

**HISTORY**  
OF  
**The Great Northwest**  
AND ITS  
**MEN OF PROGRESS.**

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A Select List of Biographical Sketches and Portraits of  
**The Leaders in Business, Professional, and  
Official Life.**

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**EDITED BY C. W. G. HYDE AND WM. STODDARD.**

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HISTORY  
OF  
THE GREAT NORTHWEST.

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# HISTORY OF THE GREAT NORTHWEST.

By C. W. G. HYDE.

## THE GREAT NORTHWEST DEFINED.



THE expressions "The Northwest," and "The Northwestern States," convey to the minds of most people an idea that is vague, undefined, and therefore unsatisfactory. Before attempting to enter upon the history of this region, it will be well to get our bearings and to know definitely what territory is included in the great Northwest whose history is here set forth.

The Northwest Territory, as the term was understood at the close of the eighteenth century, included the northern portion of the territory ceded to the United States by Great Britain in 1783 not forming part of the thirteen original states. This territory was bounded on the north by the Great Lakes, on the south by the Ohio river, and on the west by the Mississippi. It embraced the present states of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin and Illinois, as well as that part of Minnesota lying east of the Mississippi river. The Northwest Territory was at that time an appropriate designation for the country to which it was applied, for it was the most northerly and westerly portion of the domain of the United States, and was, moreover, set off by a natural boundary—the Ohio river—from the eastern and southern parts of the new nation. The popular conception of the Northwest was recognized by congress in the enactment of the famous ordinance of 1787 or—to quote the text—"Ordinance for the Government of the Territory of the United States Northwest of the River Ohio." In this ordinance our fathers struck the keynote of liberty whose vibrations awakened a responsive chord in every American heart—a chord that was for seventy years turned into discord by the

hum of the cotton-gin, but which has developed into a song whose harmonies compel the world to stop and listen.

It is quite pertinent to our topic to dwell for a moment upon this remarkable document, for it laid down those fundamental principles on which the government of the later Northwest has been built. "In truth," says Theodore Roosevelt, in "The Winning of the West," "the ordinance of 1787 was so wide-reaching in its effects, was drawn in accordance with so lofty a morality and such far-seeing statesmanship, and was fraught with such weal for the nation, that it will ever rank among the foremost of American state papers, coming in that little group which includes the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, Washington's Farewell Address, and Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and Second Inaugural. It marked out a definite line of orderly freedom along which the new states were to advance. It laid deep the foundation for that system of widespread public education so characteristic of the republic and so essential to its healthy growth. It provided that complete religious freedom and equality which we now accept as part of the order of nature, but which were then unknown in any important European nation. It guaranteed the civil liberty of all citizens. It provided for an indissoluble union, a union which should grow until it could relentlessly crush nullification and secession; for the states founded under it were the creatures of the nation, and were by the compact declared forever inseparable from it."

The great Northwest, as the phrase is now understood, comprises the two northernmost tiers of states lying west of lakes Michigan and Superior. These states are

## HISTORY OF THE GREAT NORTHWEST.

Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Washington and Oregon.

### OUR TITLE TO THE NORTHWEST.

Wisconsin and that part of Minnesota lying east of the Mississippi were acquired from Great Britain by the Treaty of Paris, September 3, 1783. This is the treaty by which the Revolutionary War was formally terminated. In 1803, the United States purchased the Province of Louisiana from France, paying her \$15,000,000. The northwestern states since formed from the territory thus purchased are Minnesota west of the Mississippi, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, and the portions of Montana and Wyoming drained by the Missouri and its tributaries. Washington, Oregon, Idaho and the western portions of Montana and Wyoming—the portions lying west of the main range of the Rocky Mountains—originally formed part of the vast territory known as Oregon. The title of the United States to this territory is seven-fold: First—It was discovered in 1792 by Robert Gray, captain of a Boston ship, the *Columbia*. He sailed several miles up a magnificent river never before navigated by white men, and, naming it after his ship, landed and took possession of the country it drained, in the name of the United States; second, the territory of Louisiana, whose boundaries were very loosely defined in the treaty of 1803, was held by some to extend to the Pacific. Assuming this view to be correct, the country became ours by purchase; third, the exploration of the *Columbia* river and its tributaries in 1805-6 by Captains Lewis and Clarke; fourth, the actual settlement of Astoria, at the mouth of the *Columbia* river, in 1811, by the Astor Fur company. The seal of nationality was placed upon this enterprise by the presence of a United States naval officer who commanded the leading vessel in the enterprise; fifth and sixth, the title of the United States to the Oregon country was further strengthened by treaties with Spain (1818) and Mexico (1828), which were somewhat in the nature of quit-claim deeds. In these

treaties the two countries expressly relinquished their claims to the territory in question, leaving Great Britain as the only adverse claimant; seventh, on July 17, 1846, a treaty was signed by which the parallel of forty-nine degrees north latitude was fixed as the boundary between the British possessions on the north and the United States on the south. It is from the territory thus acquired that the states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho and portions of Montana and Wyoming were formed.

