

**PHINEHAS PRATT AND
SOME OF
HIS DESCENDANTS. A
MONOGRAPH**

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Phinehas Pratt and Some of His Descendants. A Monograph by Eleazer Franklin Pratt

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ELEAZER FRANKLIN PRATT

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HIS DESCENDANTS. A
MONOGRAPH**



Eleazer Franklin Pratt

PHINEHAS PRATT
66525
AND SOME OF HIS DESCENDANTS.



A Monograph

PREPARED BY

ELEAZER FRANKLIN PRATT.



BOSTON;
PRINTED FOR PRIVATE DISTRIBUTION.
1897.



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IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
Eleazer Franklin Pratt,

THIS VOLUME
PREPARED FROM THEIR FATHER'S MANUSCRIPT

IS ISSUED BY HIS SONS

FRANKLIN STETSON PRATT AND
CHARLES HERBERT PRATT.

Recd 11-1-28 BF

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PRELUDE.

THE fortunate discovery by the late Mr. Pulsifer, of the greater portion of the original manuscript of "Phinehas Pratt's Narrative," among the ancient files of petitions and other documents at the Massachusetts State-house, where it had been quietly reposing for about two centuries, was a matter of great interest to the students of the history of the "Pilgrim Fathers" of New England. The late Dr. Alexander Young, of Boston, in his "Chronicles of the Pilgrims," published in 1841, mentions the fact that careful search had been made for it by Mr. Drake and other antiquarians, but in vain; and regretfully expressed the belief that it was hopelessly lost.

This is not the place to tell the story of that manuscript, to which frequent reference is made on the following pages; but some account of this will be found in the Appendix, prepared by the late Mr. Frothingham, where the old Narrative is printed verbatim, and to which the reader is referred.

The discovery of this Narrative, written by our ancestor, who was an active participant in the events which it records, and giving a vivid picture of the cradle days of the Plymouth Colony, no doubt served as the chief incentive to our father, to undertake the preparation of the historical portion of this volume; but the

authorities which were accessible,—Bradford, Winslow, and the rest—were consulted and used. Since his death, which occurred in October, 1888, other material has become available; the line of descent of Matthew Pratt, of Weymouth, was printed in 1889, in which the author endeavors to show—whether successfully or not, it is not within our province to determine—that the tradition that he was a descendant of Phineas is erroneous.

As the genealogical portion of this volume was compiled after extensive correspondence, in which our father was engaged for a long period—many of the original letters he received being still in our possession, though some of their writers have deceased,—we have not thought it advisable to attempt any corrections or changes, either of names or dates, from the notes as he left them; for it would now be impossible, without going over the whole ground, to ascertain and verify the evidence which led him to the conclusions he carefully recorded.

The work has therefore been given as he left it. That it is incomplete in some lines, inasmuch as it had not received his final revision when he was taken away, may be admitted: but a limited edition has been printed for private circulation, in the belief that the story which he compiled of the events attending those early settlements, of the sufferings endured by our forefathers in those terrible winters, and the genealogical records of the family which he gathered, will be of interest and value to the descendants of the "old planter" who so chivalrously risked his life, alone in the wilderness, through pathless snows, in the cold of a dreary New England winter, to warn the colonists at Plymouth of their deadly peril from a savage foe.

FRANKLIN S. PRATT.

CHARLES H. PRATT.

BOSTON, June 1, 1897.