

HISTORY
OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
AND
BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD
OF THE
SACRAMENTO VALLEY, CALIFORNIA.

An Historical Story of the State's Marvelous Growth from Its Earliest Settlement
to the Present Time

BY

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ALSO

Containing Biographies of Well-Known Citizens of the Past and Present.

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terested. For a number of years he acted as a member of the board of directors of the state hospital of Stockton, but from this position he has resigned, as, indeed, he has retired from all other public preferments. The only position which he still holds is that of director of the California State Bank of Sacramento, and he continues to be one of the most active members of this directorate, the bank now being his headquarters.

Although Mr. Steffens possesses the tastes and temperament of a business man rather than a politician, he has interested himself in public affairs, has kept posted concerning the problems before our state and nation, and in party matters has given his support to Republican principles. In 1884, at the earnest solicitation of party leaders in the city, he consented to become a candidate for mayor. Out of four thousand votes polled, a week's canvass showed that he lacked only thirty-one votes of being elected. With that exception he has declined offers of public positions, preferring to devote his attention to the management of his business interests and the enjoyment of the society of family and friends, and in his beautiful home, at No. 815 Fifteenth street, he passes the twilight of his useful existence in quiet contentment, surrounded by the comforts made possible by years of strenuous activities.

Not only does Mr. Steffens rank among the eloquent speakers of Sacramento, but also he possesses unusual qualifications as a ready writer, and both as a speaker and as a writer he is known far beyond the limits of his home city. Among the speeches which he has delivered upon important occasions may be mentioned his addresses at the driving of the last spike at Ashland, Ore.; as the representative of Sacramento at Placerville on the completion of the Southern Pacific Railway; and at the Margaret E. Crocker flower festival. As a writer he won merited praise through his series of letters to the *Record-Union* during the course of a journey of some twelve thousand miles in the United States. These letters were not merely of a superficial nature, but possessed a depth of thought as well as a correctness of diction that made them the most notable feature of the periodical in which they appeared. In his predictions as to the future of the country he was remarkably clear and time has proved the accuracy of many of his forecasts.

In San Francisco, January 15, 1865, occurred the marriage of Mr. Steffens and Miss E. Louisa Symes, of Hoboken, N. J. They are the parents of a son, Joseph Lincoln, and three daughters: Lulu, Lottie and Laura. The only son is a young man of extraordinary ability and already has gained national prominence as a writer and

editor. Born in 1866, he was the fortunate recipient of exceptional educational advantages. After having graduated from the State University of California, he spent three years in special study in Europe. On his return to the United States he became a reporter on the *New York Evening Post* and later was employed on the staff of the *New York Commercial Advertiser*. From the latter position he was promoted to be editor of McClure's Magazine, in which his signal success has made his name almost a household word. As a writer on state governments he is peculiarly well informed, but his greatest fame has come through his series of articles relating to the corruption of the officials in many of the leading cities of the United States.

The eldest daughter of Mr. Steffens is the wife of Dr. A. H. Suggett, a successful dentist of Marysville, this state. Lottie, who studied abroad for some years and received three degrees from Guttenberg College in Germany, after her return to the United States became the wife of J. J. Hollister, member of one of California's most noted pioneer families. Since graduating from the Leland Stanford University Mr. Hollister has followed the occupation of mining engineer, and is now superintendent of a mine near Carters, Cal. Laura, who, like her sisters, has had exceptional educational advantages and is a woman of many accomplishments, now holds a responsible position in the state library. The work of which she has charge is the circulating library for various parts of the state, one department of which consists of raised-letter literature for the blind.

CHARLES ROSSITER HOPPIN. The late Charles Rossiter Hoppin was identified with the agricultural interests of Yolo county for many years and during his long residence here was instrumental in the upbuilding and development of his locality. Inheriting from a long line of New England forefathers the qualities characteristic of the manhood of that section, he was born in Madison county, N. Y., March 29, 1828, a son of Thaddeus Hoppin, the latter being a native of Massachusetts, whence he removed to Madison county, N. Y., and later to Niles, Mich., where his death subsequently occurred. He married Tama Daniels, a native of Hingham, Mass., her mother being a Miss Lincoln in maidenhood, presumably of the family to which Abraham Lincoln belonged, as they came originally from Hingham, Mass. Mrs. Hoppin also died in Niles, Mich., leaving a family of six sons and three daughters, of whom five sons and one daughter came to California, Charles and John in 1849, Henry, Nathan and Thaddeus in 1853.

