

MONTANA

Its Story and Biography

A HISTORY OF ABORIGINAL AND TERRITORIAL MONTANA
AND THREE DECADES OF STATEHOOD

UNDER THE EDITORIAL SUPERVISION

OF

TOM STOUT

VOLUME I

THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CHICAGO AND NEW YORK
1921

actually exercised a large and beneficent influence in the affairs of several communities. At Billings he is a member of the school board and chairman of the finance committee. Since coming to Montana he has been urged to run for several prominent offices, including that of mayor of Billings and governor of the state. Politically he is a republican. He is one of the prominent members of the First Presbyterian Church, being an elder. He is past chancellor commander of Billings Lodge No. 58, Knights of Pythias, a member of the United Commercial Travelers, is affiliated with Ashlar Lodge No. 29, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Billings Chapter No. 6, Royal Arch Masons, Billings Consistory of the Scottish Rite, and the Eastern Star Lodge. He is also a trustee of the Rotary Club, is president of the Billings City Club and a former member and trustee of the Chamber of Commerce. For two years he was a director of the American Bank and Trust Company of Billings, and is now vice president of the Midland Empire Fair Association and is vice president of the Deaconess Hospital. As a Presbyterian layman he is on the executive commission of the Presbyterian Board of the State of Montana and was a commissioner from Yellowstone Presbytery to the General Assembly at Columbus, Ohio, in 1918. He is treasurer of the anti-saloon league of this state, was a member of the recruiting board of the Young Men's Christian Association for the states of Montana and Wyoming during the World war, and is now a director of the local Young Men's Christian Association. Out of eight western states he was selected one of five in February, 1919, to manage the Young Men's Christian Association work in France, but had to decline the honor. His wife shares with him in his prominence as a church worker.

Mr. Thomas and family reside at 308 North Thirty-third Street. He married at Jamestown, North Dakota, September 16, 1903, Miss Eunice Pauline Somsen, daughter of John and Antonia (Grooteboer) Somsen. Her parents live on a farm at Jamestown, North Dakota. Mrs. Thomas is a graduate of the Lime Springs High School. They have three children: Elizabeth Merle, born July 21, 1904; Mildred Josephine, born June 29, 1910; and Margaret Antonia, born May 26, 1916.

HARRY ALLEN STEVENS has become a factor in the enterprise of the new town of Rapelje as manager of the local business of the McCaul Webster Elevator Company of Minneapolis.

Mr. Stevens was born at Anoka, Minnesota, June 30, 1894. His maternal ancestors came from England to New York in colonial times and were pioneers in the State of Maine. His father, Henry B. Stevens, was born in Maine in 1845 and married in that state Augusta Barker, who was born in Maine in 1854. Henry B. Stevens moved out to Minnesota about 1880 and for a number of years was in the contracting business at Anoka, where he died in 1918. He was a democrat in politics and a member of the Methodist Church. His widow is still living at Anoka. She was the mother of five children: Cora, who is the principal of schools at South Tacoma, Washington; William F., connected with the Soo Line Railroad as a contractor; Mrs. Nanna Johnson, who died at Minneapolis in 1917, wife of a railroad man of that city; Harry Allen; and David, a harness maker by trade, who lives with his mother at Anoka.

Harry A. Stevens graduated from the high school of Anoka in 1912, and he spent one year as a teacher in South Dakota. For eight months he was connected with the General Electric Company

at Coon Rapids, near Minneapolis. His home has been in Montana since 1914, when he located at Broadview, spent a short time in a general merchandise store and then established the Broadview Independent with N. D. Sherman, and was its editor for about six months. He sold his interest to Mr. Sherman and then joined the McCaul-Webster Elevator Company at Broadview as bookkeeper of the local branch. Later he was promoted to yard manager and in 1918 was sent to Rapelje to take the management of the business. The business at Rapelje consists of handling lumber and hardware. The main offices are at Minneapolis and there are twenty-six branches in Montana, and trade relations cover the states of North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska.

Mr. Stevens is a member of the Rapelje Commercial Club, is affiliated with Rapelje Lodge of Masons, and is a Methodist and democrat. April 18, 1915, he married at Broadview Miss Rachel Dunton, daughter of Abram and Luzerne (Lovelace) Dunton. Her parents live on a ranch near Rapelje.

MAURICE J. BREEN. While prepared at the university for the legal profession, Maurice J. Breen has never practiced law except in handling his own interests, and has been primarily a banker. He was one of the organizers and is president of the First National Bank of Bridger.

