

**LIFE OF HARMAN BLENNERHASSETT:  
COMPRISING AN AUTHENTIC  
NARRATIVE OF THE BURR  
EXPEDITION: AND CONTAINING MANY  
ADDITIONAL FACTS NOT HERETOFORE  
PUBLISHED; PP. 1-237**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649633692

Life of Harman Blennerhassett: Comprising an Authentic Narrative of the Burr Expedition: and Containing Many Additional Facts Not Heretofore Published; pp. 1-237 by William H. Safford

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](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

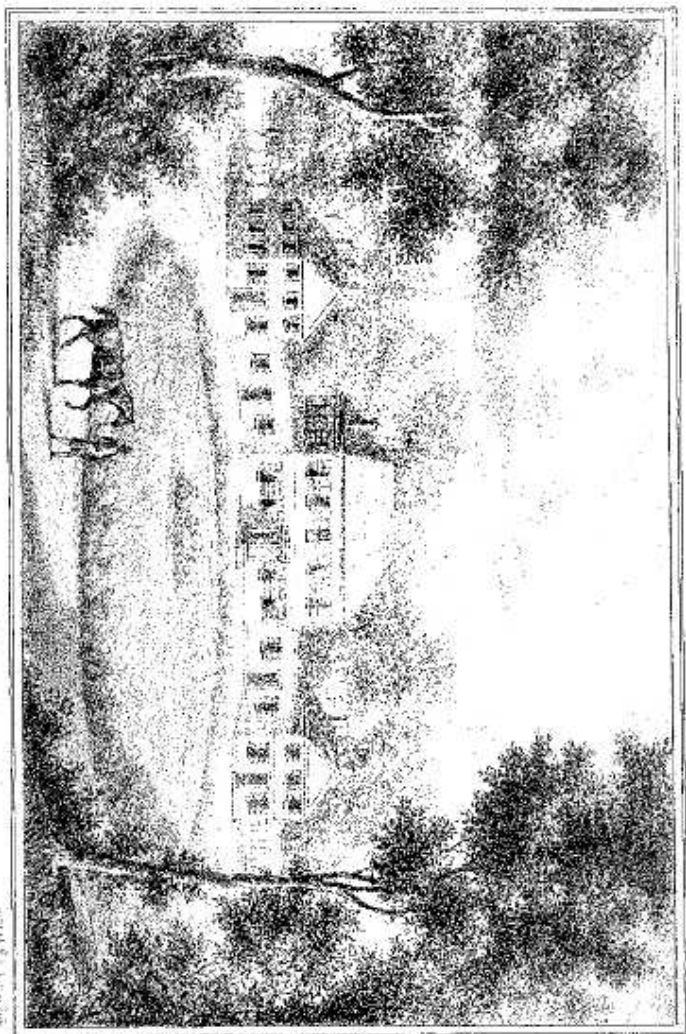
**WILLIAM H. SAFFORD**

**LIFE OF HARMAN BLENNERHASSETT:  
COMPRISING AN AUTHENTIC  
NARRATIVE OF THE BURR  
EXPEDITION: AND CONTAINING MANY  
ADDITIONAL FACTS NOT HERETOFORE  
PUBLISHED; PP. 1-237**



WOODHAMPTON SLEEPING CAR DEPOT

1887. A. W. WOOD



L I F E  
OF  
HARMAN BLENNERHASSETT.

COMPREISING

AN AUTHENTIC NARRATIVE OF THE

Burr Expedition :

AND CONTAINING

MANY ADDITIONAL FACTS NOT HERETOFORE PUBLISHED.

BY

WILLIAM H. SAFFORD.

CHILICOTHE, O.

ELY, ALLEN & LOOKER.

1850.

---

Entered according to act of Congress, in the year 1850, by  
WILLIAM H. SAFFORD,  
in the Clerk's Office of the District Court for the District of Ohio.

---

---

PREPARED BY L. JOHNSON AND CO.  
PHILADELPHIA.

