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FLORADO HOUSER WELLCOME, M. D.

During the later years of his life Dr. Florado Houser Wellcome was a resident of Minneapolis and for many years before was one of the capable and successful practicing physicians of this state, doing active service for his fellowmen during the pioneer and later period in the development of Minnesota. He was born in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, April 2, 1858, a son of Dr. J. W. B. and Sarah (Houser) Wellcome. The father was born on the Isle of Man, while the mother's birth occurred in Mauch Chunk, Pennsylvania, and her parents were of Holland birth. At an early day Dr. J. W. B. Wellcome removed to Wisconsin and when his son, Florado H., was but a year old the family home was established in Garden City, Minnesota. Later a removal was made to New Ulm and afterward to Sleepy Eye, where the father continued in the practice of his profession for many years. He was living at New Ulm at the time of the Indian massacre and he went through all of the hardships and experiences of pioneer life on the western frontier.

His son, Florado H. Wellcome, acquired his early education in the schools of New Ulm and of Sleepy Eye and continued his studies in the high school at Man-kato, Minnesota. He afterward took up the study of medicine under the direction of his father and next entered the Rush Medical College of Chicago, from which he was graduated at the age of twenty years. Returning to Minnesota, he located for practice in Sleepy Eye and it was about this time, or in 1879, that he wedded Miss Mary A. Taylor, a daughter of Samuel and Sarah (Robson) Taylor, who were among the early residents of Verona, Wisconsin. The father was for many years an importing merchant of New York city and was a native of England. Following his removal to the west he became owner of the Badger Flour Mills, the first and largest mills in Wisconsin in pioneer days.

Following their marriage Dr. and Mrs. Wellcome located at Granite Falls, Minnesota, where he continued in medical practice for five years. He then opened the Yellow Medicine County Bank, which he conducted successfully for a number of years, winning a substantial position in financial circles in the state. In 1894 he came to Minneapolis, where his remaining days were passed, and for a number of years he served as a director of the National Bank of Commerce of this city. In 1903, associated with F. E. Kenaston, E. C. Warner, S. H. Bowman, Sr., F. W. Lyman, S. A. Harris and Bert Winter, he organized the Union Investment Company, of which he continued president up to the time of his death, and he also occupied the presidency of several banks throughout the Northwest. His business interests constantly developed in growth and importance until he became a commanding figure in financial circles. His business judgment was sound, his counsel valuable and his enterprise enabled him to overcome obstacles and difficulties and at all times reach his business objective. In his later years Dr. and Mrs. Wellcome traveled extensively, visiting many points of interest throughout the world. He attended the Westminster Presbyterian church and was a member of the Minneapolis, Lafayette and Minikahda clubs and also of Granite Falls Lodge, A. F. & A. M. His political allegiance was always given to the republican party from the time that age conferred upon him the right of franchise and his interest in the public welfare was manifest in many tangible ways. He was most charitable and generous, giving freely of his means to aid others, and the many sterling qualities which he possessed gained for him the respect, confidence and high regard of all. He passed away December 21, 1920, when he had reached the age of sixty-two years. He had accomplished much in his life, not only in the upbuilding of his own fortunes but in the service which he had rendered to his fellowmen, and the news of his demise was received with deep regret by his many friends.

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