

Theo. F. Kerr, M.D.

Theo. F. Kerr M.D., was born near Owosco Lake in Cayuga County, New York, May 29, 1846. He was the 5th in a family of 11 children, 4 boys, 7 girls, born to Alexander and Harriet (Hammond) Kerr. His father was born in New Jersey, and was married in Cayuga Co., N. York. Dr. Kerr's brother John F., was in the Civil War, enlisting in 1864, and was killed at Kinston North Carolina, Mar 8, 1865.

Dr. Kerr moved with his parents in 1856 to a farm near Ann Arbor Mich. He attended the city schools, and graduated from the High School, and then the University at Ann Arbor, where he took a degree in literature and art. He then went to California and accepted the chair of teacher of Latin and mathematics in the Military Academy at Oakland, which position he filled from 1867 to 1871, and during the next year he was principal of one of the public schools of Buffalo New York. Here he began the study of medicine in the office of Dr. Thomas Lathrop, a prominent physician of that city, and then returned to Ann Arbor and took a course of lectures, and afterward pursued his studies in the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City, and later in the Columbia University, graduating in the medical

## Dr. Kerr

of 1874. He then began the practice of his profession in Detroit Michigan, and continued there until he went to North Dakota in the early '80's. He located in Cooperstown before the railroad was built to that locality, and experienced many hardships in the practice of his profession through that country. On one occasion he traveled about 25 miles to visit a sick man, and upon his arrival found him in a dying condition in a sod hut, where Dr. Kerr was storm bound 3 days. The patient died, and a young man who was his partner, and the Doctor were forced to stay with the corpse and subsist on meager rations 3 days before the storm broke sufficiently for the Doctor to return. When he did he made the journey through a foot of snow the entire distance.

Dr. Kerr was married, in 1874, to Miss Eliza Hill, in Ann Arbor Mich. She was born in Washtenaw Co. Mich, a daughter of Fitch and Martha Hill, Mr. Hill was a farmer, contractor and builder.

Two children, Kenneth and Theo, both deceased, were born to Dr. & Mrs. Kerr.

Dr. Kerr was the 1st Co. Supt of Schools and held that office until 1894.

Bibliog: Condensed from Compend. of Hist + Bio. 1900, p 409-410.