

Pioneers of Iowa and of the Pacific Northwest

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PIONEERS OF IOWA AND OF THE PACIFIC NORTH-
WEST.

BY CORNELIUS H. HANFORD.

In a speech which was delivered in the House of Representatives, March 20, 1912, Speaker Clark referred to Colonel Roosevelt's life of Senator Benton, as authority for saying: "When a thousand Missourians loaded their wives, children and household goods into their wagons and went across the plains, they settled forever the ownership of what was called the Oregon country." To this the Speaker subjoined: "In addition to that, the country has been very largely populated by Missourians. * * * Just why they leave Missouri I cannot tell to save my soul, but they do leave it." The question: Why do people emigrate from the Mississippi valley to occupy the country farther west?—is answered by physical and historical facts.

The entire North American continent is adapted and was designed by the Creator for a better use than to be kept in perpetuity as a hunting preserve. It has been truly said that one Holstein cow is of more value than one hundred spotted deer. The aboriginal inhabitants were not true conservationists, but they were radical abstainers from cutting down forest trees, from extracting minerals from the earth, from molesting natural pastures and from use of the power of flowing water, and so the abundance of natural wealth was for ages reserved until in the fullness of time industrious people capable of using it came forth and laid claim to it.

Then hard conditions of life, the tyranny of rulers and cruelties emanating from the bigotry of religious zealots in Europe, developed the manhood and spirit of the emigrants who first crossed the Atlantic Ocean as heralds of civilization, and afterwards sent forth their descendants to occupy the Ohio valley and thence on to the Mississippi valley and thence

again on to Oregon, and they are still going on to Alaska and to the western provinces of Canada, impelled by the force of attraction, the invisible force akin to the law of gravity.

By this I mean American pioneers were especially endowed with strength and courage adapting them to the task of subjugating the wilderness. The country was adapted to invite and reward the exertion of their energy, and it was in obedience to natural law that they struggled and triumphed in founding new States, so long as wise statesmanship controlled the national policy in a way to permit the use of land, and timber, and minerals, and water, by those for whose use God created them.

American pioneers were keen to avail themselves of opportunities to acquire land, and whether farmers, artisans or professional men, the majority always secured titles to the maximum quantity obtainable at the lowest cost, so that, on an average, the public domain was distributed at the average ratio of one-quarter section for each head of a family. After about twenty years' development of new countries, the value of settlers' homesteads with such improvements as the first owners usually make amounts to from twenty to fifty dollars per acre. Many of them take advantage of opportunities to sell out and re-locate further west, because they can secure land equal in quantity and quality to their first holdings and have a surplus of cash. Within the last decade, faddists, greedy to milk the west, have declaimed against the policy vindicated by magnificent results, declaring that the nation has been robbed by land grabbers. They propose to restrict the further appropriation of the public domain for beneficial use in a way that will add to the national revenue and sacrifice the much greater value to the nation of the products of enterprise. Already the evil consequences of obstructive legislation and executive orders have sent many thousands of good citizens of the United States and their cash capital over the northern boundary to accept the benefit of Canada's liberal policy in respect to the disposition of unused land. The vendees of the first settlers are usually the large farmers who by the use of machinery are able to manage big farms, producing grain

and livestock. With hired hands and machinery they plow in the plowing season and reap in the harvest season, and spend most of their time in cities. In many instances farming districts become depopulated by reason of the large holdings of absentees. Such conditions are to a large extent accountable for the bad roads of the country. As a general rule the big farms will not yield an income exceeding five per cent per annum on a valuation of fifty dollars per acre. Large areas cannot be profitably retained after the land becomes more valuable when sold in small tracts. By the application of scientific principles of husbandry an individual owner of a small farm, personally managed, can get a larger cash income from it than a tract many times larger can be made to yield without the aid of science. As the population of the country increases there is a corresponding increase in the demand for land and advancement of its price. This has the tendency to compel the large land owners to subdivide and sell, and stimulates immigration into localities where good land can be purchased by thrifty homeseekers.

