

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF
CHEMUNG COUNTY,
NEW YORK**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9781760573775

A brief history of Chemung county, New York by Ausburn Towner

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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Matthias Hollubush

BARNES' COUNTY HISTORY

A BRIEF HISTORY
OF
CHEMUNG COUNTY
NEW YORK

FOR THE USE OF GRADED SCHOOLS

By *AUSBURN TOWNER*



NEW YORK
A. S. BARNES & COMPANY
1907

*To the Children of Chemung County
of whom I was one,
I dedicate
this little book, with the wish that their lives may be
as bright and sunny as was mine in "the dearest spot
on Earth to me."*

Ausburn Towner.

March; 1907.

INTRODUCTION

Local history is fleeting and evanescent. Events of one day, even considered of supreme importance at the time, are forgotten the next day, and soon drop into oblivion. Any effort to recall them, after years have passed, entails tireless and exhaustive research amongst the files of musty, old newspapers, private memoranda, public records, and, best of all, the interviewing and arousing the recollections of elderly persons; preferably ladies, for their memories are usually very retentive and are seldom found inaccurate. Very much that follows is from the remembrances of old ladies, who knew the country in their girlhood; when it was pretty much all woods and swamps. Interviews with them could only be characterized as delicious. If there could be reproduced only one-half of all they have recalled, it would form a book many times the size of this; and if their names could be given; they would be recognized as belonging to some of the oldest and best-known families of the county.

Seldom does a company assemble socially for a quiet visit that the discussion of "old times" does not come up during the gathering; and those most eagerly listened to are the ones who can tell the most about the periods when our "grandfathers

lived." It is a subject not particularly valuable, perhaps with some exceptions, but always interesting and entertaining.

It will be found that children are always attracted toward subjects of this character, and it is safe to place such memories in their keeping. They can then tell all about their homes and the people dwelling thereabouts, and transmit their knowledge to an indefinite posterity. When they are fully informed concerning these matters in their own localities, they will be prepared to enter with enthusiasm upon the study of the stories of the larger affairs of the world.

AUSBURN TOWNER.

PART I

The County and Valley during the closing years of the XVIII Century

But many of the fathers, who were ancient men, had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes.—EZRA, iii., 12.

His echoing axe the settler swung,
Amid the sea-like solitude,
And, rushing, thundering down were flung
The Titans of the wood.—ALFRED B. STREET.