### THE ABORIGINES.

When, in 1492, Christopher Columbus landed on the island of Guanahani, he supposed he had reached the "land where the spices grow," or the Indies. He therefore, in all his accounts of his voyages, spoke of the dusky natives as Indians, that is, natives of the Indies. When the error made by Columbus was discovered, it was too late to change the name either of the locality or of the people. The former was therefore called the West Indies, a name which applied collectively to the various islands and groups of islands which separate the Caribbean sea from the Atlantic ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. This name distinguished it from the spice regions in southeastern Asia, the discovery of a western sea-route to which had been the object of Columbus' voyage, and which were thereafter known as the East Indies.

The investigations of ethnologists point to an Asiatic origin of the Indians of America. A very high authority reaches the conclusion that the aborigines in the extreme north reached this continent by crossing Bering strait, while others came to our eastern shores by an overland route which existed in the Pleistocene epoch. The theory of Asiatic origin is based upon resemblances of color, skull measurements, and other physical characteristics which appear to identify the Indians with the great Mongolian division of the human race. On the other hand, the philological argument leads to the conclusion that the aboriginal inhabitants of America were of American origin. "Philologists have agreed," says Terry,

1854. His father, Henry Hughes, was born in Monmouthshire, South Wales, in 1833, and came to this country in 1851, settling at Minersville, where, two years later, he was married to Eliza Davis, a native of Cardiganshire, Wales, who had emigrated to this country the same year as her husband. Mr. Hughes moved with his family to Minnesota in October, 1855, and settled on a farm in the present town of Cambria, Blue Earth county, and was one of the first settlers in that section of the state. He retired from his farm in 1889, removing to Mankato, where he now resides in fairly good circumstances. He always took an active interest in all matters of a public nature, has been a leader in local affairs, and held a number of town and school offices. The subject of our sketch enjoyed the best educational advantages the country schools afforded, and when twenty years of age went to Northfield and entered the preparatory department of Carleton College, graduating in the regular classical course in 1880, with first honors. He then took up the study of law in the office of the late Judge F. H. Waite, of Mankato, Minn., and was admitted to the bar in 1882. He formed a partnership with Mr. M. Z. Willard in 1884 under the firm name of Willard & Hughes, which continued until 1887. For the past ten years his brother, Evan Hughes, has been associated with him, but the firm name has been "Thomas Hughes." He enjoys an extensive practice and has the respect of his clients and fellow-members of the bar in a high degree. He has been attorney for the First National Bank of Mankato, the Mankato Mutual Building and Loan Association, and several other corporations, for a number of years. During his practice he has handled a large number of important cases, and with very good success. In 1896 he was elected county attorney of Blue Earth county and was re-elected by a large majority in 1898. His record in that office is acknowledged to have been second to none in the state. In politics he has always been a Republican and a consistent supporter of Republican principles, taking an active interest in the party's welfare. He has been identified with every pub-



THOMAS HUGHES.

lic enterprise tending to build up and promote the best interests of his adopted city, and has been a director of the Mankato Mutual Building and Loan Association for a number of years. He is also a member of and on the board of directors of the Mankato Board of Trade, is a director of the Y. M. C. A. of that city, and is connected with a number of other associations. The only fraternal organization with which he is connected is the Knights of Pythias. He is a member of the Congregational Church of Mankato, a trustee and deacon, and superintendent of the Sunday school. November 25, 1885, he was married to Miss Alice O. Hills, daughter of Amos B. and Sybil Hills, of Faribault, Minn. Their union has been blessed with two children, Burton E. and Evan Raymond. Mrs. Hughes is a graduate of Carleton College in the class of 1881.

WINTERER, Herman.—North Dakota has afforded boundless opportunities to the young man of pluck and determination. Success, however, was not to be achieved without a struggle, and the ambitious youth who took up his residence in the Territory



HERMAN WINTERER.

