

HISTORICAL
ENCYCLOPEDIA
OF ILLINOIS
AND HISTORY OF
LAKE COUNTY

BATEMAN
& OTHERS

1902

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P R E F A C E.

LAKE COUNTY.

My earliest recollections are of Lake County. Within its borders has been my home from infancy. My father and mother, my maternal grandparents and many other relatives and friends were among those who came to Lake County,—not among the very first, but so long in advance of the railroad and the telegraph that they may be classed as pioneers. In the soil of Lake County rest the mortal remains of many who in life were bound to me by ties of kinship and of friendship. From the people of Lake County I have received many favors, personal and political. To them I owe a debt of gratitude that I can never hope to fully pay. Some part of that obligation it has ever been my purpose to discharge. It was with that thought in mind that I consented to undertake the preparation of the work of which this is the preface. Rather as a patriotic duty than because of any financial remuneration, did I consent to take time from other and pressing duties for the compilation of the facts herein contained. I can hardly hope that what follows will be found absolutely free from error, although at all times I have striven for accuracy of statement.

The period of which I have mainly written covers the transition from Indian trails to trolley cars and trunk-line railroads; from the tepees of the aborigines to the telegraph and the telephone; from the ox-team to the automobile; from the prairie schooner to the Pullman palace car; from the tallow dip to the arc light. It seems a long span, and yet it is measured by the life-time of not a few, still residents of the county.

Some of the incidents herein narrated have been in my memory from boyhood; others were gleaned during my fifteen years as one of the editors of the Waukegan Gazette; still others have been narrated to me by pioneers and their descendants in recent trips about the county. The county records and the files of local newspapers have been searched to such extent as was possible in the limited time accorded me in which to prepare the manuscript.

I am under especial obligations to Hon. H. W. Blodgett, Hon. C. W. Upton, D. L. Jones, Homer Cooke, W. H. Wilmot, W. L. Farmer, C. T. Heydecker, Dewitt Spaulding, The Gazette Publishing Company, the officials of Lake and McHenry County, and to many individuals not mentioned, for helpful suggestion and kindly criticism. The earlier histories of the county, compiled by the late Hon. E. M. Haines, have been vastly helpful, and I should be untrue to myself did I not express the feeling that for these early compilations the people owe a debt of gratitude. To all who have in any way assisted me I return sincere thanks. The preparation of the work has been a pleasure, and has been pursued with fidelity. I ask the reader to accept it with such charity as he would wish accorded to a similar undertaking of his own.

L. A. Partridge.

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