

Robert Barr, M.D.—The late Robert Barr, M.D., of Indiana, was a leading skillful surgeon and physician, a useful citizen, a true friend, and a sincere and an honest man. He was a son of Thomas and Catherine Coleman (Gordon) Barr, and was born in that part of Green, which is now Cherry Hill township, Indiana county, Pennsylvania, August 20, 1828. His paternal grandparents were Robert and Sarah Barr, who settled in this county in an early day. Robert Barr was a Revolutionary soldier, and one of his children was Thomas Barr (father), who served as a soldier in the war of 1812. he was twice married; his first wife was Elizabeth Evans, and after her death he married Mrs. Catherine (Gordon Coleman, and the only child born of the second marriage was Dr. Robert Barr.

Robert Barr was reared on a farm and received his education in the rural schools and Indiana academy. He had determined at an early age to become a member of the medical profession, and to this end directed his education. He read medicine with Dr. Stewart, of Armagh, and Dr. Thomas St.Clair, of Indiana, and graduated from Jefferson Medical college of Philadelphia, in the class of 1854. Afterwards he attended schools of surgery in Philadelphia and other cities and also practiced in the hospitals to make himself more proficient in surgery. He commenced the active practice of his profession at Armagh, but soon removed to Indiana, where he practiced until his death, excepting the time of the late war. On November 8, 1861, he was mustered into the U.S. service as surgeon of the 67th regiment, Pa. Vols., and aided in its organization. He was actively employed in the field with his regiment, brigade and division until the expiration of his term of service, in the fall of 1864, and then left field duty on account of physical disability, incurred from exposure and continued service. While in commission he intrusted with the most responsible duties, and was always fully equal to their proper discharge

He was promoted to surgeon-in-chief, and in the trying and severe campaigns of 1863 and 1864 was conspicuous for skillful surgical operations and efficient discipline in the medical corps under his charge. The high esteem in which he was held in the Army of the Potomac is attested by the complimentary order with which he was mustered out of the service. Returning home from the army, he resumed his practice and was actively engaged until a few months before his death, in 1882.

October 15, 1868, Dr. Barr united in marriage with Cordelia E. Elder, who still resides in her pleasant home at Indiana, and is a member of the First Presbyterian church of that place. Her father, Robert Elder (3d), was born December 23, 1809, on the farm on which he always lived, and on which he died March 26, 1890. he was a son of Robert Elder, Jr., who married Mary Smith, and whose father. Robert Elder, Sr., the first settler on the ridge that bears his name was a grandson of Robert and Eleanor Elder, who were Scotch-Irish native of Drummore, county Down, Ireland, and settled near Harrisburg, Pa., about 1730. Robert Elder (3d) was a quiet man of wide-spread influence, and was the last, but one, surviving of the fifty original members of Dr. Alexander Donaldson's congregation. He donated the ground for the last church structure of that congregation, besides most generous subscriptions towards its erection. He was a hearty supporter of churches and schools, and liberal of means toward any movement for the benefit of his community. He married Nancy W. Douglass, who still survives him. One of his sons, Lieut. John D. Elder, was killed at Malvern Hill, while in command of his company.

In his private practice Dr. Barr was noted for his sincerity and frankness with his patients. He was a consistent member of the Presbyterian church, and, although sometimes stern in manner, yet his heart was always sensitive to the tale of sorrow or the voice of suffering. He died of Bright's disease of the kidneys, at midnight on Thursday, March 2, 1882. His remains were borne to their last resting-place in Indiana cemetery, by his old comrades in arms, the member of the Grand Army of the Republic, but the memory and example of his useful life remains behind him,