

Biographical and Portrait Encyclopedia of the Nineteenth Congressional District, Pennsylvania, Containing Biographical Sketches Of Prominent And Representative Citizens Of The District Together With An Introductory Historical Sketch Samuel T. Wiley, Esq.; Philadelphia: C. A. Ruoff Company, 1897.

Dr. O. C. Brickley, one of the oldest and most representative physicians of York, is a son of **Dr. George** and **Mary A. (Wingert) Brickley**, and was born in Buffalo Valley, Union County, Pennsylvania, September 3, 1833. **Dr. Brickley** is a descendant of an old and honorable family whose original ancestor came from Germany to America at an early day. He married and reared a family, one of whose sons, **John**, became the grandfather of our subject. **John Brickley** was a physician by occupation and a lifelong resident of Union County, Pennsylvania. He was a member of the Lutheran Church, a physician of note and attained to considerable prominence among the citizens of that county. He married a **Miss Moyer**, by whom he had a family of four sons: **Daniel**, a minister of the Evangelical Church, who subsequently located in the State of Ohio; **John**, a farmer of Indiana County, Pennsylvania; **Jacob**, deceased, and **Dr. George**, father of **Dr. O. C.**

Probably no man was more widely or favorably known in his chosen fields of work among the laity in York County than was **Rev. Dr. George Brickley**, whose memory is still green in the minds of those with whom he labored as pastor and physician for more than half a century. Endowed by nature with an indomitable will and possessed of a tenacious memory he was early recognized by his fellow-men as a worthy leader. Although not a native of York County, the best years of his life were spent in the ministry and the practice of medicine in this vicinity, and so closely identified did he become with York that he has always been looked upon as one of its worthiest representatives. He was born in West Buffalo Township, Union County, Pennsylvania, January 31, 1806. His early days were spent upon the farm, and in the township school he received the educational groundwork which in after years made him a power in the ministerial and medical professions.

Dr. Brickley at the age of twenty one connected himself with the Evangelical Association, at a time when it had just begun to receive recognition at the hands of the other religious denominations, and for twenty years he toiled laboriously, with his soul in his work, to further its interests, riding circuits (on horseback) which covered large areas, through the chilly blast; of winter and the withering heat of summer. Throughout his entire ministry, Rev. Dr. Brickley was recognized as one of the strong men of the church, and the honorable record left behind him attests the fact that he was no idler but ever diligent in the advocacy and propagation of his Master's cause.

When the question of providing a publishing house for the purpose of disseminating church literature was first mentioned, he was one of the first movers in the enterprise and was largely instrumental in bringing about its ultimate success. Ill health and other reasons, however, compelled his retirement from the active ministry while serving on the York circuit, in 1846, and he afterward devoted his entire attention to the practice of Allopathic medicine, the study of which he had begun ten years before under the supervision of **Drs. Taylor** and **Powers**, of Williamsport, Pa.

In 1839, through the instrumentality of **Dr. Ignatius Brugger**, a graduate of one of the German Universities, he was led to investigate the merits of the new school of medicine—Homeopathy—which, being an Allopath of a most pronounced type, he did with much incredulity and prejudice. After a careful investigation covering a period of seven years, he emerged from his laborious conflict with his old views, a fine and faithful disciple of Hahnemann, nor was he ever afterward known to revert in any way to his former methods of practice. In those days it required courage of the highest order to be a Homeopath, when Homeopathic practitioners were reviled by their Allopathic brethren even as they walked the streets, were looked upon as fanatics, and those of the laity who permitted themselves to be treated by the new system were regarded as little less than voluntary suicides. Possessed of keen powers of observation, **Dr. Brickley** became eminent in the field of diagnostics and was almost equally successful in his prognosis of disease. He began the active practice of medicine in York in 1846 and received the honorary of Doctor of Medicine from the Hahnemann Medical Institute of Philadelphia, in the year 1855, as a recognition of his qualifications and success as the pioneer of Homeopathic medicine in the county and city of York. He continued in active practice until 1887, when he was stricken with paralysis, a second attack causing his death in March 17, 1889.

In May, 1827, **Dr. Brickley** was united in marriage with **Mary A. Wingert**, a daughter of **Dr. Henry Wingert**, of Landisburg, Perry County, Pennsylvania. This union resulted in the birth of six children, three sons and three daughters.

Dr. O. C. Brickley was educated in the public schools and at York County Academy. Upon the completion of his education he read medicine with his father and in the Spring of 1855 was graduated from Hahnemann Medical College, Philadelphia. Immediately after receiving his degree he began the practice of his profession in York, where in future years he reached a most commendable degree of success. He was physician to the York County Prison for two years, physician to the York County Hospital and to the Almshouse and served three terms as coroner of York County.

In political affiliation **Dr. Brickley** is a Jacksonian Democrat, has always manifested an intelligent interest in political measures and policies, and is also a member of the Masonic Fraternity in high standing.

On September 30, 1860, **Dr. Brickley** was joined in marriage with **Charlotte A. Willey**, a daughter of **Lewis Willey**, a native of the State of Delaware, but late of the city of York. By this marriage one son was born, **Dr. Edward Willey**. The latter was graduated from Hahnemann Medical College of Philadelphia, in 1883, is now a rising young physician of his native city and present coroner of York County. **Mrs. Brickley** died in 1897 and is interred in Prospect Hill Cemetery. She was a woman possessing many Christian virtues, a charitable disposition and was interested in many forms of humanitarian and philanthropic work.

In his school of medicine, **Dr. Brickley** stands with the best in his profession. He is amply read, has had a wide and varied professional experience and is a skillful and intelligent practitioner. Personally he is notable for his public spirit, civic pride and patronage of all movements having for their end the betterment of his community.

