

It takes more than a good resume to get a government contract.

Nicholas J. H. Fortman (1838-)

From: “An Illustrated History of Stevens, Ferry, Okanogan and Chelan Counties,”ⁱ

N. J. H. FORTMAN, a -civil engineer of considerable experience throughout the northwest who has shown himself very capable in his profession, is now surveyor of Ferry county. He also does mining engineering. He was born in New York, on January 14, 1838. His parents, J. C. H. and A. E. (Devely) Fortman, were natives of Holland, who came to America and located in New York state, where they remained the rest of their lives. The father was professor of languages and they were the parents of three children, Nathaniel, deceased, N. J. H., and Anna Kuyper. Our subject was educated in the state of New York, and when sixteen entered the naval college. After his graduation from this institution, he went to sea for practical experience, and followed this for a number of years, visiting nearly every part of the globe. In 1856, he was shipwrecked on the south coast of the Island of Java. During the last two years he served at sea, he was an officer. In 1859, Mr. Fortman came to California and took up mining, and one year later we find him on Puget Sound.

There being very little work in civil engineering, he turned his attention to farming, which occupied him until 1873. For six years after, he was very active in pursuing the higher intricacies of civil engineering, fitting himself for every kind of work. For a number of years, he was surveyor at Port Townsend, and later entered the employ of the Puget Sound Iron Company as their leading agent and engineer. In due course of time, Mr. Fortman took up real estate business and dealt in land during the boom days at Port Townsend. He came to where Republic now stands, but before the town was started, and here he has remained since. He has done a great deal of excellent work throughout the county and the adjoining country. In political matters, Mr. Fortman is a Democrat, and his party named him for surveyor, and he won the day against Thomas M. Hammond. In former years, Mr. Fortman has been quite active in political matters and has served' in many official positions. Fraternaly, he is connected with the Red Men.

ⁱ Steele, Richard F., “An Illustrated History of Stevens, Ferry, Okanogan and Chelan Counties, State of Washington”: Spokane, Washington: Western Historical Publishing Co., 1904.