

# Brandur Jonsson Brandson

Born in July 1873 in Iceland, he came with his mother to America in 1880 when he was six years old. His father, Jon Brandson, immigrated to America in 1878, first to Lyon County, Minnesota and then traveling to the Gardar, ND area in 1880.

Dr. Brandson grew up in Gardar Township, and showed early signs of exceptional leadership. His undergraduate work was taken at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minnesota. During his vacations, he earned money by teaching in the Icelandic communities in his neighborhood. Although young, he was an outstanding teacher. His medical work was taken at Manitoba Medical College in Winnipeg where he graduated with high honors. He later did graduate work in London and Vienna. He practiced for three years in Edinburg, ND (just south of Gardar) and moved to Winnipeg in 1905 where he served his profession with great distinction. He was the Chief Surgeon of the Winnipeg General Hospital. He was Professor of Surgery at the University of Manitoba from 1927 to 1934.

B. J. Brandson died in 1944. The *Winnipeg Free Press* said: "He will be mourned by the medical profession and remembered for what he was – one of Manitoba's outstanding surgeons. But he will be mourned and remembered too by the thousands of ordinary citizens who passed through his hands in time of crisis and who were made well by a man who was something more than a skilled surgeon in an operating room and something more than a family physician. He was a friend and a family counselor as well."

Another Winnipeg surgeon, Dr. Neil John MacLean, paid the following tribute to him: "Dr. Brandson was a great man physically and mentally. I can see him now, an imposing figure in the corridors and wards of the Winnipeg General Hospital, with his genial bow and gracious smile. To all, whether his friends or his patients, he extended a warm hand of friendship. His unperturbed bearing inspired confidence in patients and nurses alike. He had the delightful faculty of always putting the Golden Rule into practice. When one tries to evaluate the qualities that make up a good citizen, it would be hard to find one who exemplified these attributes better than Dr. Brandson."

Iceland recognized his contributions and the University of Iceland gave him a degree of M.D. honoris causa in 1930 and in 1939, he was made Grand Knight Commander of the Order of the Falcon.