

**DOVER FARMS; IN WHICH IS
TRACED THE DEVELOPMENT OF
THE TERRITORY FROM THE FIRST
SETTLEMENT IN 1640 TO 1900**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649228737

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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BY FRANK SMITH

PRESIDENT DOVER HISTORICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY;
VICE-PRESIDENT DEDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY; VICE-
PRESIDENT BAY STATE HISTORICAL LEAGUE

DOVER, MASSACHUSETTS
PUBLISHED BY THE HISTORICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
1914

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PREFACE

In these pages the task of "unfolding the scroll of time" has been attempted. Herein are presented many facts with which the present generation is unfamiliar, and unless now recorded would be lost forever. While the basis of this work rests upon the records of Norfolk and Suffolk counties, yet the material there obtained has been enriched by many facts gathered through a period of thirty years from the older people of Dover, together with much of interest which has been accumulated through a wide correspondence with former residents of the town.

While the old social intercourse and mutual dependence of the country folks is now mostly gone, yet the suggestion of the life which has been lived here will touch, it is believed, something very deep in many hearts. "The sentiment that makes us linger over old-fashioned things is one of the most powerful in man. It knits the generations to each other, making it certain that the reverence of the young for the old will never die out of the world." From moulding relics and obscure traditions of other times something may be learned which shall not merely gratify curiosity. We believe it is well to have the life of a country town individually told before the change begins which is sure to come in the social and domestic relations of society. Now every settlement can be easily traced on a map of Dover.

In recognition of the great debt of gratitude which we owe our forebears for their toil and patient sacrifice in the development of these farms, in making these roads, and in the building of the town's institutions, this volume, which aims to show the life they lived, is dedicated. The obligations of the author are due George E. Chickering, the oldest resident of Dover, who patiently listened to the reading of these pages and whose accurate knowledge has helped to make clear many obscure points in the history of the town; to Walter P. Henderson who lettered the accompanying map, and to the many residents who have contributed so generously to meet the expense of illustrating this volume.

It is hoped that the large number of illustrations found in this volume will add to its interest and value. The plan has been to give (a) pictures of the different types of older houses now standing in Dover; (b) a collection of the notable additions that have been made in recent years; (c) things of historical interest, like the town pound and the dam at Charles River; (d) some bits of beautiful scenery in old roads, springs, etc., which add so much to the attractiveness of the town as a place of permanent residence.

“**T**HERE is a quiet about the life of the farmer, and the hope of a serene old age, that no other business or profession can promise. A professional man is doomed some time to find that his powers are wanting. He is doomed to see younger and stronger men pass him in the race of life. He looks forward to an old age of intellectual mediocrity. He will be last where once he was the first. But the farmer goes as it were into partnership with nature—he lives with trees and flowers—he breathes the sweet air of the fields. There is no constant and frightful strain upon his mind. His nights are filled with sleep and rest. He watches his flocks and herds as they feed upon the green and sunny slopes. He hears the pleasant rain falling upon the waving corn, and the trees he planted in youth rustle above him as he plants others for the children yet to be.”



“No town can have a great to-morrow if it fails to commemorate its yesterdays. We in America are frequently careless of the past. We are thinking of the future, and so frequently allow our children to grow up ignorant of the great personalities and great deeds that have made our towns and our nation. In ancient Rome, when a boy became of age he was carried into the great hall of the house, where stood the statues of his forefathers, and there in the presence of those memorials he was invested with the garments of manhood. I hope our historical societies will be able to carry in coming years hundreds of young men into the presence of great events and great leaders of the past, and thus give them that intelligent devotion to the common good, which will create leaders in coming days.”