All of those mentioned are now deceased, the remaining son of the family, George S., now residing in Niles, Mich. A sister, Clarissa, became the wife of A. M. Everts and makes her home in Woodland.

Charles Rossiter Hoppin was reared principally in the paternal home at Niles, Mich., where he received practical training as the son of a farmer. His education was received in the academy of Madison county, N. Y., and the public schools. In 1849, with his brother John, he crossed the plains with ox teams, and upon his arrival in the state engaged in mining for one year. He soon afterwards made a second trip across the plains, having in the meantime returned east. In partnership with his brothers he then purchased a quarter interest in the Harbin grant on Cache creek, the farming interests remaining together for a number of years. The grant was finally sold off until only fifteen hundred acres remained. This was then farmed by Mr. Hoppin and his two brothers, John and Thaddeus, after the death of the latter the property being divided and the partnership dissolved. Mr. Hoppin became the owner of five hundred acres of fine farming land located two miles west of Yolo, Yolo county, where he made many and valuable improvements, among them a comfortable residence, etc. His death occurred May 4, 1903, removing from the community a man of ability and public spirit, a citizen who gave his support to the Republican party politically, but never cared for the emoluments of public office. Straightforward, honest and honorable, he was esteemed by all who knew him.

On the 10th of November, 1874, Mr. Hoppin was united in marriage with Emily Bacon, the ceremony being performed in Niles, Mich., the birthplace of his wife. She is a daughter of Judge Nathaniel Bacon, who was born in Ballston, N. Y., July 14, 1802, receiving his early education in the public schools and Union College, and graduating from the latter institution in 1824. He was admitted to the bar in 1827 and practiced for five years in Rochester, N. Y. Removing to Niles, Mich., in 1833 he began the practice of his profession, becoming a prominent exponent of the law in that location, and serving from 1855 to 1869 as judge of the supreme and circuit courts. His death occurred in Niles at the age of sixty-eight years. Politically he was a staunch Republican, and was a member of the Presbyterian Church. His fine qualities of manhood were an inheritance from a line of New England ancestors, the family having been established in Connecticut by an Englishman, William Bacon, who was born at Stratton in 1608. Nathaniel became the family name and the heads of succeeding generations bore it, Middletown, Conn., being planned by one of the

name, a native of Rutland, England, born in 1630. Three generations lived in Ballston, N. Y., Nathaniel Bacon, born in 1729, in Middletown, Conn., removing late in life to the former place, where his death occurred; his son, David Bacon, became a farmer near Ballston, N. Y., and in that place, a son, Nathaniel, was born, the father of Mrs. Hoppin. He married Caroline S. Lord in 1845, she being a native of Portsmouth, N. H. She was also descended from an old English family established for many years in New England, John De Lovord, born in 1272, a son of Osmond and grandson of William, natives of Normandy (the name signifying shelf-hanger), having located in England with William the Conqueror. The American progenitor was Mathew Lord, of Kittery, Me., a descendant of his, John Perkins Lord, born in 1786, marrying Sophia Ladd, by whom he had eleven children, Caroline S. (Lord) Bacon being the fourth in order of birth. One of the sons was John Lord, LL.D., the historian. The father was a native of South Berwick, Me., where he spent his entire life, dying there in 1877. Representatives of this family, as well as of the Bacon family, served in the Revolutionary war. Mrs. Bacon died in Niles, Mich., in 1887, at the age of seventy-two years. Of the six children born of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Bacon, four sons and two daughters, there are now living two sons and one daughter, namely: Nathaniel, an attorney of Chicago; Frederick H., an attorney of St. Louis; and Mrs. Hoppin.

Educated in the public schools and at Mt. Holyoke Seminary in Kalamazoo, Mich., from which institution she was graduated in 1873, she became a teacher in the high school of Niles, where she remained for six months. After her marriage in 1874 she went to Fort McDermitt, Nev., where her husband was engaged in the sheep business. Two years later they settled in California on the farm now owned by Mrs. Hoppin, where she superintends the raising of grain and stock and the general care of the five hundred acres comprising the property. Since the completion of the ditch a large portion of the place has been planted to alfalfa and a dairy established, she being a stockholder in the Woodland Creamery. She has a fine herd of Holstein cattle and turns out a splendid product. Her place is known as Sunnyside Farm and is acknowledged one of the valuable ranches of this section, both in point of improvement and cultivation. She is the mother of four children, namely: Harriet, who graduated from the University of California in 1901; Edith; Dorothea, and Charles Rossiter. Mrs. Hoppin is an active member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, of which she served as county president for four years, and state treasurer since 1890. She is a

member of the Shakespeare Club of Woodland, and the Episcopal Church of the same city, and is active in all public affairs, as she is a woman suffragist and proves her right to the ballot by her capability and intelligent work. In 1904 she was appointed by the Sacramento Valley Development Association as representative to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, which she attended, and at the same time made a three months' visit at her old home in Niles.

