

H. W. SCOTT WAS ONE OF WORLD'S GREAT HISTORIANS

Kept Posted on Events of Every Nation; George H. Himes Discusses Life of Great Editor.

"The greatest man among all the Oregonians," was what George H. Himes of the Oregon Historical society had to say of Harvey W. Scott, this morning at the Oregon Historical society rooms.

"No man living knew more about the early development of Oregon," said Mr. Himes, "and there was no greater friend of the pioneer settlers of this state than Mr. Scott. Although he differed radically with many of them on subjects political and otherwise, this never interfered with his friendship."

"Mr. Scott was a pioneer of 1852, coming to this state at the age of 14. The Oregon Pioneer association was organized in 1873 and Mr. Scott became a member in 1875 after the date limit of immigration to this country had been advanced from 1850 to 1852."

"The great editor always took keen interest in the pioneer association and had been a central figure in the meetings of the association."

"One of the prime movers in the organization of the Oregon Historical society on December 17, 1898, he was elected its first president and was re-elected for three more terms. The society endeavored to elect him for a fourth term, but he declined on account of multiplicity of office duties."

"He was a steadfast supporter of the Historical society and was a constant contributor to the collection of pamphlets, documentary matter and historical articles. The pages of the quarterly of the society always contained articles of value written by Mr. Scott. Many historical books which came into his hands while he served in his editorial capacity were turned over to the Historical society."

"One of Mr. Scott's most important contributions to the society literature was an address which he gave in 1890 in explanation of the origin of the name Oregon. The fact was brought out that the name originated probably through Jonathan Carver in 1768-69 upon Minnesota soil, and that the word came from the Indians."

"Although never given to making addresses promiscuously in public, the annals of the Oregon Historical society contain several remarkable speeches on historical matters delivered by the editor. Among the more important of these was an address delivered May 2, 1891, on the occasion of the unveiling of the Champeau monument at a point on the Willamette river about 40 miles from Portland. This was in honor of the first anniversary of the birthday of the Rocky mountains west of the scene of the exercises in 1801 was the center of the population of Americans west of the Rockies in 1848."

"The subject of Mr. Scott's address at this anniversary was 'The Formation and Administration of the Provisional Government of Oregon.' The address was a clever grouping of facts and statements respecting the origin of the organization of the state government followed through till the territory was finally made a state. Due to a close study of historic facts and his ability to grasp the meaning of the trend of political and governmental and social affairs, the speaker was able to make predictions that have been fulfilled almost to the dot since 1891 and others which probably will be fulfilled in the next half century."

"Another notable address of Mr. Scott's delivered under the auspices of the Oregon Historical society was delivered at the historical congress of the Lewis and Clark fair August 21, 1905. The subject of this address was 'The Unity of History.'"

"George H. Himes was intimately associated with Mr. Scott during most of his life, and probably no one living except the near relatives was better acquainted with the editor's peculiarities and habits."

"Mr. Scott was undoubtedly one of the greatest historians of the world," continued Mr. Himes. "He was a complete master of the classics, and read Greek, Latin and Hebrew at sight. He was probably better posted on the Bible from a literary standpoint than most of the ministers. There was nothing in history, ancient, mediaeval, modern or local, with which he was not thoroughly familiar. He was conversant with all the great authors and was able to quote literally pages and pages from most of the great writers. He was particularly conversant with Bryant and Shakespeare. He was probably the best informed man in the United States on affairs in general."

"Mr. Scott was not given to public speaking and always declined to appear publicly except in rare cases, when matters of historical or public interest were concerned. He was a great student, but usually did not care to express himself otherwise than through his editorial utterances."

"He had a warm heart for all the old pioneers and was always willing to forgive the numerous duties of his office in order to meet any of them. With many of his friends he disagreed politically, but this made absolutely no difference with his personal relations. I do not believe he went to his death with a grudge against a single man. Many people who read his editorial columns but never met the man, had false ideas of his real nature and did not realize what a big heart he had for everyone and particularly the pioneers, even though some of his editorial utterances were exceedingly antagonistic."

"There was a phase of human endeavor in connection with the progress of the race with which he was not conversant. He knew the trend of events in all countries and had the quality of analyzing principles and following out the results of historical movements for years and years in advance."

"He always had a glad hand for pioneers who came to see him, and would sacrifice his time to do them favors. Some of his most intimate pioneer friends, now dead, were: Judge Shattuck, Judge Deady, Judge Williams, Jesse Appleton, H. W. Corbett, James Felling, J. W. Nesmith, J. G. Wilson, W. D. Hare, David Thompson. Two in particular now living were D. W. Davenport, John Minto and Asa L. Bush of Salem."

