

1997

Edward Augustus Bowers

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... Little Bourgeau is a Brick." Bourgeau was of immense assistance to Lt. Blakiston, the magnetic observer, in recording temperatures of the air and of the soils below ground. His large collection of pressed plants was delivered to Kew Gardens in England, where William Jackson Hooker said: "He performed his duty and more than his duty . . . most thoroughly. A better botanical collector never accompanied any British scientific mission."

MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The third serious botanist, after Thomas Drummond and David Douglas, to visit the Canadian Plains and Rocky Mountains, where he collected thousands of specimens of at least 819 species of plants. A genus of Compositae, *Bourgea*, two species of plants, *Astragalus bourgovii* and *Rosa bourgeauiana*, and a mountain range southwest of Banff (51° 05' north, 115° 37' west) have been named for him. The French government named him knight of the Légion d'Honneur. Contrary to his chief, Palliser, who spoke of the "Great American desert," Bourgeau correctly recognized the land between the North and South Saskatchewan Rivers as particularly suited to grain farming and stockbreeding.

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C. Stuart Houston

BOWERS, EDWARD AUGUSTUS. Born Hartford, Connecticut, 2 August 1857; died New Haven, Connecticut, 8 December 1924. Lawyer, government employee, conservationist.

FAMILY AND EDUCATION

Son of Connecticut state senator Caleb Bailey Bowers and Fanny M. Cutler. Father moved family from Hartford to New Haven in 1867 for educational purposes. A.B., 1879, LL.B., 1881, Yale University. Received Townsend Prize in law school. Never married.

POSITIONS

Lawyer, 1882-1886, judge, 1884-1885, Dakota Territory. Inspector of public lands, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1886-1889. Lawyer, 1889-1893, Washington, D.C. Assistant commissioner, General Land Office, 1893-1895. Assistant comptroller, U.S. Treasury, 1895-1898. Lawyer, 1898-1907, New Haven,

Connecticut. Lecturer on forest law and administration, Yale University, 1901–1917.

CAREER

For health reasons, moved to Dakota Territory in 1882, settling in Brown County. Made several remote trips, including one to Devil's Lake. Worked as lawyer and wheat farmer, with interest also in banking and politics.

Received commission to be inspector of public lands, with headquarters in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and was charged to curtail illegal fencing on public lands by large-stock men. Succeeded in opening up millions of acres and stopping practice for number of years. Acting as personal representative of Secretary of Interior Lamar, traveled throughout West trying land cases and supervising local land officers. Along with other Democrats, went out of office in 1889 and returned in 1893. Was elected vice president of New Haven Trust Company in 1899.

Prepared special report for secretary of interior in 1888 calling for conservation of public timberlands. Another report, "The Present Condition of the Forests on the Public Lands," presented in December 1890 at a joint meeting of the American Forestry Association and the American Economic Association (and published in the *American Economic Association Publications* [1891]), led to demands for their protection and conservation.

Said to have drafted act of 3 March 1891, called the "most important legislation in the history of forestry," which created forest reserves. Contributed further to national forest system through act of 4 June 1897, which is credited to his influence and which made it possible to practice forestry on the reserves and provided for their administration.

MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS

His work in government service brought about the creation of national forests that would be managed in the public interest. Wrote numerous papers and made many speeches criticizing governmental neglect of public lands.

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John A. Drobnicki

BOYD, LOUISE ARNER. Born San Rafael, California, 16 September 1887; died San Francisco, 14 September 1972. Arctic explorer, geographer.

FAMILY AND EDUCATION

Daughter of mining magnate John Franklin Boyd, who headed his own investment company, and Louise Cook Arner Boyd. Two younger brothers died

**BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF
AMERICAN AND CANADIAN
NATURALISTS AND
ENVIRONMENTALISTS**

EDITED BY

*Keir B. Sterling, Richard P. Harmond,
George A. Cevalco, and Lorne F. Hammond*



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