

1796 \* 1883

Orange Family History Center  
674 S. Yorba Street  
Orange, California

HISTORY

PREFACE

OF

BUTLER COUNTY,

PENNSYLVANIA.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

OF SOME OF ITS

PROMINENT MEN AND PIONEERS.

CHICAGO:  
WATERMAN, WATKINS & Co.

1883.

#2 hb

## REV. LOYAL YOUNG.

Rev. Loyal Young, D. D., the third pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Butler, Penn., was born in the town of Charlemont, Franklin County, Mass., July 1, 1806. His parents were Robert Young, Esq., and Mrs. Lydia Young (whose maiden name was Gould). The family removed from Charlemont, Mass., to French Creek, Harrison Co. (now Upshur), Va., in the year 1811. Loyal being five years old.

After receiving a good English education, he entered Jefferson College, when about twenty years of age, or in 1826. He graduated at Jefferson College in the fall of 1828. After teaching a year a private family school in Virginia, he entered the Western Theological Seminary (at Allegheny) and was licensed to preach the Gospel, by the Presbytery of Ohio, on June 21, 1832. John C. Lowrie, of Butler (now Dr. Lowrie, of New York City), was licensed at the same time.

On the 25th of October, 1832, he was married to Miss Margaret P. Johnston, daughter of Rev. Robert Johnston, who spent the first years of his ministry in Scrubgrass, Butler Co., Penn., and who was the first pastor of that church.

Loyal and Margaret Young had seven sons and one daughter, all of whom, with the parents, are still living, and October 25, 1882, was the golden wedding.

Mr. Young's first sermon in Butler was August 29, 1832. In the summer of 1833, he preached as a candidate, and was ordained and installed as pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Butler on the 4th day of December, 1832, by the Presbytery of Allegheny.

He continued pastor of the church of Butler nearly thirty-five years, and during that time, as we see in his farewell sermon, delivered May 10, 1868, preached in the bounds of the congregation 2,920 times, besides delivering addresses at prayer-meetings, funerals and upon other occasions. Elsewhere he delivered during the same period 1,151 sermons, making a total of 4,071. He married 203 couples and baptized nearly 700 infants and about seventy adults. During his ministry, nearly 450 persons united with the church and several revivals of marked interest occurred.

Witherspoon Institute owes its existence more largely to Dr. Young than to any other man. The work of calling the convention which brought the school into existence, of preparing the charter, of raising money and of starting the school, devolved principally upon him. He was its Principal for a considerable period.

In May, 1868, Dr. Young took charge of the churches of French Creek and Buckhannon, in West Virginia. Here, at French Creek, he remained

eight years, when he was called to the pastorate of the First Presbyterian Church of Parkersburg, W. Va. Here he remained five years. He now has charge of the Presbyterian Churches of Winfield, Point Pleasant and Pleasant Flats, in Putnam and Mason Counties, W. Va. The degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by the college of Washington in 1858. Twice he moderated the Synod of Pittsburgh, and once the Synod of Erie. His Presbytery sent him to the General Assembly seven times. His health is still excellent and he preaches every Sabbath Day. He wrote a commentary on the Book of Ecclesiastes, which was published by the Presbyterian Board of Publication in the winter of 1865-66. Four of his sons were soldiers in the Union army, viz., Robert J., Watson J., Torrence F. and James W.

## CHAPTER XVII.

## BUTLER.

Topography—Streams—Coal—The Pioneers—William Keams—Historic Ground—Salt Well—Petroleum as a Medicine—Old Burying Ground—John Pierce—The McKee's—Robert Graham—The Moores—Abraham Fryor and John Buckhart—Later Settlers—Early German Residents—Justices of the Peace—German Reformed Church.

## DESCRIPTION.

**B**UTLER was one of the original thirteen townships of the county erected in 1804, and was about eight miles square. It was subsequently reduced in size and divided for the convenience of the inhabitants into North and South Butler. In 1854, when the entire county was redistricted into townships approximately five miles square, it was reduced to its present limits.

Butler is bounded upon the north by Centre, upon the east by Summit, upon the south by Penn and upon the west by Connoquenessing. The township is drained by the Connoquenessing and its tributaries, chief among the latter being Butcher's Run, Rock Lick Run and Saw-Mill Run; Karnes Branch and Neyman's Branch unite at the eastern border of the township to form the main stream which runs through it from northeast to southwest. Smith's Branch falls into it from the eastern boundary of Butler Borough. The Little Connoquenessing flows through the north-western part of the township, but drains only a very small fraction of its territory.

The surface of the township is for the most part hilly, and the soil varies from a stiff clay to a light sand, being derived for the most part from the Barren measure rocks. The hillsides along the Connoquenessing in this township are, as a rule, too steep to be cultivated, and the country contiguous to the