THOMAS W. BLATCHFORD

Was born July 20, 1794, in Topsham, Devonshire, England. His father removed to the United States, and subsequently, in 1804, took charge of the united congregations of Presbyterians of Lansingburgh and Waterford, N. Y. In 1812 he attended medical lectures in the "new Institution," New York, of which Dr. Nicholas Homeyn was president. In November, 1818, he matriculated at the "College of Physicians and Surgeons," and in 1814 he was appointed resident physician of the New York State prison at Greenwich. In 1815 he visited Europe, and while there he attended in London two courses of medical lectures at the United Schools of Guy's and St. Thomas's hospitals, given by Sir Astley Cooper and Professor Cline. In 1816 he returned to New York, where he graduated at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1817. After practicing for some time in New York, he removed to Jamaica, L. I., where he practiced for nine years. After the death of his father he removed to Troy in May, 1826. When he first came to Troy, he was not as successful as was expected by those who induced his coming, as the best practice of the city was monopolized by three or four popular physicians.

It is said that he even thought of returning to his former home on Long Island. He soon, however, entered upon an extensive and lucrative practice, and became known as one skilled in diagnosis, and whose counsel was sought after by the younger physicians of his day.

His habits of early rising, industry, and methodical arrangement of his daily duties permitted him to accomplish a great amount of work in his lifetime. He was much interested, while he lived, with the affairs of Marshall Infirmary. The lunatic asylum connected with this institution was originated by him. At his death he left his medical library of over six hundred volumes to the infirmary, and which gift is now known as "the Blatchford Medical Library of the Marshall Infirmary."

He was for seven years connected with the board of education of this city, and, with the exception of seventeen months of that time, was its presiding officer. In 1862 the Fourth Ward school was named the "Blatchford School," in honor of his eminent services in the cause of public education in this city. He was also for several years a trustee of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and of the Troy Female Seminary. In 1828 he became a member of the Presbyterian Church, and in 1839 was ordained a ruling elder, which position he held to the end of his life. The following incident is related of his habitual attendance on religious services on Sunday:

"A physician of Troy, a member of one of the churches, was admonished by the authorities of his church for his uniform absence from public worship. He excused himself upon the ground of professional duty. He was asked why it was that Dr. Blatchford could almost always attend church, and he almost never. He replied that he could not understand it, for he knew that his practice was not as large as that of Dr. Blatchford's. He was accordingly advised to call upon the
doctor and learn his secret. He did so; and upon stating
the object of his call, Dr. B. said to him, "You always
attend your consultations, don't you, doctor? And you
aim to be always punctual to your appointments, don't you?"
"Oh yes," he replied. "Well," said Dr. Blatchford, "I have
always a consultation with my Divine Master at ten o'clock
every Sabbath morning, and I make all my arrangements to
meet my appointment."

Dr. Blatchford was the author of a number of excellently
prepared papers and essays: "Inaugural Dissertation on Feigned
Diseases," 1817; "Letter on Corsets," 1823; "Letters to
Married Ladies," 1825; "Homoeopathy Illustrated," 1842;
"Equivocal Generation," 1844; "Inaugural Address before the
Medical Society of the State of New York;" "Two Cases of
Hydrophobia," 1854; "Report of Hydrophobia," 1856; by which
he was made extensively and favorably known to the profession,
not only in this country, but also in Europe; and "Report on
Rest and the Abolition of Pain as Curative Remedies," 1856.

He died of typhoid pneumonia, Jan. 7, 1866, and was
buried in Oakwood cemetery.

History of Rensselaer Co., N. Y. 139
Nathaniel Bartlett Sylvester
Everts & Peck
Philadelphia
1880.
THOMAS WINDEATT BLATCHFORD

(1794-1866), prominent practitioner of Troy, N. Y., was born in Topsham, Devonshire, England, July 20, 1794. His father, the Rev. Samuel Blatchford, removed to this country in the year 1795, when Thomas was an infant and first settled in Bedford, New York. Blatchford's early studies were prosecuted under the direction of his father, in Lansingburgh Academy, of which his father was the principal. In October, 1810, he began to study medicine in the office of Dr. John Taylor, of Lansingburgh, and in November, 1813, matriculated at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York City. In August, 1814, he was appointed resident physician, for one year, of the New York State Prison, in Greenwich Street, then a suburb of New York. At the end of the year he received an offer to travel in Europe as physician to a gentleman, a purser in the United States Navy, who during the War of 1812 had become suddenly wealthy and thereby lost his mind. The patient attempted to kill Blatchford, so upon landing at Liverpool the engagement was concluded, and he went to London, where he attended two courses of lectures at the united schools of Guy's and St. Thomas' Hospitals, given by Sir Astley Cooper and Prof. Cline. In the spring of 1816 he returned to New York, and after attending another full course of lectures at the college at which he had previously matriculated, he was graduated in 1817. Immediately after receiving his degree he practiced at No. 85 Fulton Street, New York, for one year. At this time he was induced to removed to Jamaica, Long Island, and in February, 1819, married Harriet, the daughter of Thomas Wickes, a descendant of one of the original patentees of the town of Huntington in 1666.

