



**Dr. Solomon Henkel**, oldest son and first child of Rev Paul Henkel (1754-1825) and Elizabeth Nageley (1757-1843) was born Nov. 10, 1777 near the mouth of Reed's Creek in Hampshire Co. Va. (now Pendelton County, WVA) and died on August 31, 1847 in New Market. He is buried at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in New Market and was nearly 70 years old when he died. His prominent, obelisk-shaped tombstone is located in the brick-enclosed cemetery corner that is closest to Lee Street. His tombstone relays his genealogy and, by its size, hints at Solomon's prominence in the community.

Within his nearly seventy years, he accomplished much and left an indelible mark on New Market and its development. He was among the earliest recorded doctors in New Market as well as being a druggist, the

first mayor, the first postmaster, a printer, a school trustee, and possibly, New Market's first banker.

He married Rebecca Miller on Sept 9, 1800. Miss Miller was the daughter of Gottfried or Godfrey Miller, a prominent druggist from Winchester, VA. Solomon and Rebecca had 11 children: 8 sons and 3 daughters. Listed below are the names of his children, their life dates, the age Solomon was when each child was born, and what became of the children.

Solomon's age at child's birth

Helena b. 1801- d. 1823	24 years old	She dies at age 22 years
Seorim b. 1803- d. 1804	26	He dies at age 16 mos.
Sylvanus b. 1805- d. 1830	28	He dies at age 25 years
Samuel Godfrey b.1807- d. 1863	30	Becomes Doctor in New Market
Siram Peter b.1809- d. 1879	32	Becomes Farmer/Miller
Simeon Socrates b.1811- d. 1812	34	He dies around age 1
Silon Amos b.1813 d. 1844	36	Becomes Doctor, dies at age 31
Solomon David b. 1815 d. 1872	38	Becomes New Market Merchant (?)
Solon Paul Charles b.1818 d. 1882	41	Becomes Doctor in New Market
Hannah Rebecca b. 1820 d. 1861	43	Marries Lewis Zirkle,

It is always sorrowful when someone's child dies before their parent. Solomon Henkel experienced this sorrow five times. He had 55 grandchildren ( Helena-1, Samuel Godfrey- 13. Siram- 13, Silon Amos- 1 Solomon David- 9, SPC- 12, Helea -6 ). He was uncle to more than 43 children. When his eldest daughter, Helena, died two weeks after the birth of her son, Solomon Rupert, Dr. Solomon Henkel took over the care of his namesake and raised the child as one of his own.

At age 16, Rev. Paul Henkel apprenticed his oldest son, Solomon, to Dr. David Jackson, Sr. doctor and druggist in Philadelphia. When the 1793 outbreak of smallpox consumed the town, Mr. Jackson and his family fled, leaving young Solomon Henkel, with only an apprentice's knowledge, to care for the ill in his part of the city. Solomon would return to his father's home in New Market around Christmas time, 1793. Between 1795 and 1797, Solomon would live with his father's family in Staunton and study medicine with Dr. Peter Ahl.

Although, Solomon Henkel sold medicines in New Market as early as 1795, he probably established his apothecary on the original town Lot. No. 15 ( owned by his father, Rev. Paul Henkel) in the fall of 1797. By 1798, Solomon was recognized as Dr. Henkel and he continued his self-education by reading medical books. Dr. Henkel's earliest apothecary building, approximately 14 ft. square, was known by the jesting community of New Market as "Solomon's Temple."

Although he himself did not attend the University of Pennsylvania, with its oldest medical school in the United States, three of his sons, Samuel Godfrey, Solon Paul Charles and Silon Amos, did attend and become physicians. At least six of his grandsons became physicians: Caspar Coiner Henkel, Haller Hippocrates Henkel, Miller Abram Henkel, Alfred David Henkel, Solomon Henkel (1850-1892) and Frederick Lewis Henkel.

According to his will and the settlement of his estate (9 Nov 1847), Dr. Solomon Henkel owned an Operating room, Laboratory, Medicine Rook, Brick storehouse with counting room, and a Bookbindery and Copperplate Press. Although Solomon's younger brother, Ambrose Henkel, was the first printer in New Market, Solomon is known to have co-owned the Henkel Printing Press, or at least had controlling interest in it, as of 1807, 1811, 1817, according to various sources. These buildings were grouped near each other , rather like a family compound.



According to a letter penned by Martha Henkel, (1865-1954) [Dr. SPC Henkel's daughter and Dr. Solomon Henkel's granddaughter] Solomon bought a log home ( called a bungalow) in 1802 from his brother- in-law Henry Rupert (married to Naomi Henkel, Solomon's younger sister). The house burnt down and a brick home was built nearby. Family members claim that the brick portion of Henkel house still standing today at 9445 Congress St was built in 1802. The clapboard portion of the house was added by Solomon Henkel,s son Dr. Solon Paul Charles Henkel in 1855, after Solomon Henkel's death

Researchers are fortunate that letters, receipts, and other papers written by or to Dr. Solomon Henkel still exist. Various family members donated Dr. Henkels' papers to the Handley Library in Winchester, VA the University of Virginia Library in Charlottesville, VA and the Carrier Library at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA. There is a wealth of primary source material for scholars to peruse.

From the letters found in the UVA library, one can discern that Dr. Henkel served as a consultant to many other physicians. It can be inferred from these over 600 writings, that his reputation as a doctor was such that it solicited letters from doctors many miles away from New Market. One such letter is dated March 29, 1810 from a Dr. Henry Evans of St Clairsville, Belmont Co , Ohio. Dr. Evans wants to know "Have you an electrifying machine?" " Dr. Evans is convinced that Dr. Henkle would surely have one, and if he so, Dr. Evans wants to know how to build it. It appears that this machine was to cure "Rheumatick." In addition, Dr. Evans describes cancers and mysterious diseases afflicting the children in his community and wants to know if Dr. Henkel has any knowledge of this disease or any suggested treatments.

Bills from April and August of 1803 from druggists in Philadelphia indicate that Dr. Henkel bought some of his ingredients he used in the apothecary. Dr. Henkel is in arrears with his payment to Jacks and Belton by \$291. 48 and a lawyer has been called in to settle the dispute. Dr Henkel is asked to pay in Philadelphia paper not southern notes.

Scripts and apothecary notebooks are located in the in Handley Library in Winchester. Of interest may be the five prescriptions for Mrs. Henry Rupert (who was Naomi Henkel, Solomon Henkel's sister). Prescription No. 2 includes the following herbs: Senna ( a colon cleanser) Rhubarb, ( a laxative and treatment for menstrual problems) Valerian (for anxiety and sleep disorders) mixed with cinnamon, creme of tarter and sasparilla. His writings also include Mrs. Water's cure for cancer, typhoid fever drinks, and cures for cholera. In addition to herbal medicines, sometimes opium and sulfuric acids were used.

In addition to prescriptions for his patients, Dr. Henkel's writings also reveal home remedies for hair growth and recipes to perk up your horse. Dr. Henkel's papers include a **Little Gypsy Book of Medicine** which Dr. Henkel disregards, but nonetheless, carried it with him

Dr. Solomon Henkel, town father of New Market, left a lasting legacy, which still influences the town today.

*Submitted by Dr Betty Karol Wilson, New Market VA, March 2010*

*Apothecary photo courtesy Richard Harkness, New Market, VA*