

**HISTORY OF THE TOWN
OF BELLINGHAM,
MASSACHUSETTS, 1719-
1919**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649605385

History of the Town of Bellingham, Massachusetts, 1719-1919 by George F. Partridge

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

GEORGE F. PARTRIDGE

**HISTORY OF THE TOWN
OF BELLINGHAM,
MASSACHUSETTS, 1719-
1919**

133

HISTORY

OF THE

TOWN OF BELLINGHAM

MASSACHUSETTS

1719 - 1919

BY
GEORGE F. PARTRIDGE
+

PUBLISHED BY THE TOWN
1919

PREFACE

THE two hundredth anniversary of our town this year brings the occasion for writing its history, for both those who are interested now and those who may care for it in the future. My purpose has been to collect and preserve the essentials of the story, not to describe the life of this rather unusual border town as it deserves. In the struggles of Baptists and Quakers for religious liberty from its beginning, and in the anxious times of the Revolution and the settlement of the constitution, the town was a leader in its day. Genealogy and much else that is interesting has been left out, and documents have been quoted exactly but with omissions. The chief sources used have been the town records and the vital statistics, church records, the Massachusetts Archives and General Court Records, the Registries of Deeds and Wills at Boston and Dedham, and the Metcalf and other family papers. There are in print two sermons of Rev. Abial Fisher on our first century, and a chapter on Bellingham by R. G. Fairbanks in Hurd's "History of Norfolk County," 1884.

This book has been made possible by the vote of \$500 for its publication by the town, and by Mr. A. E. Bullard, who has met the expense of printing beyond that sum. The author's thanks are due also to the town's committee on publication, and to many others who have helped him in the pleasant task. That committee is Maurice J. Connolly, Percy C. Burr, and Orville C. Rhodes, now deceased.

