

by authorities on natural history throughout the United States. He was also deeply interested in the history of Iowa and the West, and rendered great assistance in the collection and preservation of early historical data. He was an especial adviser and supporter of the founder of the Historical Department of Iowa. In politics he was a Republican and attended the first Republican convention in the State, which was held at Fairfield. He was a member of the Fremont Voters' Association.

W J MCGEE was born near Dubuque, Iowa, April 17, 1853; he died at Washington, D. C., September 4, 1912. Except for three or four terms in the public schools he was self-educated. In his earlier years he patented some agricultural implements, studied and practiced land surveying, read law and wrote for local papers. In 1875 he commenced the study of Indian mounds and relics in Iowa and Wisconsin. In 1877 he began a geological and topographical map of his own and neighboring counties, which he expanded the following year to include 17,000 square miles in northeastern Iowa. This work was done entirely at his own expense and was published in 1891 in the Eleventh Annual Report of the U. S. Geological Survey. In 1878 he published geological and anthropological papers in the American Journal of Science and in the Proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 1881 he examined and reported upon the building stones of Iowa. In the following year he became connected with the U. S. Geological Survey, his first work being a report upon the extinct lakes of Nevada and California. Later he was given charge of the coastal plain surveys in the eastern and southern states. In 1886 he went upon the ground and made a study of the Charleston earthquake, immediately after its occurrence. Upon the organization of the Geological Society of America in 1888 he became its editor, continuing in that capacity for four years. He also edited the National Geographic Magazine for a number of years. From 1893 to 1903 he was Ethnologist in charge of the Bureau of American Ethnology, during which time he explored Tiburon Island, making report on the savage tribe there never before studied. This position he resigned in 1903 to become Chief of the Department of Anthropology at the St. Louis Exposition. After 1907 he was a member of the U. S. Inland Waterways Commission. His geological maps of the United States and New York, published in 1885 and 1892 are standards, and his personal geological surveys formed the basis for the mapping of over 300,000 square miles. The National Cyclopedia of American Biography states: "He formulated the method of correlation among geologic formations by homogeny or identity of origin; developed a natural or genetic classification of geology * * *; and did much to develop and was the first to apply the principles of geomorphy, or that branch of geology which deals with land forms." His publications include Pleistocene History of Northeastern Iowa, Geology of Chesapeake Bay, Lafayette Formation, Potable Waters of Eastern United States, Siouan Indians, Primitive Trephining in Peru, Seri Indians, Primitive Numbers, numerous scientific memoirs, and over three hundred articles. An extended biographical account will be published later, from the pen of Dr. Charles Keyes.

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