

**A REPORT ON THE
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
OF CONNECTICUT**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649293407

A report on the geological survey of Connecticut by Charles Upham Shepard

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

CHARLES UPHAM SHEPARD

**A REPORT ON THE
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
OF CONNECTICUT**

Geol
S

A
REPORT
ON THE
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CONNECTICUT.

BY
CHARLES UPHAM SHEPARD, M.D.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF HIS EXCELLENCY,

HENRY W. EDWARDS, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE.

NEW HAVEN:
PRINTED BY D. L. HAMLIN.
1837.

12949
12/2/91

*Abstract from the Annual Message for 1835, of Gov. EDWARDS,
relating to a Geological Survey of the State.*

"The mineralogical treasures which have been developed within a few years and which are constantly coming to light in different parts of our country, give us reason to believe, that we have not as yet availed ourselves to the extent that we might of this source of wealth, and suggests the expediency of a more systematic examination than has hitherto taken place. In some instances this has been done under the public patronage, and by public authority. An examination of the kind in our State, might lead to some important discoveries. An accurate and thorough geological and mineralogical survey by scientific men, if it should not result in any immediate discoveries of moment, would at least have the effect of aiding individuals in their future researches on their own lands. Much labor has been expended, and money wasted, in the search after metals and minerals, which a knowledge of those substances and the relative position they uniformly occupy, would have shown to be useless.

"The geological character of a country indicates its topographical features; and a geological map would serve as a guide, in the examination and selection of routes for rail-roads and canals, and internal improvements of every kind, the location of which depends on the topical features of the country through which they pass. A survey of the kind referred to, would furnish every individual with such information respecting his possessions, as would guard him against the wiles of prowling speculators. Much labor has been bestowed on this subject, and much information collected by individuals in different sections of the State, and it is important, that this information should be embodied and preserved; the expense would be trifling, and bear but a very small proportion to the benefits which may be derived from it. This is a subject in which the whole community has a deep interest, and it is recommended that immediate measures be taken for its accomplishment. Similar surveys have been already had in some of the states; and the attention of others is turned to the subject. Let us not be deficient on our part; we have heretofore furnished, and we can still furnish, our full quota to those economical and scientific researches which seem to be the order of the day."

Action of the Legislature on the above recommendation.

"Resolved, That the Governor be and is hereby authorized to appoint a committee of suitable persons to make a geological survey of the state of Connecticut, and to report the same to the General Assembly at their May Session of 1836.

"Resolved, That the property of such survey shall be in and belong to the State, and shall be disposed of as the General Assembly may direct."

Abstract from the appointment of the surveyors by the Governor.

"HENRY W. EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Connecticut, to JAMES GATES PERCIVAL and CHARLES UPHAM SHEPARD,—greeting: Pursuant to resolves passed by the General Assembly of Connecticut, at Hartford, in May, 1835, I do appoint you, said PERCIVAL and SHEPARD, a committee to make and complete the survey and report in said resolves, to perform the duties thereof, and obey the instructions from time to time received from the proper authority.

"Given under my hand and official seal at New Haven, this 15th day of June, A. D. 1835,
HENRY W. EDWARDS."

The Legislature of 1836 accepted the reports of the commissioners, and authorized the continuation of the survey for another year; but recommended a postponement of publication until the necessary researches were completed.

The economical and mineralogical report was submitted to the Legislature of 1837, and gave rise to the following

Report of the Committee on the Geological Survey.

"The joint committee on the Geological and Mineralogical Survey of the State, to whom was referred the Special Message of the Governor and the accompanying papers relating to the mineralogical department of said survey, having had the same under their consideration, REPORT,

"That Prof. SHEPARD has brought his examination into the mineralogy of the State to a close, and the results of his labors have been before us in a highly interesting and valuable Report. This Report, embracing the statistics of all our present mineral resources, the condition of our mines, quarries and diggings of every description, and suggestions as to the most profitable manner of working them both to the proprietors and the public, all of which are capable of immediate application,—your committee recommend should be immediately published. This Report will attract public attention to the mineral wealth of the State, which is shown to be most abundant, and only stands in need of capital and enterprise to be profitably developed. It will apprise landed proprietors of resources, of which in many instances they are now ignorant; and in others will afford them information how to turn to increased account such as they already know to exist. It teaches what things may be expected in certain districts of the State, points out the mode of searching for them and the way to identify them when found.

