

A HISTORY OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION OF INDIANA

In attempting to give a history of the Medical Profession of Indiana County, from its organization to the present time, I cannot but feel conscious of obstacles. Apart from the feeling of indifference, I am aware of the many difficulties connected with an undertaking of this kind in a county like Indiana, stretched over three-fourths of a century. Without a history or any permanent records of the names of the physicians; and, as a rule, not the most permanently settled class of men. I am also fully conscious of the caution which the historian should assume, and with all his pains to make a list complete, and to do justice to all the members of the profession, his best efforts will be severely criticized, and will be charged with many omissions.

In examining the history of the medical profession of the Indiana county, I observed that a number of the practiced their profession in different part of the country. In order to make my historical sketches more convenient, I will give the principal part of each one's history, his first place of settlement, and as I pass on through the towns and villages alphabetically, will only mention date of location at that place.

Dr. Samuel Talmage, or, as the early assessors spelled the name, *Tamage*, was the first physician of whom we have any history, to practice medicine in the territory, that now belongs to Indiana county. He resided at Newport when the county was laid out, and owned property in that place. His practice extended over a large field on both sides of the Conemaugh river. Sometimes he visited the scattered families that lived near where the town of Indiana now stands, before the county was organized or the county seat located. We have very little knowledge of his early history or education. He moved from Newport into Westmoreland county, where he spent the last part of his life.

Dr. Reed, of Westmoreland county, occasionally visited families on then north side of the Conemaugh river, before there were permanently settled physicians in the county. His visits were mostly in the neighborhood where Blairsville now stands.

Fr. George Hays, a native of New England, where he received his education, literary and medical, located in the county of Indiana about the time of its organization. He boarded with General Campbell, near Campbell's Mills, on Blacklick creek, for a number of years, and with a Mr. Repine, in the same neighborhood, and at a later date with Joseph Turner, two miles east of Jacksonville.

His practice extended over a large and sparsely settled territory, from Cambria county on the south-east to Armstrong on the west. He moved to the neighborhood of Greensburg, Westmoreland county, and remained there till his death.