

**PUBLICATIONS OF THE
WASHBURN OBSERVATORY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN. VOL. I**

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EDWARD S. HOLDEN

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Engraved by J. B. Knapp, 1855

C. C. Washburn

1946

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VOL. I.

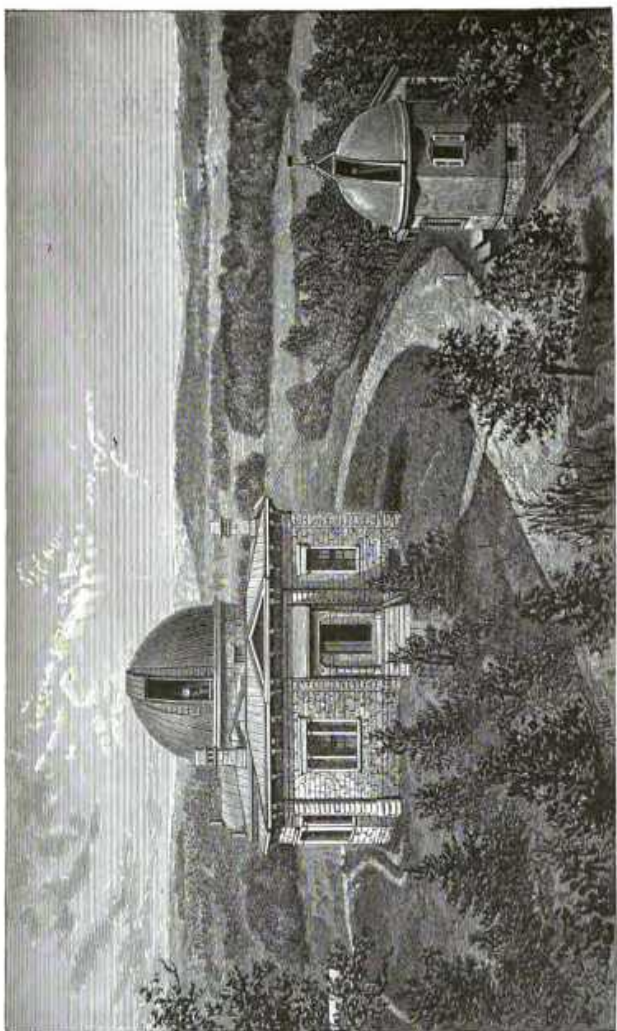
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1882.

WASHBURN OBSERVATORY,
FOUNDED BY
CADWALLADER C. WASHBURN,
BORN 1818; DIED 1883.

EDWARD S. HOLDEN, Director.
SHERBURNE W. BURNHAM, }
GEORGE CARY COMSTOCK, } Astronomers.
JOHN DOESCHER, Janitor.

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

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As no extended reports were required from the late Director during the progress of the building and equipment of the Observatory and before astronomical observations were begun, I have thought it my duty to present in my first annual report some connected account of the history of the Washburn Observatory from its foundation, including a brief description of its buildings and instruments.

In 1877 the Hon. C. C. WASHBURN announced to the Regents of the University of Wisconsin his intention to build and equip an astronomical observatory which was to be turned over to the University as an adjunct of the department of Astronomy. The gift was accepted by the Board of Regents, a site was selected by Governor WASHBURN, and the building commenced in May 1878. Orders for instruments were also given. In October 1878, Professor JAMES C. WATSON was elected Professor of Astronomy in the University and Director of the Observatory, and entered at once upon his duties. From this time until his premature death, in November 1880, Professor WATSON was chiefly occupied in completing the main building and in perfecting the interior arrangements, every part of which bears witness to his scrupulous and scientific care. Important additions to the Washburn Observatory were begun by his advice and according to his plans. Beside superintending every detail of these constructions, Professor WATSON was also occupied in building a solar observatory and a small observatory for students, both at his own expense.

From exposure in superintending work in the dwelling house of the Astronomer, Professor WATSON was taken ill on November 14 and died November 23, 1880, after a tenure of his office of only twenty-five months.

By his premature death a vacancy was created, which I have been called to fill. My first duty has been to collect the scattered

papers and computations left by Prof. WATSON and to present in this first number of the Publications of the Washburn Observatory some account of the preparations he was making for scientific activity. It is in this way only that his name can be associated with this Observatory, of which he was the first Director. No astronomical observations were made here by Prof. WATSON, of which I can find any record.

The present report contains:

I. A brief description of the Observatory buildings and instruments prepared by myself, with valuable assistance from Messrs. C. I. KING, G. C. COMSTOCK and F. D. WINKLEY of the University.

II. A catalogue of 195 stars, reduced by Mr. G. C. COMSTOCK, assistant in the Washburn Observatory.

III. Reduction Tables for the Latitude of Madison, computed under the direction of Prof. JAMES C. WATSON by Mr. G. C. COMSTOCK of the Washburn Observatory and Mr. J. M. SCHÄBERLE of the Detroit Observatory.

IV. A list of 27 new nebulae discovered in the Zone Observations at the Washburn Observatory, from April 23 to September 30, 1881.

V. A list of 60 new double stars discovered in the Zone Observations at the Washburn Observatory, from April 23 to September 30, 1881.

VI. A list of 88 new double stars discovered at the Washburn Observatory, from April 23 to September 30, 1881, by Mr. S. W. BURNHAM.

VII. Measures of 152 double stars selected from his manuscript Catalogue of Double Stars, as specially needing observation, by Mr. S. W. BURNHAM.

VIII. Observations of 84 red stars, and a list of 27 new red stars.

IX. Observations and Drawings of the great comet of 1881.

X. Miscellaneous Observations.

It is hoped to continue this series of publications. It is requested that those scientific societies and individuals to whom this number is sent may return in exchange to the Library of the