"Another consideration which should determine its immediate publication is, that it may receive the supervision of Prof. SHEPARD while passing through the press; a supervision altogether necessary from the nature of the subjects treated of, and which it may not be in his power to extend after this summer. For this reason too, your committee recommend its being published at New Haven, where Prof. SHEPARD resides, and where publishers are more accustomed to this kind of work than elsewhere in the State.

"The document will constitute an 8vo. volume, or pamphlet, of one hundred and fifty pages; and if published in the style in which these surveys are done in other states, will cost about twenty-five cents a copy. Your committee, therefore, recommend an appropriation of a sum of money not exceeding five hundred dollars,

or such less sum as his Excellency the Governor may contract for, for the publication of two thousand copies. That of this number, the Governor be authorized to distribute copies in the following manner:—

“Two copies to the library of Congress; two copies to the Governor of every state in the Union; two copies to the library of Yale College, of Washington College, and of the Wesleyan University of this State,—and to each of the State Officers; one copy to each of the Judges of the Supreme Court; one copy to each of the Judges of the County Court and to each Probate Judge of this State, who are not members of this Legislature; one copy to each member of the two Houses of the present Legislature; one copy to the town clerk of every town in the State; fifty copies to remain at the disposal of Prof. SHEPARD, and the same number at the disposal of his Excellency, the Governor.

“And the Governor is further authorized to furnish any bookseller such number of copies, to be disposed of on such terms as his Excellency may deem proper, for the benefit of the State.

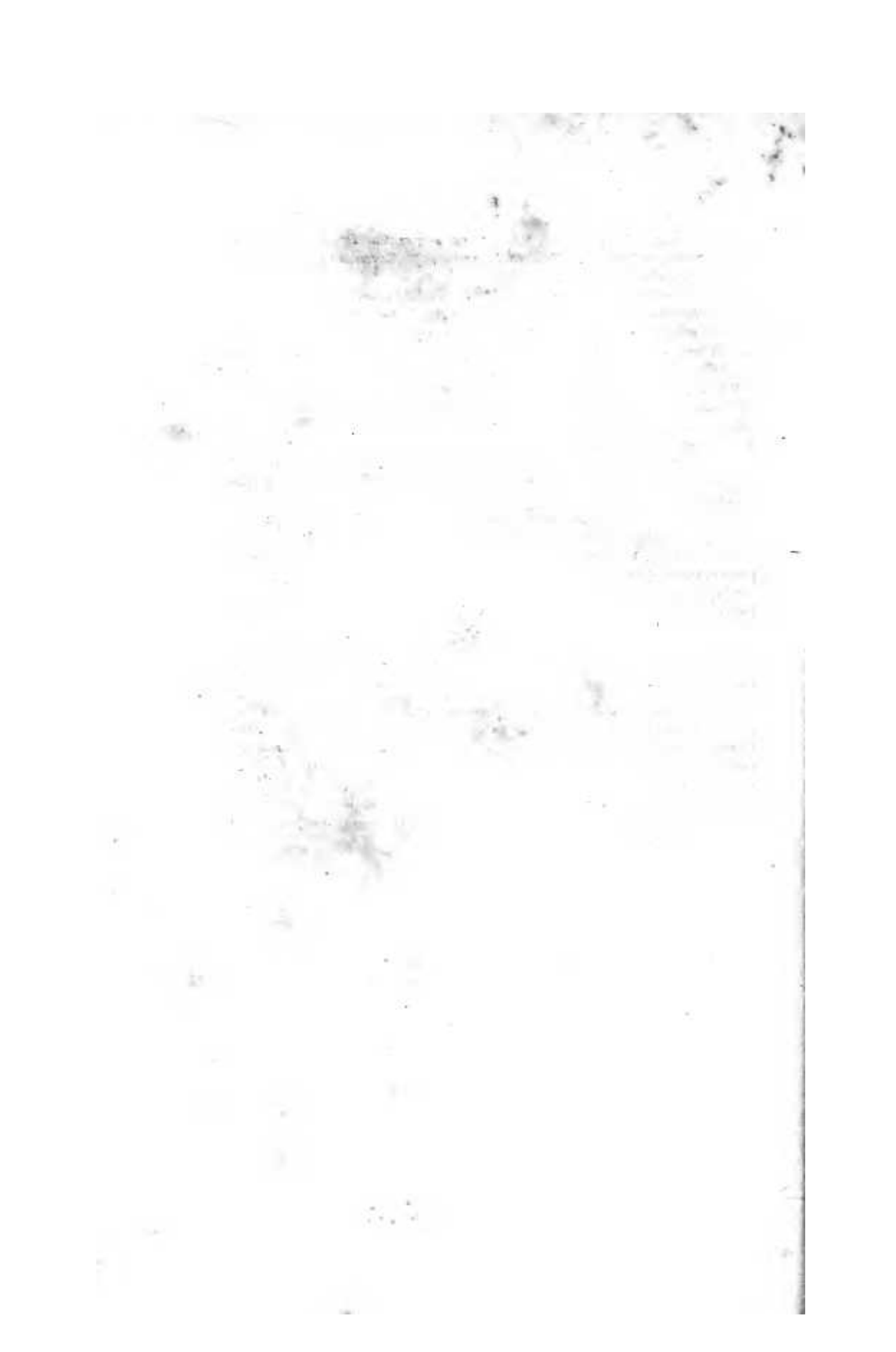
“The disposition of this Report which your committee have recommended, in case it should be published, will only reach about one half the number proposed to be printed; and will leave one thousand copies to be taken up by private sale, or disposed of by the next General Assembly.