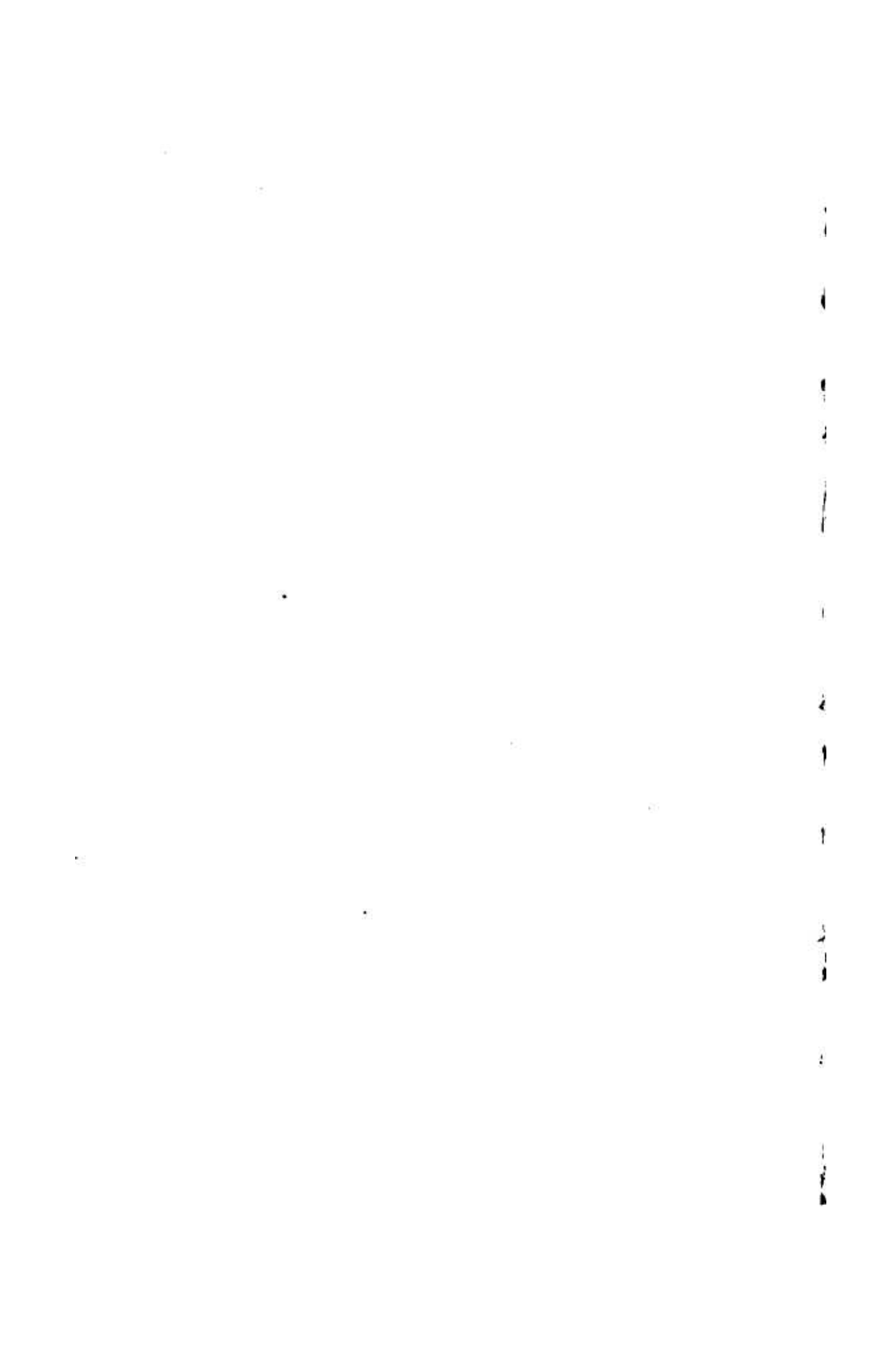
Hood's record's 29 Nov. 19 1875



CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I Governor Bellingham	1
II King Philip's War	14
III Secretary Rawson and his Farm	22
IV Baptist and Quaker	29
V Early Settlers	44
VI The Town Church	73
VII Town Affairs, 1719-1747	89
VIII The Baptist Church, 1786-1819	100
IX Town Affairs, 1747-1819	118
X The Mills	141
XI The Churches, 1819-1919	160
XII Town Affairs, 1819-1919	172
XIII Public Persons	187
XIV The Town in 1919	201
Index	219

A map, eleven autographs, and twenty-six pictures.



History of Bellingham

CHAPTER I

GOVERNOR BELLINGHAM

THE TOWN of Bellingham has a name that has not been much used, for either persons or places. In England Sir Edward Bellingham was a headstrong and quarrelsome Puritan soldier, who died in 1549. In Northumberland, not far from the Scottish Border, is a quaint little town of that name, with a remarkable church, built about seven hundred years ago, when the noble family of Bellinghams lived there. It produces many sheep, and coal, iron and lime from its mines.

In America, when the English navigator Vancouver first explored the coast of the State of Washington in 1792 and found what is now called Bellingham Bay, he named it for Sir Henry Bellingham, the British naval officer who had dismissed him on this voyage. The flourishing city of the same name on its shores is a county seat, with a normal college, four railroads, and manufactures that give it the fourth place in its State. Its chief products are shingles and salmon, and it has great quarries. Its population is thirty-three thousand. Besides these two places, there appear to be only two small post offices of our name besides our own, one in Ontario and one in Minnesota.

Our town was named for the third Governor of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, the old Puritan lawyer, Richard Bellingham.

His name will never be forgotten, because it is preserved in a famous book, Hawthorne's "Scarlet Letter," but only a few of those who read it there ever know the life story that makes him memorable for his own sake. He was born in England of a good family in 1591, and educated for a lawyer. Few men gave up that profession to become a Puritan as he did, and he was naturally a leader among them all his long life. He was the Recorder of the important English town of Boston, helped to draw up the charter of the new Massachusetts Bay Colony, was one of the twenty-six original members of the company, and subscribed fifty pounds for it. He arrived in Boston in 1634 with his wife Elizabeth and his son Samuel.

He was given a sort of greeting in that quaint and childish book, "Johnson's Wonder Working Providence in New England," published in 1654: "At this time came over the much honored Mr. Richard Bellingham, whose estate and person did much for the civil government of this wandering people, hee being learned in the Lawes of England, and experimentally fitted for the worke, of whom I am bold to say as followeth:

"Richardus now, arise must thou, Christ seed hath thee to
plead,
His people's cause, with equall lawes, in wilderness them lead;
Though slow of speech, thy counsell reach, shall each occasion
well,
Sure thy stern look, it cannot brook, those wickedly rebell."

Probably these four lines are amply enough to show how bold the poet was.

Newcomers in Boston then were not citizens until they joined the church and were accepted as freemen by vote. His name is on the first list of twenty-six freemen, and he and his wife joined the church in 1634.