

**HISTORY OF THE
TOWN OF KIRKLAND,
NEW YORK**

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History of the Town of Kirkland, New York by A. D. Gridley

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A. D. GRIDLEY

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BY

REV. A. D. GRIDLEY.



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1874.

To
ALL WHO DWELL
WITHIN THE BORDERS OF
KIRKLAND
THIS RECORD OF ITS EARLY HISTORY
IS RESPECTFULLY
DEDICATED.



"Other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours."



PREFACE.

THIS book owes its origin to the desire often expressed by some of the older inhabitants of Kirkland that the writer would prepare a full and connected history of the town. Some considerable progress had already been made in the production of such a history by the lecture of Hon. O. S. Williams, in the year 1848, and the chapter relating to this town in the "Annals" of Hon. Pomroy Jones, written some twenty-eight years ago. But these gentlemen did not attempt complete histories, and they were among the most earnest in soliciting the writer to prosecute further the work which they had begun.

It has been my pleasant labor during several years past to collect the materials of the volume herewith presented. Starting with the important papers above referred to, I have endeavored to supplement them by every means within my reach. The few survivors of our early times and their immediate descendants have been frequently consulted, and the information gleaned from them has been carefully recorded. Whatever documents, old correspondence, or historical papers could be found to throw

light upon this subject, have been sought for and freely used.

The book thus prepared consists of a preliminary sketch of this region of country before it was settled by white inhabitants; some account of the several Indian tribes of this neighborhood; an outline of the history of the town from its beginning until the present time; sketches of the several churches and literary institutions of the place; also of its natural history, its agriculture, horticulture, and rural embellishment; of its manufactures and mining operations, and of various other matters which need not here be enumerated.

In writing the earlier portions of this history, I have drawn freely from the pages of Judge Williams and Judge Jones whatever seemed important in constructing my narrative. Facts have also been gathered from the lecture of Hon. William Tracy, of New York, on "Men and Events in the Early History of Oneida County;" from the lectures of M. M. Bagg, M. D., of Utica, on "The Men of Old Fort Schuyler;" and from "The League of the Iroquois," by Lewis H. Morgan. Among those whom I have consulted personally, mention should be made of the late Rev. Dr. Norton, the late James D. Stebbins, the late Mrs. Orrin Gridley, Mrs. Eli Lucas, Mr. George Bristol, and Mr. Gaius Butler. The sketch of the Botany of this town, which appears in the Appendix, was copied, so far as it was applicable, from the "Catalogue of Plants found in Oneida County and Vicinity," published a few years ago by Prof. John

A. Paine, of New York ; and its accuracy and fullness are assured by the notes of Prof. Oren Root, LL. D., of Hamilton College. To insure entire impartiality and correctness in the histories of the several churches, pains has been taken to have them drawn up, as far as practicable, by persons representing the respective denominations.

It seemed appropriate to commence this history with some account of the Indians who inhabited this region before the whites visited it. They built no monuments to themselves, they left nothing upon the soil of Kirkland except a few arrow-heads ; and they would soon cease to be remembered did not we, their pale-faced successors, gather up and preserve the fragments which remain of their sad history. And surely the white men who cleared up these forests, and laid the foundations of our churches and schools and social order, and whatever else of good we inherit, should not go uncommemorated. Especially at a time like this, when nearly all the older towns of the country are preparing histories of their several localities, and when even a multitude of families are zealously writing and publishing their genealogies, does it not become us who are well-born, and who are fast approaching our centennial anniversary, to see to it that the record of what our fathers were and what they accomplished, is not forgotten and left to perish ? If a tithe of the noble spirit which animated those fathers dwells in their sons, they will be held in abiding honor.

With these prefatory words, I submit this little book