

About the Author



Hamlin Garland (1860-1940)

Hamlin Garland was born September 14, 1860, on a homestead near West Salem, Wisconsin. He grew up moving with his family from farm to farm in Iowa and Dakota Territory. Garland's boyhood experiences gave him a strong personal sense of life on the prairie as well as a fierce determination to be a writer. He left the land, moving first to Boston and then Chicago in pursuit of a literary career, but he maintained the vision, one deeply rooted in his family's hardscrabble life. It led him to call for a realistic literature of the West, based on experience, not just on hope.

The realistic local-color stories contained in Garland's first book, *Main-Travelled Roads* (1891), were followed three years later by a collection of literary essays, *Crumbling Idols*. He wrote a biography of Ulysses Grant (1898) and a narrative of the Alaskan Gold Rush (1899), and he also gained popularity as a public lecturer. *Rose of Dutcher's Coolley* (1895) was his first novel, and there were several others, such as *Her Mountain Lover* (1901) and *The Captain of the Grey Troop* (1902), though he soon tired of fiction and turned to his family's history. *A Son of the Middle Border* (1917), *A Daughter of the Middle Border* (1922), *Trail-Makers of the Middle Border* (1926), and *Back-Trailers of the Middle Border* (1928) were even more popular than his fiction. *A Daughter of the Middle Border* was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for biography. Although he wrote other memoirs and a book of Indian stories, *The Book of the American Indian* (1923), his last books were defenses of psychic phenomena. He died in Hollywood on March 4, 1940.

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