After nine years in Jamaica he had a severe fever; on recovering he moved to Troy in 1828.

Dr. Blatchford was favorably known by his published papers and essays, which are as follows: "Inaugural Dissertation on Feigned Diseases," 1817; "Letters on Corsets," 1823; a work entitled "Letters to Married Ladies," about 1825; "Homeopathy Illustrated," 1842; "Report on Hydrophobia," 1856, read before the American Medical Association and published in their transactions; "Report on Rest and the Abolition of Pain, as Curative Remedies," 1856, besides many papers contributed to medical journals.

He kept a meteorological journal from the year 1824 and the testimony of his record on these subjects was regarded as conclusive in the community. Once someone in the West had forwarded in the winter a quantity of apples in barrels. Upon their arrival in New York they were found to have been frozen. The owner sued the forwarding company for damages alleging that the apples had been left out, and exposed to injury by freezing, on a certain night. The doctor's register, produced in court, proved that it
did not freeze on that night, and the amount was saved to the company.

Dr. Blatchford was connected with the Marshall Infirmary of Troy from its foundation. The Lunatic Asylum connected with the infirmary was projected by him, and will remain as a monument of his tender regard for the unhappy ones who shall be its occupants in the long future. He left his valuable medical library of over six hundred volumes to the institution.

His reputation as a man of science was recognized in the degree of A. M. by Union College in 1815; in his election as fellow of the Albany Medical College in 1834; president of the Rensselaer County Medical Society 1842-3; president of the Medical Society of the State of New York, 1847; corresponding fellow of New York Academy of Medicine, 1847; vice-president of the American Medical Association, 1856; honorary member of the Medical Society of New Jersey, 1861, and of the Medical Society of Connecticut, 1862.

The doctor's labors in relieving the wants of those who suffered by the great fires of 1862 were so severe that his health was thereby seriously impaired. His last illness was an attack of "typhoid pneumonia" which continued for fifteen days, when, having finished his work, he fell asleep on the seventh of January, 1866.

Dictionary of American Medical Biography
Kelly & Burrage
p. 112
Appleton, New York 1928
THOMAS WINDEATT BLATCHFORD


Their children were:

1. Thomas Wickes, b. at Jamaica, Feb. 20, 1830; married Nov. 9, 1847, Jane Bunce, daughter of Jeffrey Smith, of Brooklyn; died Aug. 23, 1863. Their child: Amy, b. at Great Barrington, Mass., Sept. 4, 1855
2. Samuel T., b. at Jamaica, Mar. 4, 1822; married Dec. 27, 1848, Agnes Euphemia, daughter of Edward Leadbetter, of New York. Four children.
3. John T., b. at Jamaica, Jan. 18, 1825.
4. George Edgcumbe, b. at Jamaica, Jan. 26, 1825; died at Troy, Oct. 5, 1825.
5. Harriet Wickes, b. at Jamaica, May 8, 1828; d. at Troy August 18, 1828.
6. Harriet Wickes, b. at Troy, Feb. 21, 1829.

The Blatchford Memorial  p. 99
New York
1871.
1815 Thomas W. Blatchford.

 Married: On Tuesday evening, at Jamaica, (L.I.), by the Rev. Henry R. Weed, Thomas W. Blatchford, M.D., to Miss Harriet Wickes, only daughter of Thomas Wickes, esq., of that place. —New-York Advertiser, Feb. 4, 1819 (Thurs.)
THOMAS WINDEATT BLATCHFORD

Thomas Windeatt Blatchford was born in Topsham, Devonshire, England, on the twentieth of July, 1794. His father, the Rev. Samuel Blatchford, removed to this country in the year 1796, when Thomas was an infant, and first settled in Bedford, New York.

Blatchford's early studies were prosecuted under the direction of his father, in Lansignburgh Academy, of which his father was the principal. In October, 1810, he began to study medicine in the office of Dr. John Taylor (Union 1805), of Lansignburgh, and in November, 1813, matriculated at the College of Physicians and Surgeons. In August, 1814, he was appointed resident physician, for one year, of the New York State Prison, in Greenwich Street; then a suburb of New York. At the end of the year he received an offer to travel in Europe as a physician to a gentleman a purser in the United States Navy, who during the War of 1812 had become suddenly wealthy and thereby lost the balance of his mind. But the patient attempted to kill Blatchford, so upon landing at Liverpool the engagement was concluded, and he went to London, where he attended two courses of lectures at the united schools of Guy's and St. Thomas' Hospitals, given by Sir Astley Cooper and Prof. Cline. In the spring of 1816 he returned to New York, and after attending another full course of lectures at the college at which he had previously matriculated, he graduated in 1817. His graduating thesis was upon "Feigned Diseases," being the result of his observations and experience during his residence as physician at the New York State prison. Immediately after receiving his degree he practiced at No. 85 Fulton Street, New York, for one year. At this time he was induced to move to Jamaica, Long Island, and in February, 1819, married Harriet, the daughter of Thomas Wickes, a descendant of one of the original patentees of the town of Huntington in 1666.

