

**HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF THE
DISCOVERY, SETTLEMENT, AND
PROGRESS OF EVENTS IN THE
COOS COUNTRY AND VICINITY
PRINCIPALLY INCLUDED BETWEEN THE
YEARS 1754 AND 1785**

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Historical Sketches of the Discovery, Settlement, and Progress of Events in the Coos Country and Vicinity Principally Included Between the Years 1754 and 1785 by Grant Powers

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Between the Years 1754 and 1785.

By REV. GRANT POWERS, A. M., C. H. S.

HAVERHILL, N. H.
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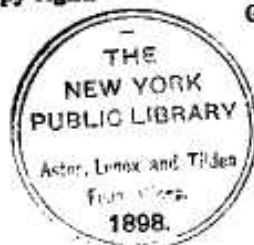
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PREFACE.

THE history of our nation is peculiar in a number of things, but in none more than this,—that it records its own origin. There is no other nation that does this, the Jews excepted. No one of the present nations of Europe can tell us a word of their earliest ancestors, or even specify the century in which their territory was first taken possession of by them, but all is involved in obscurity as are the years before the flood. But it is far different with our early history as a nation. We know the men who said they would be free, and who laid the foundation of this mighty republic. We know whence they came, the object for which they came, the spot to which they came, and the year, the month, and the day they took possession. Our nation owes a lasting debt of gratitude to our ancestors for their fidelity in recording the incipient steps taken by them in settling this new world. But with regret must we say that their descendants soon began to relax in their fidelity in this respect, and they continued to decline, until their delinquency was almost entire. It may well be doubted, whether more than one-half of the towns in New England have any well-authenticated history of their early settlement, and had not the attention of the people been called to this subject by recently organized Historical Societies, and centennial addresses, a very few years had buried all in oblivion with those towns whose history was not already recorded. There seems, truly, an anomaly in the human character, inasmuch as man delights to retrace the line of his descent to his remotest ancestry, and has a strong passion to live in the memory of his descendants, and yet possesses very little inclination to do anything directly to fur-

nish the means to his posterity of knowing that he ever existed.

One reason for the indifference manifested towards recording present events, is the general impression that they can have no important bearing upon what is to come, unless they are such events as greatly interest the community in present time—the result of a great battle, a revolution in a kingdom, or a destructive earthquake. But nothing is more delusive than such an impression. What would the inhabitants of the city of London now give for the year, the month, and the day, in which the first man pitched his tent on that ground? What would they give if they could know his name, his origin, whence he came, the circumstances in which he came, the object for his coming, and, withal, a minute description of the place as it then was? An octavo pamphlet of ten pages, containing well-authenticated facts of this kind, would be worth millions sterling to the author or proprietor. And the history of our ancestors' landing at Plymouth is infinitely more important in our history than the history of the surrender of Burgoyne's army, or that of Cornwallis. And even those occurrences which do not seem to stand intimately connected with any great results, time will often vest with peculiar interest, in the view of posterity. How unhappy is the reflection, then, that the early settlement of our towns should be permitted to be forever lost through the apathy or indifference of their inhabitants, since the time will certainly arrive when the subject will be duly appreciated, and our descendants will reproach us for our stupidity and sloth in this respect!

It was in view of these and kindred considerations, that the author of the following Sketches commenced, sixteen years ago, visiting the survivors among the first settlers in the Coos country, and in some towns in the vicinity. He was careful to take down their statements in their presence, and they were interrogated upon almost all subjects here introduced. Some made further communications under their own hand-

writing, and he has obtained written and published documents, as far as he was able, to aid him in this work. But as it has been his main design to go back of written and published documents, and to bring to light things which would never have appeared, unless they were taken up in a work of this kind, he could avail himself of those documents but in a limited degree; and in general, they are introduced as corroborative testimony, or explanatory, merely. But he fears he has already raised, by his remarks, expectations which he will by no means be able to satisfy; and yet he has done what he could with his means. He could not create means, and yet had procured so many, that he could hardly feel justified in permitting them to perish with himself. It will be perceived that he writes things grave, things trivial, and things important, and this with a view to present as nearly as possible, to the present and future generations, the circumstances, views, feelings, habits and customs of our ancestors.

Before he concludes these remarks, he begs leave to suggest what he views to be important for every family, and for every town in this nation. 1. Let every family obtain as full and as correct a record of their ancestry as is now possible, and every child take a copy, and make additions as time furnishes the means. 2. Let every town have its stated historian, who shall delight in his duty, whose object will be to collect facts of the aged, and by all other means which Providence may afford him; and to record passing events of an interesting nature. Let this record be examined annually by the town authorities and certified by the town clerk, and then preserved in the archives of the town. Extracts from these documents might furnish annually interesting materials in every state for a volume of Historical Collections. And these volumes would in a few years furnish matter for the richest history that ever was possessed by a nation on earth. He suggests it to his brethren in the ministry, of all denominations, to aid in this cause. No class of men in the community enjoy so many facilities for making such a record — none would derive

more benefit from it, and it is by no means foreign to their appropriate duties. Brethren, think of it; think seriously, and then act.

GRANT POWERS.

Goshen, Ct., Jan. 1st, 1840.

LIST OF AUTHORITIES

AMONG THE FIRST SETTLERS USED IN THESE SKETCHES.

Col. Joshua Howard.
Hon. James Woodward.
Hon. Ezekiel Ladd.
Mrs. Ruth Ladd.
Mr. Charles Wheeler.
Mrs. Annis Wheeler.
Mr. John Page.
Mrs. Ruth Johnston.
Col. Joshua Bailey.
Mrs. Mary Kent.
Mr. Jonathan Tyler.
Andrew B. Peters, Esq.
John Mann, Esq.
Col. Otis Freeman, Esq.
Rev. Asa Burton, D. D.
Mr. Richard Wallace.
Mr. Joel Strong.
Col. Jonathan Elkins.

OTHER AIDS.

Belknap's History of New Hampshire.
Gazetteer of New Hampshire.
Gazetteer of Vermont.
Eastman's History of Vermont.
Marshall's Life of Washington.
Capt. Powers' Journal.
Rev. Jared Sparks' certified Copies.
David Johnson's Letters and Extracts.
Rev. Clark Perry's Sketches.
John Farmer's Extracts.
Mrs. Abigail Cross.
Mrs. Hannah Pearson.
Mrs. Sally Johnston.