

Encyclopedia of Pennsylvania Biography, by John W. Jordan, LL.D; Volume 3, New York, Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1914

**Brunner, Morris Winfield**, D. O., Osteopathic Physician. **Dr. Morris Winfield Brunner**, a descendant of one of the oldest and most prominent families of this locality, whose ancestors emigrated to this country and introduced the thrifty and industrious habits of the old world in all trades, professions and vocations that they followed, was born November 7, 1872, in Perry County, Pennsylvania, about two miles south of New Bloomfield. His father, **William Brunner**, was the owner of lands and other property in his native county, and became a well known and prominent farmer; he was also a brick-maker, having his own brick yards, and doing a lucrative business. He grew to be a man of eminence in the locality in which he lived, and for twenty years was a director of the public schools. He was the son of **Abraham Brunner**, and was closely related to other families of note in Lebanon and Perry Counties, all of whom were descendants of the same original stock. **William Brunner** married **Sarah Brindle**, and they had eleven sons and three daughters, namely: **George, William, Mary, Ithamer, Abraham, David, Margaret, Charles S., John F., Jacob R., Morris Winfield, Elizabeth**, and two sons who died at an early age. The family grew up in the faith of their ancestors and were members of the United Brethren Church.

**Dr. Morris Winfield Brunner**, who has now a large and growing practice in Lebanon County, was, like his brothers and sisters, born on the old farm near New Bloomfield that was the scene of his father's industry for so many years, and for the first nineteen years of his life rendered his due share of assistance in cultivating the land and contributing to the support of the family. He was in the meantime acquiring the foundation of a good practical education at the public schools of the county, of which his father was one of the directors. After finishing his course in the county schools and learning all that could be taught there, he attended the Academy at New Bloomfield for three terms. He then entered the Cumberland Valley State Normal School, from which he was graduated in 1895, going from there to the Lebanon Valley College and continuing his studies until his graduation in the year 1901. His attention being then turned to osteopathy, he took a subsequent course in the Philadelphia College and Infirmary of Osteopathy, from which he obtained his degree in 1904. In the meantime he had been teaching and canvassing in order to supply the means for the thorough education which he had been determined to acquire. After his nineteenth year he discontinued his agricultural work on the farm and turned his attention to teaching, being for four years an instructor in the schools of his native county. Turning from this work in Perry County, he then taught for an additional year in Lebanon County, accumulating sufficient funds to continue his studies, which he pursued with unabated zeal, and winning the final success which his ambition and industry had well justified. He has become one of the best known citizens of Lebanon, and is a rising man in his profession, to which he continues to give his undivided and enthusiastic attention. In social and religious circles he is well known and influential, maintaining his membership in the United Brethren Church, and belonging to a number of fraternal organizations, namely: Lebanon Lodge, No. 121, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; Lebanon Lodge, Knights and Ladies of Honor; Lebanon Lodge, Knights of Pythias.

**Mr. Brunner** married, March 28, 1906, at Reading, Pennsylvania, **Ivanora Light**, daughter of **Solomon Riegel** and **Catherine Ann (Gockley) Light**, and a descendant of one of the oldest and

most respected families in this section. **Dr. and Mrs. Brunner** have one child, **Dorothy Light Brunner**, born March 11, 1907.

The **Light family** in its various branches in this and adjoining counties is one of the most cultured and esteemed families of Pennsylvania, contributing to the citizenship of the State public-spirited men in every rank and department—lawyers, justices of the peace, instructors, physicians, merchants, farmers, school directors, postmasters, and trustees and officers in an endless variety of commercial and industrial enterprises. For many years the name has represented the highest standard of public service, and its representatives have taken conspicuous positions in all political, business and religious affairs in North and South Lebanon Townships. There are a great many members of this family in Lebanon, all of whom are more or less close relationships, and all descendants from the original immigrant, **John Peter Light**, the first of the name of whom we have any authentic record. He came over from the Palatinate in Germany in 1719, and located in what is now Lebanon County, then Lancaster, where stands the old Light Fort on the old Union Canal, just east of Eleventh Street, in the city of Lebanon. This was during the reign of the English Queen Anne. **John Peter Light** purchased a large tract of land embracing in its boundaries most of the site of what is now the city of Lebanon, and erected the usual log house, a structure which was later replaced by a substantial stone one.

He married, in 1723, **Maria Kreider**. He was the father of four sons—**Henry, Jacob, Martin,** and **John Jr.** **John Jr.** married, in 1750, **Anna Landis**, and they had six sons and three daughters. **Abraham**, sixth son of **John Jr.**, was born in 1770, and married **Barbara Landis** in 1790. Their son, **Abraham (2d)**, married, in 1816, **Salma Riegel**, and their fourth child, **Solomon**, was father of **Ivanora Light**, who became the wife of **Dr. Morris W. Brunner**. The various branches passed through the vicissitudes to which the early settlers were subjected, privation, hard work, and Wars with the Indians, but emerged triumphant through all, and have become the aristocracy and landed gentry of this section.

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