

HISTORY
OF
BENNINGTON COUNTY, VT.

*WITH ILLUSTRATIONS AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES
OF SOME OF ITS PROMINENT MEN AND PIONEERS.*

EDITED BY

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INTRODUCTION.

IT is an unquestionable truth that among the civil divisions of the State of Vermont none has made so varied and interesting a history as the county of Bennington. Prior to the year 1781 the county embraced the larger part of the State, and while narrating the events of the county's history previous to that year of course the writer has been compelled to substantially state the facts relating to the whole region of country originally embraced within the boundaries of the county, and even go beyond them, that the succession and relation of occurring events might be kept perfect.

Much, nearly all, of the historical events of the county have in some manner been published, but not in permanent form for future preservation. Therefore this volume is prepared that the whole subject of Bennington county's history might be fully covered, and some other events not heretofore recorded should find a place in its pages.

To a person unacquainted with the detail of compiling or editing such a work the task seems not an arduous one, yet this is not the case. It is not that the county is lacking in events worthy of record, or that the facts are difficult to obtain, but rather that in the multitude of occurrences and the varied opinions as to their character and value the writer is compelled to decide which is the correct version, and what material shall be accepted as a part of the record.

It is not for a moment asserted that this work is an entirely original one; on the contrary, the editor has to acknowledge access to many standard authorities upon the history of the State and county, and from which he has borrowed not only ideas and facts, but has not in every case been careful in the use of quotation marks. The principal object of this work is to provide for the use of future generations such a memorial history of the county as will correctly inform the readers of the facts, and relieve them of the necessity of any further similar publication. How well this end has been accomplished is for the people to judge. The work cannot be said to be entirely free from error; such

could hardly be expected, no matter how much care and research be employed in its preparation and revision. Still, the editor has reason to believe that the statements contained in the following pages are mainly correct, and to be relied upon. Nor is this volume the production of one person's labor, for a number of writers, several being residents of the county, have contributed chapters of interest and importance; and it is proper in this connection that mention should be made of those who have generously devoted their time and energies to the success of this enterprise. The chapter relating to the history of the township of Bennington with the villages of Bennington Center and North Bennington, was prepared by Henry D. Hall, esq., of North Bennington; the chapter on Arlington was written and contributed by Orion M. Barber, esq., of Arlington; the chapter on the town of Dorset, by George M. Viall, esq., of East Dorset; on Peru and Landgrove, by Hon. George K. Davis of Peru; on Pownal and Stamford, by Thomas E. Brownell, esq., of North Pownal; on Readsboro, by Hon. Faxon L. Brown, of Readsboro; on Searsburg, by George J. Bond, esq.; on Winhall, by Counselor Joseph G. Martin, of Manchester Center. To each of these persons the editor extends his sincere thanks. And to the residents of the county generally, who, by their generous and hearty support, have made this publication not only possible, but a success, are due the heartfelt thanks of the publishers.

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