

The Autobiography of An Old House

POIGNANT MEMORIES OF THE PAST

Through the allegorical authorship of "The Old House," a pioneer structure located upon the Francis farm that skirts the banks of East Okoboji lake, near the town of Spirit Lake, is revealed the autobiography of Senator Leslie E. Francis, who passed away early in 1957, and the colorful incidents and events of his life are thus preserved for his family.

In 1952, Senator Francis wrote an article published in the ANNALS, entitled "The Last Legislative Election of an Iowa United States Senator." It was a classic! Later, he was importuned to write another article in similar vein to be drawn, like the first, from his rich store of experiences and observations in Iowa official and political life.

There was some interest though hesitation on his part. He really wanted to comply with the request. After being urged he finally said he "would consider it," and thought that possibly he "had another worthwhile story" in him yet "that might be written should the mood be right." And he did it before his summons came from the Eternal One.

The result of his effort really is a book, and rightly should be published as such, for it is unique in method of approach and treatment of historical events, too long for the page limitations of the ANNALS; the salient portions at least deserve presentation. This will be done, and thereby the progress and life achievements of this able, cultured and experienced citizen are included herein. An additional portion may be printed in a subsequent number of the ANNALS.—Editor

A Tale of the Frontier

BY LESLIE EVERETT FRANCIS

To the Man and the Woman, my Father and my Mother,
and to all the Host who carved a Nation from a
Wilderness, this book is dedicated.

FOREWORD

My father came from Wales of Welsh-English stock; my Mother was a New England Yankee. At first, they lived in the Finger Lake District of New York, then near Oshkosh, Wis., and finally in the early spring of 1860 they moved to a farm near Spirit Lake, Iowa.

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