

ISAAC N. BUSBY, M. D. Among the prominent physicians of Poweshiek County no one is more highly esteemed, both professionally and personally, than is the gentleman of whom we will proceed to give a brief sketch. He has had valuable experience, having served in the hospitals during the war as a surgeon, and having been actively engaged in practice since that time. He is recognized as an extremely bright physician by the brethren of his profession, and for three years held a position as Professor and Lecturer on Physiology and General Pathology in the medical department of Drake University, of Des Moines, Iowa. In 1885 that justly famed institution of learning conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Medicine in recognition of his merits. Two years later, in March, 1887, the Doctor was elected President of the Board of Trustees and Dean of the Faculty in the medical department of Drake University, but declined to serve, and has continued to refuse all further honors. In 1867 the Doctor received a license to preach in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the following year was admitted to serve as a pastor in the Malcom Circuit. October 2, 1870, he was ordained as a Deacon, and in October, 1873, was made an

Elder. In 1871 Dr. Busby had charge of a pastorate at Montezuma, in this county, where he also engaged somewhat in the practice of medicine. In 1873 he removed to Newton, where he continued his ministerial work for about two years.

Our subject was born in Carroll County, Ohio, June 2, 1840, and is a son of John W. and Anna (Merriman) Busby. His grandfather, whose Christian name was also John Busby, was born in Maryland, but was of Scotch origin. He came at an early day Westward, locating in Cadiz, Ohio, where he was an honored pioneer, and where he resided until his death. He was a greatly respected citizen, and served as Justice of the Peace for thirty-two years. His wife was in her maidenhood a Miss Wisner, of Dutch descent. She became the mother of three sons and nine daughters. The former were called respectively: John W., Isaac and Abraham. In political faith our subject's grandfather was a Democrat.

Our subject's father was born in Harrison County, Ohio, in 1805, and removed to Carroll County, in the same State, where he carried on a farm until shortly before his death, in 1871. He was, like his father, a Democrat, and was an active and consistent member of the Protestant Methodist Church. His wife survived him until September, 1877, when she was also called to her final rest. In their family of fourteen children twelve lived to mature years. The record is as follows: John-son, a farmer of Poweshiek County; Dr. A. J., a resident of Independence, Kan.; Abraham, of Nodaway County, Mo.; Elijah, of Mahaska County,

Iowa, near Rose Hill; John, of Maryville, Mo.; Thomas, who died in Ohio in 1877 from the effects of a wound received at Richmond, Va.; Isaac N.; Aaron, a resident of Plainfield, Ohio; Samuel, who died at the age of three years; Nancy, now Mrs. Dunlap; Elizabeth, Mrs. Cordell; Julia A., who became the wife of Dr. C. D. Conaway; Mary, Mrs. Anderson; and Rachel, who died at the age of three months. Elijah served during the late war, enlisting in the Fourth Iowa Cavalry, and was confined in Libby Prison. John enlisted in a Missouri regiment, and also served during the war. Our subject's mother was born in Maryland

and was a daughter of Page Merriman, a native of Maryland, who emigrated to Ohio at an early d.y., was in service during the War of 1812, and died in Harrison County, Ohio.

Dr. Isaac Busby was given good school advantages and attended McCoy's Academy, preparing himself to teach. He commenced in that profession, teaching in the common schools when only nineteen, and continued at that employment until October, 1861, when he enlisted in Company A, Eightieth Ohio Regiment. He took part in the first battle of Shiloh, the siege of Corinth, and the battles of Iuka and Corinth. In December, 1862, he was detached and became a member of the Pioneer Corps in the Seventh Division, Seventeenth Army Corps, becoming a Hospital Steward. In 1863 he took charge as Hospital Surgeon, which position he held until the close of the war. He was elected in the fall of 1863 as Major of the One Hundred and Eighty-eighth Ohio Infantry, but never served on account of misrepresentation. In November of the following year he was discharged near Atlanta, Ga., and, though he received papers from Surgeon-in-Chief J. S. Prout for a re-appointment, he returned by way of Chattanooga to Bakersville, Ohio, where he began the practice of medicine. He had pursued this line of learning since 1857, and by his practical experience during the war became thoroughly equipped, especially in surgery. In October, 1866, he removed to Brooklyn, Iowa, taking charge of Dr. John Conaway's place, and in the same year he was licensed to preach, his first regular charge being Malcom Circuit. He then took charge at Montezuma, and was next stationed at Newton, and in 1875 was appointed Pastor of the Main Street Church of Ottumwa. A year later he went as a minister to Danville, three years after to New London, and in 1881 came to Brooklyn. He has preached at Malcom and Madison, but in 1886 took supernumerary relations on account of asthmatic troubles, but is still a member of the Conference. Though he still preaches occasionally, he has for several years devoted himself almost exclusively to his professional duties. Politically, he is an active Republican.

