

Reverend **John Brickley**, (15 Nov 1818 – 3 Sep 1852), Perry County Democrat, November 24, 1909

John Brickley, age 33 years, was born of German parents on a farm in what was in those days Toboyne Township, Cumberland County. Of his childhood the writer know nothing else except when he was eight years old his father died. The family consisted of six children, the oldest a son fourteen years old. The widowed mother remained on the farm, where she reared her children and proved herself mistress of the situation by sending out into the world men and women who were a credit to their bringing up.

His environment was much the same as other boys of his day and generation. In our day we think a college course necessary to fit a young man for whatever he may choose as his life work. In the early days of the 19th century it was considered equally as important that a young man should learn a trade. The subject of their sketch was apprenticed to a carpenter, probably one of the Wentz's, who followed that occupation in those days. About the time he finished his apprenticeship, there entered into this family a new element, a something that caused them to look on live from a new viewpoint. Nearly all of them became Christians and among other this particular son. He now seems to have changed his mind and decided to study for the ministry. With this end in view in 1841 he entered the now famous Oberlin and enrolled as a student, where he continued three years.

We next hear of him as one of those who graduated from Wittenberg Theological Seminary, Springfield, Ohio. He was ordained September 23, 1851, in Bucyrus, Ohio. Returning this charge he was installed their pastor. His next move was to build a new house of worship. It appears that they did not own a church of their own. Five days of each week he worked as a carpenter, erecting the pulpit and assisting with the other work until the building was completed and ready for dedication. This was the days when there was Asiatic cholera in the United States.

In some way this carpenter-preacher came in contract with the plague, which he contracted. His illness was of very short duration, His death occurred September 3, 1852. His funeral was the first service held in the new church he had labored so hard to erect. As soon as a coffin could be made his body was interred in the village cemetery, where it was resting for days before his relatives knew of his death.

In Perry County, Pa. his mother had died the same year, so she was spared this great grief. Nothing could be done by his sorrowing brothers and sisters but leave him in the care of his new friends. Whatever he had of earthly possessions was given to them. They erected a marker and kept his grave great. As the years rolled on the town built or until the cemetery was in its way and a new site had to be procured. In this move the church did not forget its former pastor. They bought a lot, known to-day as the church lot, and there they reinterred his remains. There are a few people still living in the town who remember him very well and they speak of him in the highest terms as a man and a minister of Jesus Christ. A.W.W.

**The subject of this sketch was a brother of the late Mrs. Louisa B. Woods, of Blain, and also of William Brickley, of Green Park, this county.

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