



Shullsburg's Very Own:

Dr. C.C. Gratiot: Doctor, Architect, Proud Husband

By Cory Ritterbusch

Dr. Charles Crookston Gratiot (1847-1924), was born in New York, but raised on his parents' farm nearby in Gratiot, Wisconsin. In 1864, as a 16-year-old student, he enlisted in the Union Army. After the Civil War, Charles worked as a carpenter and married. In 1880 he graduated from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia with a medical degree and settled in Shullsburg. He and his wife Etta raised eight children, two of whom became doctors.

Dr. C.C. Gratiot, was an educated and highly regarded physician, served as vice president of the Wisconsin Medical Association, and served Shullsburg, Mineral Point and surrounding communities for 30 years. However, his greatest legacy was his moonlighting as an architect. He designed the Romanesque styled Shullsburg High School, the Merchants Union Bank, the Brewster House and several other Shullsburg buildings. He designed and built the John P. Williams house at 504 S. Judgement Street. He greatest design was Shullsburg School. Built at a cost of 27,000 dollars which continues to serve the community 117 years later.

Dr. Gratiot had his office on the second floor of the bank building (now John & Deb's Place bed & break-

fast). There he served as the town doctor, surgeon and an amateur optometrist. He served as Mayor for several terms and was on the school board for 35 years. He was a great proponent of education. In 1903 he hired a 22-year-old lead miner's daughter named Mary Peebles as an office assistant. Though only a high school graduate she displayed such an aptitude for medicine Dr. Gratiot encouraged her to pursue the profession. His decision to marry her was one of his best.

Graduating from Illinois Medical College in Chicago in 1908, Dr. Peebles returned to Shullsburg to become Dr. Gratiot's medical partner. One of only a few women physicians in the Midwest, she became superintendent of the ten-bed Shullsburg Hospital housed at the bank building. Dr. Peebles was a trailblazer in other ways. An outspoken proponent of women's suffrage, she served on the national committee that organized the massive 1915 right to vote march in New York City. Dr. Peebles and her talents would serve the citizens of Shullsburg for generations before her death in 1964.

An important couple to the citizens of Shullsburg and one of the more unique.

You can find the buildings that C.C. Gratiot Designed:

Address	Year Built	Style
270 E. High	1890	Queen Anne
428 E. Water	1896	Queen Anne
504 S. Judgement	1889	Queen Anne
444 N. Judgement – Shullsburg School	1900	Romanesque
201 W. Water Street - Merchants Bank	1884	Italianate
130 W. Water Street - Odd Fellows Lodge	1886	Romanesque
127 W. Water Street - Masonic Lodge	1886	Vernacular
210 W. Water Street - Brewster House	1886	Italianate