

The History of Warwick, Rhode Island, From Its Settlement in 1642 to the Present Time: Including Accounts of the Early Settlement and Development of ... the Different Churches of the Town, &C., &C

Oliver Payson Fuller

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Excerpt from The History of Warwick, Rhode Island, From Its Settlement in 1642 to the Present Time: Including Accounts of the Early Settlement and Development of Its Several Villages; Sketches of the Origin and Progress of the Different Churches of the Town, &C., &C

The present work was commenced as a means of relaxation from professional labors, with simply the intention of furnishing a series of historical sketches for a country newspaper. I had only pursued my inquiries for a brief season when I found the field so rich in interesting and important historical matter, that I was led to believe that even a poor reaper might gather a considerable harvest. It was a matter of surprise that one of the constituent towns of the colony of Rhode Island, and one that throughout its history has exerted so important an influence upon its prosperity, and produced so many men of talent and influence, should not have found among them some one to perform this work many years ago. It was not, however, until a large portion of the material of this volume had accumulated upon my hands that I concluded to publish it in its present form.

The amount of biographical and genealogical matter that I have allowed to come in, may be regarded by some as excessive for such a work, and the separate accounts of the villages, instead of incorporating them into the general history of the town, may be open to criticism. I preferred this arrangement, as I conceived it would give me a better opportunity to introduce many items of a semi-historical and traditional character with which the several villages abound. It would have been an easy task to have filled a much larger volume than the present with the published documents relating to the town, with which the Colonial Records and other works abound, but I preferred to leave that which is already well preserved, and secure a portion of that which, from the nature of the case, was liable to be lost.

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Hayden Roberts:

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Catherine Stevenson:

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Sherri King:

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