

**THE HISTORY OF REDDING,  
CONN., FROM  
ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT  
TO THE PRESENT TIME**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649158744

The history of Redding, Conn., from its first settlement to the present time by Charles Burr Todd

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

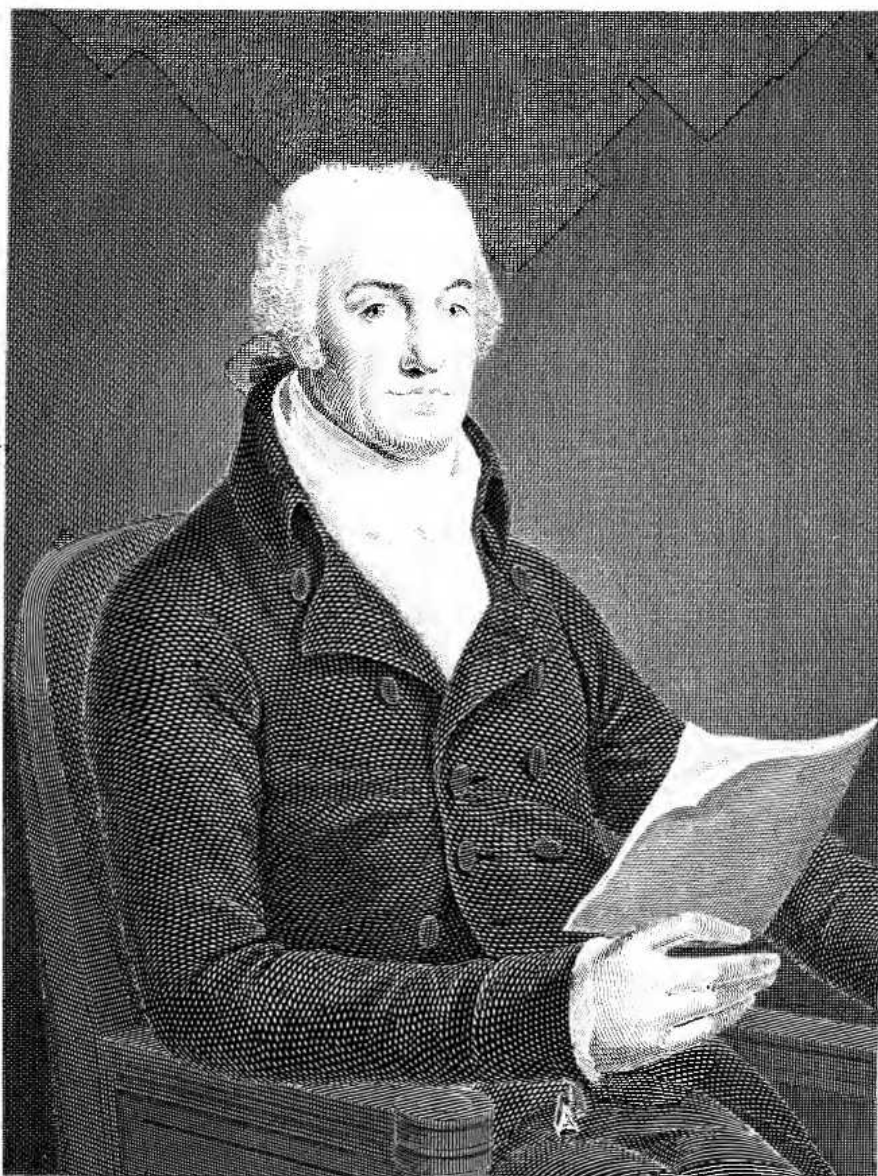
This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

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

**CHARLES BURR TODD**

**THE HISTORY OF REDDING,  
CONN., FROM  
ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT  
TO THE PRESENT TIME**





*The man is in the  
the world and changed in all his days of years  
I would be his name to the world and  
then to the world and improve myself*

THE HISTORY  
OF  
REDDING, CONN.,

FROM ITS

FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME.

WITH NOTES ON

THE ADAMS, BANKS, BARLOW, BARTLETT, BARTRAM, BATES, BEACH, BENEDICT,  
BETTS, BURR, BURRITT, BURTON, CHATFIELD, COUCH, BARKING, FAIRCHILD,  
FOSTER, GOLD, GORHAM, GRAY, GIFFEN, HALL, HAWLEY, HILL, HERON,  
HULL, JACKSON, LEE, LYON, LORD, MALLORY, MEADE, DECKER,  
MERCHANT, MOREHOUSE, PERRY, PLATT, READ, ROGERS,  
RUMSEY, SANFORD, SMITH, AND STOW FAMILIES.

BY

CHARLES BURR TODD,

AUTHOR OF "A HISTORY OF THE BURR FAMILY,"

NEW YORK:

THE JOHN A. GRAY PRESS AND STEAM TYPESETTING OFFICE,  
CORNER OF FRANKFURT AND JACOB STREETS,

1880.

## PREFACE.

---

An interest is attached to the place of one's birth which change of scene rather enhances than removes, and which increases rather than diminishes in intensity as one approaches the later stages of life: this home feeling has been largely instrumental in the production of this work, and to it is due nearly every thing of interest or value that the book possesses.

