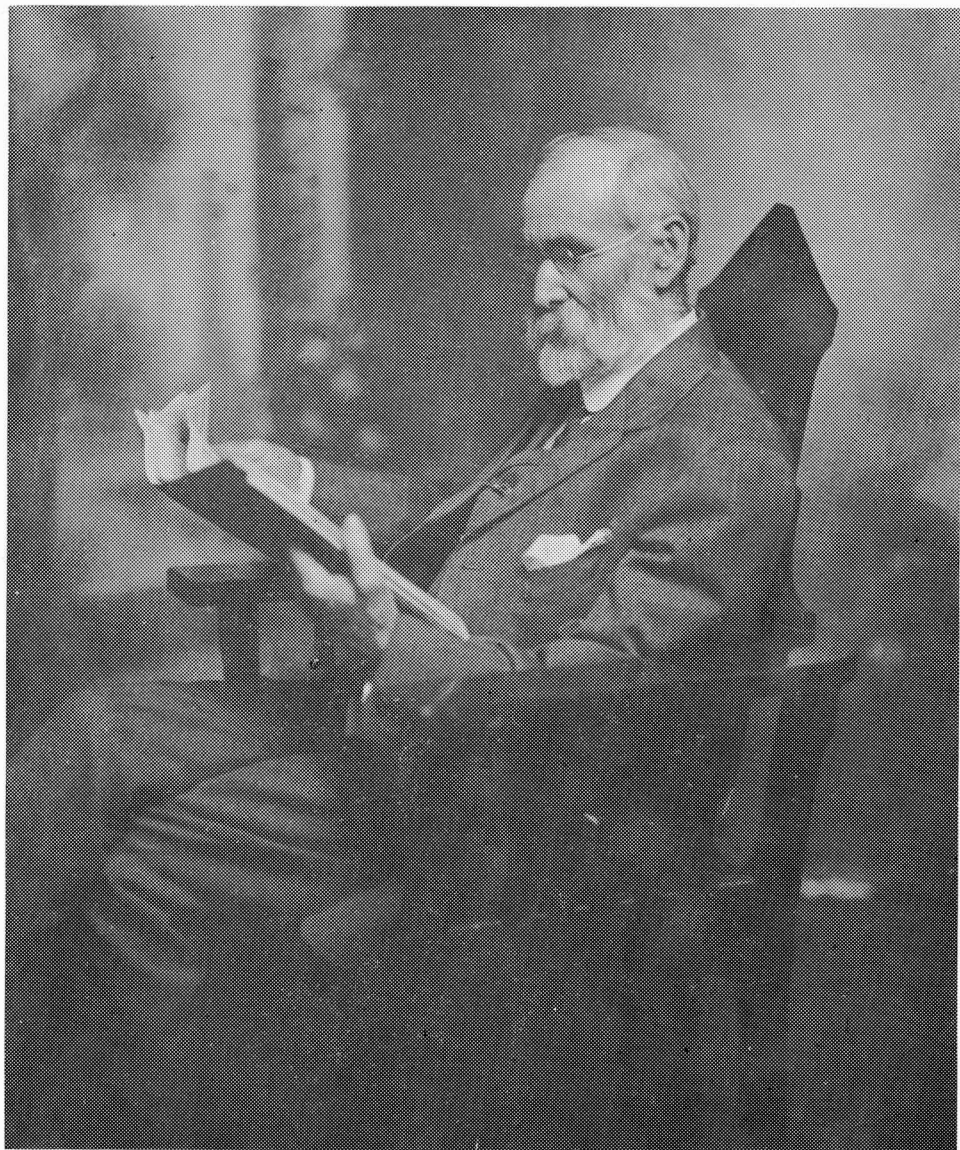




In Memoriam

DR. DAVID JENNESS BROOKINGS

Dr. D. J. Brookings, dean of Dallas county physicians, died at his home in Woodward, Wednesday, April 2, at one o'clock, at the age of 88 years, after an illness of nine days due to age and complication of diseases. He retired from active practice of medicine ten years ago, following a stroke of paralysis.

