

Emerson Hough

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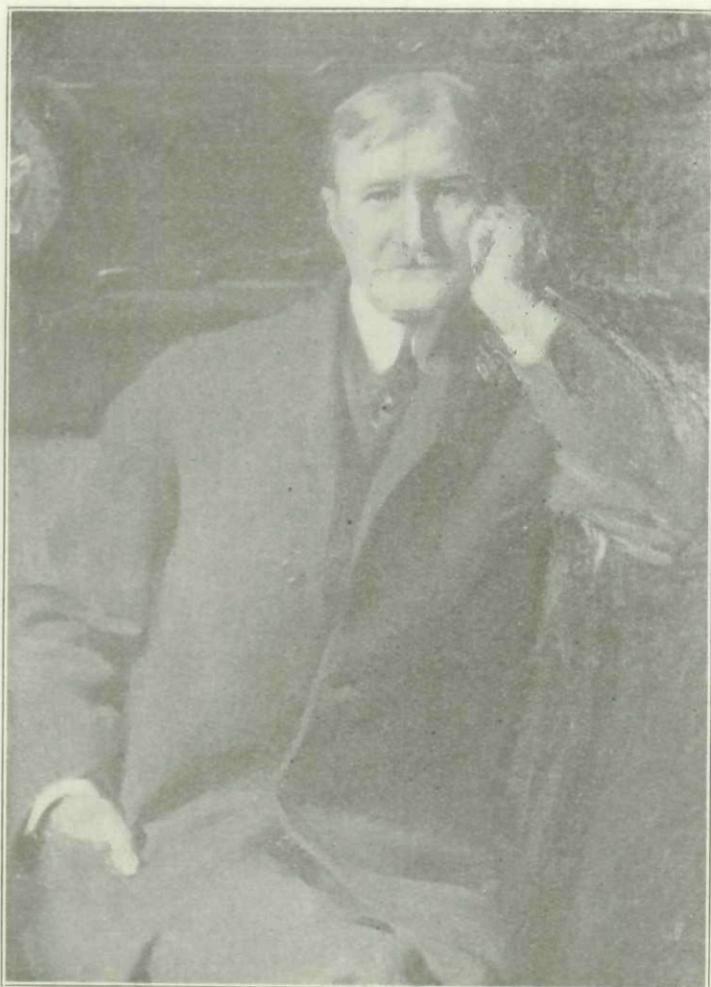
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EMERSON HOUGH

From an oil painting by Louis Betts in the collections of the Iowa Historical, Memorial and Art Department.

NOTABLE DEATHS

EMERSON HOUGH was born at Newton, Iowa, June 28, 1857, and died in Chicago, Illinois, April 30, 1923. Burial was at Galesburg, Illinois, the home of Mrs. Hough's people. His parents were Joseph Bond and Elizabeth Hough. He attended public school, was graduated from Newton High School in 1875, taught country school near Baxter, then entered the State University of Iowa and was graduated with the degree of A. B. in 1880. With thought of entering the profession of the law, he went to New Mexico, was admitted to the bar at Lincoln, the county seat of Lincoln County, and practiced a few years at White Oaks, that county, a town half cow town and half mining town, but the lure of "the great outdoors" appealed to him more than Blackstone. His law practice not proving remunerative and, following his bent, he drifted into writing, principally sketches for the *American Field*, and the *Forest and Stream*. After a brief career in newspaper work at Wichita, Kansas, he removed to Chicago in 1889, taking the Chicago office for *Forest and Stream*, also writing special articles for daily papers. For some years his literary work gave him but scanty support. Not until he wrote "The Mississippi Bubble" in 1902 did real success come to him, although previously he had written "The Singing Mouse Stories," 1895; "The Story of the Cowboy," 1897;¹ and "The Girl of the Halfway House," 1900. Mr. Hough had not only resided in the West from 1882 to 1889, but subsequently he traveled extensively and sojourned there from time to time, so his writings continued to have the color and flavor of the West, and there followed "The Way to the West," 1903; "The Law of the Land," 1904; "Heart's Desire," 1905; "The King of Gee Whiz," 1906; "The Story of the Outlaw," 1906; "The Way of a Man," 1907; "Fifty-four Forty or Fight," 1909; "The Sowing," 1909; "The Young Alaskans," 1910; "The Purchase Price," 1911; "John Rawn—Prominent Citizen," 1912; "The Lady and the Pirate," 1913; "The Young Alaskans in the Rockies," 1913; "Young Alaskans on the Trail," 1914; "The Magnificent Adventure," 1915; "The Man Next Door," 1916; "The Broken Gate," 1917; "Young Alaskans in the Far North," 1918; "The Way Out,"

