

**HISTORY OF THE COUNTY OF  
SCHENECTADY, N. Y., FROM  
1662 TO 1886, WITH PORTRAITS,  
BIOGRAPHIES AND  
ILLUSTRATIONS**

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**GEORGE ROGERS HOWELL & JOHN H. MUNSELL**

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HOWELL.



MUNSELL.

ASSISTED BY  
LOCAL WRITERS.

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## EDITOR'S PREFACE.

**I**N presenting this History of Schenectady County and City to the public, a few words of explanation and acknowledgment are due.

The preparation of so large an amount of historical, biographical and statistical matter as is contained in these pages was undertaken by the publishers in a spirit of enterprise and liberality that required no little financial risk. The Editor was induced to assume the compilation and editing of this work, because he believed there was much important historical and statistical matter that was not in print that ought to be preserved in some compact and convenient form, and because much published and unpublished materials for the work were generously and kindly put at his disposal by the authors and publishers.

Nearly everything of special interest and value connected with ancient Schenectady is already in print, most of which came from the pen of Prof. Jonathan Pearson, the highest authority in this section of the country, to whose nearly half a century of unrequited labor in antiquarian research, the State of New York owes a large debt of gratitude. We desire to make generous acknowledgment to him for the use of his published works and unpublished manuscripts, from which much material has been gleaned for this work.

It has not been convenient to make special mention, in connection with the various articles themselves, of those who have kindly prepared them, in part or whole, therefore, we wish to make the following acknowledgements: To the Rev. Wm. Elliott Griffis, D. D., who wrote the excellent article on Prof. Taylor Lewis; the History of the Dutch Church, Schenectady, is substantially the same as already published from material prepared by Prof. Pearson and Rev. Dr. Griffis; the History of the First Presbyterian Church, is principally a discourse by Rev. T. G. Darling, D. D.; that of St. George's Episcopal Church, by Rev. Wm. Payne, D. D.; that of the Methodist Episcopal Church, by Rev. Samuel McKean and Prof. L. Hoyt; that of the First Baptist Church, by Rev. H. G. Day; that of the Second Reformed Dutch Church, by J. J. Marlett; and the article on Temperance, by Peter Chrisler.

L. B. Proctor, Esq., the accomplished editor of the "New York State Bar," prepared most of the article on The Bench and Bar. For the history of Union College we are indebted to articles in print, by Prof. Pearson, Dr. F. B. Hough and Prof. Wm. Wells. Prof. S. G. Howe furnished valuable information contained in the article relating to the Schools of the City. Mr. Omie F. Vidler has rendered valuable assistance in gathering matter especially relating to the Official History of the County and City, and preparing it for the press. The Editor hereby acknowledges the kindness and courtesy of the above-named individuals, and also expresses thanks to the press; to the county and city officials for assistance in examining their records; to the pastors of nearly all the churches in the county for assistance in preparing their religious history; to the secretaries of the numerous lodges, societies and military organizations for data furnished; and to the many other persons who have rendered more or less assistance during the progress of this work.

It is hardly possible that in a work like this no errors will be found; but it is confidently hoped that if inaccuracies are discovered, the great difficulty of preventing their occurrence will be considered, and that they will be charitably regarded.

Some differences of opinion regarding some old historical facts have been discovered in published works, and have come to us by tradition in a few cases. All information has been duly weighed and preference given to what seemed to be correct.

The following works have been consulted: "The Schenectady Patent," by Prof. Pearson, edited by Major J. W. Mc Murray to whom we are also indebted for the use of plates from which some of the illustrations have been taken; "Sander's Early History of Schenectady," "History

of the Dutch Church" by Prof. Pearson and Rev. Dr. Griggs; "First Settlers of Schenectady," by Prof. Pearson; "Historical Collections of the State of New York;" "Annals of Albany," published by Joel Munsell; Gazetteers of the State of New York; Spafford's Gazetteer; "Memoirs of Dr. Nott," by Van Santwoord and Taylor Lewis; "Public Service of New York State;" and other minor publications.

The history of some of the towns of the county was prepared by the Rev. E. E. Taylor, who is accredited at the head of each. Many of the illustrations will be familiar to some, but new to most of the subscribers. The portraits with which these pages are embellished, coming as they do from the bureau of the most eminent engravers of the day, will commend themselves to all who see them, not only as admirable likenesses, but as choice works of art.

And now, after two years of labor, conscious that this, in a measure, falls short of what we had proposed at the outset, the Editor may well say, as did valiant Captain John Mason, in his introduction to the Pequot War. "I wish (this task) had fallen into some better hands, that might have performed it to the life. I shall only draw the curtain and open my little casement, that so others, of larger hearts and abilities, may let in a brighter light."

*John H. Munsell*



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