After nine years, in consequence of arduous duty, he was attacked with fever which brought him very low, and in 1828 he began practice in Troy.

Dr. Blatchford was favorably known by his published papers and essays, which are as follows: "Inaugural Dissertation on Feigned Diseases," 1817; "Letter on Corsets," 1823; a work entitled "Letters to Married Ladies," about 1825; "Homeopathy Illustrated," 1842; "Report on Hydrophobia," 1856, read before the American Medical Association and published in their transactions; "Report on Rest and the Abolition of Pain, as Curative Remedies," 1856, besides many papers to the medical and surgical journals.

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The doctor's labors in relieving the wants of those who suffered by the great fires of 1862 were so severe that his health was thereby seriously impaired. His last illness developed itself into an attack of "typhoid pneumonia" which continued for fifteen days, when, having finished his work, he fell asleep on the seventh of January, 1866.

Transactions of the Medical Society of N. Y., Albany, 1866.
(Dr. Stephen Wickes)

FROM American Medical Biographies
Howard A. Kelly and Walter L. Burrage
A.M., M.D., son of the Rev. Samuel and Alicia Blatchford, was born in Topham, Devonshire, England, in 1794. In infancy he came with his parents to America, they residing first in Bedford, N.Y., and shortly afterward at Greenfield Hill, Conn., to which place his father was called to fill the pulpit rendered vacant by Dr. Dwight's acceptance of the presidency of Yale College. We next find him preparing for college in the academy at Lansingburgh, N.Y., of which his father had charge, in connection with his labors as pastor of the United Presbyterian churches of Waterford and Lansingburgh. In October, 1810, he began the study of medicine in the office of Dr. John Taylor of Lansingburgh. In November, 1811, he entered Union College for special courses. In 1812 entered the office of Dr. Samuel McCaulay, of New York. In the winter of 1812-13 attended his first course of lectures in the "New Institution," Dr. Nicholas Romeyn being its president. In 1813 he matriculated at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, graduating in 1817. During this time he also visited Europe, and attended two courses of lectures given by Sir Astley Cooper and Professor Clime, at the united schools of Guy's and St. Thomas' hospitals. He then practiced for a year in New York, nine years in Jamaica, Long Island, and removed to Troy in 1828. Here he engaged in a most extensive and successful practice for a period of more than forty years. Dr. Blatchford always cherished a high estimate of the dignity of his profession, and ardently engaged in its duties from higher motives than those of avarice and ambition. He appreciated its claims, and conscientiously met its manifold obligations. Dr. Blatchford was favorably known by his essays and papers published separately, besides many articles for newspapers, and papers contributed to medical and surgical journals. He was president of the New York State Medical Society; member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; Vice-President of the American Medical Society; Corresponding Fellow of the Academy of Sciences, St. Louis, Mo.; Fellow of the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, and subsequently President of the Alumni of that Institution. He was also an honorary member of the State Medical Societies of Connecticut and New Jersey. In 1815 he received the honorary degree of A.M. from Union College. In contemplating the religious life and character of Dr. Blatchford, we find much that is deeply interesting and instructive. Favored with the unspeakable blessing of a pious parentage, special attention was given to his religious training. The great truths of the gospel were kept constantly and prayerfully in contact with his understanding and conscience, not only in their practical bearing upon his spiritual interests for time and eternity. He was
known everywhere, in the highest style of character which any man can possess, that of a true christian. The many acts of beneficence he performed were prompted by the combined influence of feeling and duty. The circle of his benevolence embraced the whole family of man. To a life thus marked by consecration to God, and unceasing devotion to the welfare of his fellow men, it is natural to anticipate a corresponding close. And in this we are not disappointed. The first decided inroad made upon his physical strength occurred in the spring of 1862, caused by his incessant labors to relieve the wants of those who suffered by the great fire, which at that time devastated so large a portion of our city. But notwithstanding the gradual failure of his powers, from that time onward his activity and energy were such that he did not give up any of his duties, nor relax his usual diligence and promptness in his professional services. On December 23d, 1866, he was prostrated by an attack of intermittent fever, which resulted in typhoid pneumonia. After lingering fifteen days, the gentle spirit of the faithful servant of God was released from the sphere of his earthly labors.

In February, 1849, he married Harriet Wickes, daughter of Thomas Wickes, of Jamaica, Long Island, who with two sons and a daughter survive him.

He was Elder of the Second Presbyterian church, was connected with the Marshall Infirmary, was a member of the Board of Education for seven years, was a trustee of the Troy Female Seminary, and was a trustee of the Institute from 1854 till the time of his decease, January 7th, 1866.

Biographical Record  p. 64
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Henry B. Nason, Editor.
Troy. 1887.