

**THE HISTORY OF NORWAY:
COMPRISING A MINUTE ACCOUNT
OF ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT, TOWN
OFFICERS, INTERSPERSED WITH
HISTORICAL SKETCHES**

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The History of Norway: Comprising a Minute Account of Its First Settlement, Town Officers,
Interspersed with Historical Sketches by David Noyes

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DAVID NOYES

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THE
HISTORY OF NORWAY:

COMPRISING A

MINUTE ACCOUNT OF ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT, TOWN
OFFICERS, THE ANNUAL EXPENDITURES OF THE TOWN, WITH
OTHER STATISTICAL MATTERS;

INTERSPERSED WITH

HISTORICAL SKETCHES,

NARRATIVE AND ANECDOTE, AND OCCASIONAL REMARKS
BY THE AUTHOR.

BY DAVID NOYES.

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P R E F A C E .

I suppose I must write a preface before I enter *one step* on my work, and tell *why* I am going to write a book, and *what* I am going to write about. The *why* is because many of our good citizens wish for such a work; but the *what* is more than I can tell, as I may feel very differently to-morrow from what I do to-day; and therefore I am unable to tell in what kind of a channel my ideas may take a notion to flow. But first, I intend to give as minute an account of the early settlement of the town as the best data in my possession will enable me to do; and also of the expenditures of the town for the benefit of its inhabitants; the immigration of new settlers since the commencement of the settlement; the accidents, and remarkable incidents, that have taken place; historical sketches, narrative and anecdote, occasionally interspersed with *just such ideas* as happen to run in my noddle while writing. I shall not attempt to tell a good story, or to crack a good joke, for the sake of producing a good hearty laugh; for such things always hit somewhere; but I am bound to get along without running against anybody, if I can help it. I intend to tell the *truth* as far as I tell *anything*: I shall "naught extenuate, nor set down aught in malice," and intend to wholly avoid bringing any "railing accusation" against any one. I humbly acknowledge the many kindnesses received from different individuals in furnishing me with facts

and materials, as they were able, for the commencement and prosecution of the work; among which persons are first, Samuel Ames, (he has almost been my standing register about the first settlement,) and also Benjamin Flint, Aaron Wilkins, Darius Holt, Nathaniel Bennett, Joel Frost, John Pike, Daniel Knight, Jr., and Daniel Stevens; and among the females are the widow Olive Stevens, Mrs. Ruth Lovejoy, Mrs. Mary Stevens, the wife of Jonas Stevens, and Mrs. Mary Ordway, the wife of Amos Ordway;—as they were the *children* of the *very first settlers*, and were old enough to retain their early impressions about matters and things of those early times. Mrs. Mercy A. Whitman has my warmest thanks for her carefully-preserved record of the deaths in the town since 1820. The town authorities are kindly thanked for the use of the Selectmen's books; and the town Clerk for his records since 1843, and the same to the Treasurer.

The several religious societies will accept my thanks for their aid generously furnished me, and with my warm thanks, a warmer wish, that our Heavenly Father may always continue to smile propitiously on them, and fit them, *more than ever*, for the full enjoyment of a blessed immortality.

To the officers of the Militia (I can't find any now, but I have found the old books) I present my thanks for the old records; and all the officers of the Militia are entitled to much praise for the correctness with which the books have been kept. To be sure, we all desire to see the time "when men shall learn war no more," but perhaps it may be well to keep the "tools ready" for fear they may be wanted.

And this scrawl I am going to call my preface to the following work, which I shall humbly inscribe to the good citizens of Norway, hoping it will afford them as much *pleasure* in reading, as it has afforded me *labor* in writing. It is possible that some things are noted which some may not desire; and that other things are omitted which some would like to see; but I can't help that; I never bargained to suit

everybody. Doubtless there are some mistakes in regard to dates, but instead of wondering at a few mistakes, it should be a greater wonder that there are not more; for on an examination of the work, it will be readily seen that I have had a great many "irons in the fire" at the same time. Many of the new immigrants probably came into the town some months, and possibly a year before they are named, as I name them when they appear on the tax-books. Many of the old settlers' sons, perhaps, do not appear in the year when they arrived at 21 years of age, as many of them, possibly, went off to work, out of town, for a year and perhaps several years; and in some instances they may be classed among the new immigrants; but I hope such trivial matters will give no unpleasant feelings to any one, or in any degree detract from the merits or usefulness of the work. The town has kindly afforded me a shelter and a home for nearly half a century; so long, that it seems to me that I have become a "part and parcel" of the same: and should it ever be so ordained, in Providence, that I should leave the place, I know I should feel a "longing for the flesh-pots" of old Norway, for "with all thy faults I love thee still."

The citizens of Norway will please to accept my thanks for the many favors received during a long series of years, and should you be pleased to liberally patronize the present work, it will greatly serve to smooth the down-hill of life, which I am fast descending, and will be productive of the lasting gratitude of

Your most obedient and humble servant,

DAVID NOYES.

HISTORY OF NORWAY.

THE town of Norway is made up of the following tracts, or grants of land, viz: the tract of land formerly known as Rustfield, purchased by Henry Rust, of Salem, Massachusetts, of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in December, 1787, estimated at six thousand acres; the Lee Grant, estimated at six thousand acres exclusive of water; the Cummings Gore, containing about three thousand and six hundred acres; and three tiers of lots taken from the easterly side of the town of Waterford, viz: a strip one mile and a half wide, and seven miles long, estimated to contain six thousand seven hundred and twenty acres; and another tract called the "Gore," or "Rust's Gore," lying south of the Waterford three tiers, and bordering on the northerly line of Otisfield, containing about seventeen hundred acres more or less, making in the whole a trifle over twenty-four thousand acres; but at that time it was rather a custom to make quite liberal measure in eastern lands, therefore we may safely calculate the quantity to be, at least, twenty-five thousand acres, or more. The Waterford three tiers, and the "Rust Gore," last described, lying south of the three tiers, form the westerly side of the town, making the whole length eight miles and one hundred and thirty-eight rods. The Lee Grant lies in the northeast corner of the town, the Cummings Gore between the Lee Grant and the northerly part of the Waterford three