Mr. Breen was born at Edina in Northeast Missouri May 13, 1875. His parents, John and Margaret (McMahon) Breen, were born in Ireland and came to the United States in 1868, first locating at Boston. The father was a tanner by trade, but in this country always followed farming. He died in 1914 and his wife in 1883. Maurice Breen has four brothers and four sisters living: John, district manager of the Montana Oil Company at Great Falls; Henry, in the hardware and implement business at Ghent, Minnesota; Jerry, a student in the University of Minnesota; James, attending St. Thomas College at St. Paul; Mary, wife of W. C. Ahern, of Taunton, Minnesota; Nellie, unmarried, at home; Sadie, a school teacher at Amiret, Minnesota; and Bessie, who is attending school at St. Paul.

When Maurice J. Breen was five years old his parents left their farm in Missouri and moved to Chicago and soon afterwards went out to the plains of Minnesota. Maurice J. Breen acquired his early education at Marshall, Minnesota, graduating from high school and later entered the law department of the University of Minnesota, graduating in 1901. After graduation he engaged in the grain and banking business at Macoun, Saskatchewan, where he had charge of a bank as cashier from 1901 to 1910. He then returned to Minneapolis and until 1914 was engaged in the real estate business in that city. Mr. Breen came to Montana in 1914, had charge of a real estate and insurance business at Laurel for a time, and since 1915 has been a resident of Bridger. Associated with the late Col. A. L. Babcock, J. W. Chapman and J. O. Higham, he established the First National Bank of Bridger with a capital of \$25,000. It now has a surplus of \$5,000, and the bank is a member of the Federal Reserve system.

Mr. Breen is a democrat in politics but has never been an aspirant for office. His parents were Catholics, he was reared in that faith and his family give the church dutiful allegiance. Mr. Breen married in 1909 Katherine Ahern, a daughter of Garret and Katherine (Brown) Ahern, of Taunton, Minnesota. Her father was a farmer in Minnesota and died in 1896. Her mother is still living on the home farm. Mr. and Mrs. Breen have four chil-

of the movement to organize the congregation of that faith in Wolf Point. For several years he served as trustee and treasurer of the church.

July 4, 1903, Mr. Hanson married Miss Anna K. Ronningen. She was born at Norwegian Grove, Minnesota, March 12, 1874. Her father, Martin Ronningen, a native of Norway and a resident of Norwegian Grove, was the father of nineteen children by two marriages. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Hanson are Agnes Irene, Marguerite Evelyn, Nora Adaline and Charles Anthony.

FRANK L. SHERMAN. With no special advantages of education, wealth or family connections, Frank L. Sherman, of Glasgow, has risen steadily, in a normal manner, to be manager of the Glasgow Flour Mills, one of the important industrial plants of this part of the state. The record of his life and work is not only interesting but is also instructive, for it proves that provided a man works with a definite end in view, is willing to make sacrifices to attain to that end, and is engaged in a line for which his abilities fit him, he can be sure of a fair measure of prosperity.

Frank L. Sherman was born in Columbia County, Wisconsin, July 30, 1865, a son of Heman Sherman, grandson of Amos Sherman, and a member of one of the old families of New York State, of English origin. Amos Sherman was born and reared in the vicinity of Painted Post, New York, and spent his life as a farmer. During the war of 1812 he served his country as a soldier, and was equally faithful in performing his duties as a private citizen. He and his wife had several children, of whom Heman was the eldest.

Heman Sherman was born at Painted Post over 100 years ago, and there he was reared, educated and married. As a young man he began lumbering in New York State, and later came West to Wisconsin, making the trip some years before there was any railroad, and traveling in wagons drawn by oxen. Buying land near Columbus, Wisconsin, he spent many years upon it, but finally retired, located at Columbus, and there died about 1903, aged eighty-seven years, having come of a long lived family, as his father reached the unusual age of ninety-six years. Both he and his wife were strict Presbyterians, and very active in religious work. He was an old-line republican, and frequently refused to vote for a warm personal friend, whose qualities he admired, and whose ability to discharge the duties of the office he did not question, because he was running on the democratic ticket.

Heman Sherman was united in marriage with Laura Loveless, also born at Painted Post, New York, two years later than her husband, and she lived to be eighty-five years of age. They became the parents of the following children: Orlin D., who lives at Columbus, Wisconsin; Elbert R., who lives at Buell, Idaho, is in the office of the sheriff; Lizzie, who is the wife of Charles Oliver, of Winnebago, Minnesota; and Frank L., who is the youngest.