By the census reports it appears that Iowa did not have a larger population in 1910 than it had ten years prior. But it is a good State. The farmers who are not shiftless are wealthy. Present tendencies to make country life attractive by improving the highways and making better social conditions and by the introduction and maintenance of model schools in rural districts, must inevitably bring into the State in the next ten years, large numbers of excellent citizens who will be content to live on farms, or if there is not a large immigration, emigration from the State will be checked and the native sons and daughters will increase the number of permanent loyal inhabitants of the Hawkeye State.

My grandfather, Abraham Levering Holgate, and my father, Edward Hanford and three of his brothers emigrated from Ohio and settled in Van Buren county, Iowa, about the time of the organization of Iowa Territory. My parents were married in 1845 and I was born in 1849. My grandfather was killed accidentally in 1847. In 1852, two of my father's brothers, George and Ebenezer Seymour Hanford,

emigrated to Seattle where my mother's brother, John Cornelius Holgate, had previously located. The next succeeding year my father and his family and my mother's widowed mother, one sister and two brothers and my grandmother's sister and her husband, Henry Clayton, and their children, with several other Iowa families made the journey across the plains. My people tarried for one winter in Oregon and then came to Seattle. The first of the family who caught the "Oregon fever" were my mother and her younger brother, John Cornelius Holgate. That occurred when they were children in Ohio about the time that the missionaries made their first entry into the Oregon country. The children became attracted to Oregon in this way: My mother, to entertain the little fellow, fabricated fairy tales, and having read reports of the Lewis and Clark expedition, she located fairy land in Oregon, and so impressed her brother that he resolved to go to Oregon when he could, and never abandoned that resolution. Once for naughtiness he was admonished that he would have to be a good boy or he could never go to heaven, to which he readily answered, saying that he was not going to heaven but to Oregon, and in the year 1847 when he was a youth under nineteen years of age, he did go to Oregon and made extensive cruises from southern Oregon to Puget Sound. The letters which he wrote to his sister had the effect of confirming the stories she had told him. He was the first white man to explore the region round about the harbor of Seattle. In his imagination he saw visions of the future great city surrounding the bay and fresh water lakes which constitute the matchless harbor, one of the chief factors contributing to the importance of the commercial metropolis now existing, and to the additional importance to be attained when Seattle becomes, as it will, one of the great cities of the world.

It is true that the immigration into the Oregon country of 1843, referred to by Speaker Clark, and of the much larger numbers who crossed the plains in 1844 and 1845, did lead to the speedy determination of joint American and British occupancy of the region comprising the States of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, the Province of British Columbia and

all of the States of Montana and Wyoming west of the Rocky Mountains. But the one thousand were not all Missourians. The Iowa contingent in that movement was considerable in numbers and strong in personality, having for a leader General Morton Matthew McCarver, whose military title was earned as an officer under the Territorial government of Iowa.

The statutes of Iowa preceded the immigration of 1843 in time of arrival in Oregon, having been adopted as the laws of the country by the provisional government organized while the one thousand were en route. One hundred and two men assembled May 2, 1843, and by vote of a majority resolved to organize a local government to exist until the United States government should extend its authority over the country, and a committee was appointed to draft a code of laws. A second convention held July 5, 1843, received and adopted the report of that committee which included the following resolution:

Resolved, That the laws of Iowa, as laid down in the Statute Laws of the Territory of Iowa, enacted at the first session of the Legislative Assembly of said territory, held at Burlington, A. D. 1838-9, published by authority in Dubuque, Russell & Reeves, printers, 1839, certified to be a correct copy by William B. Conway, Secretary of Iowa Territory, be adopted as the laws of this territory.

At the same time temporary officers were chosen who conducted the new government until the first election, which was held in 1844. By creating their own government in advance of the international treaty which terminated the controversy respecting national dominion, and by adopting Iowa laws, Oregon was actually Americanized and became, in a legal sense, the child of Iowa. That body of laws remains to this day the basis of the statutory laws of the State of Oregon, and in the year 1884, when the first civil government was provided for Alaska, Congress extended the laws of Oregon over that country, and in that way the territorial laws of Iowa were made the basis of the laws governing civil and criminal procedure in the first court of Alaska.*

*23 U. S. Statutes, p. 25.