of Dakota in the early days had his share of adversity and misfortune. When the subject of this sketch first settled in the Flickertail state and hung out his shingle he had neither money nor books nor experience as a lawyer. He did, however, possess a faculty for persevering and the prominence he has attained in the legal profession is due largely to this particular part of his make-up. Mr. Winterer was born in Philadelphia, Pa., January 1, 1857. His father was a native of Germany, and was born and reared in Ettenheim, Grand Duchy of Baden, and here he learned the trade of a locksmith. He came to the United States when a young man and located in Philadelphia, where he secured employment in a locomotive shop. He was married here to Francisca Kohlirath, who was also a native of Ettenheim. In 1858 they migrated west and settled in Sibley county, Minn. The Sioux uprising in the early sixties compelled the family to move away for a time from the claim on which they had settled, and in 1867 Mr. Winterer purchased another farm at Lake Prairie, in Nicollet county. He died in 1889, his wife's death preceding his about seven years, leaving a large family surviving them. Her-

man's early education was received in the district schools, but the instruction afforded was crude in its character. The desire of the parents to give their children the best education at their command inspired the lad to make diligent use of his time after the evening chores were done. He taught school and later he attended the high school at Le Sueur, Minn. In 1877 he entered the State University, and after completing the four year's work at this institution, took up the law course in the University of Iowa, graduating in the class of 1882. The following spring he went to Dakota and located at Valley City, where he began the practice of his profession. A few months later he formed a partnership with Judge Seth Mills. Mr. Mills died shortly afterwards, however, and Mr. Winterer continued his practice alone until his younger brother, Edward, became a partner and the law firm of Winterer & Winterer was established. Ever since his residence in Dakota Mr. Winterer has taken an active interest in politics. Although not a partisan, he has generally associated himself with the Democratic party. He was first an applicant for political honors in 1890, when he aspired to the office of state's attorney for Barnes county, and was elected by a two-thirds vote of the county against strong opposition. He was re-elected in 1892, and again in 1894, without opposition. His brother succeeded him in this office at the close of his third term. While serving as state's attorney he successfully conducted a number of important tax cases growing out of the Northern Pacific land grant. Both in 1896 and in 1900 Mr. Winterer was solicited to become a candidate for district judge of his home district, but in each instance declined, feeling that he could not afford to give up his practice for a judgeship. In 1890 he was elected vice president of the First National Bank of Valley City, which position he still holds. He has also served for a number of years on the board of education of that city and is president of the board at the present time. Since his graduation from the Iowa law school Mr. Winterer has been admitted to practice in the state and federal courts of



Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and, on March 28, 1898, was granted the privilege to practice before the supreme court of the United States. He is prominent in Masonic circles, is Eminent Commander of St. Elmo Commandery, No. 5, Valley City, and Warden of the Grand Commandery of the state of North Dakota. He is also a member of El Zagal Temple of the Mystic Shrine of Fargo, also a member of the A. O. U. W. January 1, 1887, he was married to Emma A., daughter of Cyrus G. Myrick, of Le Sueur, Minn. Mr. Myrick is a Vermonter and a graduate of the Norwich Military School and Middlebury College. Although 84 years of age he is able to read Greek and Latin and handle the higher branches of mathematics as easily as though he had just graduated. Mrs. Winterer is a graduate of the Le Sueur High School, and, thereafter, the recipient of special instruction. Three children have been born to them: Florence Nightingale, Francisca Eloise and Hermione Winterer.



EBEN W. MARTIN.

MARTIN, Eben W.—The congressman-elect from South Dakota, Eben W. Martin, might be said to be indigenous to the soil, for he is by birth, training, education and experience a product of the Northwest and a fair example of what its institutions can do for its citizens. Mr. Martin was born in Maquoketa,—a name suggestive of western ozone,—Iowa, in 1855. On his father's side the ancestry is Scotch-Irish, while his mother is of English descent, from a family which settled at Stonington, Conn., in the seventeenth century. Her maiden name was Lois Hyde Wever, and she was the youngest child of Rev. John M. Wever, a Methodist Episcopal minister of the Troy (N. Y.) conference. Mr. Martin's father, James W. Martin, was a traveling salesman in modest financial circumstances, who served in the war of the Rebellion as captain of Company I, Twenty-fourth Iowa Volunteers. Eben W. Martin's great-great-grandfather was a soldier of the Revolutionary war, and served under General Washington. By reason of this military lineage Mr. Martin is a member of the Loyal Legion through his father's

service, and a member of the South Dakota Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution by virtue of his great-great-grandfather's record in the struggle for independence. Mr. Martin's early education was obtained in the district school of Maquoketa, Jackson county, Iowa, and in the grammar and high school of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, where he prepared for college. He entered Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa, and took the classical course, graduating with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in the class of 1879, and three years later received from the institution the degree of Master of Arts. While in college he was, in 1877, president of the Interstate Oratorical Association—a fact which speaks well for his oratorical standing at college. Having chosen law as his profession, he commenced his legal studies in the office of George B. Young, Clinton, Iowa, and then entered the law department of the University of Michigan, and was admitted to the bar in 1880. He was president of the law class of the university while he was a student. In August, 1880, he came to South Dakota and settled at Deadwood when the region was known as the "Black Hills," where he has ever since lived. Here he devoted himself to his profession with