The first seventeen years of his life Frank L. Sherman spent at and about Columbus, Wisconsin, and his only educational advantages were those offered by the country schools, and all the other training he received to fit him for his life's battles was that which came from hard work on his father's farm. He could have remained on the farm, but an agricultural life did not appeal to him, as from childhood he had resolved to enter the business arena, and so at the early age of seventeen he left home and learned telegraphy in the station of the Chicago, Milwaukee & Saint Paul Railroad at Columbus, Wisconsin, and was assigned to a position as an operator of the system in Wisconsin. For the

subsequent twelve years he remained with this road as operator in Minnesota and Nebraska, and then was assigned to duty in the station department at Pembina, Wisconsin, as joint agent of the Milwaukee and Soo lines. From then on until 1906 Mr. Sherman was in that service at different points of the Soo Line, principally at competitive points, but in that year abandoned railroad work, which he has only used as a means to the end, and became secretary of the Chamber of Commerce at Minot, North Dakota. He interested himself in the building of commercial centers and farm communities. In the latter connection he rendered a priceless service by encouraging the erection of silos, and the adoption of different methods for the conservation of food and energy. Mr. Sherman was instrumental in inducing the Russell Milling Company to choose Glasgow for the site of its plant, and influenced other business houses to locate in this city, which, because of his efforts, grew from a population of 3,000 to one of 15,000.

Mr. Sherman became too big a man for the position he was holding, and so resigned, although the association urged him to remain, and became interested in the sale of flour for the Minot Flour Mill Company. His efforts in this direction resulted in the creation of a demand for a plant at Glasgow, primarily to take care of local demands, and with customary energy and efficiency Mr. Sherman went to work to promote this project, and as a result the Glasgow Flour Mill Company came into being. The plant has a capacity of 300 barrels per day, and as this is more than the local demand, shipments are made to the Pacific Coast and Minneapolis and New York.

As was but natural, Mr. Sherman identified himself with the Chamber of Commerce at Glasgow immediately upon coming here, and is now one of its directors, although at first he was its president. He is not a man who can remain idle, even in moments of relaxation, and immediately saw the need for an employment bureau, and as secretary of the association established one, the first to be organized in Northern Montana. During the war period the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, under his direction, took a very active part in all of the campaigns, and infused new life into the people, arousing their patriotism and raising the necessary quotas. He is also one of the members of the executive board of the Milk River Development Association, a unit of the Northern Montana Development Association, the various units of which are responsible for the location and improvement of the Roosevelt Trail through this part of the state.

Frank L. Sherman was married at Paynesville, Minnesota, June 6, 1901, to Miss Marjorie Jones, a daughter of Ronello O. Jones, who was born at Winslow, Maine, in 1849, where he spent his life as a farmer. He and his wife became the parents of one child, Mrs. Sherman, and she came into the world May 7, 1879. She was graduated from the Baptist Seminary at Waterville, Maine, and came to Minnesota in 1899 as a teacher, and it was while she was an educator connected with the city schools of Paynesville that she met and married Mr. Sherman. Mr. and Mrs. Sherman have the following children: Lawrence C., Laura, Leslie O. and Lewis Frank.

In addition to the work he accomplished through the Chamber of Commerce during the war period Mr. Sherman rendered another and very valuable service as chairman of the Valley County Council of Defense. He was made a Mason at Paynesville, Minnesota, and demitted to North Star Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, of Glasgow.

A man of strong personality and extraordinary

abilities. Mr. Sherman has been able to capture and hold the confidence of his associates and become the moving spirit in the various projects with which he has been connected. By nature he is a director of men and affairs, and his presence and association act as a mental tonic and a bracing inspiration.

SAMUEL AND JAMES HOWARD HUGHES. Hughes Brothers conduct one of the best grocery, meat, fruit and hardware stores at Cascade or in Cascade County, and are noted for the quality of their goods and the excellence of their service. The elder brother, Samuel Hughes, was born in Caroline County, Maryland, December 14, 1868, and the younger one, James Howard Hughes, was born in Carroll County, Maryland March 12, 1874, they being sons of James and Mary (Harrington) Hughes, both natives of Delaware. James Hughes died in 1910, aged eighty-four years, and his wife died in 1889, aged forty-four years. They were married in Kent County, Delaware, and seven of their children are living, of whom Samuel was the third and James Howard, the sixth in order of birth. James Hughes was a farmer who raised grain, hay and stock. In politics he was a democrat.

