

A VOLUME OF MEMOIRS AND GENEALOGY

OF

REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS

OF

THE CITY OF SEATTLE AND COUNTY OF KING

WASHINGTON

INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES OF MANY OF THOSE
WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY

ILLUSTRATED

NEW YORK AND CHICAGO
THE LEWIS PUBLISHING COMPANY

1903

croachment of the business district upon the site of the school, it was sold for thirty-five thousand dollars and a block was purchased at Seventh and Jackson streets. Parochial schools were held in the basement of the church until 1890, when Father Prefontaine built the brick building on Sixth and Spring streets and then discontinued the holding of the school in the church basement. Along the lines of church work he has labored earnestly and his efforts have been of benefit in extending Catholic influence and work. He built the first church in La Connor, of which he was both the architect and the carpenter.

Father Prefontaine has a fine library, possessing literary tastes which have been met by extensive reading, making him a well informed man. In the early days he delighted to take a tramp through the woods with his gun and had not a little reputation as a successful hunter. It has been through this means and through reading that he has sought recreation from the strenuous duties of his pastorate, but his energies have been given in an almost undivided manner to his church work and the parish of Our Lady of Good Hope, now one of the strongest in the northwest, is the result of his energy and devotion to the cause of Christianity. He was a pioneer in introducing Catholicism into this city and this portion of the state, and the growth of the church here is largely due to his efforts.

MILO A. ROOT.

The ancestors of this gentleman were Englishmen and were among the early settlers of the Massachusetts Bay colony. His great-grandfather, Israel Root, was a Revolutionary soldier; he was a member of the Baptist church and lived to a good old age. His son Henry was a soldier in the second war with Great Britain, and one of the incidents of the war is family history. He had crossed the Niagara river with twenty companions to procure some fruit, but they were surprised by British cavalry and forced to a hasty retreat, tearing up the bridge to prevent pursuit; the enemy opened fire, and one of their bullets came so close to Mr. Root as to cut off a portion of his beard, but the Americans with the aid of their artillery finally obliged the British to retire. After the war Mr. Root resided in Allegany county, New York, for the remainder of his life. It was in this last named county that William H. Root was born, but he later became a prominent farmer and stock-raiser of Barre Center, Orleans county, New York. He still resides there in his sixty-ninth year, and has passed a life of considerable influence in his community. His wife was Miss Cordelia Halroyd. a

native of Cortland county, New York, and daughter of Rev. William Halroyd, a minister of the Baptist church; this gentleman was a fine scholar, especially well versed in the ancient languages, and of English descent. His wife was Amelia Knickerbocker, who was descended from one of the oldest Knickerbocker families of New York. There were seven children born of this union, and five are now living.

The only member of the family residing on the Pacific coast is Milo A. Root, who was born to the above mentioned parents while they were residing in Bureau county, Illinois, on January 22, 1863. He accompanied the family on their removal to Orleans county, New York, in 1876, and it was there that he finished his literary education, being a graduate of the Albion high school in 1882. He at once took up the study of the law with the Hon. John H. White, a prominent jurist of western New York and also of high standing in the grand lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in that state. Young Root also graduated from the Albany Law School, and also read law in the office of the present attorney general of New York, and in the fall of 1883 came to Olympia, Washington, and so thoroughly had he mastered his studies that in the following year, upon the report of the committee of examination, of which Judge Hanford was chairman, he was admitted to practice by Judge Hoyt. During the thirteen years of his residence as a practicing attorney in Olympia he served two years as probate judge of Thurston county, and was prosecuting attorney for a similar period. Judge Root came to Seattle in 1897, and during the following year was in partnership with Judge Hoyt, but from then till January, 1900, he practiced alone; at the latter date the firm of Root, Palmer and Brown was organized, of which Judge Root is the senior member. He has been very successful in his law practice and is the attorney for many large corporations. As a Republican he has taken an active part in the campaigns, has been a member of the state conventions and of the Republican state central committees. He is a Royal Arch Mason, a member of the Elks, the Woodmen of the World, the Knights of Pythias and the Royal Arcanum.

In 1890 Judge Root was married to Miss E. Lansdale of Olympia; her father was Dr. R. H. Lansdale, a prominent physician and one of the pioneer settlers of Whidbey Island, Washington; he was a warm friend and associate of General Isaac Stevens, the first governor of the territory, and assisted in negotiating many of the Indian treaties. Mr. and Mrs. Root are the parents of four children, Bernice C., Hortense M., Milouise and Anna E. Judge Root is the owner of considerable city property, and

is interested in several companies, and has invested money for eastern capitalists. He is a member of the Sons of the Revolution, and both he and his wife are members of the Congregational church. He is an enthusiastic Sunday-school worker, having for some years taught an interesting class numbering over one hundred young ladies and gentlemen.

HARALD BLEKUM.

The rough and precipitous land of Norway has ever been productive of the world's best seamen, the earliest records of history recounting the daring adventures of the hardy Norsemen in their viking ships; and some of this blood still flows in the veins of Captain Blekum, all his life a sailor and now manager of the firm, Stevenson & Blekum Tug Company, proprietors of the tugs Mystic, Harry S., Doctor, Oscar B. and Magda, and doing a general towing and jobbing business, furnishing ballots, renting skows and barges, of which they have a large number. W. H. Stevenson is the secretary and treasurer of the company.

Captain Blekum was born at Horten, Norway, November 30, 1865; the blood of his ancestors asserted itself early in life, and at the age of fourteen he went to sea as a deck boy on a deep sea voyage lasting about thirty-five months, in the course of which he visited Scotland, England, Russia, the West Indies and Panama, and returned rated as a seaman before the mast. After his return he entered the school of navigation at Mandal, Norway, where he completed a thorough technical training and received first class papers. He then became mate of a vessel on a voyage to France and then returned to his home in Norway. His father, Olaus Blekum, had meanwhile removed to Lindesnaes, to take charge of the government lighthouse there. And here it may be well to speak a few words of the father of our worthy subject. He had started in the navy of Norway as a lad, and passing through all the various degrees he became an officer when King Oscar was yet a boy; he was afterwards promoted to the lighthouse department and until 1878 was traveling inspector of the lighthouses; he was then placed in charge of the lighthouse at Lindesnaes, one of the largest in the world, which position he still retains. Our subject, after the event last mentioned, served as second mate of three different vessels, cruising to France and Spain and in the Baltic; he was soon promoted to first mate and engaged in navigation in the North Sea until 1884, in which year he came to America. From here he made three voyages in the Brittanic from New York to Liverpool. In the fall of 1884 he came to the Pacific coast and engaged in navigation on