

WISCONSIN

ITS STORY AND BIOGRAPHY

1848-1913

BY

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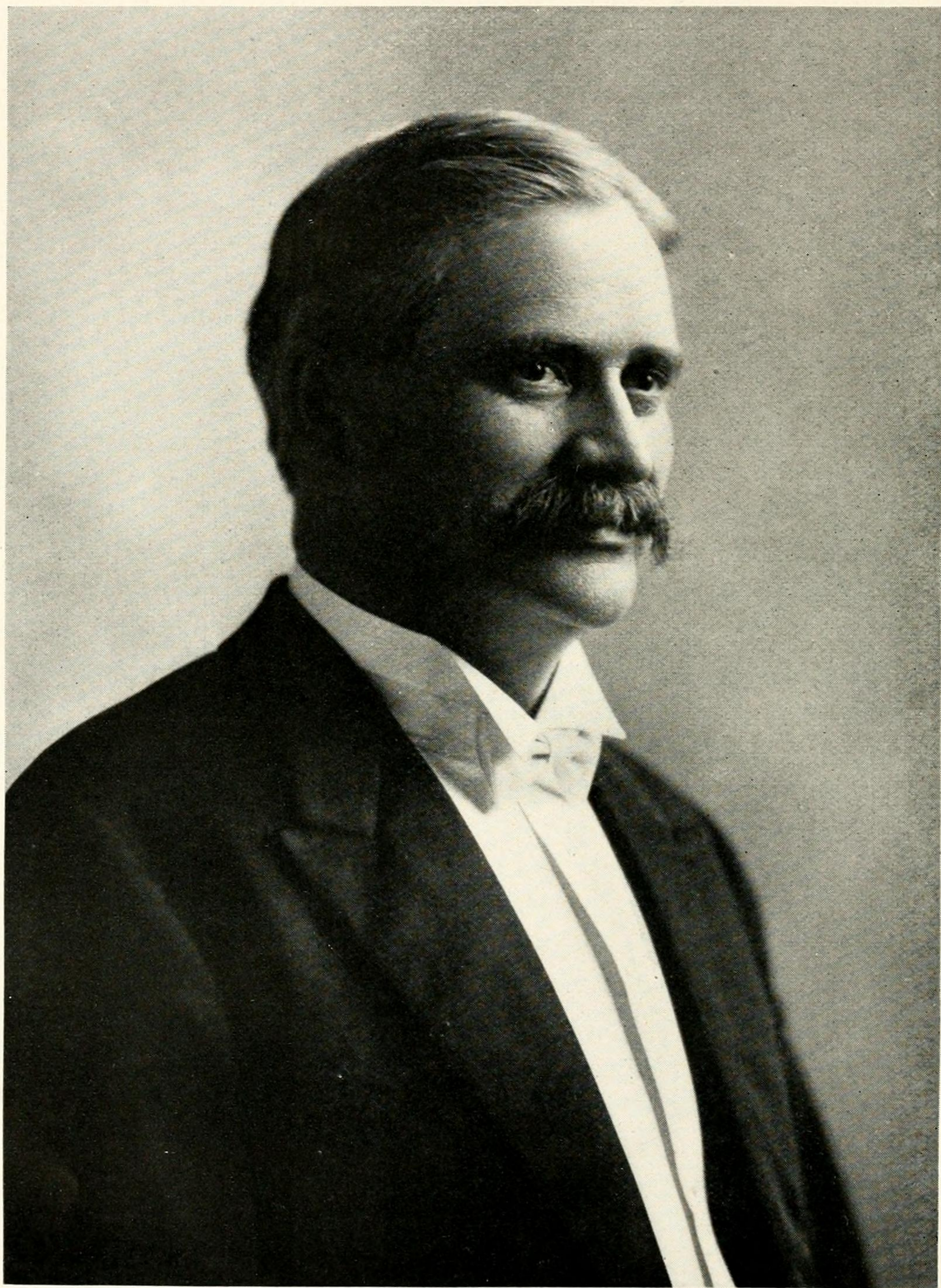
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Wm. J. Lawrence

1906, the Bank of Eau Claire merged with the Chippewa Valley Bank under the name of the Union National Bank. Mr. Cousins at this time is cashier of this bank, the capital of which is \$200,000.

He served with the Third Wisconsin Infantry, in the Spanish-American War, participating in the Porto Rican campaign under General Miles, and was wounded in the battle of Coamo. During the war he served as a Battalion Adjutant, with rank of first Lieutenant. He is now Regimental Adjutant with rank of Captain Third Infantry, under Colonel Orlando Holway.

He served a term in the State Legislature and for many years has been a Fire and Police Commissioner. In politics he is a Republican and reads the *New York Sun*. He is interested in a number of business enterprises, both in Wisconsin and other states. He is a stockholder in several banking institutions.

Mr. Cousins is a member of the Eau Claire Lodge No. 112, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; of Eau Claire Chapter No. 36, Royal Arch Masons; Eau Claire Commandry No. 8, Knights Templars; of the Wisconsin Consistory. He is a member of Tripoli Temple, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine; of the Knights of Pythias; of the Order of Elks, having served in that organization as Treasurer for many years. He is a member of the Hoo Hoos and of the United Spanish War Veterans. He is a charter member of the Eau Claire Club and now holds position as secretary and treasurer.

