

**TRENTON FALLS,  
PICTURESQUE  
AND DESCRIPTIVE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649725014

Trenton Falls, Picturesque and Descriptive by N. Parker Willis & John Sherman

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**N. PARKER WILLIS & JOHN SHERMAN**

**TRENTON FALLS,  
PICTURESQUE  
AND DESCRIPTIVE**





TRENTON FALLS,  
PICTURESQUE AND DESCRIPTIVE:

EDITED BY

N. PARKER WILLIS;

EMBRACING THE ORIGINAL ESSAY OF

JOHN SHERMAN,

THE FIRST PROPRIETOR AND RESIDENT.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS ENGRAVED ON WOOD BY

N. ORR & CO.

New York:

J. G. GREGORY, PUBLISHER.

MDCCCLXII.

F129  
T67W5  
1865.

## Wrentham Falls



THE most *enjoyably beautiful spot*, among the resorts of romantic scenery in our country, is the one which is the subject of the present little book. To the writer, as to most other lovers of Nature who have visited it, the remembrance of its loveliness has become the bright spot to which dream and revery oftenest return. It seems to be curiously adapted to enjoy; being, somehow, not

W283493

only the *kind*, but the *size* of a place which the (after all) *measurable* arms of a mortal heart can enfold in its embrace. Niagara is too much—as a roasted ox is a thing to go to look at, though one retires to dine on something smaller.

Trenton Falls is the place, above all others, where it is a luxury to *stay*—which one oftenest revisits—which one most commends strangers to be sure to see. The writer, whose name is on the title-page, having written much, at different times, about it, has been induced by his friend, Mr. Moore, the proprietor, to join with three admirable artists in putting together what pen and pencil have recorded of its beauty. The object of the book is as much to remind the public of what is within easy access and worth their while to know of and frequent, as to embody a convenient guide and companion in which the visitor shall find directions for his feet and sympathy for his heart.

The first thing wanted, of course, is information as to locality, accessibility, situation of the various points of interest, and accommodation to travellers. These items have been recorded in a descriptive essay by a man whose memory should be cherished amid the admiration given to the Falls; for it is to his discov-



ery and appreciation of the spot, his enterprise in getting possession of it, and his perseverance in drawing attention to its beauties and providing accommodation for visitors, that the public owe their enjoyment of it. We speak of JOHN SHERMAN, grandson of Roger Sherman, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and father of Mrs. Moore, the wife of the present proprietor of the Falls.

As a matter of history, we may remark "*en passant*," that the village of Trenton was formerly known as OLDENBARNEVELD,\* thus named by Col. Boon, one of the first settlers of this part of our State, and the agent of the Holland Company prior to the nineteenth century. The Indian appellation, KAUYA-HOO-RA, literally "*leaping water*," is only remembered by few, and ere many years this beautiful and descriptive name will be lost. To show the careless change of nomenclature, which has for many years been going on in our country, we may be pardoned for giving that of the metamorphosis of Oldenbarneveld. The principal business man of the village,

\* FROM JOHN OLDENBARNEVELT, Grand Pensioner of the State of Holland, in the 17th century, who was beheaded for his being too favorable to religious toleration, and a friend to peace; and in the name is an intimation of their (the Dutch gentlemen who laid it out) respect for liberty of conscience.

some twenty or thirty years since, took the notion that "*Oldenbarneveld*" was too long an item to head his letters or bills with; so he got up a petition to change it, had it signed by three or four individuals, sent it on to Washington—and the thing was done. Thus a name was adopted already well known as the capital of New Jersey, and some other twenty or thirty villages and towns in the United States. The consequence of course is, that even at this day, letters frequently miscarry, unless directed, "Oneida County, N. Y." But to return.

Mr. Sherman, after graduating at Yale College in 1793, settled in Mansfield, Conn., having been ordained a minister of the Congregational denomination; he there became pastor of a large congregation, and was universally beloved and respected; but about the year 1805, having preached doctrines rather too liberal to suit the minds of a small part of his flock, he resigned his charge. About this time, having received an invitation from Col. Mappa and Judge Vanderkemp, who with their families had formed a small society of Unitarians at Oldenbarneveld, he visited that place for the first time, remaining several weeks, and preaching very acceptably to them. It was during his sojourn at Oldenbarneveld,

that Mr. Sherman made his first visit to the ravine of the КАУУ-А-НОО-РА.

From the village to the Falls was an unbroken wood; there were two ways of approach, the one where the grist and saw mills are (the village of Trenton Falls now), the other at the summit level of the High Falls. The latter was taken, the least preferable of the two in point of view. The path was what Nature had formed: the foothold, at the period of Mr. Sherman's first visit, being of the most precarious kind, and attended with absolute danger; but difficulty and danger were unthought of by him, and the greatest treat of his life was before him. Words would only be an apology for the impression of the scene on his mind, he never dreaming there was such an unique display of Nature so absolutely unknown, and yet so near the habitation of man. Again and again he revisited the wild ravine, oft remarking, "that it must eventually become one of the great features of our continent." Little did he then imagine, that through his instrumentality it would in a few years so become.

Mr. Sherman returned to his home at Mansfield, and shortly after received a pressing call from the Society at Oldenbarneveld to become their spiritual