

**PATRIOTIC POEMS
OF NEW JERSEY**

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Patriotic poems of New Jersey by William Clinton Armstrong

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WILLIAM CLINTON ARMSTRONG

**PATRIOTIC POEMS
OF NEW JERSEY**

NEW JERSEY
AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

A SERIES OF BOOKS PUBLISHED BY THE NEW
JERSEY SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION

PATRIOTIC POEMS OF
NEW JERSEY

CHOSEN AND ANNOTATED BY
WILLIAM CLINTON ARMSTRONG

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I.

PATRIOTIC POEMS

PREFACE.

The following poems are published by the *New Jersey Society of the Sons of the American Revolution*, under the supervision of its Historian, Mr. William Clinton Armstrong

In presenting to the public this collection of the Patriotic Poems of New Jersey it may not be considered irrelevant to present a brief sketch of the Society under whose auspices it is published.

The New Jersey Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was formed in 1889 by a number of the citizens of this State who were members of the New York Society of the *Sons of the Revolution* but who were not permitted by that organization to form a separate State society. This Society was founded upon a liberal construction of the principles of the *American Revolution*; upon a basis of the purest patriotism and with the highest conception of the duties of citizens of the Republic. Its requirements demand that its members shall be lineal descendants of the men who achieved American Independence. Its organization infringed no patent; trespassed upon no preserves; set up no theory of States' rights, simply sought to enlarge the scope of its activities, to revive the memories of the heroic past and to perpetuate those memories for all time.

Soon after its organization, forecasting the future, hoping to bind all the States in an indissoluble bond, it bent its efforts towards the establishment of a National Society, in which effort it was eminently successful; and delegates from thirty States met in a general congress at Louisville, Ky., in April, 1890, and with a unanimity almost unprecedented laid broad and deep the foundations of our Society

As the New Jersey Society is, therefore, the parent society of the now National Society, it seems due its founders that this statement should be incorporated in this little book of patriotic poems

The contemplation of the heroic self-sacrifice of our ancestors has inspired many a poet to describe the events and incidents of the Revolutionary war in thrilling verse and epic poem. It is very gratifying to be able to present in this anthology so many selections relating to Trenton, Assunpink, Princeton, Monmouth and Springfield, so dear to the memory of Jerseymen of patriotic ancestry.

However, it is very far from being our wish to limit the use of the word *patriotic* to military events, and therefore no apology

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is needed for including in this volume many poems of a non-military character.

We have not made our selections along narrow lines; it has been our aim to cover a wide range of topics. Several poems have been included which are descriptive of the natural scenery of our State, her mountains and her rivers, her sea shore and coast waters. And as to intellectual culture the praises of Princeton and Rutgers, both founded in colonial days and each a pillar of strength to the American cause, are sung in *Old Nassau* and *On the Banks of the Old Raritan*; as to religious devotion the spirit of a sturdy faith beams forth from *The Old Stone Church* and *Divident Hill*.

Of the authors represented in this book, four were Jersey-men of National reputation as able and zealous Revolutionary patriots: Philip Freneau as the Poet of the American Revolution, John Witherspoon and Francis Hopkinson as Signers of the Declaration of Independence, and William Livingston as New Jersey's brilliant war governor. Other Jersey-men appearing here as writers of verse, who were active supporters of the same good cause, are John Cooper of Woodbury, a member of the State Senate, Captain James Moore of Princeton, Captain Moses Guest of New Brunswick, and Major Richard Howell, afterward Governor of New Jersey. The poem *Volunteer Boys for Old Jersey's Defense* was written by a soldier in the Continental army; and *McFingal* is an extract from a mock-epic which did effective service by covering the Tories with ridicule. If to the foregoing we add the five anonymous poems which we know were written and sung during the war itself, we have in this book twenty-eight poems written by the patriots of 1776 themselves.

As the study of history is a necessary part of a liberal education the Historian has endeavored to give to such poems as *The Battle of the Kegs* and *The British Prison-Ships* a historical setting which will enable even girls and boys to appreciate the wit and humor of the one and the fierce denunciations of the other. In preparing the explanatory notes the author thereof has had in mind the needs of young people who are already familiar with the general course of the Revolution and its principal events, but who have not that minute knowledge of local detail which is necessary for an adequate understanding of many of the poems. In order that there may be no possible misunderstanding on the part of any one interested, it is deemed

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proper to state that the compiler is alone responsible for all the notes attached to the various poems.

The grateful acknowledgments of the Society are extended to the following publishers and authors for permission to use copyrighted matter: to Funk and Wagnalls Company, to John Wiley and Sons, to Richard G. Badger and Company, to Harper and Brothers, to Charles Scribner's Sons, to the Century Company, to the Good Roads Magazine, and to Houghton, Mifflin and Company, the only authorized publishers of the works of Bret Harte and Edmund Clarence Stedman.

The thanks of the Society are due also to Miss Virginia W. Cloud, Miss Eleanor A. Hunter, Miss Sarah M. Davy, Mrs. Edward C. Lyon, Mrs. Arthur H. Noll, Mrs. James W. Trimble, Mrs. Frederic Drummond, Mrs. Laura E. Richards, Rev. Joseph F. Folsom, Dr. Louis Bevier, Dr. Merrill E. Gates, Howard H. Fuller, William H. Fischer, Will Carleton, James J. Roche, Isaac R. Pennypacker, Thomas Fleming Day, Richard W. Gilder, Horace Traubel, literary executor of Walt Whitman, and to Charles D. Platt for seven poems from his *Ballads of New Jersey in the Revolution*.

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