

**NEWGATE OF CONNECTICUT: ITS
ORIGIN AND EARLY HISTORY: BEING A
FULL DESCRIPTION OF
THE FAMOUS AND WONDERFUL
SIMSBURY MINES AND CAVERNS, AND
THE PRISON BUILT OVER THEM**

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Newgate of Connecticut: Its Origin and Early History: Being a Full Description of the Famous and Wonderful Simsbury Mines and Caverns, and the Prison Built over Them by Richard H. Phelps

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RICHARD H. PHELPS

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NORTH-WEST VIEW OF OLD PRISON, 1876.

NEWGATE OF CONNECTICUT;

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 TORIERS 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.

BY

RICHARD H. PHELPS.

HARTFORD, CONN.
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Arthur S. Williams

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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.

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