

**THE FORERUNNERS
OF WOODROW
WILSON**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649367573

The Forerunners of Woodrow Wilson by Hester E. Hosford

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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HESTER E. HOSFORD

**THE FORERUNNERS
OF WOODROW
WILSON**

**"A hopeful little band that determined to serve
the people instead of special interests."—Woodrow
Wilson.**

in. R. D.
J. O.

THE FORERUNNERS OF WOODROW WILSON

BY

HESTER E. HOSFORD

An account of the men and measures that prepared the way and made possible the nomination and election of the twenty-eighth President of the United States. Introductory and heretofore unpublished chapters of "Woodrow Wilson and New Jersey Made Over," by the same author, published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1912. The first edition of Miss Hosford's book was a factor in securing the nomination of Mr. Wilson at Baltimore; the second edition, with the preface by U. S. Senator Gore, of Oklahoma, was the Wilson campaign biography in the three-cornered contest with Taft and Roosevelt.

To which is added a chapter on "Jersey Justice," by Herman B. Walker, in which he describes work in behalf of the special interests which cost one man the Governorship of New Jersey and another man the Chief Justiceship of the United States. A chapter of intense interest on account of the approaching appointment of a new Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

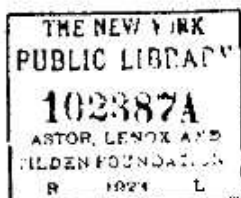
WITH A PREFACE BY ALDEN FREEMAN

WITH 17 ILLUSTRATIONS

East Orange Record Print

East Orange, N. J.





"I love these lonely figures, climbing this ugly mountain of privilege, but they are not so lonely now. I am sorry, for my part, that I did not come in when they were fewer. There was no credit to come in when I came in. The whole nation had awakened. All of New Jersey, at any rate, was tired of the game and was willing to try an unsophisticated schoolmaster because it is in search of somebody that did not know how to play the old game."

WOODROW WILSON.

Extract from speech at Wilmington, Del., Oct. 18, 1912.

This brief account of
the Agitators and Progressives
who blazed the trail of
"The New Freedom"
is dedicated to

WOODROW WILSON,
the great constructive statesman,
who as

Governor of New Jersey
first realized the dreams of the insurgents
and now as

President of the United States
is fulfilling their fondest hopes.

1000 S. 9 July 1923

A PROPHECY FULFILLED.

Preface to "A Year in Politics," by Alden Freeman,
published in 1906.

Dear Mr. Freeman:

Jersey's real fight has just begun. Your machine and your corrupt special interests are not thoroughly aroused yet, but they will be awakened to a true sense of the situation this winter.

What delights me most is the way you have got hold of the issue, the real issue. You represent to my mind the best people we have, the uncompromising "kick-ers." Some people object to them, but I know what good they do. I know that they do good even if they appear to kick on issues that are side issues to the men on the firing line.

But you never do that. For you see the bull's eye. You see that we have got to use our human tools as God makes them and the business of the critic is to jolly them along or whale away at them, simply to make them go in the right direction.

Let me make a prediction based upon my reading of you and of your writings. **New Jersey will be one of the first three States to get out of the hole.**

I can't be with you on February 5th, but I can shake your hand, and I do. God bless you, Alden Freeman, for being and seeing so straight!

Please remember me to the good fellows that are working with you in the Oranges.

Sincerely yours,

J. LINCOLN STEFFENS.

New York, December 26, 1905.

"The field that I plow is Ignorance and the weeds thereof are Error. The plow that I use is Truth.—Thus spake Buddha, Prince of India, 2,500 years ago.

I shall make it my task to expose the abuses that are about to ruin the country, and that your honesty alone can correct.—Last speech of Robespierre, July 26, 1794.

PREFACE

EIGHT YEARS AFTER.

New York State is still in the hole because the reformers and the newspapers there are pussy-footed and afraid to name and pillory the real culprits, the financial malefactors behind the political bosses. Here in New Jersey we called a spade a spade and a crook a crook. We did not waste our powder on Lentz and Dickinson, on Briggs and Baird, on Strong and Voorhees or other mere county bosses. We concentrated our fire upon the "Masters of the Boss," the high priests of special privilege and finance, the Drydens and Keans and McCarters.

By study of directorates and careful process of elimination we "trailed the serpent" to his lair in Newark in the Prudential Insurance Company, the Public Service Corporation, the Pennsylvania Railroad

and the Federal Trust Company, where we discovered the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey sitting with the Democratic State Boss and the Treasurer of the Republican State Committee, and we disclosed the connection between this cabal and the United Gas ring in Philadelphia and the Equitable Insurance officials then being investigated by Charles E. Hughes.

U. S. Senators Dryden and Kean, James Smith, Jr., and the McCarters between them controlled the two political machines, and it made small difference to them whether a Republican or a Democrat was elected to office, as they were always the veiled power behind the throne. Taking our cue from these men the progressive revoltors of 1905 no sooner secured the Republican nomination of Everett Colby for State Senator for Essex County than we made equal effort to nominate Julian A. Gregory as his opponent on the Democratic ticket. We checkmated the special interests by their own method.

When New York gets its eyes open sufficiently wide to perceive that Murphy and Barnes are merely "whipping boys" for Thomas Fortune Ryan and the "corrupt contractors" whose names never by any