

HISTORY
OF
ALLEGHENY COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA.

INCLUDING

ITS EARLY SETTLEMENT AND PROGRESS TO THE PRESENT TIME; A DESCRIPTION
OF ITS HISTORIC AND INTERESTING LOCALITIES; ITS CITIES, TOWNS AND
VILLAGES; RELIGIOUS, EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL AND MILITARY HISTORY;
MINING, MANUFACTURING AND COMMERCIAL INTERESTS;
IMPROVEMENTS, RESOURCES, STATISTICS, ETC.

ALSO

PORTRAITS OF SOME OF ITS PROMINENT MEN, AND BIOGRAPHIES OF MANY
OF ITS REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS.

IN TWO PARTS.

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DR. FELIX BRUNOT. Among the early physicians of Pittsburgh who are entitled to a special notice in this work, because of the close relation which they sustained to the development of affairs, and on account of their high professional standing, was Dr. Felix Brunot. Born in the parish of Morey, France, January 9, 1752, member of an old Huguenot family, and a foster-brother of Gen. Lafayette, he was originally designed by his uncle, a Catholic bishop, for orders in the church, but, experiencing an aversion to this calling, he was permitted to enter upon the study of medicine. After graduation he joined Gen. Lafayette in his noble espousal of the patriot cause in America, and coming to this country in 1777 served as a surgeon in the army of the Revolution. He participated in the battle of Brandywine and other important engagements, and after the close of that eventful struggle, which established the independence of this nation, he located in the practice of his profession at Annapolis, Md., subsequently removing to Philadelphia, and finally, in 1797, settled in Pittsburgh, where he passed the remainder of his days, dying May 23, 1838, at the age of eighty-six years and five months. He resided on what is now known as Brunot's island, where he entertained Lafayette, Blennerhassett and other celebrated men. Later on he disposed of the island by sale, and resided on Liberty avenue, Pittsburgh, in a house which one of his sons, who died, had the building of. He was one of the noted physicians of his day, and enjoyed an extensive practice for many years, having an especial faith in the therapeutic properties of electricity. As a public-spirited citizen he was always deeply interested in the development of the city. He was a man of integrity and uprightness of character, and his life was devoted to the performance of good deeds. The doctor was first married at Annapolis, by which union he had one child, who married, but died without issue. His second wife, whom he married December 17, 1789, was Miss Elizabeth Krieder, of Philadelphia, by whom were born the following-named children, six sons: Britain, Casper, Felix, Hilary, James M. and Sanson, and one daughter, Louisa. Mrs. Brunot died September 5, 1845, aged seventy-eight years. Two of the sons were educated

as physicians, while others entered the legal profession, settling in different portions of the south. Sanson became a clergyman of the Episcopal Church, organized and officiated at a small church which his father built for him, on land which he also donated, and from which Christ Church, Allegheny, ultimately sprang. Afterward he had a parish at Greensburg, and later at Blairsville. His health failing, he went to Florida, organized an Episcopal church in Key West, which is now in a flourishing condition.

HILARY BRUNOT, son of Dr. Felix Brunot, was born in the city of Philadelphia, July 14, 1795, in a house that is still standing on the banks of the Schuylkill. At an early age he entered the military academy at West Point, graduating in one of the first classes emanating from that institution, and passing thence into the regular army. He served in the war of 1812, was wounded in the sortie at Fort Erie, and was afterward stationed at Fort Snelling, Mackinaw, Green Bay and Newport, Ky., and later in the arsenal at Pittsburgh. He resigned his position in the army in 1825, and engaged successfully for many years in the manufacture of white lead, occupying the whole square now covered by the Union depot, Pittsburgh. He retired from active business in 1850, and died March 26, 1872. Mr. Brunot was a man of great force of character, an earnest Christian, one who led a blameless, upright life. He was prominent in religious and political circles, and served for many years as a member of council. Mr. Brunot married, May 6, 1819, Ann Tankard, daughter of Randell and Margaret Reville, of Newport, Ky., a family that early settled in Somerset county, Md.

Mrs. Brunot was born Dec. 14, 1798, and died April 18, 1873. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Brunot, viz.: Felix R., Elizabeth M., Hilary J., Louisa, Ann, Melusina, Sophia and John. Of these Elizabeth M. became the wife of George Morgan, of Pittsburgh; Felix R. resides in Pittsburgh, and Hilary J. in Greensburg; all the others died in early life.

