

# Hubbard Squash: A Fulton Connection

Dr. Noahdiah W. Hubbard

By Barbara Mask

In the fall season there is an abundance and variety of squash that becomes available. It reminds this writer of one of 'Fulton's Very Own.' A few years ago visitors who came from Ohio to Fulton wanted to learn more about our Dr. Hubbard. When a young man and living in Portage County, Ohio, in 1831, a group of Indians gave Noahdiah a gift of squash seeds. He gave them to his father, Bela, who developed from them the 'Hubbard Squash.' In 1969, an agricultural building was dedicated in honor of the Hubbard family.

Dr. Hubbard arrived in Fulton City in 1855 and was a practicing physician here for almost thirty years. He became world famous because he invented a truss for patients diagnosed with hernias; an ailment from which he also suffered. A Hubbard truss can still be purchased today. In addition to his office in Fulton, he practiced his specialty in New York City at the same time.

The Hubbards had four children, and the youngest son, Frederick H., enlisted in the Civil War in 1862 at the age of fourteen; Fulton's youngest soldier. He was injured in the war, but later completed medical school and practiced medicine in New York City for many years.

When the Ohio visitors were in Fulton, they wanted to see their home which was/is located at 818 7th Avenue. Dr. Hubbard died in 1883 and Mrs. Hubbard died in 1891. Both are buried in the Fulton Township Cememtery.

## HUBBARD RESIDENCE

For many years their home was the only house on the block, and it faced the south. In 1887, Mrs. Hubbard sold the two lots at the east end to the City of Fulton. It was one of the highest elevations in the platted area at that time. The municipality constructed a stone reservoir for the new water-system. It was more than 80 feet long and held 115,000 gallons of water. The big container was covered with a mound of earth and eventually supported a thick sod of grass, violets, dandelions and red and white clovers. Apparently, they came from Dr. Hubbard's expansive garden that filled the entire block. "The home was a show place," according to the Fulton Journal. The home was sold and resold many times. The block of ground has been divided into lots and currently, there are several houses built on them.



The Hubbard home still stands atop a hill located at 818 7th Avenue. Mrs. Hubbard sold the east lots to the City of Fulton for a new water system.



The Hubbard Squash, developed by Bela Hubbard, Noahdiah's father.

## DR. N.W. HUBBARD AND EDITOR G. J. BOOTH

Wayne Bastian wrote about the friendship between the Doctor and the Editor of the Fulton Journal. "In 1866, the busy doctor went to Washington, D. C. for a consultation. The editor reported the departure of his friend: "Dr. N. W. Hubbard left for a visit to the city of magnificent intentions. It is hinted that he is on a tour to reduce national ruptures," and when he returned from Washington safe and sound, "having been successful in restoring the national breaches"