General McCarver was, throughout his lifetime, an active and influential man who merited the distinction of being classed as an empire builder. He was the founder of the city of Burlington, Iowa, and one of the important men in the historic events of Iowa previous to 1843. He was elected to membership in the legislature of the Provisional Government of Oregon, and was the presiding officer of that body during its first and second sessions. His military services in three Indian wars were arduous and efficient. He was one of the founders of Sacramento, the capital city of California, a member of the convention which framed the constitution of that State, and the founder of the city of Tacoma in the State of Washington, where he died April 17, 1875.

Col. William W. Chapman was one of the great men among American pioneers. His military title was conferred by the people of Iowa, who elected him to the office of Colonel of Militia when he was a young man. He was an able lawyer and active in the important affairs of Iowa before and after its severance from Wisconsin, and was its first delegate to Congress. He came to Oregon in 1847 and was for many years one of the most important men of the Pacific Northwest. Even a condensed summary of his services and achievements would lengthen this article beyond permissible limits.

Another eminent man whose name adorns pages of national history as well as the history of Oregon, was George H. Williams. He was a practicing lawyer and a judge in Iowa previous to 1853, when he was appointed to the office of Chief Justice of Oregon Territory. His judicial services in that position were of great value to the young commonwealth. He represented Oregon in the United States Senate and was accorded a high place among national statesmen during the period from 1865 to 1871, when the Union was reconstructed. As a member of the High Joint Commission which provided for the Geneva International Arbitration Commission to adjudicate American claims against the British government for depredations committed by the Cruiser Alabama during the Civil war; and for arbitration by Emperor William of the controversy respecting the boundary between Washington Ter-

ritory and British Columbia, involving the claim of the British government to the San Juan Archipelago, he was an able defender of American rights. He afterwards filled the position of Attorney General in President Grant's cabinet, and so commanded the confidence of the President that when Chief Justice Chase died, his nomination for the high office of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States was sent to the Senate. It was not because he was unworthy, but because of eastern jealousy of the West, that his appointment was not confirmed. Prejudice and meanness were manifested, not only in compelling the withdrawal of his nomination, but in the malignant assaults upon his character made by the same description of individuals who in earlier times traduced George Washington, and in recent times maligned Secretary Ballinger. At the conclusion of his official services at the national capitol, Judge Williams returned to Oregon, where for many years he practiced law and was affectionately styled "Oregon's grand old man." His last official services were in the position of Mayor of the city of Portland; where he died in the month of April, 1910.

Delazon Smith, another emigrant from Iowa, was one of the first senators from the State of Oregon. His colleague was General Joseph Lane, one of the Democratic nominees for Vice President in 1860.

One of the most prominent of the pioneers of Washington Territory, was Colonel William H. Wallace, an able lawyer and an eloquent political campaign orator who emigrated from Iowa, in 1853. He was a member, and Speaker, of the House of Representatives of the Iowa territorial legislature at its first session. President Lincoln appointed him to the office of Governor of Washington Territory, which position he vacated to represent the Territory as its delegate in the 37th Congress, and he was the first Governor and the first delegate to Congress of Idaho Territory. After the conclusion of his last service in Congress he returned to his pioneer home at Steilacoom in the Territory of Washington, where he died February 7, 1879.

Charles Ben. Darwin, an Iowa lawyer and codifier of Iowa statutes, was an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Washington Territory in 1866, 1867 and 1868.

Joseph R. Lewis was practicing law at Washington, Iowa, when he received an appointment as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Idaho Territory. Afterwards he was appointed Associate Justice and later Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Washington Territory, which position he held from 1875 to 1879. In 1884 he became the first President of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce and was a prominent actor in the affairs of Seattle during the succeeding ten years, when he removed to California. He died at Los Angeles, March 19, 1911.

