

☆ PREFATORY NOTE

My father, Morton Harrison Bassett, the author of this book, died at Adrian, Minnesota just a few days before the book was ready to go to press. He would have been 73 years of age on January 31, 1962. He died on his father's birthday, December 21, 1961 — having lived all his life on the homestead where he was born.

He was proud of his father's Civil War experience, and proud of the pioneers of our area. I feel that he, with many of his contemporaries, who are fast disappearing, were a breed of men who were truly the salt of the earth. They laid the foundations for what we have today, and we have a never ending challenge to build as well and as enduringly as they did. If we are half the men and women they were we need have no fears for the future of our country.

Wayne R. Bassett