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"Attended University. In 1859 Mr. Scott entered Pacific university, and in 1863 was graduated from the classical course, being the first student to complete the four years' course of the institution."

"Following his graduation, Mr. Scott went to Idaho, where he engaged in mining and other menial work for a short time, but returned to Portland in 1864. He was employed as the librarian of the Portland library, and after sought and obtained a position as an editorial writer on the Oregonian, then under the exclusive ownership and control of H. L. Pittock."

"One of Mr. Scott's first notable articles was an editorial written on the death of President Lincoln, and his force as a writer soon became apparent. Within a short time he succeeded Samuel A. Clarke as editor of the paper, which position he held until 1875. He was appointed collector of customs for the port of Portland in 1875, and held that post for five years. When he left that office he became editor of the Bulletin for a short time."

"Bought Stock in Paper. Mr. Pittock had sold a controlling interest in the Oregonian to H. W. Corbett and W. Lair Hill during the time Mr. Scott was in charge of the customs office. In 1877 Mr. Scott bought most of the Corbett stock and again took his place as editor of the Oregonian, being associated with H. L. Pittock, who assumed charge of the business end of the paper, which position he held until his death. Since that time Mr. Scott had continued to be the director of the editorial policy of the Oregonian."

"In 1878 Mr. Scott was a delegate to the national convention which named Rutherford B. Hayes for president. He was also a delegate to the national convention which placed James A. Garfield in nomination for the presidency. In 1886 he was elected a member of the Union party and had been sent, at various times, to many conventions and national gatherings as a delegate from Oregon."

"Mr. Scott was a member of the board of trustees of Pacific university, and at the time of his death was president of the board. He was a member of the Portland water board, and of the state text book commission."

"Offered High Office. He was a candidate for election by the legislature for United States senator in the legislative session of 1903 and had been offered the position of minister to Mexico and to Belgium, which offices he declined."

"In 1904 Mr. Scott was elected president of the Lewis and Clark fair association, and was elected president of the late Henry W. Goods being chosen to succeed him. He was also a member of the charter board which drafted the present charter of the city of Portland. He was a member of the Arlington club, and of the Commercial club."

"Fraternal Mr. Scott ranked high in Masonry. He became a member of Portland lodge No. 55 in 1905 and later was initiated as a member of Washington chapter No. 18, Royal Arch Masons, and of Comandary No. 1, Knights Templar. He was given the thirty-second degree Scottish Rite, at Washington D. C. in 1906, by the supreme council of the Scottish Rite. He became a member of Al Kader Temple of the Mystic Shrine June 15, 1907."

"At the time of the reorganization of the Associated Press 12 years ago Mr. Scott was one of those who took a prominent part in the reorganization, and since that time had been a member of the board of directors of the organization."

"Married in 1865. Mr. Scott was married to Miss Elizabeth Nicklin in October, 1865. Mrs. Scott died in 1876, leaving two sons, John H. Scott and Kenneth Scott, the latter dying in childhood. He married again in 1878, his second wife, who survives him, being Miss Margaret McCasney of Astoria. Pa. Mr. Scott is survived by three sons, John H. Scott, Leslie M. Scott and a daughter, and by one daughter, Miss Judith Scott, who was the last of five brothers, two of whom died in infancy. John Harvey Scott died in Forest Grove, May 1, 1867. Four sisters are living in Portland, Mrs. Mary Frances Cook, Mrs. Abigail Scott Dunaway, Mrs. Catherine A. Coburn and Mrs. Harriett L. Palmer."

"Mrs. Margaret Furness, a sister, died in 1865, and Mrs. Maria Kelly, another sister, died in 1901. Mrs. Ellen Latourette, a half sister, lives in Oregon City, and Chester Scott, a half brother, died in 1895. There are four grandchildren, William Harvey and Marlan, son and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Scott, and a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie M. Scott and a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Judith Scott."

"It is announced that the death of Mr. Scott will cause no change in the organization of the Oregonian, immediately at least. Mr. Pittock, who is the controlling owner of the paper, is now in Europe as a delegate to the International Good Roads congress, and no change in the editorial management of the paper will be made until his return to Portland, if at all."

"Following the operation Mr. Scott at first appeared to have withstood the shock excellently, but within a short time his heart began to give him trouble and he rapidly sank, death claiming him yesterday afternoon in spite of the most powerful restoratives known to modern medical science."

"Mr. Scott was born in Taswell county, Illinois, Feb. 1, 1828. He came of Scotch ancestry, his forefathers having landed at Cheston, S. C. in 1755. His grandparents were from Pennsylvania and North Carolina and his parents lived in Kentucky."

