

PETER BRUNER DICK, M.D.

The name of Dr. Peter B. Dick is prominently associated with the early history of Delaware County and is enrolled among its well-known and successful medical practitioners. He traces his ancestry to the fatherland of Germany from whence with two brothers came

Henry Dick, the grandfather of the Doctor, to America and established his home in Virginia, where he afterward lived and died. There also Hieronemus Dick was born, and he immigrated to Ohio to become one of the early pioneers of Highland county, and there he purchased land and spent the remainder of his days. He followed farming as a life occupation. He was killed in 1840 by a falling tree, his death occurring in the prime of his manhood and he left his widow with the care and support of their eight children. She bore the maiden name of Mary Ann Bruner, and was a native of Maryland. In 1846, with a team and accompanied by five of her children, she made the overland journey to Indiana, and the first stop was in Jay county, where they resided for five years, and then went over the line to Randolph county, which lies just south of Jay county. In 1863 she went to Olmstead County, Minnesota, and spent her last years at the home of a son there.

Dr. Dick, a son of Hieronemus and Mary Ann Dick, was born in Highland county, Ohio, April 27, 1838, and was eight years of age when he came with his mother to Indiana, and it may be said that he "grew up with the country." At the time of the location of the family -here not a railroad traversed the county and much of its land was in its primitive state, the greater part of its inhabitants still living in the primitive log cabins of the early days. Deer and other kinds of game were plentiful and all was then new and wild. The young lad made the best of his opportunities in this new and undeveloped country, attending the pioneer schools and later the Liber College, and at the age of eighteen he began teaching and taught for twenty two terms. During this time he also began the study of medicine, and for two years studied with Dr. Noah Simmons, of Union City, Indiana, as his preceptor, and in 1874 he graduated from the Eclectic Medical College of Cincinnati. Previous to entering college, however, he had practiced at Union City for two years, and in 1867 he came to Daleville and entered upon a several years' practice, at the close of the period removing to a farm in section 8, where he has ever since resided with the exception of a period of five years spent in Kansas, whither he went in 1885 to restore his health. His name is prominently enrolled among the pioneer physicians of Delaware County, and he practiced here in the early days when the physicians prepared many of their own medicines from the native herbs, the gathering of the herbs and the digging of medicinal roots forming a considerable part of their earnings.

Dr. Dick has been three times married, wedding first, in 1859, Elizabeth Vinson, who was born in Darke County, Ohio, a daughter of Elder Harrison Vinson, and she died

three months after her marriage. In 1862 he wedded Mattie Vail, a native of Jay county, Indiana, and a daughter of William Vail, a minister in the Society of Friends and a native of Ohio. She died in 1866, and in 1870 he married Sally Shepp, a daughter of Jonathan and Lydia Shepp. Two sons were born of the second marriage, Ulysses Seward and Orville Dewey, but both died in infancy, and the only child of the third union was Merchant Kenneth, who met his death in a railroad accident when twenty-four years of age. He had married Maggie Fletcher, who with her only child, Hazel India, now resides in Muncie. Dr. Dick and his wife are members of the Christian church, and he is also a member of the Odd Fellows fraternity.