A history of Redding has been long contemplated by the author as a service due his native town, and as long shrunk from because of the labor, the expense, and the difficulty of its compilation. Whether well or illly done, it is now completed, and goes out to the somewhat limited public for whom it was written.

The materials for the work have been drawn largely from the ancient records of the town and parish, from the records of the colony, and from the files of musty papers in the State Library at Hartford. Tradition and oral information have not been neglected, and every reasonable effort has been made to render the work as far as possible a thorough and reliable history of the town. That errors and discrepancies will be found, is to be expected; but it is not believed that they are sufficiently numerous or important to destroy its historical value. In the preparation of the book the compiler has aimed to preserve the character of a local historian, and has confined himself chiefly to the

narration of local facts and incidents. In harmony with this principle, an extended biography of Joel Barlow, at first intended for this work, has been excluded. The sketch of the poet so grew on the author's hands, that it was found it would make a volume by itself, and contained so much of general interest and detail that it could not be made to harmonize with the local character of this work. A concise sketch of the poet's life, however, and the original portrait from Fulton's oil-painting, that formed the frontispiece of the Columbiad, are included in its pages.

The compiler has not aimed at making a large book : many facts in few words is what a busy age demands of the historian, and in deference to this demand only such matter as was of real value and interest has been admitted. The church histories and the genealogical notes are, perhaps, the most important, if not the most interesting, portions of the work. It would have added to the value of the ecclesiastical history, no doubt, if it had been prepared by the pastors of the different churches represented ; but, with one exception, these had so recently assumed the care of their charges, that they did not feel at liberty to undertake it, and the task fell to the lot of the compiler. If this department is not what it might have been, the cause may be found in the disadvantages which a layman must labor under in attempting to write ecclesiastical history. The Rev. Mr. Welton, rector of Christ Church, very kindly consented to prepare the history of that church, and his paper will be read with interest by our citizens.\*

In preparing the notes on the early families of the town, it was the writer's intention at first to make them much more complete and extensive. But the little interest in the matter manifested by the families concerned, and the great labor and expense involved in compiling any thing like a complete history of the thirty or forty



families mentioned, led him to abridge the work, and to give the matter in the form of notes taken chiefly from the town and parish records. The fact that the record of some families is given more fully than that of others, is not owing to any partiality on the author's part, but to the fact that these families interested themselves enough in the matter to furnish the data called for.

By reference to the title-page it will be seen that the modern method of spelling the name of the town—Redding—is adopted rather than the ancient—Reading. Legally, no such town as *Reading* exists in Connecticut, since, both in the act of incorporation and on the probate seal, the name is spelled Redding; and inquiry elicits the fact that the majority of the citizens prefer the latter method of spelling. It is the opinion of the writer, however, that the original name of the town was Reading, and that if historical precedents are to be followed it should be so named now. In all old documents among the State archives, and in the ancient records of Fairfield (where the name first occurs), the orthography is *Reading*. In the town and society records it is spelled either Redding or Reding, rarely Reading. Rev. Moses Hill, a gentleman well versed in the antiquities of the town, informs me that at the time of its incorporation, in 1767, a meeting was held, at which it was voted that the name of the new town should be Redding; and the fact that in the original bill incorporating it the name Reading has been crossed out and that of Redding substituted, would seem to point to some such action on the part of the town. I find no entry of any such action, however, in the town records.

The books consulted in the preparation of the volume have been Barber's "Historical Collections of Connecticut," Hollister's "History of Connecticut," De Ferrer's "Indians of Connecticut," Teller's "History of Ridgefield," the Congregational Year-Book, and Stevens'

"History of Methodism." The author's thanks are due Mr. Lemuel Sanford, our efficient town-clerk, for ready access to the town records, and for many valuable hints and suggestions; also to Messrs. Thomas Sanford, William E. Duncomb, Daniel Sanford, David S. Bartram, James Sanford, and David H. Miller, for efficient aid in the preparation of the work. He is also indebted to Rev. Moses Hill, of Norwalk, for data of the Hill and Barlow families; and to Mr. A. B. Hall, of Danbury, for many papers and documents relating to the history of the town.

C. B. T.

REDDING, March 1, 1880.

## CONTENTS.

CHAP.	PAGE
I. PRELIMINARY SETTLEMENT.....	1
II. REDDING AS A PARISH.....	23
III. TOWN HISTORY.....	32
IV. REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY AND INCIDENTS.....	47
V. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.....	75
VI. CHRIST CHURCH.....	90
VII. METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.....	113
VIII. BAPTIST CHURCH IN GEORGETOWN.....	129
IX. METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH.....	133
X. HISTORY OF SCHOOLS.....	137
XI. MANUFACTURERS.....	143
XII. MISCELLANEOUS.....	149
XIII. REDDING IN THE CIVIL WAR.....	159
XIV. THE EARLY FAMILIES OF REDDING.....	173
XV. BIOGRAPHICAL.....	223