A remarkable career was closed with the passing of Dr. Brookings. He had resided here for 59 years. He was a deep thinker and one of remarkable intellectual capacity and will power; a man of very strong convictions, standing for the right at all times, no matter the cost. Dr. Brookings loved his profession, had much natural ability as a healer, and kept up his interest in the new developments and treatments of his vocation. He spent much time in his study and often when asked why he did not attend some social event would reply, "I have not had my two hours of study today."

Medical practice sixty years ago meant long hard drives over mud roads, and in the winter when the snow was deep, often having to let down a fence to go across a field to reach the home of sickness, but his indefatigable zeal never faltered. He was well known throughout this part of the state as "the fever specialist," and was often called in consultation to different towns.

His passing leaves a vacant place in the community life and in the hearts of life-long friends which can never be filled. Among the throng of sincere mourners are numbered people in every walk of life, who both in a personal and professional way, had through long years of association learned to trust and lean upon him as a tower of strength. With that calmness which comes from profound study and complete mastery of self, he inspired courage in others, and both as physician and friend, he was held in the highest respect.

The Funeral Service

The funeral services were held from the M. E. church on Saturday afternoon at 2:30 p. m., being conducted by the Rev. F. A. Smith, pastor of the local church, assisted by the Rev. Charles Anderson of Minburn, a former pastor in the early history of Woodward and a close personal friend of the deceased. Both ministers paid a glowing tribute to the life and character of Dr. Brookings. Dr. H. W. Smith spoke a few words

pertaining to the professional side of his life and of how ethical he was in his relations with his fellow practitioners.

There was a magnificent array of floral tributes, the silent yet beautiful reminder of the life that had gone out. The flower bearers were Marion Bell Rossman, who carried his floral crown, and Miss Ruth Davisson. Miss Martha Hammon, Mrs. Hazel Rossman, Mrs. Hazel Wylie, Mrs. Lois Friedel and Mrs. Marjorie Cooper.

Music was furnished by the male quartet, composed of Messrs. V. A. Neal, Frank Vernon, O. C. Miller and P. D. Covert, accompanied by Mrs. P. D. Covert, who sang "Have Thine Own Way Lord" and "The City Four Square." Mr. Covert rendered the solo, "Crossing the Bar."

Active pall bearers were W. H. Stuber, J. E. Storm, Lucian Hamman, Ralph Brookings Wernli, J. E. Elliott and Thomas O'Malley. Honorary pall bearers were Doctors M. N. Voldeng, C. M. Porter, H. W. Smith, A. J. Ross, W. G. Morgan and H. B. Saylor.

Interment was made in the Woodward cemetery which Dr. Brookings, as one of a committee of three, helped to select over forty-five years ago as the final resting place of Woodward citizens.

Those from out of town attending the service were the relatives—Mrs. R. J. Baird and daughter Helen, Manford Snider and Robert Baird, all of Des Moines; Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Burington of Sioux City; Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Burington and Mrs. G. M. Burington, of Perry. Friends were Mr. and Mrs. Al Wilsey, Mrs. F. G. Bogue, Mrs. G. C. Anderson, Mrs. Jane Barlow, Mrs. Sophia Egan, Mrs. Fred Cooper and Miss Opal Gavin, all of Des Moines; Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Mears of Jefferson; Mrs. Wm. McGivney of Bagley; Mr. and Mrs. Will Elefritz, Mrs. Della Snider, Mike Sharin and Dr. C. G. Smith of Granger; Attorney Earl Tucker and Dr. S. J. Brown of Panora; Dr. E. J. Butterfield of Dallas Center; Dr. George Elvidge, Dr. M. J. Donovan, Dr. P. W. Beckman, Dr. K. W. Diddy, Dr. A. J. Ross and Dr. R. E. Doidge, of Perry; Dr. R. A. Gamble of Madrid; and Dr. H. B. Saylor of Des Moines.

Obituary

Dr. David Jenness Brookings was born in Cecil county, Maryland, January 16, 1842, and passed from this life to eternity on Wednesday, April 2, at his home in Woodward. He was one of eleven children born to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brookings, all of whom have preceded him in death. In 1855 with his parents he came west, taking the train from Port Deposit, Maryland, to Wheeling, West Virginia, then by boat down the Ohio River to Cairo, Illinois, and thence up the Mississippi River to Keokuk, Iowa.

