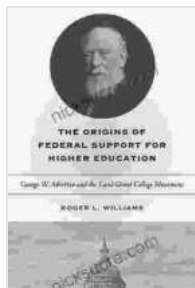


George Atherton: A Visionary Pioneer of the Land-Grant College Movement



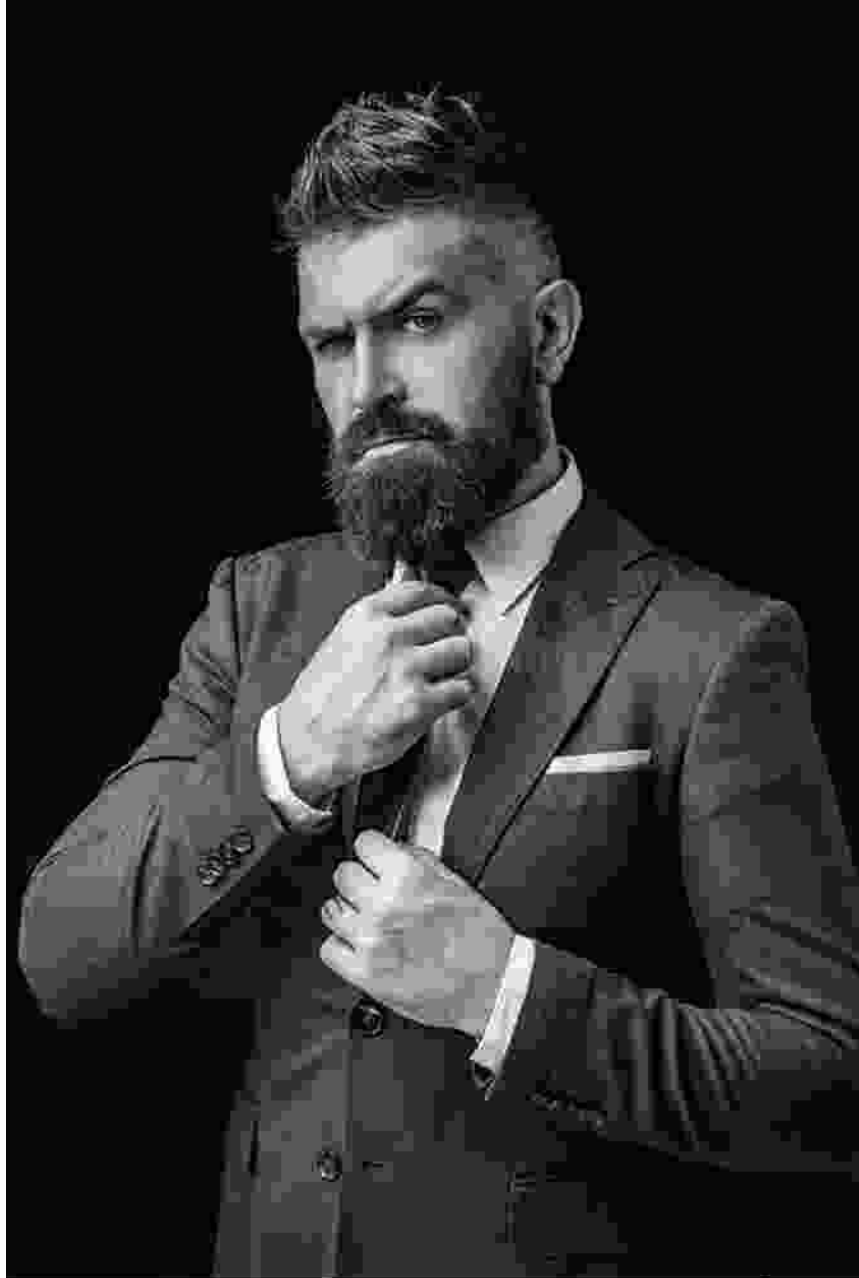
The Origins of Federal Support for Higher Education: George W. Atherton and the Land-Grant College

Movement by Roger L. Williams

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 5466 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 284 pages





George Washington Atherton (1807-1887) was a visionary educator and politician who played a pivotal role in the establishment and development of land-grant colleges in the United States. His unwavering dedication to providing accessible higher education and promoting agricultural research has left an enduring legacy that continues to shape the American educational landscape.

Early Life and Education

Born in Hadley, Massachusetts, on June 25, 1807, Atherton was the son of a prosperous farmer. He attended Amherst College, graduating in 1832. After teaching for several years, he studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1838.

Political Career

Atherton began his political career in the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1845. He served as Speaker of the House from 1849 to 1850. In 1854, he was elected to the United States Senate, where he served until 1857.

Advocate for Land-Grant Colleges

During his time in the Senate, Atherton became a vocal advocate for the establishment of land-grant colleges. He believed that higher education should be accessible to all, regardless of socioeconomic status. He also recognized the importance of agricultural research in advancing the nation's economy.

In 1857, Atherton played a crucial role in securing the passage of the Morrill Land-Grant Act, which granted federal land to states for the establishment of colleges that would focus on agriculture and mechanical arts.

Founding of Pennsylvania State University

After leaving the Senate, Atherton returned to Pennsylvania and became involved in the founding of the Pennsylvania Agricultural College, which later became Pennsylvania State University. He served as the college's first president from 1859 to 1864.

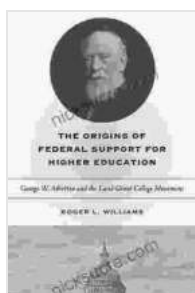
Under Atherton's leadership, Pennsylvania State University became a leading institution in agricultural education and research. He established innovative programs in farming, engineering, and the sciences.

Legacy

George Atherton's contributions to the land-grant college movement have been profound. The institutions he helped to found have provided accessible higher education to millions of students and have played a vital role in the development of American agriculture.

Today, there are over 100 land-grant universities and colleges in the United States, serving students from all walks of life. These institutions continue to uphold Atherton's vision of providing affordable, high-quality education and conducting cutting-edge research.

George Atherton was a visionary pioneer who dedicated his life to making higher education accessible to all and advancing agricultural research. Through his unwavering advocacy for land-grant colleges, he has left an enduring legacy that continues to shape the future of American education.



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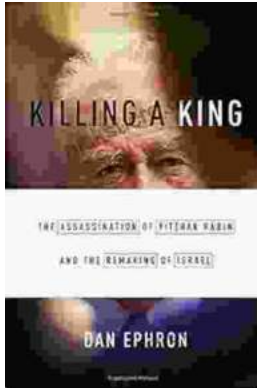
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