

THE PALIMPSEST

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Iowa In Biography

The story of Iowa is best told in the lives of its citizens.

Rightly, the State Historical Society of Iowa has made biographical studies a major part of its work. In 1907, under the editorship of Dr. Benjamin F. Shambaugh, the Iowa Biographical Series was inaugurated with the publication of a volume on Robert Lucas. Eighteen books in this series, spanning a century of Iowa history and illustrating the wide variety in achievement which has contributed to the shaping of the commonwealth, afford the subject matter of the present article. Marked by high standards, both literary and scholarly, these eighteen volumes constitute a rich library, a telling of the Iowa story which is indispensable to an appreciative understanding of the state as it is today and of the part it has played in the life of the nation and the world.

JOHN T. FREDERICK