Later his father purchased a farm of 208 acres near Warsaw, Illinois, and there Dr. Brookings received his early education in the district school and high school at Warsaw. During the fall and winter of 1863 and the spring of 1864 he taught the district school in Bontabello township, Hancock county, near Elveston, Illinois.

Hearing the call of his country, he refused to accept his re-election, and left for Boston, Mass., where, on April 12, he enlisted in the Civil War at Faneuil Hall with the 37th Massachusetts Volunteers and served until the close of the war and was mustered out in June, 1865, at Hall's Hill, Virginia. An interesting incident of Dr. Brookings' army life was that it was he who personally informed Gen. Philip H.

Sheridan (who had halted at Winchester for breakfast) that the enemy had attacked his front and that his forces were driven back in disorder. On the instant General Sheridan started upon his memorable ride and turned defeat to a glorious victory.

Soon after the war Dr. Brookings matriculated at Rush Medical College, Chicago, Ill., graduating from there with the class of 1869. He practiced one year in Elveston, Ill., as an interne with Dr. Miller. While on a visit with his mother in Des Moines, he heard of Xenia, Iowa, and of the opening there for a practitioner, and on Monday evening, March 27, 1871, he arrived on horseback from Des Moines. Within a few hours after his arrival he was called on a case, and thus begun his practice of medicine in this vicinity.

He moved with the town to Woodward when the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad was built and he had the first load of lumber hauled to build his office, but an epidemic of sickness kept him from pursuing his purpose for a few weeks and when he started work found that his lumber had been cut up and used to stake out the town.

On November 28, 1878, he was united in marriage to Miss Ella Burlington, of Perry, Iowa, and a year ago they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The entire 51 years they have resided in this one locality taking a prominent part in the building and development of Woodward.

Dr. Brookings was the delegate to the International Medical Congress held in Washington, D. C. in September, 1878, from the Iowa Central District Medical Society. He was president of the Iowa Central District Medical Society, 1889-90, health physician of Woodward, 1895 to 1902, and mayor of Woodward in 1904-05. He was a member of the American Medical Society, Iowa State Medical Society, a charter member of the Central District Medical Society, and of the Dallas-Guthrie Medical Society. He was also a member of the Iowa Pharmaceutical Association, as he was a graduate pharmacist and conducted a drug store along with his practice of medicine for many years. He was a charter member of the local I. O. O. F. and Rebekah lodges.

He volunteered for medical service in the World War and received his insignia of the corps November 7, 1918, with instructions to be ready for a call at any time to serve at Camp Dodge as a medical examiner, and soon would have been in service had the Armistice not been signed on November 11.

While a young man he was converted to the Christian faith and united with the Methodist church at Xenia during the winter of 1876 and was a regular attendant until 1881 when the town of Xenia was moved one mile west and the new town of Woodward built. He was a charter member of the Woodward Methodist church always taking an active part in its growth and spiritual development, serving continuously on the official board until the erection of the present church in 1907. He was a faithful attendant at the morning preaching service and teacher of the men's bible class in the Sunday school for many years and up to the time when he suffered a stroke of paralysis on March 26, 1920.

He is survived by his wife and daughter, Thora May.

From The Woodward Enterprise, April 10, 1930

THE DOCTOR

By Rev. F. A. Smith

There are many types of service that mankind renders to their fellow man. Counsel—sympathetic, fraternal, sacrificial, parental—all of which should and does bring encouragement, hopefulness and determination. But the service of a doctor has a peculiar relation to a community and wins for him a place of appreciation and love in the life of the community that is not shared by any other profession.

This was evidenced again in the passing of Dr. Brookings, who for so many years was the family doctor of a large number in this community. Of him it was said, "He gave more than medicine." He gave inspiration, sympathy, courage and determination. A stern practitioner in the art of his profession he was more than a public servant. Strong men committed their lives into his keeping and timid women entrusted him with the secrets of their confidence, while little children looked upon him as the guardian angel of their physical lives.

