

**LIFE AND TIMES OF
HON. SAMUEL
D. LOCKWOOD**

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Life and Times of Hon. Samuel D. Lockwood by William Coffin

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WILLIAM COFFIN

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Saml D Lockwood

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BY WILLIAM COFFIN.

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INTRODUCTION.

"The most substantial glory of a country is in its virtuous, great men. Its prosperity will depend on its docility to learn from their example.

"That nation is fated to ignominy and servitude for which such men have lived in vain."

The real history of Illinois must be found in the lives of her eminent men. This statement will bear repeating, as at least, inviting careful consideration.

The real history of Illinois must be found in the lives of her eminent men, and we shall look in vain for it elsewhere. The growth of our state has been phenomenal, and with a good degree of commendable pride, we look over the tables indicating our progress in all material things. But statistics are not history, and the columns of figures, furnished by our census bureau, give only the skeleton of state organization and development. For all beauty and expression of form and feature, we must look elsewhere, and for the hidden springs of life, the vital forces that underlie all development, we must look far deeper, even down to where living souls think and feel, plan and resolve.

The old adage has come down to us from the dark ages, "Peace has no history," and the record of former centuries, abounding in tales of bloody strife and savage warfare, seems to prove the adage true for those times. Fortunately, however, a change has come in these latter days, or Illinois would have no history outside our Indian conflicts.

On our soil there are no marked battle-fields, no places renowned for even traditional achievements in arms, and our war

record, however glorious, has its place in national, not state history.

We have within our borders, one imposing monument in honor of one of the grandest lives and noblest characters the world has known, decorated with the symbols of warlike achievements; but that monument, like the life it commemorates, knows no state limitations. At that shrine, the enfranchised slave has equal right with ourselves to bow in reverence, and honor the man as the savior of the nation. But times have changed, and Peace has her history, resplendent with grand achievements and glorious victories.

Shall it be said, then, that Peace has no heroes? May there not be heroism in *construction*, as well as in *destruction*?—in improvement and development, as well as in ruin and devastation? May not heroism be represented by the open palm, as well as the clenched fist?—by the cross, as well as the crown?

To all these questions, the history of our state gives an emphatic answer. There was heroism in those men who staid the tide of incoming barbarism, and opened the springs of a high civilization,—who kept out slavery with its threefold curse on master, servant and soil, and established freedom, with its threefold blessing, on mind, body and estate; who planted the seed, and cherished to a vigorous growth, our educational, benevolent, and Christian institutions, adorning the prairie with schoolhouses, asylums, and church. There was heroism also on the part of those men, who inaugurated and pushed to successful issue our grand systems of railroad and commercial enterprise, which have in great measure brought to us our wonderful prosperity. But who, and where, are the heroes? Most of them rest with the fathers, and little has been done to preserve their names, or cherish their memories. The legislature of the state has, indeed, attempted something in this direction, in the names given to the counties; but this honor has been rendered with little discrimination as to real merit, and it is very doubtful, if even the citizens of Cook and Coles, of Pope and Edwards, have

any thought of the noble qualities, or great achievements, which these names should suggest.

That this sketch may in one instance remedy this neglect, is the writer's reason for giving it to the public.