

Powpow Doctor in Mount Wolf

“A soft breeze from the south causes a slight rustle in the locust trees.; the light in the Sweitzer house goes out and the teenagers leave form home. As they are about to leave Butts Town a cloud covers the moon, and the street becomes dark. The boys make weird sounds to scare the girls, for they are in front of the Schubauer home. John Schubauer has many visitors, especially at night. He is said to be a mystic, a soothsayer, a powpow doctor. The shades are drawn and the young people wonder what lurks behind those shades. There is a horse and buggy beside the house, faintly visible in the darkness. Whether the events taking place in this house are for good or evil, few townspeople know, not having the nerve to call. If the door bursts open, the boys as well as the girls will be quick to run. Old, wrinkled and stooped with colorless, watery eyes, a tobacco stained beard, and a low voice – this is the town’s powpow doctor. It is said that people of means are frequent visitors. It would seem that a man with this appearance could portend nothing but evil. But John Schubauer tends to his own business; no one seems to know him well. ” “A History of Mouth Wolf” by Bradley Rentzel 1978 page 28



“Some people believe Nelson Rehmeyer, the victim in the Hex murder case of 1928-29 was a witch. Others say he was merely a doctor practicing powwowing, popular in many York County towns in the 20th century. York historian Tom Schaefer said powwowing is an interesting bridge from pagan, pre-Christian times in Europe. Pennsylvania Germans Christianized many powwow practices during a time when science-based medicine was in its infancy. Powwow doctors were supposed to be the ones to see to have spells removed, Schaefer said. They were not the ones who used the black arts or cast spells.” [Descendants of powpow doctor: ‘Powwowing was done for good’](#) York Town Square Jim McClure July 3, 2007



John Schubauer and Martha Jane Gregg Messersmith Marriage in 1902

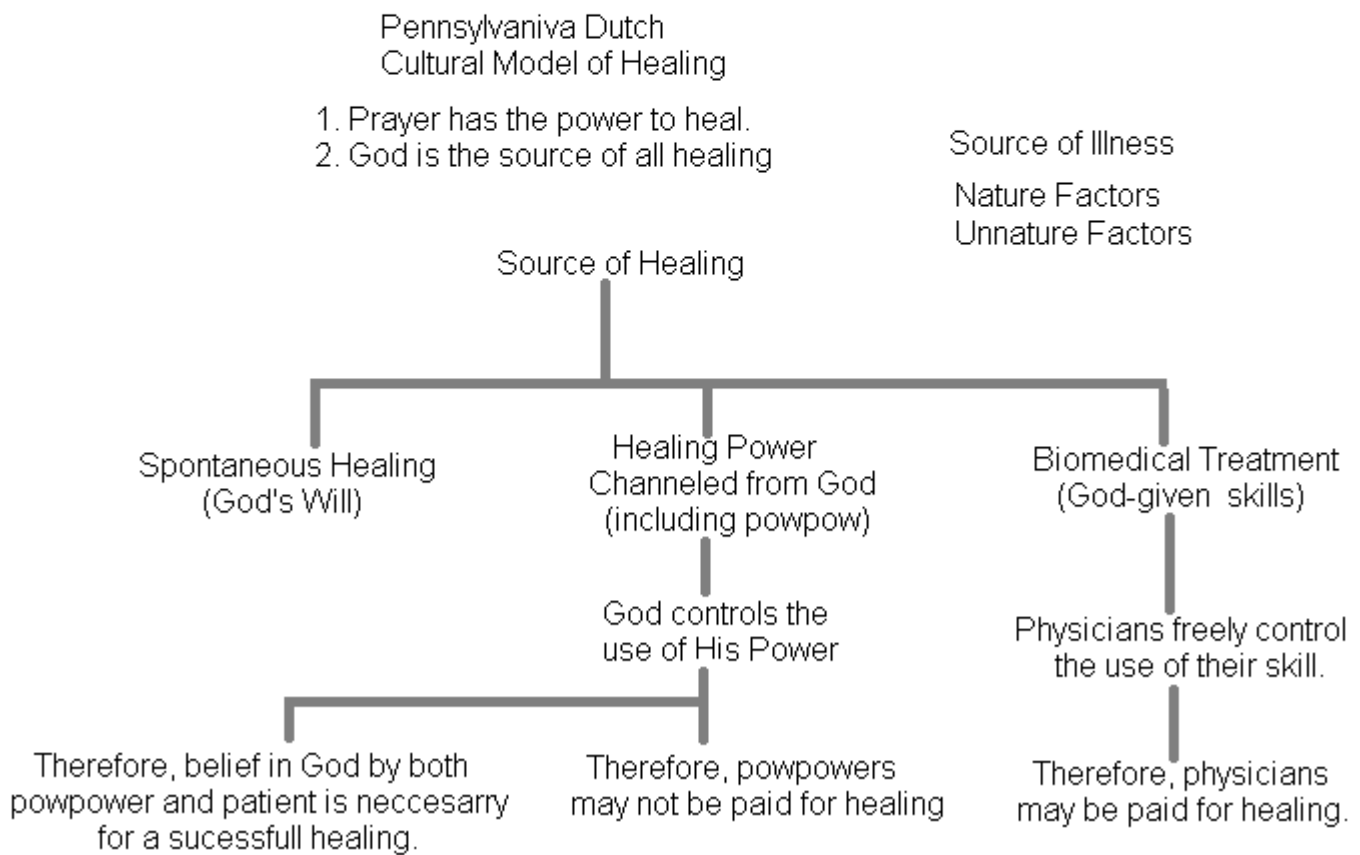
“Powwow healing was very much a custom in York County well up into the twentieth century. There still may be some “powwow doctors” in the traditionally Pennsylvania Dutch (Pennsylvania German) counties, including York County. Powwow seems to be a word borrowed from Indians to describe the German *Brauche*, which means custom, because of somewhat similar customs in the two groups of using incantations and herbs for healing.”

[York Powwow Doctor Said to Have Largest Practice in PA](#) Universal York June Floyd Jan 5, 2010

“Pennsylvania Dutch dialect, is a magico-religious practice whose chief purpose is the healing of physical ailments in humans in animals, although it has had other aims as well, such as conferring protection from physical or spiritual harm, bringing good luck, and revealing hidden information. The practice has been present on this continent since the first German-speaking settlements were established in Pennsylvania in the early eighteenth century, although it has its roots in much older German esoteric traditions.

PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH WORLDVIEW

1. God exists.
2. Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
3. The Holy Spirit exists.
4. God can exert power in the world.
5. The three aspects of God are accurately described by the Christian doctrine of the Trinity. (One God in three Persons)
6. The Devil or Satan exists.
7. Satan can exert power in the world



Because the dominant disease etiology is naturalistic, physicians are able to cope with most diseases. However, powwowing (the exercise of direct divine power through humans) is needed to deal with hexes (the exercise of direct demonic power). The faith of the patient is not required for biomedicine to function effectively, but it is for powwow. In both cases, something harmful is removed from the body when healing takes place, whether that be a disease or a hex.”

For more on this subject click: [Powwowing: A Persistent American Esoteric Tradition](#) David W Kriebel, Ph.D.