

**THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNORS
OF THE OLD
NORTHWEST, A STUDY IN
TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION**

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The territorial governors of the old Northwest, a study in territorial administration by Dwight G. McCarty

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DWIGHT G. MCCARTY

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A STUDY IN TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION

BY
DWIGHT G. McCARTY

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EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

As a geographical area the Iowa country became a part of the United States through the purchase of the Province of Louisiana in 1803: and so territorial descent is traced through the District of Louisiana, the Territory of Louisiana, and the Territory of Missouri.

On the other hand the political inheritances of Iowa, which are Anglo-American, were transmitted through the Territories of the Old Northwest—especially the Northwest Territory, the Indiana Territory, the Territory of Michigan, and the original Territory of Wisconsin. Thus the study of the evolution of the government and administration of these Territories forms a logical introduction to the constitutional and political history of Iowa. And it is from this viewpoint that The State Historical Society of Iowa has undertaken to publish a book on the Territorial Governors of the Old Northwest.

As worked out by Mr. McCarty under the direction of The State Historical Society of

Iowa, this volume is neither a source book nor a book of biography, but a brief outline of the development of Territorial government and administration in the Old Northwest.

Since a volume on Henry Dodge is being prepared for the IOWA BIOGRAPHICAL SERIES, Chapter X of this book on *Governors Dodge and Doty and the Territory of Wisconsin* has been curtailed by the author. The government and administration of the Territory of Wisconsin will receive adequate treatment in the book on Henry Dodge.

BENJ. F. SHAMBAUGH

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AND EDITOR
THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA
IOWA CITY 1910

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

The Old Northwest occupies a peculiar position in American history. Rich in the traditions of the past, when nations struggled for supremacy along its borders, it was left at the feet of the original thirteen States by the receding waves of the Revolution—a vast wilderness of boundless resources, waiting for the magic touch of civilization. The original thirteen States were then just beginning to round out into a unified National life. This life was tentative and uncertain at first; but after the critical period was passed it burst out of its old confines and spread over the western country with a joyous abandon that threatened to outstrip the forms and traditions of the old régime.

It was an eminently practical evolution that within a few decades transformed the wilderness of the Old Northwest into the populous and flourishing States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. The genesis and early development of the Northwest Territory are, therefore, strategic points from which a correct study of western American institutions and their growth must of necessity

begin. Nearly all of the States of the West have had to pass through a preparation for statehood — a tutelage more or less rigorous, depending upon local conditions and the rapidity of advancement. Many characteristic features of our present systems of State government are the product of Territorial conditions.

The undeveloped country stretching westward from the Alleghanies was like an ambitious and headstrong child, and needed the guidance of a paternal hand during its adolescence. It is this fact that has given a distinctive character to the form of Territorial government. A strong Governor, with plenary powers and no responsibility except to the National government from which he receives his appointment, has been the center and mainstay of Territorial government in the United States. A study of the governments of the various Territories in the Old Northwest from the standpoint of the Governors will therefore shed light upon the influences which moulded the character and destiny of Territories and Commonwealths.

It is the purpose of the pages that follow to present an outline history of Territorial government in the Old Northwest, from the time of American acquisition down to the admission of Wisconsin into