

HISTORY OF
SOUTH DAKOTA

BY

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TOGETHER WITH

PERSONAL MENTION OF CITIZENS OF SOUTH DAKOTA

ILLUSTRATED

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father having been a sawyer by vocation. The subject of this review secured his preliminary educational discipline in the common schools of his native land, and thereafter learned the trade of carpenter. He came to the United States in 1873, at the age of nineteen years, landing in New York city on the 1st of September, reaching Muskegon, Michigan, where he secured work at his trade, while simultaneously he pursued in a private way the studies of a college course, including the classics. On the 9th of May, 1874, he began his services as a missionary teacher among the Sioux Indians in the territory of Dakota, in the meanwhile taking up the study of theology and being ordained a deacon in the Protestant Episcopal church on the 27th of November, 1877, by Rt. Rev. William Hobart Hare, bishop of the missionary district of Niobrara. In 1879 he entered the Seabury Divinity School, at Faribault, Minnesota, where he was graduated in June, 1881, with the degree of Bachelor of Divinity, while on the 3d of the following month he was ordained to the priesthood, receiving holy orders at the hands of Rt. Rev. William H. Hare, now bishop of the diocese of South Dakota. He was a missionary on the Crow Creek reservation from 1874 to 1879, thereafter was similarly engaged in service on the Sisseton reservation from 1881 to 1889, in which latter year he assumed his labors in his present important field. He has been successful in his work among the Indians, and his life has been one of consecrated zeal and self-abnegation, while in the early days he endured manifold vicissitudes, hardships and dangers in his earnest efforts to bring within the fold the unfortunate ward of the government. He has been at all times mindful of those "in any way afflicted in mind, body or estate," and has worked unceasingly, while he finds that his temporal reward has not been denied, in that he has brought spiritual enlightenment and grace to many of those to whom he has ministered in his divine calling. Since 1885 he has held the office of rural dean and examining chaplain of the missionary district of the state, as previously noted.

On the 6th of October, 1877, at Frome, Somersetshire, England, was solemnized the marriage

of Mr. Ashley to Miss Elizabeth Ann Martin, who was born in that county, on the 26th of August, 1854, and who has proved a gracious and helpful coadjutor to him in his labors as a missionary. They have five children, Charlotte Jessie, Winona, who is the wife of Gervais Coulter, of Culbertson, Montana; and Edward Athelstan, Martin Anselm, William Cuthbert and Robert Laud. The respective dates of birth are as follows: December 21, 1878; December 9, 1881; April 22, 1884; February 18, 1886, and July 28, 1891.

In politics Mr. Ashley maintains an independent attitude, giving his support to those men and measures of whom and which his judgment approves. Fraternally he has attained the degrees of ancient-craft, capitular and chivalric Masonry, in the York Rite, while in 1903 he passed the thirty-third degree in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, being identified with South Dakota Consistory, No. 4, at Aberdeen, while he is also identified with the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Modern Brotherhood of America. He is a man of genial and gracious presence and makes and retains friends in all classes, while among the Indians of the state he is well known, respected and admired.

WILLIAM H. H. BEADLE, A. M., LL. D. The honored subject of this sketch has lent dignity and distinction to his state as a scholar, an educator, a legislator, a soldier and a lawyer. He has continued since 1889 as president of the State Normal School, at Madison, Lake county, which has become a school of influence and power.

Dr. Beadle is a native of the state of Indiana and was named in honor of its most eminent men, General William Henry Harrison. He was born in Liberty township, Parke county, Indiana, on January 1, 1838, in a log house built by the hands of his father, and the date implies that he is a representative of one of the pioneer families of the Hoosier commonwealth. He is a son of James Ward and Elizabeth (Bright) Beadle, the

former of whom was born in Kentucky and the latter in Maryland. The ancestry in the agnatic line is traced back through the states of Kentucky, Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York to an English origin, mingled somewhat with the Dutch and Scotch, while the name has been identified with the annals of American history since the colonial period. The maternal great-grandfather came from Scotland to St. Mary's, Maryland, in the middle of the eighteenth century and the family became one of prominence in that state.

