

**Obituary - JOHN P. GRAY, M.D., LL. D.**

**August 6, 1825 – November 29, 1886**

“UTICA, N.Y. - **Dr. John P. Gray**, Superintendent of the State Lunatic Asylum, at Utica, died in uraemic coma, Monday, November 29th, at the asylum in that city.

Since **Dr. Gray** was shot through the upper jaw, March 16, 1882, by the crank, **Henry Remshaw**, he has never fully recovered. The wound seriously affected his nasal breathing, left a neuralgia which was almost constant, and gave a terrible shock to the nervous system. **Dr. Gray** bore up under it manfully, but it weakened him seriously, and rendered the burdens of his position more trying and exhaustive. His intimate friends have been much alarmed about his condition, and the management of the asylum thoughtfully gave him leave of absence last winter, and he spent some time in Thomasville, Georgia, and afterward at Carlsbad and elsewhere in Europe. The attempt to return again to his work, and the cares incident to it, proved too much for him, and week by week the disease took closer hold upon him, while his strength failed and sure signs came that the end was near. About three weeks ago the doctor caught a severe cold, from which dated his rapid decline.

**Dr. Gray** was born in Halfmoon, Centre County, Pennsylvania, August 6, 1825, and was educated in the common school, at Bellefonte Academy, and at Dickinson College, and in medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Receiving the degree of A.M. from Dickinson College in 1846, and of M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1848, he was in the latter year appointed one of the resident physicians of the Pennsylvania Hospital. He was invited to the New York State Lunatic Asylum, in Utica, in 1851, to become third assistant physician. So marked were his qualities and so valuable his services that his promotion was very rapid; for he was appointed second assistant physician in 1852, and first assistant and acting superintendent in 1853, when only twenty-eight years of age. In that year, also, he was appointed medical superintendent of the Michigan State Lunatic Asylum, and designed the plans for the asylum at Kalamazoo. The managers of the institution in Utica had learned his merits and his efficiency, and in 1854 he gave up his position in Michigan and chose the scene of his life-work, beginning his notable career as medical superintendent of the Utica Asylum. His labors as editor-in-chief of the *American Journal of Insanity* began in the same year.

**Dr. Gray** was married, September 6, 1854, to **Miss Mary B. Wetmore**, daughter of **Edmund A. Wetmore**, of Utica, who survives him. To them were born six children, three of whom died in childhood. The Albany Medical College, in 1876, appointed him its professor of psychological medicine, and there, as well as at Bellevue Hospital Medical College, he continued his lectures until 1882. He was in great demand as an expert and gave testimony in the case of the conspirators connected with the murder of **Lincoln**, in the will cases of **Vanderbilt** and **Fillmore**, and the murder trials of **Bigot**, **Buckhout**, **Frank H. Walworth**, and **Romaine H. Dillon**; also in the case of **Guiteau** for the assassination of **President Garfield**. In that trial **Dr. Gray** directed the policy of the Government in the prosecution, and suggested the course of the examination.

Dr. Gray received several commissions from **President Lincoln** to report on the cases of criminals alleged to be insane, and was called to examine **Payne**, one of the fellow-conspirators with **Wilkes Booth** for the murder of the martyr President.

Personally **Dr. Gray** was a lovable Christian gentleman, and one who endeared himself to everyone with whom he came in contact.”

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