---

## PREFACE.

---

WHILE collecting materials for the present biography, I have met with unexpected difficulties in procuring authentic information from the contemporaries of Blennerhassett. This is to be accounted for in the plain simplicity of most of his neighbours, who took but little interest in his scientific pursuits—of which they could neither understand the philosophy, nor comprehend the meaning. The consequence was, they associated but little with the man, and their acquaintance was derived more from what they saw, than from what they heard.

It gives me pleasure to acknowledge the courtesy of Dr. S. P. HILDRETH, of Marietta, in permitting me the use of the various historical incidents which his assiduity and love of the curious have rescued from oblivion. From the Blennerhassett Papers, published by WILLIAM WALLACE, Esq., I have made liberal quotations. To Maj. HORACE NYE, of Putnam, and Col.



JOSEPH BARKER, of Newport, I am alike indebted for much valuable matter—rendered more interesting from the fact that they were eye-witnesses of some of the scenes I have attempted to describe. Others have furnished me with materials; but the multiplicity of their names must excuse their non-appearance.

I have been careful to introduce nothing, as fact, but what has been fully corroborated by living witnesses. Nor have I attempted to screen from the public eye the infirmities or faults of the subjects of these pages; while, at the same time, I can truly say, their virtues have not been exaggerated.

The work is now submitted to a charitable public, with a knowledge of its many imperfections. More skilful hands might have avoided many faults with which I am justly chargeable, and rendered it far more palatable to the reading critic.

THE AUTHOR.

# CONTENTS.

## CHAPTER I.

|  |    |
|--|----|
| EARLY life of Blennerhassett—Lineage—Education—The Irish bar—Blennerhassett commences the study of law—Called to the bar—Certificate—Makes a visit upon the Continent—France—Witnesses the adoption of her new Constitution—Returns to Ireland—Spirit of discontent in Ireland—Oppressed by England—Effect of the American Revolution on Ireland—On the whole of Europe—Repeal of the statute of sixth George First—Blennerhassett prefers the quiet pursuits of literature to the political arena—Is dissatisfied with Ireland, and determines to leave—Disposes of his lands—Proceeds to England—Addresses Miss Agnew—Marries—Reflections..... | 19 |
|--|----|

## CHAPTER II.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Blennerhassett supplies himself with a library and philosophical apparatus—Ships for New York—Western country described—Blennerhassett sets out for the West—Pittsburgh—Mode of travelling—Marietta—Is desirous of building—Backus's Island—Blennerhassett concludes a purchase—Commences improvements—Island with its improvements—Reflections.... | 30 |
|---|----|

## CHAPTER III.

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Blennerhassett described—Studies—Amusements—Anecdotes of<br>—Appointed justice of the peace—Mrs. Blennerhassett de-<br>scribed ..... | PAGES<br>40 |
|--|-------------|

## CHAPTER IV.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Early settlers of Western Virginia—Occupations—Amusements<br>—Patriotism—First settlers of Ohio—Industry—Economy<br>—Morality—Conclusion..... | 49 |
|---|----|

## CHAPTER V.

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Domestic situation of Blennerhassett in 1805—Burr's first visit<br>to the island—Object of Burr's tour—Finds Blennerhassett<br>absent from home—Proceeds down the Ohio—Visits Wilkin-<br>son—Conference—Blennerhassett visits New York—Thomas<br>Addis Emmett—Burr's first communication to Blennerhassett<br>—Effect of, upon Blennerhassett—Blennerhassett's answer—<br>Burr's reply—Burr's second visit to the island—Wirt's descrip-<br>tion of the island as it was at that time—Burr commences<br>recruiting men for the expedition—Arguments made use of to<br>induce individuals to join—Effect of his arguments ..... | 68 |
|--|----|

## CHAPTER VI.

|   |
|---|
| Preparations for the expedition commenced—Burr's visit to Chil-<br>licothe—Cincinnati—Kentucky—Alston arrives at the island—<br>Alston with his wife and Blennerhassett visits Lexington, Ky.<br>—Blennerhassett is introduced to Charles Fenton Mercer—<br>Suspicious aspect of the expedition—Situation of affairs in the<br>United States—Apprehensions of the people—Rumours—Gra- |
|---|