Ethereal Notes from Morrisville, Vermont: J. A. Robinson and Maria von Trapp

Dr. James Arthur Robinson (1856 to 1926) spent nearly his entire life in Morrisville, Vermont, about nine miles northeast of Stowe. On the reverse of his trade card from the Wood Library-Museum’s Ben Z. Swanson Collection, Robinson advertised that “Ether and Gas [would be] Administered when Desired” (bottom). He specialized in anesthesia and dentistry in the “care of Children…” Perhaps the acorn-eater depicted on the obverse of Robinson’s trade card (top) was one of the Morrisville squirrels serenaded by Robinson and fellow members of his Silver Cornet Band. Descendants of those squirrels may have listened to the “Sound of Music” from surviving Trapp Family Singers visiting Morrisville friends or with stepmother and mother Maria von Trapp (1905 to 1987). Baroness von Trapp died in Morrisville in 1987, about 22 years after Julie Andrews played her role in Rodgers and Hammerstein’s movie, The Sound of Music. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists’ Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology.)

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