

**NEWGATE OF
CONNECTICUT:
ITS ORIGIN AND
EARLY HISTORY**

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Newgate of Connecticut: Its Origin and Early History by Richard H. Phelps

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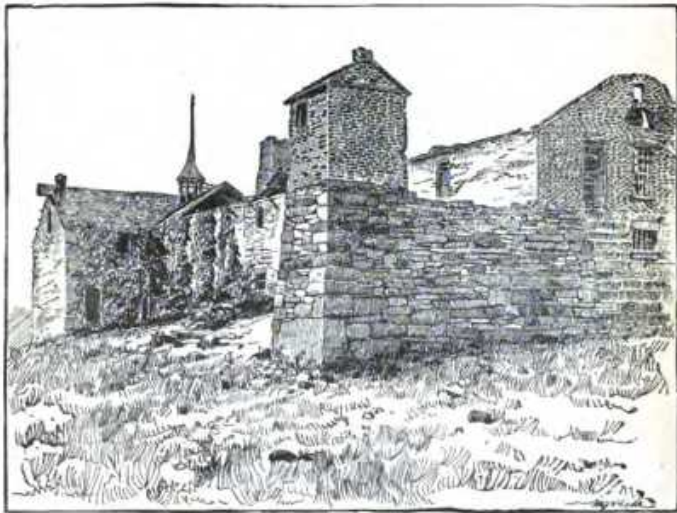
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RICHARD H. PHELPS

**NEWGATE OF
CONNECTICUT:
ITS ORIGIN AND
EARLY HISTORY**



NORTH-WEST VIEW OF OLD PRISON, 1876.



OLD PRISON RUINS.

NEWGATE OF CONNECTICUT;

C#

ITS

ORIGIN AND EARLY HISTORY.

BEING A FULL DESCRIPTION OF THE
FAMOUS AND WONDERFUL SIMSBURY MINES AND CAVERNS,
AND THE PRISON BUILT OVER THEM.

TO WHICH IS ADDED

A RELATION OF ALL THE INCIDENTS, INSURRECTIONS, AND MASSACRES, CON-
NECTED WITH THEIR USE AS A PRISON FOR THE TORIES DURING
THE REVOLUTION, AND OTHERWISE; WITH INTERESTING
SKETCHES OF THEIR SURROUNDINGS,
IN (NOW) EAST GRANBY.

ALSO,

AN ILLUSTRATED DESCRIPTION OF THE

STATE PRISON AT WETHERSFIELD.

*Captivity of Daniel Hoag of Granby
by the Indians in 1767. PP 102-116*

BY ^{arney}
RICHARD H. PHELPS.

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1901

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PREFACE.

IN this Centennial Year—1876—it is useful to review the incidents relating to our early history which illustrate the manners, and the civil, religious, and criminal policy of former times. The records of deeds and events, apparently of slight moment at the time of their occurrence, increase in importance as ages roll away, and are the indices by which we estimate the truth of history.

There is an exciting fascination in the eventful history of NEWGATE OF CONNECTICUT to all who have been familiar with it, especially to those who, like the writer, have resided in its vicinity and witnessed many of its scenes; and to judge by the numbers who come from afar to explore its caverns and the ruins which now cover its grounds, it will long continue to be an object of interest and examination. The aged residents in its vicinity are nearly all gone; but this prison-fortress will doubtless long remain and continue to be a place of classic interest. The traveller will inquire, Who built these towers? Why these iron grates, these trenches, and these walls? How came these huge caverns to be dug out of solid rock? Surely the echo of the caverns cannot answer, nor the people who lived contemporaneously with their use.

The facts herein presented have been gathered from a variety of sources. Besides what came within the knowledge of the writer, he has availed himself of the statistics afforded by ancient colonial and state records; of the verbal statements kindly furnished by the few aged persons still living; and of other facts preserved from the recorded relations of witnesses long since passed away.

The first edition, in pamphlet form, printed thirty-two years ago, and the larger work published in 1860 have been revised, and additional matter of interest herein incorporated. Also appended is a historical sketch of East Granby (the present location of the old prison), and an account of the state prison at Wethersfield.

RICHARD H. PHELPS.

East Granby, Conn., 1876.

NOTE TO PREFACE.

Since the decease of Richard H. Phelps, the author of this History, who died at his home in East Granby, Conn., in 1885, the writer of this note has met with additional matter regarding the ancient prison, a large portion being in the nature of "facts that ain't so" mostly manufactured by bright correspondents of metropolitan journals. Using this authentic history as a base of supplies (usually without credit), they have foraged about for ghastly legends invented by a later generation; their tales of horror are not incorporated in this volume, enough *real* tragedies having been enacted at Newgate to sufficiently thrill the reader of the following pages. Even in modern prisons insurrections and murders sometimes occur, and the facts do not show that the science of penology was any more misapplied at Newgate than at other jails or prisons of that period. The late author aimed strictly at accuracy; and it is the wish of his son, the present writer, to impress upon the thoughtful reader the sentiments in the Preface. The author refers to "the aged persons" then living, from whom many of the facts were originally gathered by him nearly seventy years ago. Those venerable people failed to foresee the works of these imaginative generations, then unborn.

ROSWELL H. PHELPS.

EAST GRANBY, CONN., August, 1901.



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