

A HISTORY
OF
NORTHWEST OHIO

**A Narrative Account of Its Historical Progress and Development
from the First European Exploration of the Maumee and
Sandusky Valleys and the Adjacent Shores of
Lake Erie, down to the Present Time**

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"HON. RICHARD A. BEATTY of Bowling Green former state senator, is widely known in Northwest Ohio and in several other states on account of his prominent associations with the oil industry. Since early boyhood he has been identified in some way or other with oil operations, beginning back in Western Pennsylvania, where he was born.

Mr. Beatty was first elected a member of the State Senate in 1905, taking office January 5, 1906, and serving six years. He represented in the Senate the five counties of Wood, Henry, Fulton, Putnam and Hancock. During that time he distinguished himself by his leadership in the legislative program and especially by the constructive work he did in behalf of various state institutions and affairs and the capable manner in which he safeguarded the integrity of the state's fiscal management.

He was chairman of the banks and banking committee, member of the finance committee, chairman of the public works committee, and on the mining, fees and salaries, and during his second term was a member of seven committees, on five of which he had had a place during his first term. It was due to Senator Beatty that the bill was passed through the Senate abolishing the fee system and placing all county offices on a strictly salary basis. This eliminated one of the most pregnant sources of graft, and he introduced the graft resolution and was chairman of that committee, which investigated the state graft among officials and led to the indictment of three and conviction of two. Senator Beatty introduced the bill to establish the State Normal School at Bowling Green and one in the eastern part of the state. This bill was No. 8 on the Senate calendar during the first session, and encountered almost constant opposition, but Senator Beatty succeeded in keeping it from oblivion and during the second session it was the last bill to be put through. He also secured the passage of the banks and banking bill known as the Thomas Bill. Mr. Beatty is an expert accountant, and his training and experience in

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that line served him well during his senatorial term. He uncovered many loose and inefficient systems in the conduct of state affairs, and his work was especially valuable in placing the banking institutions of the state on a sound basis and ridding the business of some unscrupulous characters.

For years Senator Beatty has figured as a leader in the temperance and, prohibition movement both in his home state and in the nation at large. He concerned himself actively with the temperance program in the Senate, and had much to do with securing the passage of the Atkins and Rose bills. Another measure for which he deserves credit is the passing of the bill appropriating \$30,000 for the construction of the Fort Meigs Monument and the purchase of Camp Perry, considered one of the finest rifle ranges in the world. Another was the bill providing for the reorganization of the state militia and the appropriation for the Sixth Regiment Armory at Bowling Green. Throughout his six years in the State Senate Mr. Beatty was continually busy with something that was important and connected directly with the welfare of the state and its

larger institutions. He also served in the Constitutional Convention, and there impressed his ability upon some of the articles which are written into the fundamental law of the state.

Mr. Beatty is a man of collegiate education and is also what might be called a man of large affairs. He was born in Butler County, Pennsylvania, in 1859, and practically grew up in the oil business. He had considerable experience in the oil fields of Western Pennsylvania before he came to Bowling Green in 1895. He arrived in Northwest Ohio when the oil producing industry was at its height. He was himself active in the production side of the business and for many years has conducted a successful oil brokerage business. It would be a conservative estimate to place the deals which he has handled at a value of \$15,000,000. As an oil man his reputation is by no means confined to Ohio. He has taken an active part in the development of some of the pioneer oil fields of Kentucky, owning an interest in the Irving and the Knox County pools in that state. The better to look after his oil interests outside of Ohio, he maintains an office at Winchester, Kentucky, and another at Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Formerly he owned a large amount of oil property in Oklahoma.

His father, William A. Beatty, was a successful oil operator in Butler County, Pennsylvania. William A. Beatty was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1822 and was of prominent Scotch ancestry. He was liberally educated in Edinburgh College, and studied law at London. Grandfather Richard Beatty was a gallant soldier of the English Empire, fought under the Duke of Wellington at Waterloo, where he commanded a division as a major general. During his army service he lost an arm and a leg, and was subsequently granted by the King of England an estate at Belfast, Ireland, where he lived for many years and where he died in 1830, when past fifty. Many of his descendants and kinsmen were English soldiers. A son and a son-in-law lost their lives at Lucknow during the Indian rebellion.

When a boy William A. Beatty came to America, locating first at Quebec. He afterwards moved to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. He was a man of high scholastic attainments and is said to have compiled an arithmetic for use in the Irish schools. In Pittsburg he married Mary Ann Coulter, who was born near Belfast, Ireland, in 1826 and was of a long line of Irish merchants. She came to the United States when a young woman. After their marriage William A. Beatty and wife located on a farm at White Oak Springs in Butler County, not far from the City of Franklin. Their home was a fine one and among other features it possessed eleven springs. William A. Beatty and wife lived there for many years, and after oil was discovered he did considerable development work. He never lost his zest for travel and in later years he went to nearly every corner of the earth and his death occurred in South Africa about 1884.

Senator Beatty married his first wife in Pennsylvania, Minerva Cassidy. She was a native of Pennsylvania. She and her husband lived some years at Bradford, that state, and she died four months after they came to Bowling Green. She was then thirty-eight years of age. The one child of this union is Ada M., who was educated in the Bowling Green High School and studied music in Oberlin College and for three years was under the instruction of the noted Professor Sherwood of Chicago. She is now the wife of E. M. Rose of Cleveland and they have a son, Edward.

Mr. Beatty married his second wife at Princeton, Indiana. Her maiden name was Rose McClurkin. She was born at Princeton, Indiana, was educated there, in the Woman's

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College at Oxford, Ohio, and also at Weston. She took her final degree in the University of Michigan. Mrs. Beatty is a woman of thorough culture, of wide reading and acquaintance with the world's best works of art and literature. For some years before her marriage she was a teacher of languages and ancient history at Madison, Wisconsin, and Princeton, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Beatty have one daughter, Gene Virginia, now seven years of age. Through inheritance and under capable training she has manifested some remarkable intellectual talents. She is already a student of the languages and history and quite well informed on current events and has a library of her own consisting of 100 volumes or more.

Bowling Green is a city of beautiful homes, and among them one of the best in point of architectural design and solid comforts is that of Mr. and Mrs. Beatty. It is a large brick residence on an elevation on North Grove Street and adds much to the distinction of that locality as a residence center. Mr. Beatty has filled all the offices in the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and is prominent in Masonry and was eminent grand commander six years of the Knights of St. John and Malta being a delegate to the World's Grand Lodge. Mr. and Mrs. Beatty are prominent members of the Presbyterian Church. She is chairman of the King's Daughters of Wood County, is active in the local suffrage movement and more recently has given much of her time and social leadership to the American Red Cross."