Dr. Busby has been three times married. His

first union was with Miss Jennie Conaway in February, 1866. She died August 20, 1874, leaving two children: Clara and Charles D., the former now deceased. In April, 1875, the Doctor wedded Almira B. Talbott, by whom he had three children: Verona M., Julia A. and Jennie B. The mother died October 1, 1885, leaving many friends to mourn her loss. His present wife was formerly Miss Harriet M. Smith, a daughter of James H. and Susan (Sater) Smith, the former a farmer of Des Moines County and a native of Pennsylvania. He is the son of the Rev. Benjamin B. Smith, of New Milford, Conn., who had a family of six sons and two daughters. The eldest, Curtis B. N., was a prominent attorney of Pittsburgh and is now deceased; and Joseph E. died when twenty-two years of age. The Rev. Mr. Smith located in New York, and later removed to Ontario County, in the same State. He was three times married, his first wife being Calista Terrill, who was a descendant of the wife of the Duke of York and was a member of a prominent family in the Empire State. The Rev. Mr. Smith was the father of nine children. Two of his sisters married prominent men. Abbie is the wife of Dr. Briggs, and Sarah, the wife of Dr. Huitt, both well known in Presbyterian circles. The Smith family, who have been active Presbyterians for two hundred years, were of the original Pilgrim stock, and emigrated from England about 1620.

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In the death of Dr. Isaac Newton Busby which occurred Tuesday, July 17, 1923, there passed out one of the last of a very few remaining connecting links of the Brooklyn of today with the Brooklyn of pioneer days, when there were few dividing lines and the people of the whole country were neighbors and close personal friends.

Dr. Busby was born in Carroll County, Ohio June 2, 1840, the son of John W. and Anna (Merriman) Busby, the father being of Scotch origin, the mother of Dutch ancestry, their forebears having first located in Maryland, later moving to Cadiz, Ohio, and then to Carroll County. He was one of fourteen children, twelve of whom lived to mature years. At the age of nineteen he taught school, devoting his spare time to the study of medicine and surgery, until October 1861 when he enlisted in Company A., 18th Ohio Regiment, with which he took part in the first battle of Shiloh, the siege of Corinth and the battles of Iuka and Corinth. In December 1862 he was detached and became a member of the Pioneer Corps in the 7th Division, 17th Army Corps, becoming a Hospital Steward. In 1863 he took charge as Hospital Surgeon, which position he held until the close of the war. He was elected a major in the 188th Ohio Infantry in the fall of 1863 but never served, preferring to remain in the hospital work he had become so well fitted for and which gave greater opportunity for performing needed service. Returning to Ohio he entered the practice of Medicine and surgery at Barkersville. At the urgent request of his brother-in-law, Dr. John Conaway, one of the pioneer physicians of the state, Dr. Busby came to Brooklyn in 1866 and became a professional partner with Dr. Conaway. Being an eloquent speaker and a devout Christian he was persuaded to enter the ministry so as to aid the church in supplying clergymen for the rapidly growing communities. In 1867 he received a license to preach in the Methodist Episcopal Church and was ordained October 2, 1870.

He served as pastor in the Iowa Methodist Conference at Malcom, Montezuma, Newton, Ottumwa, Danville, New London in addition to a number of circuit assignments. Being a man of vigorous health and

vitality, always willing to serve where needed, he never had less than three services at three different places on Sunday and several during the week reaching appointments by driving or on horseback. In 1881 he returned to Brooklyn and on account of asthmatic trouble made an effort to retire from the active ministry and devote his whole time to the practice of medicine. He was relieved of a regular charge but assigned to a circuit of several churches where a minister was needed to keep up the organization.

Dr. Busby was for several years a member of the faculty of Drake University Medical department and lectured on Physiology and General Pathology.

Dr. Busby was never able to completely sever his connection from the ministry because of the constant need for his services.

Dr. Busby had a boy's heart and the sympathetic nature of a woman. He was a true example of unselfishness. He loved his fellow men. He would not only sacrifice his time as a professional man to aid humanity without hope of reward, he would also sacrifice if need be his last dollar to help a friend in distress. He cared more for the riches of service than the riches of gold. When called on his thoughts were never directed on what he would receive; they were directed on what he could give. Regardless of the hour, of the weather, of the fatigue or of the ability of the patient to pay he never hesitated in the line of duty. He was a family physician of the old school, a ministering angel who had but one aim in life and that aim a life of service.

Dr. Busby is survived by the widow and by one son and three daughters by former marriage. The son, Dr. Charles D. Busby, continues a professional office which has existed in Brooklyn since 1857 without interruption; by three daughters, Verona M., now Mrs. A. J. Dobbin of Minneapolis, Julia A., wife of Capt. C. W. Cole, U. S. N., Newport, R. I. and Jennie-B., now Mrs. Dr. Geo. B. Wells of Santa Barbara, Calif.

There are five grandchildren, Frances J. and Charles D., daughter and son of Dr. and Mrs. Charles D. Busby; Dorothy and Helen Dobbin daughters of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Dobbin; Churchill Cole, son of Julia Busby Cole; Selman Wells, son of Jennie Busby Wells. —Brooklyn Chronicle.