Thomas Burke has been for many years, and still is, one of the foremost among the enterprising and successful men of the Territory and State of Washington. He was my immediate predecessor as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Washington Territory. The period of his boyhood was spent on his father's farm in Iowa.

Frank Allyn came from Keokuk, Iowa, in the year 1887, President Cleveland having appointed him to the office of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Washington Territory, which office he held when the State was admitted into the Union. Then by election of the people he became Judge of the Superior Court of Pierce county. He died at Tacoma.

One of the strongest debaters and ablest members of Congress during the period of ten years from 1899 to 1909 was Francis Wellington Cushman, a representative from the State of Washington. He was born at Brighton, Iowa, May 8, 1867. When twenty-one years of age he was admitted to practice law in Nebraska, and in 1891 emigrated from that State to Tacoma. He died in New York City, July 6, 1909. His brother, Edward E. Cushman, also a native of Iowa, whose home is in Tacoma, is now one of the District Judges of Alaska and has recently been appointed to be my associate as one of the Judges of the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington.

Samuel C. Hyde, now a Justice of Peace in Spokane, Washington, is another Hawkeye lawyer who has represented the State of Washington in Congress as a member of the House of Representatives of the 54th Congress.

Richard A. Ballinger is now practicing law and is the head of one of the leading law firms of Seattle. He was born at Boonesboro, Iowa, in the year 1858. He came to Port Townsend in the State of Washington, soon after the State was admitted into the Union. I gave him an appointment as United States Commissioner, which was his first official position in the State. He was elected to and filled the office of Superior Judge for a term of four years, and afterwards removed to Seattle and was its Mayor from March, 1904, to 1906. He was energetic and thorough in the performance of his duties in that office. He became very popular and was strongly urged by many citizens to succeed himself at the end of his term, but was compelled to decline by the impaired state of his health. At first he declined to accept the appointment of the office of Commissioner of the General Land Office, tendered him by President Roosevelt, but yielded to the urgent solicitation of the President and at considerable financial sacrifice accepted and filled that position for a period of about one year, when he resigned and returned to Seattle. President Taft appointed him Secretary of the Interior, and a more capable and honest man has never been called to be the head of the Interior Department. No man in public life in recent times has ever been more scurrilously abused. The charges made against him, when analyzed, evince an animus on the part of his opponents due to the fact that he deemed the duty of obedience to law to be of higher importance than their desires to carry out policies involving radical changes in the administration of the government. His chief offense, however, as stated by Colonel Henry Watterson, was that he hailed from Seattle. He is a scholar and the author of a valuable text book on community property law, and one of the codifiers of the Washington Statutes.

D. O. Finch came to Seattle from Des Moines, Iowa, and practiced law for several years subsequent to the admission

of Washington as a State. It was said of him that he represented Iowa in Democratic national conventions so many times that it had become a habit of his life to do so.

Among other lawyers who were born in, or practiced in Iowa previous to coming to the State of Washington, I will mention, E. C. Hughes, James A. Kerr, Harold Preston, C. W. Dorr, H. H. A. Hastings, C. E. Patterson, Wilmon Tucker, George F. Vanderveer, William B. Allison, George W. Korte, Max Wardall, Thomas F. Bevington and W. G. McLaren, all of whom are now among the most prominent members of the Seattle bar.

Galusha Parsons and Charles Sumner Fogg were Iowa lawyers who practiced law successfully for several years in Tacoma and died there, each of them leaving sons who were born in Iowa and are now Tacoma lawyers. Among other lawyers who came from Iowa and located in Tacoma, are B. W. Coiner and Thomas Carroll, the latter of whom was one of the Superior Judges for Pierce county for a term of four years.

Thomas G. Newman, a native of Iowa, is one of the successful lawyers of the State of Washington. His home and office are at Bellingham.

General T. I. McKenney, an Iowa soldier of the Civil war, was for several years superintendent of Indian affairs in Washington Territory, and afterwards, until his death, was a business man and influential citizen of Olympia.

