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**THE HISTORY OF CHIROPRACTIC: a treasure**

Chronological events are being recorded today in countries where the chiropractic profession has begun to establish its roots just as they occurred one hundred years ago but where valuable historical records were lost. In a world of Information Technology it would be a shame to repeat the same pattern.

Interesting and dedicated individuals have formed the history of chiropractic from its early years. Starting from DD Palmer and BJ Palmer to numbers of courageous and charismatic leaders who started chiropractic schools and pushed for state laws to legitimize our profession; organized state and national associations to support the individual practitioner's needs as the profession evolved. Some developed new methods and approaches at refining the art of locating and correcting spinal subluxations; others spent time in jail by refusing to subjugate to oppressive forces of political medicine. Today, amongst our midst are hundreds of honorable men and women who continue to sacrifice by taking leadership positions and devoting their time and money to protect what we have gained as a profession and to advocate for greater chiropractic access and a stronger profession.



Daniel David Palmer - Founder

There is so much history in North America but little has been done to preserve the "history in the making" as 21st Century pioneers are bringing chiropractic to the far reaches of our world in some 100 countries. In countries where the profession is fully established, chiropractors have been paying attention to their history by the creation of the *Association for the History of Chiropractic*. There are American, Canadian and Australian chapters and hopefully we will see a chapter in every country. If history can teach us anything it is easier to record the present than to accurately reconstruct the past. Collecting information from more recently pioneered countries may be useful in building the historical data. This seems like a HUGE project but in reality it simply needs to be a local phenomenon that benefits from an established global structure. Each country's National Association assigns someone to keep copies of letters and other documents that are exchanged in the activities that promote the profession locally. A written chronology of the history in that country can later be extrapolated from the documents when resources of time and money can be directed to a more formal historical process.

Want to be sure your footsteps are cast in stone? A good place to start is by contacting the Association for the History of Chiropractic at [www.chiroweb.com/ahc](http://www.chiroweb.com/ahc) and let your intentions be known that you would like to start a local country chapter. The rest will take its natural course. This can be a lot of fun but it can also mean so much for the future generations.

A potential beneficial side effect is the accountability that comes into the ways and methods these new pioneers are operating and could certainly hold people to a higher standard when they know that they are leaving a legacy of some kind.

A few resources that have been suggested on this topic:

- "The *FACTS Bulletin*" compiled by the ICA since the mid 80's gives a DC summary of most countries.
- "*Chiropractic - an Illustrated History*" is edited by Dennis Peterson, DC and Glenda Wiese, DC - has a chapter on chiropractic around the world that presents some international chiropractic history.
- "*Dynamic Chiropractic Today*" by Michael Copland-Griffiths
- The *World Federation of Chiropractic* has annual Country Reports that will eventually be available through their website [www.wfc.org](http://www.wfc.org)



**Bahamas** ([statistics page link](#))

May 2000, the Health Professions Act was passed in the Bahamas. The legislation deals with all the health care professions outside of the medical profession, including CHIROPRACTIC, acupuncture, podiatry, optometry, psychologists and physical therapists. The Act requires every clinic to apply for a license each year and undergo a health department inspection. All 7 DCs have applied but there is yet room for a gradual growth to about 30.

**Barbados** ([statistics page link](#))

Legally recognized for quite some time now, there are 6 full time DCs in Barbados. The economy is half that of Canada for a small population of 275,000. Unemployment is a little high at 11% but the opportunities here continue to support couple of new DCs every decade... up to about 20-25 DCs total under current conditions.

**Bermuda** ([statistics page link](#))

Bermuda is a British dependency government by a royal governor and an assembly. The legislative body dates back to 1620, the oldest among all the British colonies. Chiropractic is not legislated. However, the chiropractic practices under common law interpretation stating that if there is no legislation actually prohibiting a profession - then it is legal. Chiropractic health care is not a covered service under government insurance plans, but it is reimbursable under most private insurance plans. Medical cooperation varies from practitioner to practitioner. Chiropractors are not permitted to take their own x-rays; only hospitals may take x-rays and the do not cooperate with chiropractors. Two chiropractors live in Bermuda; only one is practicing, having done so for several years. The doctor was granted a work permit from the Minster of Immigration and Labor, assisted by the fact that he is married to a Bermudan. The work permit is issued on annual basis. Work permits for non-nationals are not usually issued so unless nationals can get a DC degree the profession remains small there.

**British Virgin Islands** - ([statistics page link](#))

Many islands in the Caribbean only have one or two chiropractors. For the past several years, Dr. Ron Hash, formerly a dean and faculty member at Life University has been the sole chiropractor in the British Virgin Islands. With 18,000 inhabitants, the islands only require one chiropractor with a main clinic on Tortola and part-time clinics on other islands reached by traveling on his own boat. A second DC has been reported recently.

**Cayman Islands**([statistics page link](#))

The wealthiest of the West Indies country islands chiropractic is legally recognized and already has met its quota some years ago. A population of 35,000 supports 6 DCs and this is not likely going to change in the near future.

**Jamaica** ([statistics page link](#))

More than just a stone's throw is Jamaica with a population of 2.7 million has only attracted 5 DCs over the past 25 years. An economy one tenth that of the USA with 16% unemployment offers little opportunity yet if there are DCs who have paid their student debt and have some start-up money available could do worse than to come to Jamaica. Ratio models suggest that this country can support up to 70 DCs over time. Can you say "Mahn?"

**Puerto Rico** ([statistics page link](#))

The largest population in the region of almost 4 million people with a sizeable agricultural island in the sun and a stone's throw from America - in fact an American protectorate. There are 65 DC working in a legally protected profession since 1952. Now that chiropractic is taught in Spanish at the UNIVERSIDAD ESTATAL Del VALLE De ECATEPEC near Mexico city the best thing that can happen is to stir up a solid recruitment program and re-direct university students currently enrolled in Medicine and Physical Therapy programs in Puerto Rico.

**St. Kitts & Nevis** - ([statistics page link](#))

"We do a lot of humanitarian work due to the poor economy," states Dr. Cramer, a lifetime and only native DC. A poor country with 38,000 people barely supports the 3 DCs that make up the profession there. Dr. Cramer's daughter a recent graduate is coming just in time for her father's plans of retirement in Canada. If you ever visit the island be sure to stop by and say Hi.

**Trinidad & Tobago** - ([statistics page link](#))

This English speaking country is home to 6 DCs serving a population of 1.2 Million. As in other former colonial countries chiropractic is a legally recognized profession. This is an emerging country with good long term prospects and eventually can support some 75 or more DCs.

**US Virgin Islands** - ([statistics page link](#))

Another English speaking country made up of mostly US graduates in the Caribbean. A small population just over 100,000 with a struggling economy manages to support the 10 DCs practicing there that have filled the quota for DCs recently in the last decade. The only surprise is that it took so long!?

**NEWSLETTER POLICY:**

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