Dr. Beadle was reared amid the scenes and trials of the pioneer era in Indiana, early contributing his quota to the work of the homestead in the field and the forest, while his rudimentary education was secured in the primitive log schoolhouse in his native township. To one of the teachers there, Miss Lavinia Tucker, one of the earliest women teachers in western Indiana, he loyally attributes helpful incentives that remain with him yet. His father was elected sheriff and this gave him four years in the schools of Rockville, which he continued to attend from the farm near town that became his home. In 1857 he was matriculated in the literary department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, which had attained a high standing even in that early day. He was graduated as Bachelor of Arts with the class of 1861. In 1864 his alma mater conferred on him the degree of Master of Arts. The history of the class of '61 of the University of Michigan says of him: "It was only by the most persistent effort that he gained his father's consent to go away to college; but he finally prevailed, and with his brother, John Hanson Beadle, conditionally entered the class of 1861. As their preparation in Greek had been defective they were carried the first years as 'students in the partial course,' but studied with such diligence and success that before the end of the freshman year they were admitted to full and unconditional standing in the classical section, and soon took high rank in the class. He was an active member of the Alpha Nu, and during his

senior year its president. He assisted in founding in the university the chapter of the Zeta Psi fraternity, and during his senior year was also a charter member of the 'Owls.' He was one of the speakers at the Junior Exhibition and likewise one of the twenty-four members of the class who spoke at the commencement. It will be seen therefore that he was one of the most active members of the class. In a little more than one month after graduation, Classmate Beadle enlisted in the service of the United States and became first lieutenant of Company A, Thirty-first Indiana Volunteer Infantry, September 5, 1861, and was promoted captain of the same November 9, 1861, but resigned February 8, 1862, on account of ill health. He continued with the command by permission of the general commanding and participated in the campaign in west Tennessee, until the surrender of Corinth, Mississippi. He then came to Michigan and aided in organizing and drilling the Twenty-sixth Michigan Infantry at Jackson. He was tendered the post of adjutant of this regiment, but in the autumn of 1862 was commissioned to recruit for the First Michigan Sharpshooters and was commissioned lieutenant colonel of that regiment."

He continued with that regiment until June 13, 1864, when, after a severe illness, he was appointed major in the Veteran Reserve Corps. He served in northern Virginia, in the defenses south of the Potomac, where he commanded a brigade for a time; served in defense of Washington against Early and received a brevet as lieutenant colonel; served in Washington City, where on President Lincoln's second inauguration he was detailed by special orders from the war department to command the military guard in and about the capitol on that critical occasion. He was brevetted colonel United States volunteers, and March 13, 1865, received the brevet of brigadier general United States volunteers "for gallant and meritorious services during the war." General Beadle was mustered out and honorably discharged March 26, 1866, while in command of the southern district of North Carolina, at

Wilmington. He entered the law department of Michigan University and was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Laws.

General Beadle practiced law in Evansville, Indiana, in 1867, and at Boscobel, Wisconsin, in 1868 and 1869. Early in the latter year President Grant appointed him surveyor general of the territory of Dakota and he continued in that capacity until 1873, when he resigned. For many years he from time to time executed important and sometimes difficult surveys. In 1876, as secretary of the commission to revise the codes, he wrote nearly all the codes of Dakota, and Judges P. C. Shannon and Granville G. Bennett, with whom he worked, declared him "learned in the law." He has done other work in drafting statutes, in which he is highly skilled. In 1877 he was a member of the house of representatives of the territorial legislature and chairman of the judiciary committee, which had charge of the codes, and secured their complete adoption, a most valuable service to the new commonwealth.

General Beadle's great familiarity with the territory, its people and its laws enabled him to be of great service to Governor William A. Howard, who induced him to accept for some time the position as private secretary. From 1879 to 1885, over six years, General Beadle was superintendent of public instruction of Dakota and thoroughly laid the foundation for the system of public schools that is the highest pride of the state. To him has been due in a large measure the upbuilding and success of the State Normal School at Madison.

But all of General Beadle's honorable and useful services to his state otherwise are less than the successful labor he gave toward saving the school and endowment lands of the state. This must be regarded as his most enduring monument. He is one of those men who happily find their work. By every talent, experience and inclination he was fitted for it. In college he won position not only as a scholar, but as a writer and speaker. In his early life questions of vital moment concerning public education were subjects of popular and legislative concern. He has often said that Miss Tucker called attention

to the pride every pupil should have in banishing illiteracy from Indiana. The school lands of that state were important in the plans. In Michigan he met and heard the pioneers of education, like Pierce. In Wisconsin also he saw the reckless waste of school lands. Coming to Dakota and seeing its vast fertile area, he was from the first impressed with the importance and the possibilities of the future of this great gift by the nation. He began immediately to draw public attention to this matter and in private conversation and public he sought to create a sentiment which was slowly accomplished. To the intelligent and earnest people who settled the territory, who saw the reserved lands lying near them, a common interest soon appeared. Early in his service as superintendent of public instruction he visited the capital of every one of the old northwestern states as well as of Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska, and consulted the older men of experience and records concerning the school lands. Thus every point in the history of such lands in these states was brought to the attention of Dakota to guide it in shaping the future.