FELIX R. BRUNOT. In the van of prominent citizens in Pittsburgh stands this widely known, large-hearted philanthropist, whose name for over forty years has been intimately associated with the steel industry of that

city. He was born Feb. 7, 1820, at the United States arsenal, Newport, Ky., and when an infant was brought by his parents to Pittsburgh. When fourteen years of age he entered Jefferson College, at Cannonsburg, and at the close of his collegiate curriculum he took up the profession of a civil engineer, which he followed until 1842. In that year he became interested in the milling business at Rock Island, Ill., whither he removed, and in connection with the same he dealt in wheat and grain at Camden, on Rock river. Having accumulated a comfortable competence, he returned in 1847 to Pittsburgh, where he permanently established himself, investing a portion of his wealth in the steel-works founded in the following year by the firm of Singer, Hartmann & Co., in which he became a silent partner, and he has continued in connection with the same concern to the present day. An enthusiastic believer in the great value of education, and the importance of reading as a means of enlarging knowledge and strengthening character, Mr. Brunot became one of the chief movers in the work of founding the Mercantile library in Pittsburgh, an institution that, in an educational way, has accomplished a vast amount of good. During many years he was its president, and, apart from his labors in founding it, has aided very materially in its advancement during his long connection with its affairs. He was the projector of Library hall, and is still one of its managers.

Mr. Brunot found more or less scope for the exercise of wise philanthropic effort, and at the opening of the war of the rebellion he had already made for himself a name and fame, which, without another deed, would have long survived him. Though offered rank and military command soon after the breaking out of hostilities, he declined the high honor tendered him, being conscious that he could accomplish the greatest amount of good in the work of relieving the sick and wounded, a duty for which he was admirably fitted by nature and the training of his life, and the bloody battle of Shiloh became his first opportunity. From Pittsburgh to the field of carnage two relief-boats, laden with medicines and supplies, were sent, Mr. Brunot being placed in command, a small army of nurses and surgeons accompanying him. At Pittsburgh Landing he began his noble work, and after rendering all possible aid returned with the boats to Pittsburgh, having on board nearly four hundred sick and wounded. On this return trip he was himself taken ill, being prostrated by his arduous labors, and suffering from blood-poisoning, which necessitated confinement to his home for several weeks. He was no sooner recovered, however, than he resumed with all his soul and energy his self-appointed task. Wherever his services were in demand, thither with all speed would he proceed, heedless of danger and indifferent to personal inconvenience. Early in the summer of 1862 Mr. Brunot was placed at the head of a small

corps of volunteer surgeons, medical cadets and others, some twenty-five persons in all, and with them proceeded to the field. For several weeks they were engaged in their work of humanity at Savage station, when the battle of Gaines' Mills was fought. About this time McClellan's change of base had commenced. The Union troops, with which were Mr. Brunot and his little band, were ordered to retreat; and such was the suffering among the wounded who had to be left behind, that Mr. Brunot had not the heart to abandon them, and so, with eleven of his faithful comrades, he remained and continued in his noble task. When the Union forces withdrew, the confederates took possession of the point where they were located at Savage station, and shortly afterward the entire party were sent to Libby prison. Here Mr. Brunot was treated rather better than the others who were thrust into that awful pen, being permitted, as a physician, to sleep in a room set aside for that class of prisoners. After an incarceration of some eight days he was exchanged at Savage station. During the remainder of the war his course was marked by unswerving devotion to the Union cause, and the termination of the struggle found him so debilitated by the arduous character of his services, and the effect of malarial poison, that he was ordered to give up everything and betake himself to Europe as the only chance of recovery. After traveling several months, attended by his devoted wife, he so far recovered as to be able to return in the fall of 1865 to his native land.

In 1868, when President Grant, attempting to ameliorate the condition of the Indians, appointed the famous board of Indian commissioners, he named Dr. Brunot first in the list, and he was chosen chairman of the board. Great good resulted from the investigations of the board, in the prosecution of which eminently philanthropic work Mr. Brunot took the most intense interest, and in spite of the many obstacles he had to contend against, brought about by conflicting interests at Washington, he was ever active, in season and out of season, in advocating the cause of the Indians, and appealing for justice for them. He visited the Indians in their homes, in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Oregon and Washington territories, counseling them the course to pursue for their best good, which advice the Indians were more disposed to follow when they found he was serving without compensation, and simply in the interest of their welfare.

Although working in such broad fields of philanthropy as those mentioned, Mr. Brunot has never been insensible to his obligations as a citizen of Pittsburgh, as is manifested by the hearty interest he has always taken in its affairs, and in the many valuable services he has rendered to the people and to the municipality. He is as active in business life as he was two decades ago, and holds directorship and trusteeship in several leading corporations, including the Bank of Pittsburgh, the

Safe Deposit company, the Monongahela Navigation company and the Allegheny Cemetery Association. He is a prominent director of the Western Pennsylvania hospital and of the General Hospital of Allegheny; one of the managers of the Western University, and for many years has been an active member of St. Andrew's P. E. Church of Pittsburgh, of which he is senior warden.