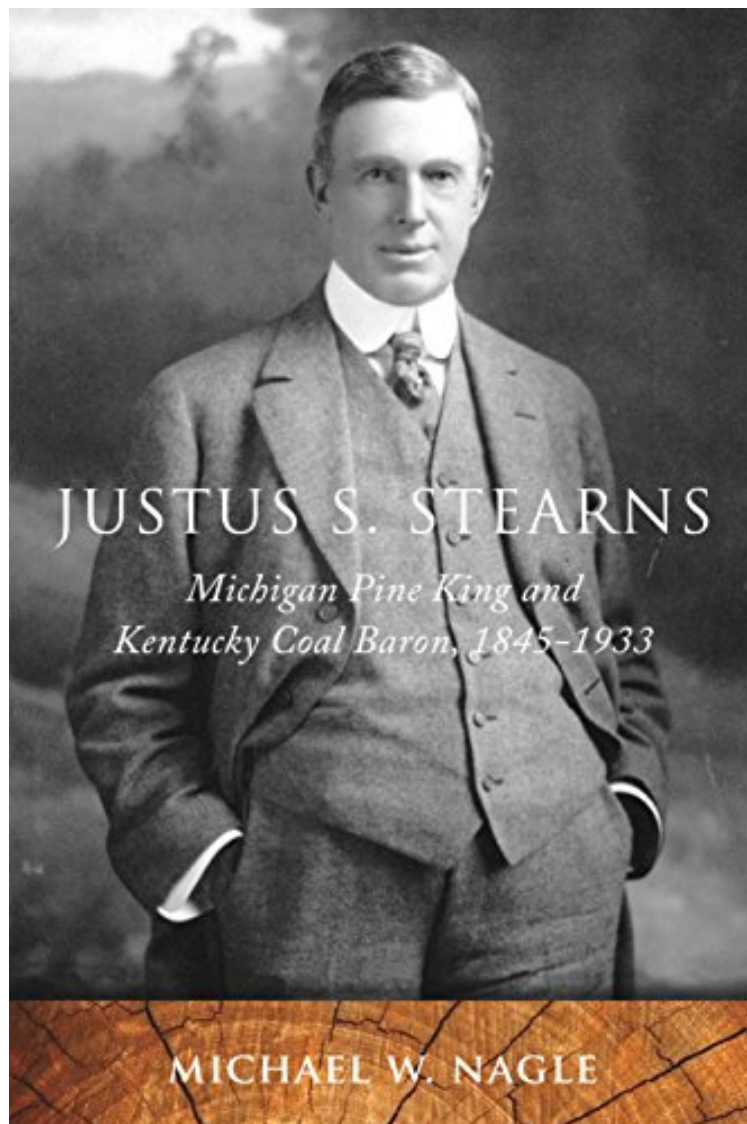


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Justus S. Stearns: Michigan Pine King and Kentucky Coal Baron, 1845-1933 (Great Lakes Books Series)

Michael W. Nagle

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good read for local history in areas covered. By Richard Schramma little redundant with antidotes and facts but a good read for the history of Ludington Michigan and Stearns Kentucky.0

of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Sam CarpenterExcellent. Thorough and compelling. Mandatory reading if you are going to spend some time in Stearns, KY

Near the turn of the twentieth century, ldquo;Pine Kingrdquo; Justus S. Stearns was Michiganrsquo;s largest producer of manufactured lumber and the owner of a prosperous coal mining operation headquartered in Stearns, Kentucky, a town he founded. Over the course of his career, Stearns would own at least thirty manufacturing businessesmdash;making everything from finished lumber to kitchen utensils, game boards, and motorsmdash;as well as hotels, a railroad, and a power company. He was also an active member of the Republican Party who served one term as Michiganrsquo;s secretary of state and a philanthropist who gave a great deal of his wealth to causes in both Michigan and Kentucky. In *Justus S. Stearns: Michigan Pine King and Kentucky Coal Baron, 1845ndash;1933*, author Michael W. Nagle details Stearns's astounding range of accomplishments and explores the influence of both paternalism and Social Darwinism in his business practices. Nagle begins by addressing key events in the first few decades of Stearnsrsquo;s life and his initial foray into the lumber industry. Subsequent chapters explore Stearnsrsquo;s political career, his timber operations in Wisconsin, and his coal, lumber, and railroad operations in Kentucky and Tennessee. Nagle also details the ancillary businesses that Stearns founded or purchased in the early twentieth century, even as his Stearns Salt Lumber Company served as the anchor of his Michigan holdings, while Stearns Coal Lumber did the same for his operations in Kentucky. The final chapter offers an overview and analysis of Stearnsrsquo;s lifetime of accomplishments, including his impact on the town of Ludington, Michigan, where he maintained a residence for over fifty years. Nagle makes extensive use of primary source material from several historical archives as well as contemporary newspaper accounts, court documents, company records, and other primary sources. American history scholars, as well as general readers interested in Michiganrsquo;s lumbering era and Kentuckyrsquo;s mining history, will enjoy this biography of an exceptionally influential businessman.

About the AuthorMichael W. Nagle is a professor of history and political science at West Shore Community College in Scottville, Michigan. He is the author of *LecturePoint*, a series of web-based interactive lectures covering topics in U.S. history.