Leigh S. J. Hunt, a man now well known the world over, is one of the ablest and most lovable of the men who have been prominent in Iowa and in the State of Washington. Before coming to Seattle he was president of the State Agricultural College of Iowa. In the State of Washington, from 1887 till 1893, he owned the Seattle Daily Post-Intelligencer and was active in many business enterprises. He suffered heavy financial losses during the period of financial stringency subsequent to the year 1893, but afterwards amassed a large fortune by success in the development of mines in Korea, and he has since then been connected with large irrigation and colonization schemes in Egypt.

James Curtis Drake, now deputy clerk of the United States District Court in charge of the office at Tacoma, lived in Iowa when he was a young man, and married one of the daughters of Henry D. Sherman of Cedar Rapids. He was United States Marshal of the District of Washington during the troublesome period between 1893 and 1897. At that time most of the railroads in the State of Washington were in the legal custody of receivers appointed by the United States Circuit Court, and to prevent interference with the operations of trains by the so-called Coxey Army and by strikers in the summer of 1894, was a difficult task which devolved upon the Marshal. He was obliged to call into service in different parts of the State, several hundred special deputies, and in protecting the railroads against threatened violence he displayed the abilities of a general.

Sidney Albert Perkins came to Tacoma from Iowa in the year 1886. His father, Rev. George Goodwin Perkins, was pastor of Congregational churches in Iowa for periods of five years, in Ames, Avoca and Spencer. The young man was poor when he came to Tacoma, but he is now wealthy and influential. He is influential by reason of the strength of his personality and because he controls the power of the press in four cities, being the owner and manager of the *Tacoma Daily Ledger*, *Tacoma Evening News*, *Everett Daily Herald*, *Bellingham Daily Herald*, *Morning American and Reveille*, *Olympia Daily Recorder*, *Morning Olympian*. He is also owner and manager of the Tacoma Engraving Company, Vice-President and Director of the Pacific Coast Gypsum Company, Director of the National Bank of Commerce of Tacoma and Director of the Alaska Pacific Steamship Company. He owns one of the finest business blocks in Tacoma. In 1896 he was Assistant Secretary of the Republican National Committee and was Secretary to Honorable M. A. Hanna, United States Senator of Ohio from 1896 to 1901. That he is public-spirited as well as enterprising is evinced by the fact that he is president of the Washington State Good Roads Association. He is loyal to his own city, but has been heard to say that he makes more money out of business transactions in Seattle than any other place.

Prof. W. H. Wynn, now a citizen of Tacoma and a member of the editorial staff of the *Tacoma Daily Ledger*, was formerly a member of the faculty of the Iowa Agricultural College.

I cannot mention all of the talented and worthy men and women, now respected citizens of the State of Washington who are entitled to have their names perpetuated in the annals of Iowa.

DES MOINES RIVER.

This name was given to this stream by the French traders, and is interpreted, "The Monks' River." The Indian name, however, is "Ke-o-shaw-qua," the origin of which they account for as follows, to-wit: They say, that when their ancestors first explored this country, they found residing on the banks of this river, an old man without family or human companion, and that his name was Ke-o-shaw-qua; hence they called it Keoshawqua's river. The French seem also to have had a view to the same circumstance, when regarding this lonely inhabitant as a recluse, they named it (*La riviere Des Moines*) or "The River of the Monks." It is about 400 miles in length, and averages about 300 yards in width. Its head waters interlock with branches of the St. Peters and in its course it passes diagonally through the neutral ground, and receiving the Raccoon river and many other fine tributary streams, it continues its course through the centre of the new State of Iowa. Its waters are transparent, and its current swift and shallow; it abounds in fish, and springs of excellent water are in many places found in great profusion along its shores. The bottom lands are not very extensive, except in some places, but they are of rich, alluvial soil, covered generally with a heavy growth of forest trees, such as black and white walnut, hackberry, sugar tree, cherry, locust, mulberry, coffee nut, some buckeye, and all the varieties of oak, etc.—*Iowa Advocate and Half-Breed Journal*, (Isaac Galland, editor), Montrose, Iowa, August 16, 1847.

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