He was a student of life and death. He knew how to live and how to die. He possessed zeal, energy and courage. He was a scholar, a gentleman and a patriot. Coming to this locality in the days of the real pioneers, he grew with the country. Although his body grew old and infirm, his faith, his intellect and his spirit of pioneering were ever youthful and progressive. He was a good man, a Godly man, and will be greatly missed by all of us.

O Doctor, O Doctor, your life, your
work is o'er.
Experience now
Has taught you how
To live forever more!
In the hearts of those
For whom you chose
The bodily ills to mend,
Eternal praise
To God we raise,
For you, our Doctor Friend.

From The Woodward Enterprise, April 10, 1930

A PERSONAL TRIBUTE

I was a very small boy when my parents called Dr. D. J. Brookings into our home for the first time, and it was the beginning of a mutual friendship that seemed to accelerate as the years passed by, and lasted throughout their lives.

The present generation will never understand the trials, hardships and exposures he encountered in his early years in this community. No road was too muddy, no drifts too deep, no weather too severe for him to attempt to reach his patients if humanly possible.

He was a man of strong convictions, and was always ready to defend them with vigor, whether they related to business, politics or religion.

A good man, a scrupulously honest man, has passed on, and will be seen no more in the flesh on earth, but he has left his friends and this entire community a rich heritage of deeds unselfishly done that is of inestimable value to us all.

The world is much better that he passed through it. His good influence will live on indefinitely.

Peace to his ashes.

WM. M. WADE.

From The Woodward Enterprise, April 10, 1930

A DOCTOR'S TRIBUTE

The entire medical profession of Iowa will mourn the passing of this grand old man of medicine and we wish to extend our sincerest sympathy.

Iowa State Medical Society,
John H. Peck, President.

From The Woodward Enterprise, April 10, 1930

D. J. BROOKINGS, M.D.

In the death of Dr. D. J. Brookings at Woodward, Iowa, on April 2, 1930 in his 89th year, there passed one of the few remaining links with early medical practice in Iowa.

After his service in the Civil War in the Army of the Potomac under General Philip H. Sheridan, he entered Rush Medical College in Chicago graduating in 1869. After practicing for a year at Elveston, Illinois, he located at Xenia, a small town northwest of Des Moines, March 27, 1871, where he remained until 1881 when the Milwaukee railroad went past Xenia and built a depot on a rising slope of ground one mile west. This town was first named Colton and later changed to Woodward. He retired from practice a few years ago on account of the effect of a cerebral hemorrhage, but kept up his interest in medical progress by frequent attendance at local medical meetings.

Coming to this land of the unbroken prairie 59 years ago what a story he could unfold of the trials, sacrifices and devotion to human service of the medical pioneers of Iowa.

W.L.B.

Journal of Iowa State Medical Society (June, 1930) Page 278

BROOKINGS, DAVID JENNESS

Physician and surgeon, was born in Cecil county, Maryland January 16, 1842 son of Charles and Eliza (Johnstone) Brookings, grandson of Richard and Margaret (Matthews) Brookings, and a greatgrandson of Charles and Mary (Gordon) Brookings, who came from Plymouth, England, to Maryland in 1760. His parents removed to a farm near Warsaw, Illinois in 1855 and he completed his education in that state. During 1863-64 he taught a district school and in April of the later year went to Boston, Mass., and enlisted in the 37 Mass. volunteers, with which he served during the remainder of the civil war. He was an adjutant general's clerk at the headquarters of the army of the Potomac in Winchester, Virginia, and on the morning of October 19, 1864 it was he who personally informed General Phil Sheridan, who had halted there for breakfast, that the enemy had attacked his front and the sound of cannon had become nearer since early morning, immediately the general started on his famous twenty-mile ride to Cedar Creek where he turned General Early's rout of the Federal forces into a crashing defeat for the Confederates. After the war he entered Rush Medical College in Chicago, Illinois and was graduated M.D. in 1869. He settled first at Xenia, Iowa, and later at Woodward, Iowa where he practiced medicine during the remainder of his life. Dr. Brookings established a reputation as a skillful diagnostician and for his success in the treatment of typhoid fever that ravaged the community in pioneer days, became widely known as a "fever specialist." He devoted two hours each day to study and research and developed a formula for scarlet fever cases which was remarkably successful. In fracture cases he made his own splints and boxes, which were later copied by leading surgeons. In 1878 he was a delegate to the international Medical Congress. During 1895-1902, he was the health physician of Woodward, Iowa, and Mayor of the town in 1904-05. He was a member of the American Medical Association, the Iowa State, Iowa Central District (President, 1889-90) and Dallas-Guthrie County medical societies, Iowa Pharmaceutical Association and the I.O.O.F. lodge. His religious affiliation was with the Methodist Episcopal church. Dr. Brookings was a man of forceful character and strong convictions, which he affirmed with vigor, and was a deep student and thinker. None doubted his honor or his ability and for years he bore the appellation, "Iowa's grand old man of medicine." He was married Nov. 28, 1878 to Ella, daughter of George M. Burington, of Perry, Iowa, and had one daughter Thora May Brookings. He died at Woodward, Iowa April 2, 1930.