URIAH WAVERLY BROWN. In tracing the genealogy of the branch of the Brown family represented by this influential attorney of Colusa we find that he is descended from one John Brown, who immigrated from Ireland to New York prior to the war of the Revolution, removing to Virginia shortly after the close of that historic struggle. William, a son of this original immigrant, removed from Virginia to Kentucky in company with Daniel Boone, the Kentons, and other pioneer families of the Blue Grass state. Following the westward trend of emigration he settled in Missouri when that state was beyond the confines of civilization, being one of the very earliest settlers of Montgomery county. At the time of his death, which occurred in Dekalb county, Mo., in 1865, he had reached the age of eighty-nine years. In religion he was of the Baptist faith. Among the twelve children born of his marriage to Miss Adams was William D., whose birth occurred in Montgomery county, Mo., in 1828, and who during early manhood cultivated land in Dekalb county, that state. In his life, no less than those of his ancestors, the pioneer instinct was early displayed. That "Westward the star of empire takes its way" he thoroughly believed, and, foreseeing to some extent the present dominance of the west, he resolved to seek a home beyond the shadow of the Rockies. Accompanied by his wife and child, in 1865 he crossed the plains with mule-teams, as a member of a large and well-armed expedition that safely made the dangerous trip through the midst of hostile Indians. For two years he remained at Corvallis, Ore., but in 1867 came to California and settled in the Antelope valley, about twenty-five miles west of Colusa. For many years he engaged in the stock business, making a specialty of sheep-raising, and he still continues agricultural pursuits, making his home on a farm owned by his son, Uriah Waverly. He was reared in the Baptist faith and has always adhered to the doctrines of that denomination. His wife, Martha J., was born in Kentucky and died in California in 1872; she was a daughter of Robert Bentley by his marriage to a Miss Burnett, and traced her ancestry to an old Virginia family.

At an early day her father settled in Missouri, where he died in 1864.

Of the children of William D. and Martha J. Brown the only one to attain mature years, Uriah Waverly Brown, was born near St. Joseph, Mo., November 24, 1860, and was five years of age when the family settled in Oregon. After coming to California he attended country schools and later, through his own efforts, paid his expenses through Pierce Christian College at College City, from which he was graduated in 1882 with the degrees of B. S. and B. L. During the ensuing three and one-half years he not only taught school but also studied law under the preceptorship of Richard Bayne. In 1887 he was admitted to the bar and has since attained rank among the successful attorneys of Colusa. As one of the attorneys for the defendant in the trial of W. N. Taylor for the murder of Dr. E. V. Gates he was instrumental in securing an acquittal. Besides his general practice, he acts as attorney for the Bank of Arbuckle, of which he is a stockholder; attorney for the Farmers & Merchants Bank of Colusa, of which he is a stockholder; and in legal matters in this vicinity represents the interests of the Sacramento Valley Land Company, in which he holds stock. Besides owning a number of grain farms he is interested with others in the Von Dorsten ranch of twenty-one hundred acres, which they subdivided, this being one of the pioneer efforts of subdivision of large ranches in the Sacramento valley. On the organization of the Cooks' Spring Mineral Water Company in 1899 he was made its president and has since officiated in that capacity. Largely through his efforts the value of the water of this spring has become known in the west, and the company is now the largest shipper of natural mineral water on the Pacific coast. He is also one of the largest owners of the Colusa & Lake Railroad and one of its directors.

The marriage of Mr. Brown united him with Miss Emma Lovelace, who was born in Missouri and accompanied her parents to California in 1868, settling in Colusa. Of their union four children were born, namely: Azile A., Harris Nesbit, Uriah Waverly, Jr., and Bentley Lovelace. The family are identified with the Colusa Christian Church, in which Mr. Brown holds office as president of the board of trustees. During the long period of his professional activity he has gained a high reputation for thorough knowledge of the law, yet he has not limited his energies to his practice. His interests are wide and varied, and his citizenship has proved of the greatest material advantage to Colusa, for he has fostered movements for its benefit and given his hearty support to public-spirited projects. He is a member of the Colusa Board of Trade, and has also given effective service to the city through