



**Biographical Review Of Hancock County, Illinois:  
Containing Biographical And Genealogical  
Sketches Of Many Of The Prominent Citizens Of  
To-day And Also Of The Past**

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BIOGRAPHICAL REVIEW

OF

HANCOCK COUNTY

CHARLES HAY, M. D.

For forty-three years Dr. Charles Hay was a resident of Illinois and though more than two decades have been added to the cycle of the centuries since he passed away, his name is revered and his memory cherished by all who knew him. It was not alone his skill in his profession, although he was an able medical practitioner of his day, his scholarly attainments nor the success he achieved, which gained for him the place which he occupied in the regard of his friends, but rather his sterling traits of character, his kindly spirit, his deference for the opinion of others, his loyalty to all that was right and just in man's relations with his fellowmen and his fidelity to high ideals.

The life record of Dr. Hay began on the 7th of February, 1801, in Fayette county, Kentucky. In the paternal line the family is of Scotch lineage, the ancestry being traced back to John Hay, who with his four sons emigrated from the Rhenish Palatinate to America about the middle of the eighteenth century. This John Hay was the son of a Scottish soldier

who left his own country about fifty years before and attached himself to the army of the elector Palatine. Following the arrival in the new world the brothers separated and John Hay, the eldest, became a resident of York, Pennsylvania, where, prospering in business affairs, he accumulated considerable property. He was also influential in public life and served as one of the magistrates of Pennsylvania during colonial days. Interested in the grave questions which elicited public attention prior to the Revolutionary war and advocating the cause of liberty, he filled several important offices in the organization of the patriot forces preparatory to the Revolution and when war was inaugurated he joined the military forces and won promotion to the rank of colonel. Following the establishment of the republic he represented York county in the assembly. Another brother, Adam Hay, who, like his brother John, had received military training in Europe, became a resident of Berkeley county, Virginia, and also served with some distinction in the Revolutionary war. He was a friend and associate of Washington and

one of the earliest recollections of his son, the late John Hay of Springfield, Illinois, was of meeting General

Washington on a country road and hearing him greet Adam Hay as an old comrade, at the same time bestowing a friendly pat on the head of the young lad.

It was this John Hay who became the father of Dr. Charles Hay of Warsaw. His birth occurred February 13, 1779. His youth was passed in his parents' home, but the discipline of the household was somewhat stern and arbitrary, owing perhaps to the military training, as a German soldier, of the father. As he approached manhood John Hay was unwilling to endure the inflexible rules laid down by the father and resolved to establish a home and seek a fortune for himself elsewhere. This plan he announced to his father and although there was a lack of sympathy to some extent between them, that there was 110 positive breach is indicated by the fact that he was provided with money sufficient to enable him to take up a good piece of land in Fayette county, Kentucky, to which place he made his way. In early manhood he married Jemima Coulter and they became the parents of fourteen children, all of whom reached maturity. Three of the sons, Charles, Joseph and Theodore Hay, became physicians, while another son, Milton Hay, for many years occupied a most distinguished position at the Illinois bar. In his business affairs in Fayette county. John Hay, the father, met with gratifying success and for thirty years continued a resident of that locality, but feeling that the influence of slavery was detrimental he determined to take his family to a

region which was free from that objection and when fifty-five years of age removed to Sangamon county, Illinois, accompanied by all his children save his eldest s

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