

Deaf Health Pathway Lecture at University of Rochester Medical Center (Medical Humanities)
March 31, 2009
Deirdre Schlehofer, MPhil. (National Center for Deaf Health Research)
For correspondence, contact DD at deirdre_schlehofer@urmc.rochester.edu

DEAF HISTORY

- A *cultural* definition of history

Ideology= the doctrines, opinions, or way of thinking of an individual, class, etc.; the body of ideas on which a particular political, economic, or social system is based.

18th century
(1700's)

19th century
(1800's)

Major Events:

French Revolution
(1789-1799)

Started with the revolution of people against the monarchy in France

Ended with the Consulate under Napoleon

Ideology- philosophers of the Enlightenment see humankind

"The Second Awakening (or Coming)"
(around 1815)

Stimulated by the intellectual currents of evangelism, nationalism & enlightenment philosophy (Christian theology)

Sick tired of "individualism"

Ideology-"doing good"
evangelism & humanitarian reform

improvement essential
"reason & experience" instead of
dogma and tradition
"social reform"; social class-for all
education, work, politics

"new collective"-benevolent societies
& asylums

The Abbe De L'Epee Sicard
(1712-1791) (1742-1822)
Introduced
Signed French-"methodical signing"/
Old French Sign Language
(OFSL)-"natural language"

L. Clerc & T. Gallaudet
(Deaf Frenchman & Hearing Evangelist)

"to save the deaf from darkness"
"to believe in God" (influenced by Gallaudet)

Founded the National Institution
for the Deaf (Paris)

Founded American School for the Deaf (1817)
in Hartford, CT

19th century
(middle of 1800's)

Social Experimentation

Civil War (1861-1865)

Development of Some Minority Communities

Mennonites known as "Amish"-since 17th century
Shakers known as "Quaker" (1780's until
after the Civil War)
Oneida Community (NY) (1848-1880)

Each community had its own ideology,
which differed from that of another one

b) education-devoted to oralism

ideology-"all language & all people",
"savages", "inferior, unnatural
gestural language"

Nebraska's Oral Law of 1911

The National Association of the Deaf (N.A.D.)

Political activism- newspapers, writings
against the above ideology

20th century

The Education Progress

(1930s-1970s)

fixed ideology-oralism,
normality

use of amplification,
lipreading & other devices

full state support for
residential schools

(1970s-1980s-1990s)

failure of language planning &
educational policy

explosion of signed systems
revival ideology of the 18th
century ("methodical signing")

new federal laws

growing rate of mainstreamed schools &
declining rate of residential schools

high % of
deaf births

revival ideology of science
movement (cochlear implant)

beginning of
education experimentation

ideology-"disabled have full
access to society

Deaf President Now! (1988)
political &
metalinguistic awareness of
ASL & culture
growth of ASL programs at
universities & colleges
solid publications of ASL literature
& other related topics

21st century

Preservation of Deaf history: example: Deaf Rochester Heritage Preservation Project (Ted Supalla and Deirdre Schlehofer- The Rochester School for the Deaf & the Rochester Method, Deaf Community in Rochester)

New terms: Deafhood, Audism

Technology changes: films, v-logs, blogs, pagers, videophones

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI), newborn hearing screening

Prevention Research Center (PRC) National Center for Deaf Health Research (NCDHR)- health promotion & disease prevention relating to the Deaf community- e.g., the Deaf Health Survey (kiosk)

Issues of genetics (e.g., hair cell replacement) and language rights (e.g., World Federation of the Deaf)