

**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

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

DANIEL NILES FREELAND

**CHRONICLES OF
MONROE IN
THE OLDEN TIME**

CHRONICLES
OF
MONROE
IN THE OLDEN TIME

TOWN AND VILLAGE
ORANGE COUNTY
NEW YORK

BY
REV. DANIEL NILES FREELAND



NEW YORK
THE DE VINNE PRESS
1898

Copy 2

127-18
MILES
COPY

Copyright, 1898, by
DANIEL NILES FREELAND.



0905
se. 6. 98

To
My former beloved parishioners of
Monroe, 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 by-gone 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 vision 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

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.

CHAPTER.	PAGE.
I. THE CHEESECOCK PATENT	1
II. THE FIELD BOOK AND SURVEY	11
III. DISTRIBUTION OF THE LANDS. MAPS OF LOTS .	17
IV. INDIANS AND INDIAN NOMENCLATURE	20
V. PHYSICAL FEATURES	25
VI. ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTY OF ORANGE AND TOWN OF MONROE	33
VII. THE EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THE TOWN	38
VIII. WAR OF THE REVOLUTION	44
IX. THE STORY OF CLAUDIUS SMITH	56
X. THE DAWN OF PEACE	63
XI. HOME-BUILDING IN THE OLDEN TIME	66
XII. THE IRON INDUSTRY OF MONROE	74
XIII. THE MILK BUSINESS	78
XIV. INDUSTRIES OF THE HOME AND FARM	81
XV. THE DRESS OF THE OLDEN TIME	91
XVI. COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE	96
XVII. MILLS AND SMITHY	100
XVIII. INNKEEPING	106
XIX. MERCHANDIZING	110
XX. SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION	116
XXI. PHYSIC AND PHYSICIANS	125

CHAPTER.	PAGE.
XXII. LAWYERS AND LITIGATION	132
XXIII. CHURCHES AND CLERGY	137
XXIV. THE CAUSE OF TEMPERANCE	156
XXV. HUNTING AND FISHING	160
XXVI. MILITIA TRAINING	169
XXVII. THE SINGING SCHOOL	172
XXVIII. THE DEBATING SOCIETY	177
XXIX. LOVE OF LIBERTY AND PATRIOTISM	180
XXX. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES, MILITARY AND CIVIC .	184
XXXI. EARLY ROADS	215
XXXII. ERIE RAILWAY	219
XXXIII. APPEARANCE OF THE OLD VILLAGE	229
XXXIV. LANDMARKS OF MONROE	237
XXXV. RECENT OCCURRENCES	243

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-