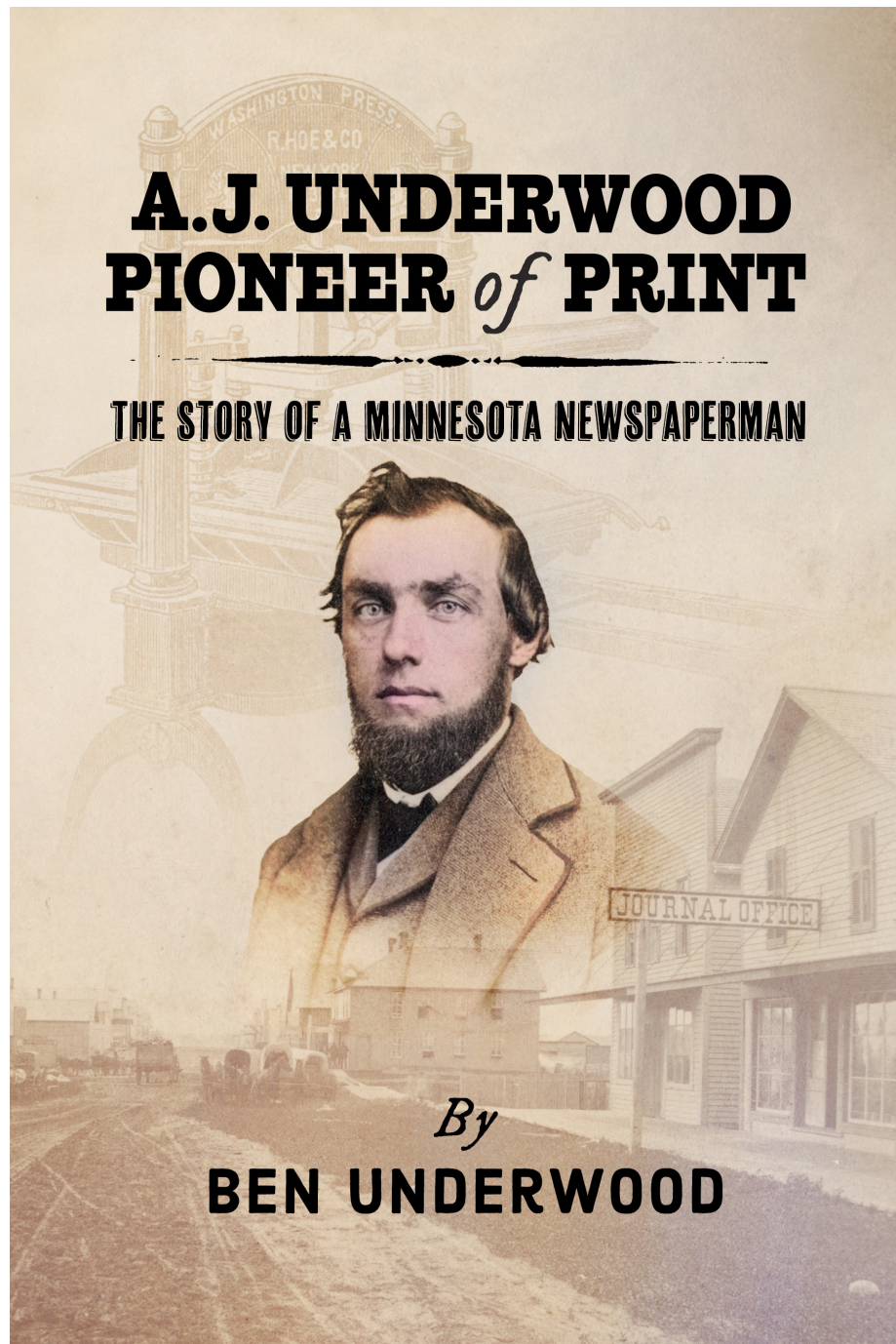


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Synopsis

Minnesota, 1872. Tired from another fall corn harvest, forty-year-old A.J. Underwood wonders if there's an easier life. A.J. revels in the challenges of farm work, but his bleeding hands, the wear and tear of shucking corn, trigger doubts. The Civil War veteran and part-time legislator has recently met George B. Wright, a surveyor and land developer, in the halls of the state capitol. Wright has a civic mission—to convince A.J. to start a newspaper in Wright's new development, Fergus Falls, a fledgling frontier town in west-central Minnesota.

A risk-taker since his twenties, A.J.'s once-restless spirit has been tempered by the life he shares with his wife and their four children in Medina, Minnesota. Bountiful crops of corn, oats, and wheat are finally paying off after nearly a decade. But now, thanks to Wright, a new seed has been planted. With determination, A.J. embarks on a journey that reshapes not only his destiny but also the fate of a blossoming prairie town. Fueled by his encounter with Wright and armed once again with brimming aspirations, he envisions a beacon of truth amid the railroad towns of Minnesota—the historical *Fergus Falls Daily Journal*.

“An engrossing, well-researched, humanized portrait of A.J. Underwood, his family, and the newspaper he founded in Fergus Falls in 1873.”

—ROBERT DRECHSEL, EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF JOURNALISM,
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON, AND FORMER CITY EDITOR, *FERGUS FALLS DAILY JOURNAL*

“Ben Underwood's riveting account of his great-great-grandfather, A.J. Underwood, brings to life the adventuresome spirit of America's great post-Civil War push west.”

—CHRIS SCHUELKE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OTTER TAIL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



About the Author

Ben Underwood is the great-great-grandson of *Journal* founder and publisher A. J. Underwood. He worked at the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* from 1978 to 1986. Following a stint as a financial planner, he founded *Lake and Home Magazine* and served as its publisher from 1999 to 2015. This is his first book. Underwood resides in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, with his wife, Peggy, and dog, Winnie.

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Presentation

