

**EPISODES OF HISTORY IN THE STORIES
OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE
INSURANCE COMPANY OF NORTH
AMERICA AS BOUND UP TOGETHER IN
NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT, 1792-1917**

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Episodes of History in the Stories of the United States and the Insurance Company of North America as Bound up Together in National Achievement, 1792-1917 by Various

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E P I S O D E S O F
H I S T O R Y

In the Stories
of the UNITED STATES
and the INSURANCE COMPANY
of NORTH AMERICA
as Bound up Together
in National
Achievement

1792-1917

Commemorating the
One Hundred and Twenty-fifth
Anniversary of the formation of
"The President and Directors of
THE INSURANCE COMPANY
OF NORTH AMERICA"
December 10, 1792



PRIVATELY PRINTED

1916

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FOREWORD

THE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NORTH AMERICA is more than the oldest American joint stock insurance corporation. Its early history is closely interwoven with the history of the government itself and reflects at every step the early struggles of the fathers of the Nation to make the great Republic we have to-day.

THE NORTH AMERICA has therefore veritably grown up out of and with the country itself; its archives teem with entries and records concerning great historical names and transactions connected with places, property and events that occupied the thoughts and inspired the hopes of the makers of liberty and their successors, the makers of the country.

IT HAS been thought appropriate to record in episodes, swiftly told, the origin and development of both the Country and the Company, for the interest it might have to the army of loyal agents that represent "The" North America everywhere, who may care to know its biography.

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EPISODES OF HISTORY

THE ORGANIZATION 1792-1793

The very first joint-stock fire insurance company of the United States was, as it is yet, the Insurance Company of North America. Its history began with the history of the American Government itself. Its birth is one among that small group of great events in the last decade of the Eighteenth Century that served to change the map of the world geographically, politically, socially, and in methods of organized efficiency. The new republic was to create the model of political freedom and this in turn was to create individual liberty. So the Insurance Company of North America was to be the model of that new form of protection against fire and marine hazards which was to revolutionize crude underwriting and provide the very cornerstone of modern commercial progress as the basis of business credit.

The Insurance Company of North America had its birth in the very same room in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, where the immortal Declaration of Independence had been signed for the struggling Colonies sixteen years before — 1776. It was in the year 1792, the same year that General George Washington, after having been a sort of military rebel president, was re-elected President of the free and triumphant states.

Those indeed were stirring times. Washington had been first installed as President in 1789 and had gone through Philadelphia from Mount Vernon for the inauguration in New York. On this trip (it then took two days to make the journey from Philadelphia to New York in the speediest coaches) he stopped at Trenton and there heard "The President's March," which was played for