“With these considerations, your Committee would respectfully recommend the adoption of the accompanying resolution. All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES BEEBE, *Chairman.*”

The above report was accepted and the resolution passed relative to the publication of the same.

“*Resolved by this Assembly,* That two thousand copies of Prof. SHEPARD'S Report on the Mineralogy of the State be published under the superintendence of the author, and that a sum of money not exceeding five hundred dollars be appropriated to defray the expenses,—and that the Comptroller of public accounts is hereby authorized to draw an order on the Treasurer for such sum, not exceeding five hundred dollars, to be paid out of any money not otherwise appropriated,—and his Excellency, the Governor, is hereby appointed Commissioner to see the object of this resolution effected.”



REPORT.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY

GOVERNOR HENRY W. EDWARDS.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, herewith to submit to your Excellency the report I was commissioned to make relative to the geological survey of the State. In accordance with my instructions, I have chiefly confined my attention to mineralogy, leaving to my colleague, Dr. PERCIVAL, the department of geology proper, excepting so far as relates to the economical applications of that science, and the collection of a suite of specimens to illustrate the leading formations of the State.

The time allotted to the duty has been inadequate to a complete execution of the task. For although the area of the State is small, yet the proportion of rocky surface to be examined is large. Under these circumstances I can but congratulate myself, that this report is less imperfect than it would have been, but for the many materials already accumulated by several individuals previous to the commencement of the undertaking, and which were chiefly to be found in the *American Journal of Science and Arts*. To no individual is his native State so deeply indebted as to the well known Editor of the above named journal, for the disinterested services he has rendered with a view to develop her mineral resources, and for the public spirit with which he has labored to convince the community of the important practical bearings of geology and mineralogy. The late Col. GEORGE GIBBS was likewise an early and a successful observer of the mineralogy of this State. Prof. HITCHCOCK of Amherst, and Lieut. MATHER of Albany, have each contributed valuable observations. Other individuals whose services deserve commemoration are, Dr. WEBSTER of Cambridge, the late Prof. BOWEN