

**AN HISTORICAL SKETCH  
OF GROTON,  
MASSACHUSETTS. 1655-  
1890**

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An historical sketch of Groton, Massachusetts. 1655-1890 by Samuel A. Green

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BY  
SAMUEL A. GREEN.

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To the Memory  
OF  
GEORGE DEXTER BRIGHAM

(TOWN CLERK, 1855-1893).

A LIFE-LONG FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR IN MY NATIVE TOWN,  
WHO OFTEN GAVE MOST CHEERFUL HELP IN MY  
LOCAL INVESTIGATIONS,

*THIS SKETCH IS INSCRIBED.*





## P R E F A C E.

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**T**HE following pages were written originally for a "History of Middlesex County," published in Philadelphia four years ago; and a few copies were then separately struck off. They were intended merely as a sketch of the town, and not as a full or formal history. In justice to the writer this statement seems to be necessary, as the annals of Groton, so rich in material, and covering so long a period of time, are here treated in a very scanty way. Through some misunderstanding the work was not divided into Chapters, as had been the intention of the author, who had no opportunity to see the revised proofs.

With the exception of the notice of Major Palmer, the brief biographies at the end of the book were not written by the author of this Historical Sketch. Luther Blood, a notice of whom there appears, died on September 22, 1893.

S. A. G.

BOSTON, March 16, 1894.



AN HISTORICAL SKETCH  
OF THE  
TOWN OF GROTON.<sup>1</sup>

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THE town of Groton lies in the northwestern part of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, and is bounded on the north by Pepperell and Dunstable; on the east by Tyngsborough and Westford; on the south by Littleton and Ayer; and on the west by Shirley and Townsend. The First Parish meeting-house—or “the tall-spired church”—is situated in latitude  $42^{\circ} 36' 21.4''$  north, longitude  $71^{\circ} 34' 4''$  west of Greenwich, according to the latest observations of the United States Coast Survey. It is distant nearly thirty-one miles in a straight line from the State House at Boston, but by the traveled road it is about thirty-four miles. The village of Groton is situated principally on one long street, known as Main Street, a section of the Great Road, which was formerly one of the principal thoroughfares between Eastern Massachusetts and parts of New Hampshire and Vermont. The Worcester, Nashua and Rochester Railroad passes

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<sup>1</sup> Reprinted from “The History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts.”