CHRONICLES OF MONROE IN THE OLDEN TIME

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649549092

Chronicles of Monroe in the olden time by Daniel Niles Freeland

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DANIEL NILES FREELAND

CHRONICLES OF MONROE IN THE OLDEN TIME



CHRONICLES

OF

MONROE IN THE OLDEN TIME

TOWN AND VILLAGE ORANGE COUNTY NEW YORK

REV. DANIEL NILES FREELAND



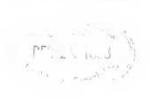
NEW YORK
THE DE VINNE PRESS
1898

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191

0905 ee.b.98 App former beloved parishioners of Ahonroe, New York, and many other kind friends of the town and village of that name, both living and dead, is this modest volume Dedicated.

It is a token of grateful appreciation of many kindnesses received by both me and mine, and intended to preserve, for the entertainment and instruction of their children, the memory of the history, incidents and sayings of bygone age and generation. When I came to Monroe fifty years since, I found then living many venerable people, remarkable for intelligence and clearness of memory, their range of rision extending almost to the War of the Revolution. Finding also I was standing on historic ground, the thought entered my mind to gather up some of the conversations and experiences of these aged ones before they should be called to the land "from whose bourn no traveller returns." From their lips much of the material was gathered. It was first a lecture, the very ink of which had almost faded out. But an urgent request

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having come from many sources that the material might have more permanent form, I have consented to give it to the many-fingered printing-press; and although "of making many books there is no end," I ask the indulgent attention of those more particularly interested in such a work. For more recent material I have been indebted to a number of living friends, to whom I tender most hearty thanks. In my personal reminiscences I have studiously avoided intrusion into the sanctities of private life; if alluding to faults, only presenting them as a background to virtues; if mentioning humorous incidents, they are thrown in as a pungent spicery to make the menu more palatable, and playfully present the features of the Ancient Past.

THE AUTHOR.

CONTENTS.

DEDICATION. INTRODUCTION.

CHAP'			AGE.
1.	The Cheesecock Patent	æ.	1
	THE FIELD BOOK AND SURVEY		
III.	DISTRIBUTION OF THE LANDS. MAPS OF LOTS	20	17
IV.	INDIANS AND INDIAN NOMENCLATURE	4	20
v.	Physical Features	(4)	25
	ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTY OF ORANGE AN		
	TOWN OF MONROE		33
vII.	THE EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THE TOWN		38
VIII.	WAR OF THE REVOLUTION		44
	THE STORY OF CLAUDIUS SMITH		56
	THE DAWN OF PEACE		63
XI.	Home-building in the Olden Time	Ŧ	66
	THE IRON INDUSTRY OF MONROE		74
	THE MILK BUSINESS		
	INDUSTRIES OF THE HOME AND FARM		
	THE DRESS OF THE OLDEN TIME		
	COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE		
	MILLS AND SMITHY		
	Innkeeping		
	Merchandizing		
	Schools and Education		
	Physic and Physicians		
ativania.	vii		

CHAPTER	PAG	E.
XXII.	LAWYERS AND LITIGATION	12
XXIII.	Churches and Clergy	37
	THE CAUSE OF TEMPERANCE	
XXV.	HUNTING AND FISHING 16	30
XXVI.	MILITIA TRAINING	39
	THE SINGING SCHOOL	
XXVIII.	The Debating Society	77
	LOVE OF LIBERTY AND PATRIOTISM 18	
XXX.	BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES, MILITARY AND CIVIC . 18	34
XXXI.	EARLY ROADS	15
	ERIE RAILWAY	
	APPEARANCE OF THE OLD VILLAGE	
	LANDMARKS OF MONROE	
	Recent Occurrences	

INTRODUCTION.

Having noticed that other parts of the county of Orange have received marked attention, and had their historians and investigators, while the town and village of Monroe seem to have been passed by, we have thought it would be of interest and somewhat of the nature of a return for hospitalities received in said town, to investigate its early records and traditions and throw them into the form of a historic monograph for future preservation and study. The importance of this is evident from the fact that the old people are rapidly passing away, and unless some one should volunteer to gather up what they remember, they soon will have been gathered to the grave, "where there is no device nor knowledge." After a few years the opportunity will have gone irrecoverably. He, therefore, who has been cotemporary with some of these aged ones is conferring a favor on the future in obtaining their reminiscences and giving them permanent form. The fact that so much must be derived from tradition, and that the historical documents and data are so meager and scat-