When the movement for division and statehood began, the vital opportunity came. Many leaders in that movement adopted the policy for which Dr. Beadle had long stood almost alone, and an organized party struggling for statehood made its own his appeal that no school lands should be sold for less than ten dollars an acre. It is said that he delivered not less than two hundred addresses throughout the territory (now North and South Dakota) in which this appeal was a leading if not the sole topic. When in 1885 the constitutional convention met at Sioux Falls, the issue was in a balance. The members were divided and in doubt. The committee on school and public lands was divided. Its chairman, Rev. J. H. Moore, strongly favored the plan, as did Rev. Joseph Ward. Near the close of the session Dr. Beadle appeared before the committee, presented the draft of the article upon education and the school lands practically as it stands in the constitution. After an earnest session, a majority consented to report it favorably

and on the last working day of the convention, when Dr. Beadle had personally urged most members, a majority adopted it. The sentiment then rapidly increased and this article became a center of interest. The people adopted the constitution. The crisis was passed. So prominent did the subject become that it was strongly urged before the committees of congress and when the enabling acts for South Dakota, Idaho and Wyoming were passed the provision limiting the price at which school lands might be sold for less than ten dollars per acre was included in every one, and that policy is in force in all. "How far that little candle throws its beams."

Even prior to the convention of 1885 General Beadle had advanced the claim that no school or endowment lands should be sold, but that all should be permanently held and leased, using the rentals to support the schools instead of interest upon the invested funds. He has continued to urge this until now a constitutional amendment has been submitted substantially adopting this policy. Thus has his struggle gone on for over thirty years, while he has not sought political office or fortune. This great public service in and for the cause of education will endure to bless the commonwealth as long as any political service possible to anyone at any time. With it his name must be forever connected.

General Beadle's life has been one of intense activity and hard work. For thirty-five years he has been engaged in the work of a state builder on the frontier. He retains the same erect carriage and dignified bearing that marked him as a young man and during his army life. He has found time in his busy and strenuous life for much literary work, mostly connected with his professional life. He collaborated, with his brother, John Hanson Beadle, in writing "Life in Utah," and is the author of "Geography, History and Resources of Dakota," 1888, of "The Natural Method of Teaching Geography," 1899, and of many pamphlets, reports and addresses, mostly upon educational subjects. His articles in the "Michigan Alumnus" have attracted attention.

General Beadle is a companion of the Loyal

Legion and a member of the Masonic fraternity, having attained the thirty-third degree in the Scottish Rite. A lifelong Republican, he has preferred educational work to the possibilities of ordinary political office. He was married May 18, 1863, to Ellen S. Chapman, who died in 1897. She was descended from Moses Rich, a Massachusetts soldier in the Revolutionary army. They have one child, Mrs. Mae Beadle Frink, the wife of Fred A. Frink, A. M., an instructor in the engineering department of Michigan University.

On the 19th of June, 1902, in recognition of his college record and of his able services in the field of educational work and in his profession, his alma mater most consistently conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

JOHN P. WOLF, one of the pioneers of Spink county, where he is the owner of a well improved landed estate of one hundred and sixty acres, is a native of the historic and beautiful old city of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where he was born on the 9th of December, 1854, being a son of Henry G. and Margaret F. Wolf. The mother is living, but the father died in Gettysburg, where he passed his entire life, having served for many years as justice of the peace and clerk of the courts. His father, George Wolf, was governor of Pennsylvania in 1829 and was one of the influential and distinguished citizens of the old Keystone state, where the family was founded in the colonial epoch of our history.

John P. Wolf was reared in his native city, in whose public schools he secured his early educational discipline, and he there continued to reside until 1871, when he engaged in the manufacturing of paper at Mount Holly Springs, that state, severing his relations with this enterprise in April, 1876, when he removed to Minnesota, in which state he was engaged in farming until 1881, in which year he came to what is now the state of South Dakota, arriving in Watertown on the 10th of May. A week later he came