

STORIES of New Jersey

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472 Orange Street, Newark, New Jersey
FRANK FORESTER, THE SPORTSMAN'S AUTHOR

In the middle of the last century the quiet Passaic River and the inviting countryside through which it ran attracted to New Jersey a sad young Englishman who founded for the United States a new form of literature—the literature of outdoor life.

He was named Henry William Herbert, a younger son of a noble English family, but he wrote on American sporting life under the pseudonym of "Frank Forester," because he was ashamed to place his real name on what he considered trivial work. He reserved the name Henry William Herbert for romantic novels, poetry and biography. The works of Henry William Herbert lie forgotten today, but those of Frank Forester still hold considerable interest for the fisherman, the hunter and the naturalist.

Drawing upon the background of traditional English enthusiasm for outdoor sport, Herbert brought to the American public a new respect for wild life and the pleasure to be had in field, stream and forest. America was still

too close to its coonskin pioneer days to view the wilderness as an opportunity for manly recreation. The word "sportsman" at that time was applied almost exclusively to gamblers, cockfight enthusiasts, prize-fight fans and others who indulged in not quite respectable diversions. Moreover, the habits of animal life almost unknown, and careless shooting and trapping threatened the extinction of many species of game.

Herbert, however, had been born in 1807 into the landed gentry of England, a class which had hunted as a pastime for generations and had passed laws to insure a plentiful supply of game. His love of outdoor life was instinctive, and under the expert guidance of his father he took part in moorland hunting expeditions as well as fashionable fox-hunting. Herbert stood close to the inheritance of the family Earldom of Carnarvon and as a matter of course prepared



William Henry Herbert
"Frank Forester"