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COMPENDIUM

OF

*History and Biography*

OF

THE CITY OF DETROIT AND  
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

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ILLUSTRATED

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“A people that take no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote generations.”—MACAULAY.

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1909

**JAMES T. WHITEHEAD.**

In the department of this publication devoted to the representative industrial and commercial enterprises of Detroit and Wayne county is given a description of the Whitehead & Kales Iron Works, of which the subject of this sketch is president and treasurer and of which he was one of the founders. He has risen to prominence as one of the progressive and representative business men of his native county and is well entitled to consideration in this volume.

Mr. Whitehead was born in the village of Wyandotte, Wayne county, Michigan, on the 28th of September, 1864, and is a son of James and Mary (McEvoy) Whitehead, natives respectively of Edinborough, Scotland, and Halifax, Nova Scotia. His parents are now deceased, his father having devoted the major portion of his active business career to merchant tailoring.

James T. Whitehead gained his educational training in the public schools of Wyandotte and Detroit, and in 1879, at the age of fifteen years, he entered the employ of Rathbone, Sard & Company, of Detroit, manufacturers of stoves and ranges. He here gained valuable business experience. In 1888 Mr. Whitehead purchased from John B. Dyar the plant of the Detroit Sheet Metal & Heating Works, and here he continued individually in the business until 1893, when he sold an interest in the enterprise to Henry B. Lewis. Thereupon was formed the firm of Whitehead & Lewis, and this alliance continued until 1897, when Mr. Whitehead retired from the firm and established himself in the same line of business at 42-6 Randolph street, under the title of J. T. Whitehead & Company. In 1899 he admitted to partnership William R. Kales and they continued the business under the firm name of Whitehead & Kales until 1905, when, to meet the exigencies of the constantly increasing demands placed upon the institution, the enterprise was incorporated under its present title of the Whitehead & Kales Iron Works. Mr. Whitehead has been president

and treasurer of the company from the start, and the success which has since continued to mark the same has been in large measure due to his wise executive policy. For further data reference may be made to the previously mentioned resumé of the company's history. Mr. Whitehead is also a member of the directorate of the Michigan Copper & Brass Rolling Mills and is a director of the Peninsular Savings Bank of Detroit. He is president of the Reinke & Shirray Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of stamped-metal novelties, and is a citizen of progressive ideas and much public spirit.

In politics Mr. Whitehead is found arrayed as a stalwart supporter of the cause of the Republican party, and he is identified with the Detroit Board of Commerce, of whose board of directors he became a member in 1907. He holds membership in the Detroit Club, the Country Club and the Detroit Boat Club, and both he and his wife are communicants of St. Paul's church, Protestant Episcopal, in which he is a member of the vestry.

In April, 1885, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Whitehead to Miss Ida Marie Frazer, daughter of Abram C. Frazer, who was for many years an influential citizen of Detroit and prominently identified with financial affairs in this city. Mr. and Mrs. Whitehead have four children,—James Frazer, Thomas Cram, Mary Elizabeth, and Walter Kellogg.

**FRED J. SIMMONS.**

Himself numbered among the oldest business men in Detroit, Mr. Simmons has here passed the major portion of his life, being a representative of one of the well known and honored pioneer families of the city and standing high in the confidence and esteem of the people among whom he has so long lived and labored to goodly ends.

Mr. Simmons is a native of the old Empire state of the Union and a scion of families founded in America in the colonial days. He was born at Oriskany Falls, Oneida county,



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HISTORY  
OF  
MICHIGAN

BY  
CHARLES MOORE

ILLUSTRATED

VOLUME III

CHICAGO  
THE LEWIS PUBLISHING COMPANY  
1915

to him for the improvements of local education during the past ten years. Mr Frost is now president of the Western Michigan Round Table, and the Michigan Schoolmasters Club.

**JAMES THOMAS WHITEHEAD.** In the iron and steel business at Detroit one of the prominent figures for a number of years has been James Thomas Whitehead, president of the Whitehead & Kales Iron Works. His relations with the industry have been as an organizer, and manager of large interests, and his presence has proved a stimulating influence not only in this line of manufacturing but in connection with a number of the industrial and financial enterprises of the city. For more than half a century the Whitehead family has been identified with Detroit and vicinity. James Thomas Whitehead is a native of Wayne county, born at Wyandotte, Michigan, September 28, 1864, a son of the late James and Mary (McEvoy) Whitehead. James Whitehead, who was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1831, came to the United States in 1852. From Boston, Massachusetts, where he spent four years, he came to Detroit in 1856, and for several years engaged in the mercantile business in this city. Moving to Wyandotte, he became identified with a similar business in that locality, and so continued until his death in 1873. Mary (McEvoy) Whitehead was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1831, her parents having been natives of the north of Ireland. After her husband's death she brought her family to Detroit, and died in that city in 1908.

At Wyandotte, James T. Whitehead lived until he was about ten years of age, and since that time his home has been in Detroit. His education proceeded partly from the public schools and partly from the Detroit Business University. In 1879, at the age of fifteen Mr. Whitehead began his business career by entering the employ of the firm of Rathbone, Sard & Company of Detroit. Nine years with that firm laid the foundation of experience for his own career. In 1888 Mr. Whitehead began business on his own account at Detroit, and since that time to the present has been identified with the various lines of the steel and iron business. In 1899 Mr. William R. Kales became associated with him under the firm name of Whitehead & Kales.

In 1905 the industry was incorporated under the title of Whitehead & Kales Iron Works, of which corporation Mr. Whitehead became president, the office which he still holds. His interest extends to many other local enterprises. He is a vice president of the Kales-Haskell Company of Detroit, a director in the Michigan Copper & Brass Rolling Mills, a director in the Peninsular State Bank of Detroit, and vice-president and director of the Highland Park State Bank.

The marriage of Mr. Whitehead on April 8, 1885, united him to Miss Ida Marie Frazer, daughter of Abram Carley Frazer of Detroit. Their family of children are James Frazer Whitehead, Thomas Cram Whitehead, Mary Elizabeth Whitehead, and Walter Kellogg Whitehead. Well known in club life, Mr. Whitehead belongs to the Detroit Athletic (new), the Detroit Club, the Detroit Boat Club, and is a member and in 1909-10 was a director of the Detroit Board of Commerce. A member of the Episcopal Church for several years he has been a vestryman of St. Paul's Cathedral.

**EDWARD S. LYMAN.** Though one of the younger members of the Muskegon bar, Edward S. Lyman has quickly taken rank as a leader in his profession, enjoys a good practice, and possesses the confidence of a large circle of acquaintances in his county. Mr. Lyman had to work