The brothers, Samuel and James Howard Hughes, were educated in the Maryland and Delaware public schools, and spent their boyhood days on their father's farm in Delaware. They came West to Cascade, Cascade County, Montana, Samuel arriving in 1889 and James Howard in 1898. April 10, 1900, they opened a meat market, but in 1904 embarked in a cattle business on a ranch four miles west of Cascade, keeping from 100 to 350 head of cattle and from 400 to 1,000 head of sheep, but sold their sheep in the fall of 1918, and now raise only cattle. The ranch is a large one, comprising as it does 2,000 acres of land. In the fall of 1909 they added to the meat market the handling of groceries, fruits and hardware. Their store is in a first-class, steam-heated brick building, with everything modern and sanitary, their premises and equipment comparing favorably with any establishment of its kind in the large cities.

Samuel Hughes is unmarried. James Howard Hughes was married on January 12, 1910, to Bessie M. Hodson, born in Cascade County, Montana, and they have two children, Howard Wesley and Mary Hortense. Both brothers are democrats. They are alert young business men, thoroughly abreast of the times, who understand the demand of their customers and how to meet it. By their honorable business methods they have built up a large trade and are recognized as reliable and trustworthy merchants and good citizens.

JOHN EDWARD MCCORMICK, who for the past five years has served as a member of the Railroad and Public Service Commission of the State of Montana, is a man of extensive experience with men and affairs, and has shown exceptional qualifications for handling and solving the many problems that come up before the Railroad and Public Service Commission.

Mr. McCormick, who has spent much of his life in the western states, was born at Madison, Wisconsin, February 28, 1867. Leaving school when about fifteen years of age, he followed various occupations until 1888, when he entered the services of the Northern Pacific Railway Company as ticket agent at Fargo, North Dakota. It was as a railroad man that he first came to Montana. In 1891 he was transferred to Butte as city ticket agent for the Northern Pacific, and he performed the duties of that office until 1900.

On leaving the railroad service Mr. McCormick took over the management of Hunter's Hot Springs resort and operated that well-known institution until 1907. Then after spending 1½ years in California he returned to Montana and, associated with James A. Murray, rebuilt the Boulder Hot Springs resort and remained as its active manager until 1915. Much of the patronage of this resort fell off on account of the war, and Mr. McCormick then busied himself with other private interests and had also entered actively in the campaign of 1914, when he was nominated under the new primary law, defeating a large field of candidates, and was elected for Railroad and Public Service Commissioner. He took over the duties of this office January 1, 1915, and since then has given all of his time to his office at Helena.

Mr. McCormick is a practical man and has been made so by experience. He is affiliated with the democratic party. Mr. McCormick is a widower and has one daughter, Mrs. Joseph Keho, of Portland, Oregon.

CHARLES R. BRAZIER. One of the most significant indications of a state's full grown development is the extent and quality of its advertising business. No commodity or institution ever becomes so well known that it does not require publicity, and Montana has now reached that stage where many of its business institutions and the great resources of the state in general must depend upon systematic and state or national advertising as a means of making their goods and merits better known.

Probably the most important business medium of this kind in Montana is the C. R. Brazier Advertising Agency of Helena. Mr. Brazier is a business man and publicity expert of wide and varied experience, and has developed a great business in a few years. He is a native of the West, born at Park City, Utah, July 15, 1879. His father, George Brazier, was born in London, England, in 1835, and came to this country when a young man. He was a pioneer settler in Salt Lake City about 1856. He crossed the plains with a party of emigrants, and most of them had their personal property in hand carts, which they pushed and pulled over the rough trails of that day. George Brazier was an early merchant at Park City, the center of a big silver camp. After many years in business he retired about 1900 to Salt Lake City, where he died in February, 1911. He was an independent in politics. The wife of George Brazier was Susan Godsell, who was born in Birmingham, England, in 1837. They were married in Salt Lake City, where she died in 1893. They were the parents of a large family of ten children: Priscilla, wife of E. S. Crowther, a carpenter and builder at Salt Lake City; George J., a rancher at Roberts, Idaho; Alice, living at Salt Lake City, is the widow of A. B. Young, who died in Peru while in charge of the American and British Cerra de Pasco mines; Liberta, wife of J. H. Mitchell, a mechanic at Salt Lake City; Frank W., formerly a candy manufacturer at Helena and later a salesman, who died at Salt Lake in 1919; Lucy, wife of W. I. Lester, a contractor and builder at Salt Lake City; John J., proprietor of the Colonial Confectionery Shop at Lewistown, Montana; Charles R., the eighth in the family; Albert R., a merchant at Salt Lake City who died in January, 1920; and Ernest E., member of an advertising and selling agency at Salt Lake.

Charles R. Brazier acquired his education in the public schools of Salt Lake, graduated from the business college of that city in 1899, and at the age of sixteen had started as messenger boy in the