



# History of Dodge and Washington Counties, Nebraska, and their people V1

*Buss William H.*

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PREFACE

All life and achievement is evolution; present wisdom comes from past experience, and present commercial prosperity has come only from past exertion and suffering. The deeds and motives of the men that have gone before have been instrumental in shaping the destinies of later communities and states. The development of a new country was at once a task and a privilege. It required great sacrifice and privation. Compare the present condition of the people of Dodge and Washington counties, Nebraska, with what they were threescore years ago. From a trackless prairie it has come to be a center of prosperity and civilized life, with millions of wealth, systems of railroads, telegraphs, telephones, with tens of thousands of automobiles for the convenience of a happy and contented people. It has come to be a subdivision of a great commonwealth with its thousands of God-fearing people worshipping in scores of beautiful church edifices; with its thousands of intelligent children attending high-class standards of public free schools, with excellent instructors to impart useful and practical knowledge to them. Can any thinking person be insensible to the fascination of the study which discloses the incentives, hopes and aspirations as well as the efforts of the early pioneers who so strongly laid the solid foundations upon which has been builded the magnificent prosperity of later days? To perpetuate the story of these people and to trace and faithfully record the social, political and industrial progress of the community within the boundaries of Dodge and Washington counties, from their first inception is the function of the local historian. A sincere purpose to preserve facts and personal memoirs that are deserving of perpetuation, and which unite the present to the past, is the motive for the present publication.

A specially valuable and highly interesting department is the one devoted to the sketches of representative men and women of the two counties under consideration. These biographies have for the most part been prepared under the direction of the subjects themselves, or by their near relatives and finally submitted to them for correction and approval before being printed, hence are considered accurate.

On account of ill health, when the work of compiling the Dodge County section of this work was commenced. Rev. William H. Buss, of Fremont, who had been selected as its editor, was unable to engage in the duties of an active compiler, hence the publishers were obliged to engage other competent compilers to do the work of gathering material and writing most of the chapters, aided, however, by a number of local writers whose contributions have embellished and made doubly valuable the work now within your hands. After the compilation had been written in full, the important chapters were then all carefully read and approved by Mr. Buss, who acted simply as supervising editor, and had nothing whatever to do with the biographical or financial part of the publication, yet to him the reader is indebted for many timely suggestions and changes, as the work was being prepared for Dodge County and the same may also be said concerning the supervising editor of the Washington County section, Mr. Thomas T. Osterman, of Blair We especially wish in this connection to acknowledge the great aid

rendered us in the compilation of this work by Hon. L. D. Richards of Fremont and Judges Jackson and Eller, of Blair.

It has been the aim of the writers of this work to seek out the most useful information regarding these two counties from their earliest settlement to the present day, believing this to be of first and prime consideration for all local history, rather than to produce a work of high literary excellence. We have aimed to be fair and faithful to the interests of all whose names appear herein—whether dead or living. Therefore throw the mantle of charity over the work and believe it to be, as nearly as possible, a true, unbiased record of

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