

dead friend and myself, I now submit the results to the people of Missouri. That perfection has been attained, and that our work will be found absolutely free from error, cannot of course be claimed, for—

“Whoever thinks a faultless piece to see,  
Thinks what ne’er was, nor is, nor e’er shall be.”

Nevertheless, I feel confident that these volumes will commend themselves to fair and just critics, and find favor with an intelligent public, proud of this imperial State, loyal to its welfare, and deeply interested in its history.

To more than two hundred citizens of Missouri, who have contributed special articles or aided in the preparation of this work, in an advisory capacity I desire to return sincerest thanks, and to Dr. Alexander N. De Menil, ex-Chief Justice Shepard Barclay, Mr. Theophile Papin, Mr. Daniel M. Grissom, Capt. F. Y. Hedley, Col. R. T. Van Horn, Mr. W. H. Winants, Mr. Howard M. Holden, Hon. M. G. McGregor, Col. H. H. Gregg, Hon. Charles B. McAfee, Mr. Dabney C. Dade, Hon. F. A. Sampson, Hon. William B. Napton, Hon. William H. Chiles, Hon. Charles G. Burton, Hon. George Robertson, Hon. Thomas H. Bacon and Hon. Will O. Rothwell, the editor has been especially indebted for counsel and assistance in the compilation of the encyclopedia. To those, also, who have generously aided us to illustrate this work more elaborately and beautifully than any historical work previously published in the State, I beg to return the thanks of the publishers as well as my own. This cordial co-operation has alone made its publication possible. The warm welcome which has been extended, in so many ways, to this undertaking, by the men and women of Missouri, is but one manifestation of that spirit of liberality which is universally recognized as a distinguishing trait of this people. We are grateful for that welcome, and for the opportunity we have had, in the preparation of this great memorial, to shape into permanent form the annals of such citizenship as this State can proudly boast.

In these records of public and private achievement may be easily found the secret of that wonderful development which has won for the State her present proud rank; and in these records, moreover, may be seen the evidences of that impulse, energy and resistless force which promise to Missouri the yet more brilliant role of leadership which manifest destiny has marked out for her in the civilization and culture of the great Southwest.

HOWARD L. CONARD.