"Mr. Scott's father was John Tucker Scott, and his mother's maiden name was Anne Roleofson. This pioneer couple moved to Illinois, where Scott was born and where he spent his early boyhood on the paternal farm. As a young boy he worked on the farm in summer and attended school in winter, until when he was 14 years of age, his parents started across the plains by the team route for Oregon. This was in 1852, and he accompanied them on the hardships of the journey and died before Oregon was reached."

"Endured Privations. The family settled in Yamhill county, but, after a year, moved once more to Washington, where a home was established about 20 miles northwest of Olympia. In what is now Mason county, Young Scott helped to clear the land for the planting of this period. In 1855 trouble broke out with the Indians, and Young Scott enlisted as a private in Colonel Shaw's militia company, serving until the uprising was put down and peace restored."

"Following this the young pioneer worked in logging camps, in surveying parties and on the farms of the community until the summer of 1857, when he determined to enter school and secure an education. He accordingly shouldered his pack, containing his few books and his wardrobe, and started foot to Oregon City. He walked all of the way swimming the rivers, where he could find neither boat or shallow ford. He stayed for a time with relatives in Clackamas county, near Oregon City, and attended school there. He then went to Forest Grove and attended school at that place, securing funds for his maintenance by working on the farms of the community."

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"It goes without saying that Mr. Scott will be a great loss to this community. He was a man of strong prejudices, politically and otherwise. He was nevertheless a great factor for good in this community, where he lived so many years. Although I differed with him, as did others, most radically in his views on public questions that vitally affected the people today, I have always recognized his very great ability and the forcefulness of his strong personality. With all who knew him I sincerely deplore his death."

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"In many respects he was more like Greeley than any of those named. 'I think it safe to say that with the passing of Mr. Scott, Colonel Watterston is the so a survivor of the journalistic class represented by those whom I have named.'

"It goes without saying that Mr. Scott will be a great loss to this community. He was a man of strong prejudices, politically and otherwise. He was nevertheless a great factor for good in this community, where he lived so many years. Although I differed with him, as did others, most radically in his views on public questions that vitally affected the people today, I have always recognized his very great ability and the forcefulness of his strong personality. With all who knew him I sincerely deplore his death."

"'Was One of Strongest Men in Oregon,' Says Federal Judge Bean. Speaking of Harvey W. Scott, Judge R. S. Bean, of the United States court, said today: 'Unquestionably Mr. Scott was one of the strongest men Oregon has produced. He will be missed by all of us. In his long and able career as editor of the Oregonian, Mr. Scott did much to impress ideas for good upon the minds of the people of the northwest, and to influence public opinion in a marked degree.'

"Mr. Scott was his home and he worked for the upbuilding of the state with zest and energy. His writings did much for many good causes. He was always willing to help the downtrodden and weak. He was loved by everyone who knew him."

"Intellectually Great and Most Companionable. 'Mr. Scott, intellectually, was the greatest man I ever knew, and a most lovable companion,' said Judge Henry McGinn. 'It had the great pleasure of enjoying his friendship for more than a quarter of a century, though I have known him all my life. He was a man, taken all in all, we shall not see again.'

"The community has suffered a very great loss in the death of Mr. Scott," said President B. S. Joeselyn, of the Portland Railway, Light & Power company. "Mr. Scott was a powerful man and a great editor."

"Northwest Loses Noble Character in Editor's Death. 'The passing away of such a notable figure as Mr. Scott, a man of such striking personality as he possessed, must deeply affect any community, especially one with which he has been identified during the entire period of its growth, and in which growth he has been an important and influential force,' said William D. Wheelwright. 'While others have had to do with the development of the physical and material resources of the country, it fell to Mr. Scott's lot to foster the intellectual and moral growth of the community, to see that it kept pace with the physical development, and that it wasn't given over entirely to the accumulation of material wealth.'

"He was unusually well equipped for such a task, by reason of a powerful mentality and an insatiable thirst for knowledge that caused him to become a student of history, of the natural sciences, of philosophy and of political economy. And combined with these qualities he had a rare power of expression, which enabled him to place his conclusions before the world in such a manner as to enforce attention and mould public sentiment."

"The effect for good or evil of a powerful newspaper, especially in a growing community, cannot be overestimated, and no one can deny that in the main—in the long run, the influence of the Oregonian was in favor of the establishment of sound principles, moral, intellectual and economic. He passes into history as a great editor, a worthy associate and successor of Greeley, Dana and Godkin, the last two of whom, at least, appreciated his quality, as any reader of the Sun and Evening Post can testify."