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HISTORY OF

COOK COUNTY

ILLINOIS—BEING A GENERAL SUR-
VEY OF COOK COUNTY HISTORY, INCLUDING
A CONDENSED HISTORY OF CHICAGO AND
SPECIAL ACCOUNT OF DISTRICTS OUTSIDE
THE CITY LIMITS; FROM THE EARLIEST
SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME : : :

EDITORS:

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Of all the things that men can do or make
here below, by far the most momentous, wonder-
ful and worthy are the things we call books.
—*Fenelon.*

IN TWO VOLUMES
ILLUSTRATED

VOLUME I

THE GOODSPEED HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
CHICAGO

Preparatory school, and in 1886 entered Rutgers college, New Brunswick, New Jersey, graduating as a civil engineer from that institution with the class of 1890. The year following this event he came West and entered the local freight office at Chicago of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad company, where, after holding various positions, he was promoted to the claim department of that railroad at St. Louis and eventually became chief clerk to the general freight agent, Howard Elliott, now president of the Northern Pacific Railroad company. Mr. Elting later became traveling freight agent, general agent and division freight agent of the Hannibal & St. Joseph railroad, from St. Louis to Kansas City and St. Joseph.

After this traffic experience he was made local freight agent of the Missouri lines of the Burlington System at St. Louis, this position carrying with it the title of assistant superintendent of terminals. In 1903 Mr. Elting married Miss Florence West, of St. Louis, and the year following resigned from the Burlington road and embarked in business in Chicago for himself as a member of the Adams & Elting company, of which he was secretary. This corporation is the manufacturer of paints, paint specialties and wood finishing materials, their best brands being the Adelite paint and varnish remover and hygienic kalsomine; but they are best known to the trade as authorities on wood finishing materials for the furniture and piano industries.

Since coming to Chicago Mr. Elting has taken a deep interest in the Chicago Association of Commerce, and for the past two years has been chairman of his subdivision on the ways and means committee. He is also a member of the trade extension committee. In his own industry he is treasurer of the Chicago Paint, Oil and Varnish club, and is chairman of the tariff committee of the National Paint, Oil and Varnish Association of the United States. He is a member of the Chicago, Onwentsia, Saddle and Cycle, Chicago Athletic and City clubs, and resides at 39 Bellevue place. Mr. and Mrs. Elting are the parents of one daughter, Carroll, 5 years old, and a son, Howard, Jr., 1 year and a half old.

Harry L. Emerson, county surveyor, has for the past twenty years been prominently identified with engineering and construction work in Chicago and vicinity. He is a native of Doon county, Wisconsin, born on December 4, 1866, in a pioneer's log house built by his father, and is a son of Wright M. and Lucy (Lewis) Emerson. Zuriel Lewis, his mother's grandfather, was one of the last Revolutionary soldiers to die.

With his parents, Mr. Emerson, when a child, moved to Illinois, and here he received his early education in the district schools. At the age of 14 he started out in life for himself, but prior to this time had assisted his uncle on various surveying expeditions. With a natural aptitude and liking for this kind of work, he has in subse-

quent years supplemented his schooling by privately taking several courses in all the branches of mathematics and engineering, with the idea of reinforcing his fitness for a subsequent career as an engineer and surveyor. In 1882 he came to Chicago and for six years was employed by Col. J. T. Foster, at that time county surveyor. During the latter part of this period he assisted in some important work, principally bridge building. In May, 1907, at the special election of this year, he was chosen county surveyor, and completed that term of office.

He has contributed materially in some important construction work in Cook county, particularly bridge work, one of the first being the bridges over the Des Plaines river and on Higgins road. The concrete bridges over the Des Plaines river at Wheeling and Lemont are monuments of his engineering skill. He has built eight bridges over the Des Plaines river, two of them being of reinforced concrete construction, and they are the first concrete bridges ever built over that stream. The first reinforced concrete bridge constructed in Cook county, a thirty-foot span over the Northwest branch of the Chicago river at Techny, Illinois, is also of Mr. Emerson's design and construction. Space does not permit of the detailed description of the different engineering feats of which Mr. Emerson is the author, but it can be said that his work is regarded as of the highest order by engineers throughout the country.

For many years he carried on engineering construction work, with offices in Chicago, and at the present time is employed to do the engineering work for Arlington Heights, Berwyn, Franklin Park and Schermerville. He makes a specialty of general reinforced concrete construction for factories, storehouses, etc. Mr. Emerson is a Republican, Knight of Pythias and attendant at the Episcopal church. He resides at 6412 Ingleside avenue.

Alfred O. Erickson, assistant city attorney, is a native of Waupaca county, Wisconsin, and is one in a family of twelve children, six now living, born to Ingebret and Ingborg (Solverud) Erickson. His parents were natives of Norway, but were married in this country, and were engaged in farming in Wisconsin, where they had settled in the early '40s, until their respective deaths. Alfred O. Erickson passed his boyhood days on his father's farm and in attending the district schools. At the age of 19 he went to the Dakotas, where he spent two years on his older brother's ranches.

Upon reaching his majority he entered the commercial and stenographic department of the Northern Indiana Normal school, and the same year of his graduation, in 1893, came to Chicago and represented his native state as an officer of the World's Columbian exposition. He then returned to Waupaca, Wisconsin, where he read law until the spring of 1895, when he again returned to Chicago. In 1896 he entered the law department of Lake Forest university, and immediately following his graduation in 1899 passed