

**HISTORIC HOUSES AND SPOTS
IN CAMBRIDGE,
MASSACHUSETTS, AND NEAR-
BY TOWNS. [BOSTON-1897]**

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Historic Houses and Spots in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Near-By Towns. [Boston-1897] by
J. W. Freese

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PREFACE.

FOR more than twelve years I have been searching out and studying the most ancient homes of Cambridge and other historic towns and cities near by, for the benefit of the pupils under my charge. As we made our annual rounds, the disappearance of old "landmarks" became, year by year, more noticeable, and thus it occurred to me that a favor might be conferred upon many by giving in this modest little work definite location and brief account of the most famous old houses. To the schoolchildren of Cambridge and other places this work may be specially useful, supplemented as it is by original and picturesque views, and also by brief references to famous persons with whose names some of the houses are associated.

It has been my conviction for years that the study of local history is the best introduction to the study of more general history, and in this view I have been confirmed by the ever-increasing historical pilgrimages, and above all by the testimony of great men who have made the study of history their profession. Prof. H. B. Adams, of Johns Hopkins University, says :

"History, like charity, begins at home. . . . The best students of universal history are those who know some one country or some one subject well. The family, the hamlet, the neighborhood, the community, the parish, the village, town, city, county, and State are historically the ways by which men have approached national and international life."

The facts I present have not been evolved from "inner consciousness," for, although I have had access to original sources, I have also gleaned freely from Drake's *Landmarks* and various local histories. My indebtedness is, therefore, easily seen and heartily acknowledged.

So far as both cover the same ground, *Historic Houses* and Walker's *Historical Map* may be advantageously used together.

JOHN W. FREESE.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS., 1897.

NOTE.—It is probably true that the writer has overlooked some historic house or spot that, in the mind of the local antiquarian, may be considered important. If so, correspondence with respect to it or to any error that may have been made is earnestly solicited, to the end that this book may be made as useful as possible, in case a second edition should be called for.

J. W. F.

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HISTORIC HOUSES AND SPOTS

IN

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, AND NEAR-BY TOWNS.

THE citizens of Cambridge, now over 80,000 in number, might well lay claim to several unique distinctions for the city of which they are so justly proud. First, it must be remembered that Cambridge is the seat of the oldest and most distinguished university in America.

The opportunity thus offered for broad learning and generous culture is the probable reason for a second distinction: *viz.*, that Cambridge has lately become also the seat of Radcliffe College. Here are also two divinity schools besides the one directly connected with the University. The spirit of emulation fostered by these institutions of learning, together with the influence of several excellent preparatory schools, has undoubtedly had a most beneficial effect upon the public schools and should receive a measure of credit for their efficiency. The public schools of Cambridge are noted for their excellence. As Cambridge was contemporaneous with Boston in her settlement, and was also for a time the seat of government, she has left the impress of her hand upon the fundamental law of our beloved Commonwealth.

Her soil was also the first rallying-point of patriots to repel British aggression, and here Washington first unsheathed his sword in defence of our liberties.

In fact it is a matter of some surprise that, as Lexington and Concord have contended with some spirit as to which was entitled to the larger share of honor for the glorious