

Supt. James Simpson Puts a “Healer” to the Test (1899)

In one notable incident reported in the Argus Leader on May 9, 1899, a man claimed he could restore hearing and speech to deaf individuals, a belief that occasionally attracted attention during that time. Rather than dismissing the claim outright, Superintendent James Simpson allowed the man to demonstrate his method on a student at the school. The attempt, however, quickly proved unsuccessful, as the student remained unable to speak.

The incident exposed the claim as unfounded. It also reflected Simpson’s practical and measured approach—allowing such claims to be tested openly while ultimately protecting his students from false hope and misleading promises.



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