WILLIAM TORRANCE, of the firm of John Torrance & Son, he being the son, has been identified with this business since 1877, when his father assumed charge of the business of the old firm of Leech & Paul, foundrymen of this city. In addition to his connection with business activities of the place, Mr. Torrance has taken an able and prominent position in the municipal and civic workings of the city, and his life has been one of the utmost value to his community. He is the son of Scotch parents, and was born January 24, 1857, in Airdrie, Kentucky, his parents being John and Isabella (Johnson) Torrance.

Concerning these worthy people, it may be said that John Torrance was the son of Gaven Torrance, and he was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland, on January 1, 1833, and there received his education. In Glasgow he learned the trade of a moulder, and in that city he worked at his trade until 1852, when he emigrated to America and located in Troy, New York. He remained in that city but six months, and then went direct to Delhi, Delaware, where for six months he was employed in the machine shops of the place. Returning to Troy at the end of that time, he was for two years located in that city, after which he went to Airdrie, Kentucky, and worked at his trade until 1858. In that year he made his way to the middle west and located in Houston county, Minnesota, but his stay there was a short

one. In the spring of 1859 he located in La Crosse, Wisconsin, and from then until now his family has been identified with the place. He secured work in the foundry there operated by Leech & Paul, and his ability in his work soon won for him a promotion to the foremanship of the foundry, in which capacity he continued until 1863. In that year he started a foundry on his own responsibility, locating at the foot of State street, and in association with Archibald Gould, the firm name being Torrance & Gould. In 1865 the shop was burned, the structure being a frame one, and the business was abandoned. Mr. Torrance again entered the employment of Leech & Paul, and subsequently worked with C. C. & E. G. Smith, and also with Thornley & James. In 1877, in company with his son, he established the present business, known as John Torrance & Son, which, guided for many years by the experience of the elder Torrance, together with his most worthy business qualifications, reached a place where it now ranks among the leading foundry and machine shops in the city.

Mr. Torrance was married in Delhi, New York, January 3, 1852, to Miss Isabella Johnson, the daughter of William and Mary Johnson, and six children were born to them, named as follows: Isabella, Mary, William, Nettie, John, Annie and May, the latter named being now deceased, death claiming her in August, 1880. The mother died on November 14, 1866, in Evansville, Indiana. In 1876, Mr. Torrance crossed the Atlantic ocean for the third time, and while in Edinburgh he was married to Miss Mary Gibson, nee Patterson, in May of that year. Mr. Torrance died in 1897, a member of the Universalist church and of the Masonic Order, in which he was affiliated with the Knights Templar and other bodies.

William Torrance was the third child born to his parents. He received a somewhat meager education in the schools of the community in which he was reared, and as a youth he served a full apprenticeship in the foundry of Leech & Paul. When his father died, years after having established the business of John Torrance & Son, William Torrance carried on the foundry under the same name, and the firm is still known by that honored title today.

Mr. Torrance is a man of considerable popularity in La Crosse, and has been particularly active in public life. He is a Democrat and has taken a live interest in the work of the party since he reached the years of manhood. He has given worthy service to La Crosse as an official of the highest order, serving first as alderman from 1892 to 1898; as mayor of the city from 1903 to 1907, and he has also served for three years as supervisor. Again in 1911 he was elected to the board of aldermen, and is now filling that office. He was president of the Board of Trustees of the County Asylum for six years, and in 1908 was appointed Police and Fire Commissioner

of the City of La Crosse, serving one term under the new law requiring five members instead of four. He was named as the fifth member of the board now serving. Mr. Torrance was one of the organizers of the La Crosse Bridge & Steel Company, also of the German-American Bank, now merged with the Batavia National Bank, with both of which he has been honorably and prominently connected.

Mr. Torrance is a member of the Universalist church, as was his father before him, and since 1900 he has been a Mason of the thirty-second degree. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Yeomen.

On September 7, 1885, Mr. Torrance was married in the city of La Crosse to Miss Jennie Gibson. She died in 1894, leaving four children,—William J., Nettie P., Bessie and Lillian. Mr. Torrance was married a second time on June 9, 1908, when Miss Sarah Iola McKown became his wife, the marriage being celebrated at Flandreau, South Dakota. Two children have been born of this latter union,—Elizabeth and Meredith A.

CHARLES M. UPHAM. Since the pioneer days of Wisconsin the Upham family has furnished some of the most notable figures in public and commercial affairs of the state. To those familiar with political history perhaps the name which would first come to mind would be that of former Governor William H. Upham, soldier, manufacturer and banker at Marshfield, since 1878, and Governor of Wisconsin from 1895 to 1897. Of a second generation of the same family is Frederick William Upham, one of the foremost business men of Chicago, and a national political leader. Concerning these men and other representatives of the family appropriate mention is made on other pages of this work. For the present consideration is introduced the remarkable career of Charles M. Upham, who for fifty-five years has been engaged in business at Shawano, in Shawano county.

Only now and then is it given to men of affairs to celebrate the semi-centennial of a business career which has been continuously centered about one line of general activity, and in one place. Yet, in 1908, Charles M. Upham, amid the congratulations of associates and the hundreds of his friends and admirers, entered upon the second half-century of his career as a merchant, capitalist, banker, and leading man of affairs at Shawano. In 1858 Charles M. Upham established a small country store at Shawano, walking through the woods from New London and his goods went on a barge hauled by Indians. It was a modest establishment in an old frame building, and from that year to the present he has been continuously in the mercantile business at Shawano, now fifty-five years. His enterprise has grown with the increase of population and with the development of his own remark-