

FOREWORD.

This short book has been prepared for two primary purposes: first, to gather together and to record in one place an account of the lives of those sturdy, courageous pioneers, John R. Coons and his wife, Sarah Bradbury; and second, to promote in my niece, Miriam Runkel, an interest in the historical lore of southwestern Wisconsin. That John and Sarah are her ancestors may create a personal interest sufficient to overcome the deficiencies of the penman.

John and Sarah lie buried in a forgotten village. The moss has filled the lines which tell upon their tombstone their names and dates. The lives of those who fought to wrest their home from the Indians and who pioneered in the settlement of Gratiot's Grove, Dubuque, Belmont, and Potosi should be recorded and remembered,—if only by their descendants.

To Aunt Eva Calloley, the oldest living descendant of John and Sarah; to Cora Coons, wife of J. B. Coons (Beck); to Mae Coons, wife of J. H. Coons (Henry); and to May Coons, wife of H. E. Coons (Gene) appreciation is expressed for their help in gathering and supplying information.

To the author the preparation of this book has been an unmeasured pleasure. May it please to some degree those of the living generations who read it.

M. K. HOBBS.