Taken from the National Cyclopedia of American Biography, Vol. XXXIII, Page 340-341

A TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF DR. DAVID J. BROOKINGS

Los Angeles, Calif., Apr. 4, 1930.

Editor Woodward Enterprise:

Word has just reached us of the death of our good old friend, Doctor Brookings. Having lived far beyond the years allotted to the average man, he is at rest from a life of devoted and faithful work among his fellow men.

Many communities single out one outstanding citizen and call him their "grand old man" as a fitting tribute to a long life of usefulness and unselfish devotion to duty.

Who, among the residents of that community is better entitled to this honor than Doctor Brookings? Who came nearer to combining the virtues of faithfulness, unselfishness, uprightness of character and purity of thought and action?

For sixty years he not only ministered to the physical and mental ills of Woodward and vicinity but I know that to many he was the trusted guide, the wise counsellor and the loyal friend. His grave should be made a shrine about which the people of Woodward could bow and worship and upon which each one for whom he did some faithful service during his long life could drop a blossom in reverent appreciation.

With his death passes one of the last of the doctors of the old school. One of the last of the Weelum MacClures, if you have read your "Bonnie Briar Bush." He practiced the healing art for two generations without the aid of modern hospitals, an X-ray machine or a clinical laboratory. Yet, who will say that he was less successful in his work than are the doctors of the present day who have all these things at their elbow?

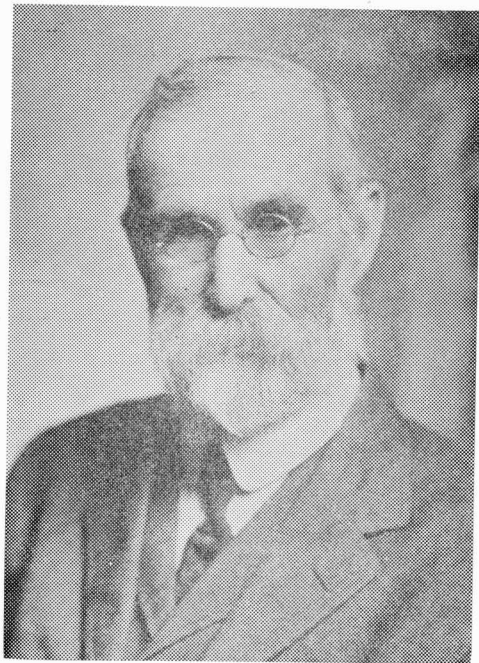
For eleven years, from 1902 until 1913, I enjoyed the privilege of being one of his colleagues in Woodward. During that time I learned to know him well, both as a physician and as a man. My admiration for his character grew as I knew him longer and better. I never knew him to stoop to a mean or contemptible act or thought. Stubborn and rigid in his opinions and jealous of his rights, he did not deny to others the right of their own views or their own beliefs.

Purity of life and conduct was his religion—the great profession which he adorned was his Duty and justice to his fellowman was his guiding star.

Were it my duty to erect a monument to his memory I would make it of granite to symbolize the firm and unyielding character of his many virtues, and upon its face I would chisel these words: "Here lies the mortal remains of an honest, upright, Christian gentleman."

Sincerely yours,

A. R. ROGERS, M. D.



JANUARY 16, 1842

APRIL 2, 1930