

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

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**WILLIAM H. SAFFORD**

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*U. D. A. 12, 2011  
June 1875.*

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WILLIAM H. SAFFORD.

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## PREFACE.

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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. HILDEETH, 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.....	Page 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....	20
---	----

## CHAPTER III.

Blennerhassett described—Studies—Amusements—Anecdotes of —Appointed justice of the peace—Mrs. Blennerhassett de- scribed .....	Page 40
--	------------

## CHAPTER IV.

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

## CHAPTER V.

Domestic situation of Blennerhassett in 1805—Burr's first visit to the island—Object of Burr's tour—Finds Blennerhassett absent from home—Proceeds down the Ohio—Visits Wilkin- son—Conference—Blennerhassett visits New York—Thomas Addis Emmett—Burr's first communication to Blennerhassett —Effect of, upon Blennerhassett—Blennerhassett's answer— Burr's reply—Burr's second visit to the island—Wirt's descrip- tion of the island as it was at that time—Burr commences recruiting men for the expedition—Arguments made use of to induce individuals to join—Effect of his arguments.....	58
---	----

## CHAPTER VI.

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

CONTENTS.

9

	Page
ham appointed a secret agent of the government—Instructions	
—Instructions to Gen. Wilkinson—Wilkinson demands forces of the Governor of Mississippi Territory—Is refused—Despatches Burling to Mexico—Holds a conference with Governor Claiborne at New Orleans—Merchants of New Orleans convoked	
—Preparations at New Orleans—Blennerhassett sets out from Kentucky for home—Meets with Mr. Mercer—Conversation—Burr's designs explained—Blennerhassett is joined by Burr at the island—Burr leaves the supervision of the boats to Blennerhassett and returns to Kentucky—Is arrested—Graham arrives at Marietta—Interview with Blennerhassett—Visits the Governor of Ohio at Chillicothe—Act of the Ohio Legislature—Militia of the State called out—Anecdotes—Mercer's visit to the island—Arrival of Comfort Tyler and his men—Find Blennerhassett disheartened as to the feasibility of the enterprise.	74

CHAPTER VII.

Burr despatches Swartwout to Wilkinson—Letter—Wilkinson communicates its substance to the President—Proclamation of the President—Virginia militia called out under command of Col. Hugh Phelps—Blennerhassett escapes with Tyler and his forces down the Ohio—Phelps proceeds to the island—Finds it deserted—Ineffectual attempt to arrest Blennerhassett at Point Pleasant—Effect of the President's Proclamation trusted to for some time in the State of Tennessee—But similar instructions sent to that State also—Graham leaves Frankfort for Nashville—The movements of Burr—Kentucky militia ordered out—Burr's flotilla—Burr leaves the Cumberland—Lands at Fort Massac—Is visited by the commander, Captain Bissel—Supplies Burr with a messenger to convey a letter to the Lead Mines in Missouri—His wife presents Burr with provisions—Burr and his party proceed to Chickasaw Bluffs—Has an interview with the commander, Lieutenant Jacob Jackson—Fails in his designs—Communication of the President to Wilkinson—Burr supplies himself with lead, tomahawks, &c., and proceeds to Palmyra, and thence to Bayou Pierre .....	95
---	----