

History of Washington

The Rise and Progress of an
American State

By
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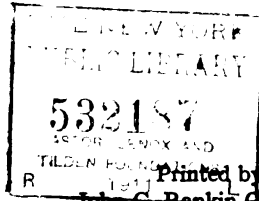
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and joined in donating them to the city; has been instrumental in building up the schools of the city, and is now serving on the board of education, which is just completing a forty thousand dollar high school building. He organized the Citizen's Club of Chehalis and was its president many years.

Mr. Coffman was married, in October, 1883, to Adeline Tighe, and they have two daughters, Florence Adeline and Etheline M., and one son, Daniel Tighe Coffman. He is a member of the Episcopal Church, and has been treasurer of the district since 1887. For many years he has been regularly elected as lay delegate to the general triennial convention of the church. He is a Knight Templar. An active member of the State Bankers' Association, he has frequently read papers and made addresses at its annual conventions, and has represented it in the national convention. Recently Mr. Coffman has been giving much attention to building up the dairy business in his section. He has a herd of Jerseys and one of the finest barn equipments in the state. He and his son conduct a model dairy.

CHARLES HENRY COBB, of Seattle, was born on the paternal farm in Lincoln, Penobscot County, Maine, July 31, 1852, son of Leonard and Mary Elizabeth (Donnell) Cobb. The family removed to Lee, Maine, in the early life of Mr. Cobb. His father, in addition to farming pursuits, was engaged in lumbering operations. The maternal grandfather of Mr. Cobb, Thomas Donnell (of Scotch-English descent) came to Lee, Maine, from Ellsworth, in the same state, about 1835, and was one of the first settlers in the town of Lee. The state of Maine at that time gave

donation claims of one hundred acres to all such settlers in that vicinity, with the added privilege of purchasing as much more as they desired for twelve cents an acre.

Charles Henry Cobb received the usual country school education, also having the advantage of three terms at the Lee Normal Academy. When fifteen years old he engaged actively in the logging business of his father, driving a six ox team, which hauled the spruce and pine logs from the woods to the Passadumkeag River. His father's firm was then Cobb and Thurlow, but it was changed to Leonard Cobb and Son, and another firm, Cobb, Brown, and Fitzgerald, was later organized, of which Mr. Cobb was the business head, operating on the head waters of the Machias, Schoodic, and Penobscot rivers. Some large contracts were executed, among them one for the F. Shaw and Brothers' Tannery in Washington County, Maine (the largest tannery in the world)—about one hundred men being employed. Charles H. Cobb was thus, when twenty-two and twenty-three years old, occupied with very responsible duties, on a scale of much magnitude for that time and country. In addition to securing the contracts he had the practical superintendence of all the work, which his energy and thorough familiarity with details enabled him to execute with the greatest promptness and success.

Yet the conditions of the lumbering business in Maine were far from satisfactory to Mr. Cobb, and when a severe cut in contract prices was made soon afterward, he decided to seek another field of enterprise. In April, 1876, he crossed the continent by rail to San Francisco, and from there came on the old steamer "Dakota" to Seattle. He left the east with a party of some sixteen Maine young men, of whom eight came up to Seattle from San Francisco. One of these was his brother, George A. Cobb, who died in Washington in 1890.

Mr. Cobb's first occupation in lumber operations in Washington was at a logging camp four miles from Olympia owned by Amos Brown, who worked with him. Some two months later he went with Bohan Field to Snohomish, Washington, to attend to some agricultural interests of Mr. Brown's and, being pleased with the property at that place—one hundred and sixty acres, together with ox-teams and tools for logging,—they purchased it. For three years they applied themselves industriously to their enterprise under the firm style of Cobb and Field, but owing to the unremunerative prices for farm and timber products at that period they were obliged to dissolve the partnership and sell the property. Those three years, in point of hard work, are remembered by Mr. Cobb as the most trying time of his business career.

He then secured employment as logging camp foreman at Lowell, Washington, for E. D. Smith, the founder of that place and one of the founders of Everett, who was among the largest lumber producers in the territory, if not, indeed, the largest. In this capacity Mr. Cobb began with a force of forty men under his direction, which was considered a very large one. After about eight years with Mr. Smith he embarked in business for himself under contract for the Port Blakely Mill Company. This arrangement continued two years, when he accepted an offer from the company to become its log purchasing and land agent at Seattle, and he was so occupied until 1897. During that year he resigned and incorporated the Port Susan Logging Company. He has since been known as one of the largest and most successful timber owners and operators in the state of Washington in the lumber interest. He incorporated the Snohomish Logging Company; became one of the principal stockholders

of the Kerry Mill Company; and incorporated the Ebey Logging Company and the International Timber Company of Seattle, the latter having lands and operations in British Columbia. In addition he was the incorporator of the Marysville and Arlington Railway Company, operating from Marysville, Washington, through Arlington, Washington, and some distance beyond; and was one of the incorporators of the Cobb-Haley Investment Company, which pursues real estate and building transactions in the city of Seattle. Of all these companies, except the Kerry Mill Company (whereof he is vice-president), he is the president; they are all close corporations, no stock having ever been placed on the market. He was an original stockholder and promoter of the Metropolitan Building Company of Seattle, which owns the lease of the University of Washington tract of ten acres in the heart of the city and has erected the White, Henry, Cobb, and other buildings; is also a director and stockholder of the Washington Securities Company, the Washington Trust Company, and the Metropolitan Bank, all of Seattle, and is interested in other financial concerns and various industrial enterprises.

He is a member of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, Commercial Club, Rainier Club, Golf and Country Club, and Metropolitan Club, and the Masonic fraternity.

Mr. Cobb married, January 19, 1892, Carrie Bell Turner, daughter of A. G. Turner, of Nevada City, California.

FRANK WHITNEY BAKER, of Seattle, has for twenty years been actively identified with the business interests of that city. He was born in Youngstown, Niagara County, New York, September 19, 1852, son of David C. and Adelia H. (Cobb) Baker, his father being of Dutch-