

Junius Rudy Flickinger, *The History of Perry County, Pennsylvania Including Descriptions of Indian and Pioneer Life from the Time of Earliest Settlement Sketches of Its Noted Men and Women and Many Professional Men* By H. H. Hain, Harrisburg, Pa. 1922, Hain-Moore Company, Publishers, Harrisburg, Pa.



Junius Rudy Flickinger, Ph.D., was widely known as one of Pennsylvania's leading educators. From his early life his heart was in the schoolroom, and, although he tried another line of activity, he soon drifted back to the profession in which he rose to great heights. He was a grandson of **Henry Flickinger**, of Ickesburg,

Junius R. Flickinger, Noted Educator. Born in Madison Township, being a son of **John** and **Elizabeth (Bixler) Flickinger**. He was born at Bixler, Madison Township, almost within the shadow of Centre Church, October 19, 1854. There he grew to manhood and attended the local schools and later the New Bloomfield Academy. He graduated from Princeton College (it was not then a university) in 1877, at the age of twenty-two. Immediately he began his career as an educator by accepting the principalship of the New Bloomfield Academy. Four years later he was elected county superintendent of schools of

Perry County. He refused a reelection and began the study of law in the office of the late Ex-Senator Charles H. Smiley. The following year, 1886, he was elected to the lower house of the Pennsylvania Legislature, serving with distinction. On December 18, 1888, he married **Caroline Milligan Rice**, a daughter of **William** and **Caroline (Milligan) Rice**, who became his associate in business activities and in the work of the Presbyterian Church, in which he was much interested. He had gone to Colorado for his health during the previous year, and upon his marriage located there.

In 1889 the governor of Colorado appointed him a trustee of their proposed first State Normal School at Greeley. This enabled him to perform a leading part in the organization of Colorado's first Teachers' College. In 1890 he was elected to the Legislature of Colorado, and served as chairman of the Committee on Appropriations and occasionally as speaker of the house. In 1893, declining a nomination to the State Senate of Colorado, he returned to Pennsylvania, his native state, and, while filling the chair of History in the State Normal at Westchester, took a postgraduate course in the University of Pennsylvania, and that institution conferred upon him the degree, Doctor of Science.

In 1896 he was chosen principal of the State Normal at Edinboro, Pennsylvania, an institution whose prospect of usefulness at that time had been practically ruined by prolonged factional quarreling. His success in effecting harmony and restoring confidence soon proved him to be an

educator and administrator of unusual sagacity and executive ability. Three years later, as recognition of his marked efficiency as an educator he was elected principal of the Central State Normal at Lock Haven, Pa. He justified his selection, by building up the school and making it one of the most noted and prosperous educational institutions in the state. After twelve years of faithful and efficient service, during which he secured for that institution the highest standard of excellence, he died quite suddenly from a severe attack of gastritis, February 17, 1912. He was buried at New Bloomfield. His age was fifty-eight.

He was a highly esteemed member of the Lock Haven Board of Trade. His last public address was at their annual banquet a few days previous to his decease, and he commended to their favorable consideration the commission form of government for cities. He was a member of the American Historical Society, the American Academy of Political and Social Science, and the State and National Educational Associations. In 1902 he was elected president of the State Educational Association, being one of three native Perry Countians to gain such distinction. He was the author of a popular textbook on civics and of many papers on historical and economic subjects. His performance of every trust was characterized by integrity of character and nobility of purpose. His helpfulness to individual students was a vital characteristic of his work. He held the degrees of A.B., A.M., (Princeton) and D.Sc. (Bucknell). He taught pedagogy, psychology and history of education while principal of the State Normal School.

The following tribute, part of an article from the Lock Haven Build in, at the time of his death, is from the pen of one who necessarily knew him and knew of his work:

"Very prominent among his many remarkable traits of character, was his love of truth and right. This characteristic linked with his kind sympathetic helpfulness to all, have made him a man, the superior of whom the Central State Normal can never hope to have.

"Aside from his culture and high intellectual attainments, he possessed those rare traits of character which exert an inspiring influence over man-kind; cheering the disconsolate, encouraging the downhearted, and helping them to feel that life is indeed worth living. He was an attractive speaker, a leader of men who had the happy faculty of drawing people to him irresistibly, because he was the personification of frankness and goodness and carefully followed the teachings of the meek and lowly Master. The world has been made better by his life of service in the cause of education, and while others may rise to take his place, the lofty influence of his noble life will continue to be manifested, in the lives of those who were associated with him."

Dr. Flickinger was survived by his wife, who became custodian of the public library at Dalton, Massachusetts, a position which she still holds; and an only daughter, **Jean**, born at Pueblo, Colorado, who completed the Normal course at Lock Haven and graduated from Vassar, in 1916. She enlisted as a Red Cross worker in January, 1919 to work among the homeless refugees along the battle line in France, under the auspices of the Friends' Reconstruction Bureau, and was assigned to the superintendency of that work along the Marne and the Meuse.

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