¹Marking the time and eminence of Mr. Hough's arrival in authority as a writer on plains life, he told us that a letter of Theodore Roosevelt was his landmark. It is as follows:

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON
Theodore Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary

September 30, 1897.

Mr. E. Hough.

My dear Mr. Hough:

I don't know when I have read a book that I like more than your "Story of the Cowboy." I have always been hoping against hope that such a book would be written, but I had about given it up, and there was scant time remaining in which any one could write it. At last, thank Heaven, it has been done! Not only is it to my mind a most fascinating book, but I think it is as valuable a bit of genuine contemporary history as I have yet examined.

Faithfully yours,

(Sig.) THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

1918; "The Sage-brusher," 1919; "The Web," 1919; "The Covered Wagon," 1922; "North of 36," 1923.² The last two were filmed and "The Covered Wagon" was a phenomenal success. In 1921 Mr. and Mrs. Hough presented to the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa their invaluable collections of rare and unique furniture from Colonial and European homes, books and publications Mr. Hough had accumulated, and original manuscripts of most of his writings. No other writer has revealed the life and aspirations of the people of the West, and of the great beauty of that vast region, as has Emerson Hough.

FRANKLIN CARPENTER PLATT was born at Warren, Illinois, August 20, 1854, and died at Waterloo, Iowa, April 28, 1924. His parents were John D. and Julia E. (Carpenter) Platt. He attended public school at Warren, was graduated from the University of Illinois in 1873, and from the Union College of Law in Chicago in 1876, and was that year admitted to the bar. He practiced his profession in Chicago two years, then removed to Dow City, Iowa, practiced five years, and in 1883 removed to Waterloo, where his father had organized the Commercial National Bank. He became the bank's vice-president and legal adviser. He practiced law there until 1898 when he became a judge of the Tenth Judicial District and served ably and acceptably until 1914 when he voluntarily retired. When in Dow City he served the Republican party as chairman of its county central committee and for a time in Waterloo performed a like service for the Republicans of Black Hawk County. He was active in local affairs, was for a time a member of the city council, and was interested in several financial and manufacturing corporations. He was an active member of the Universalist church and was president for six years of the church's state association. In his later years he became quite a traveler and in the year before his death made a trip around the world.

CLINTON S. CROUSE was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania, February 10, 1846, and died at Prescott, Iowa, April 21, 1924. His parents were Jacob and Phoebe Wolverton Crouse. He removed with his parents to Savannah, Illinois, in 1856. In 1867 he removed to Sonora, Illinois, in 1872 to Carthage, Illinois, and in 1875 to Adams County, Iowa. Here he followed farming. In 1899 he was elected representative and was re-elected in 1901, serving in the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth general assemblies.

²Respecting a widely circulated press statement to the effect that Mr. Hough's "North of 36" was based upon a diary of George C. Duffield published in the ANNALS for April, 1924, the fact is that Mr. Hough never saw nor read the diary, but considered our statement of its existence and character at the time he was considering the writing of his book. He accepted the statement as confirmatory of the basic facts of which he wished to make use, but applied his imagination to the direct and hearsay testimony of the plains throughout his composition.—E. R. H.

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