

**CONCORD IN THE COLONIAL PERIOD:
BEING A HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF
CONCORD,
MASSACHUSETTS, FROM THE EARLIEST
SETTLEMENT TO THE OVERTHROW OF
THE ANDROS GOVERNMENT, 1635-1689**

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Concord in the colonial period: being a history of the town of Concord, Massachusetts, from the earliest settlement to the overthrow of the Andros government, 1635-1689 by Charles H. Walcott

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CHARLES H. WALCOTT

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CONCORD
IN
THE COLONIAL PERIOD

Being a History

OF THE

TOWN OF CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS

FROM THE EARLIEST SETTLEMENT TO THE OVERTHROW OF THE
ANDROS GOVERNMENT

1635—1689

By CHARLES H. WALCOTT

WITH MAP



BOSTON
ESTES AND LAURIAT

1884

Copy 2

F. J. ...
...

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JOHN WILSON AND SON, CAMBRIDGE.

TO
THE PEOPLE OF CONCORD

This Study of the Early Times

IS *RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED*

BY THE AUTHOR.

"My desire is that no mans Spectacles may deceive him, so as to look upon these things either as bigger or lesser, better or worser, then they are; which all men generally are apt to doe at things at so great distance, but that they may judge of them as indeed they are, by what truth they see here exprest in the things themselves."

THOMAS SHEPARD.

PREFACE.

THIS volume is the result of the labor of many months spent in exploring the original sources of our town's early history,—researches made in the belief that a re-examination of the authorities, conducted in the modern spirit of historical inquiry, would develop new and interesting facts, and enable us to realize more fully the stern but conscientious self-denial, persevering industry, and sturdy good sense that actuated the settlers of this town.

Constant reference has been had to Shattuck's History of Concord, which was published almost fifty years ago, and has been a valuable aid in the prosecution of the studies which led to the preparation of this book.

If the statements and inferences herein contained do not always agree with those of the earlier work, the reader may be assured that the difference is not due to neglect of the considerations which led Mr. Shattuck to the results stated by him, but is more especially to be attributed to the greater facility

with which records and documents may now be consulted, in consequence of the great amount of money, labor, and thought, that have been devoted of late to arranging, copying, printing, and indexing early writings of a historical character; so that the close application and thought, once largely exhausted in deciphering old records and private documents, may now, in many instances, be used to extract the full meaning of what is written, and to determine its exact relations to information obtained from other sources.

In almost every instance, Mr. Shattuck's authorities have been consulted anew by the author of this volume; and some additional sources of information have been drawn upon, which the elder writer seems not to have discovered.

The extracts and ancient documents here printed have been carefully compared with the originals whenever the latter could be found, but it will appear that, in a few instances, the author has been unable to find original papers to which Mr. Shattuck undoubtedly had access. Two documents are for this reason reprinted from his history, without being verified by the present author. Extracts from the Records of the Colony (cited under their printed title of "Massachusetts Records") are taken from the printed volumes.

To avoid confusion, it should be borne in mind that all dates before 1752 are according to the old style, which made the year begin on the 25th day

of March. The months, beginning with March, were alluded to, as also were the days of the week, by numbers, instead of by names. Thus, April 20, 1640, would be indicated as 20th: 2^d: 40, or 20th 2^{mo} 1640. In writing dates occurring between January 1st and March 25th, sometimes the double date is given; but, otherwise, it is to be understood that the later year, beginning in January, is retained. For instance, March 12, 169 $\frac{3}{4}$ may be found written, March 12, 1696; and 8th 12^{mo} 1664 would appear as February 8, 1665.

Of the two oldest record books of the town, which together, as copied by Mr. David Pulsifer, are now comprised in Volume I. of the "Ancient Records of Concord," the earlier, — which, in all probability, was procured in 1653, soon after the division of the town into Quarters, — contains records of grants and divisions of land, voted by the company of the South Quarter. There are also brief lists, descriptive of the first-division lands, and, to a limited extent, the second-division lands, owned by dwellers in the South (or West) Quarter. Written at the top of a page is the following declaration of the purpose for which the book was intended: —

"The Records of this booke of the weast quartter one the south syde of the mill brooke, concernes second devisions as upland, second devisions meadow, & woodland, acordinge to mens seuerall pportions & slowances that is due to them, aproved & allowed off, by the wholle company as is expresed in the seuerall pages followinge."