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## Letter: Anti-vaccination efforts date back years

Jan 18, 2018

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A pro-vaccination writer recently voiced a fantasy version of vaccines and history, claiming Andrew Wakefield started the anti-vaccination movement. Actually, Wakefield was born 72 years after the Great Demonstration in Leicester, England in 1885 where about 100,000 citizens from European countries convened for three days of organized anti-vaccination activities.

This included marches, citizens sacrificially turning themselves into authorities, multiple hangings of vaccine founder Jensen (in effigy), and introduction of legislation eliminating mandatory vaccination in Leicester, where smallpox rates subsequently plummeted to a fraction of heavily vaccinated cities like Brighton. Leicester, weathering dire warnings of disease outbreaks, instituted a simple "quarantine and clean" policy — horsewhipping mortality rates down to historic lows.

Today, I don't see a "movement," yet, but stories and opposition to vaccinations are exploding on youtube.com where "Vaxxed"-interviewed moms show their wildly healthy unvaccinated kids and sad cases of injuries, reactions, permanent disability, and deaths from vaccines.

If a movement consists of people of all stripes seeking answers, scientific truth, and effective, real-life solutions to personal and family health problems, then yes, millions are moving to question, learn, vet, discuss, get support, read, document, protect, and/or resist the largely scientifically unsupported practice of vaccinations.

If vaccines fail long-term or produce negative results, such as the epidemic of autism now solidly associated with MMR vaccines and others, or rampant health deterioration vs. improvement, then we obviously shouldn't force them on kids — but that's what's going on!

Protect your children.

**Chris C. Foulke**

Corvallis (Jan. 16)

