

**WHITTIER'S "SNOW-BOUND": A
STUDY AND INTERPRETATION,
WITH COMMENTS, OUTLINES,
MAPS, NOTES, AND QUESTIONS.
[1913]**

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JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER & LUCY ADELLA SLOAN

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A STUDY *and* INTERPRETATION

Whittier's "Snow-Bound"

A STUDY AND INTERPRETATION

WITH COMMENTS, OUTLINES, MAPS
NOTES, AND QUESTIONS

By

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FOREWORD

This study and interpretation of "Snow-Bound" has been made with the hope that it may help to make the poem more known and better loved in the rural and graded schools. Its author has had constantly in mind the teacher who is burdened with many classes and has not had the opportunity to become a trained reader of literature, and the many boys and girls who would love "Snow-Bound" if they could more fully understand it. To such teachers and pupils the work is lovingly dedicated, with the suggestion that, in most cases, the poem be first read straight through by the class, that it then be read with the interpretation, stanza by stanza, until they can tell the main thread of the thought in their own words, after which the questions may be used. Above all, let there be much reading of the poem itself, and the committing of many passages to memory.



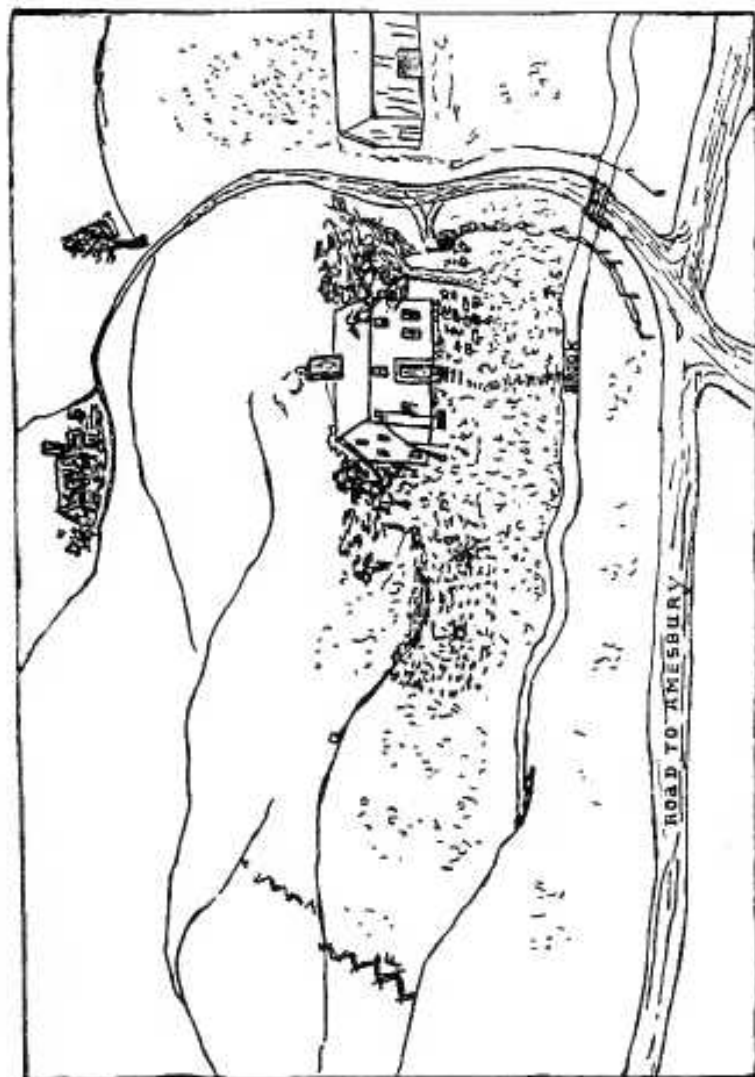
x WHITTIER FARM

SKETCH OF WHITTIER'S LIFE

"Snow-Bound" was written nearly half a century ago by John Greenleaf Whittier, the Quaker farmer-poet of New England. Mr. Whittier was fifty-nine years of age when he wrote the poem, and in it he gives an account of the doings of his own family, in his own home, during a certain stormy week in December when he was a boy probably not more than sixteen years of age.

And where was this farm home located? Notice (see map) the narrow, crooked strip of Massachusetts lying north of the Merrimac River after it crosses the New Hampshire line and turns to the eastward. This three-mile-wide strip, we are told by Mr. Pickard, was the poet's home during his entire life; and in its soil, in the Quaker cemetery at Amesbury, he, with the rest of the "Snow-Bound" household, lies buried. This is the Whittier country, the "Snow-Bound" country. When Mr. Whittier wrote the poem he was living at Amesbury, his home during the last fifty-six years of his life. The farm home about which he was writing was only nine miles away, to the southeast, near a road running between Amesbury and Haverhill. On this farm the poet was born, and there he lived until he was twenty-nine years old, when the family removed to Amesbury.

Not only was this old farm the poet's own birthplace, but at the time the family was snow-bound it had been the home of his Whittier ancestors for nearly two hundred years. His great-great-grandfather built and occupied the farmhouse and died there; also it had been



Drawn by a pupil from study of a description in Fickett's "Whittier Land"

WHITTIER'S HOME