73/042

The legacy of Doctor Wiley.

1957 Natenberg, Maurice. Chicago, Regent House [1957] LC: TX518.W5 N3

The health of a nation; Harvey W. Wiley and the fight for pure food.

1958 Anderson, Oscar Edward. [Chicago] Published for the University of

Cincinnati by the University of Chicago Press [1958] LC: TX518.W5 A5

Influence of food preservatives and artificial colors on digestion and health. v.

Formaldehyde.

1908 Wiley, Harvey Washington. Washington, Govt. print. off., 1908. LC: S585

.A1 no. 84 pt. 5 Historic meeting to commemorate fortieth anniversary of original federal Food and drugs act,

1946 New York, Chicago [etc.] Commerce clearing house, inc., 1946. LC:

HD9000.9.U62 N4 Why not enforce the laws we already have?

How and why industries' outlaws are crucifying Harvey Wiley's pure food and drug law,

1935 Ambruster, Howard Watson. Westfield, N.J., Ursula Ambruster [c1935] LC:

HD9000.9.U5 A77 A plot against the people;

1911 a history of the audacious attempt by certain Kentucky "Straight whisky" interests

to pervert the Pure food law

in order to create a monopoly

for their fusel oil whiskies and to outlaw all refined whiskies;

with an account of the suddenly-adopted and preposterous theories of Dr. harvey W. Wiley,

chief government chemist ...

Walkerville, Ontario, Canada, New York [etc.] H. Walker & sons, limited [1911]

LC: HD9395.U45 R7
