

KIMBALL WEBSTER

HISTORY
OF
HUDSON, N. H.

FORMERLY A PART OF DUNSTABLE, MASS., 1673-1733

NOTTINGHAM, MASS., 1733-1741

DISTRICT OF NOTTINGHAM, 1741-1746

NOTTINGHAM WEST, N. H., 1746-1830

HUDSON, N. H., 1830-1912

BY
KIMBALL WEBSTER

EDITED BY
GEORGE WALDO BROWNE

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1913

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OUR
YEAR?



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DEDICATION

TO THE INHABITANTS
OR FORMER INHABITANTS
OF THE TOWN OF HUDSON
ESPECIALLY ALL THOSE ANCIENT PIONEER
FAMILIES THAT WERE SETTLERS
IN OLD NOTTINGHAM
WHEREVER AT PRESENT LOCATED
THIS HISTORY
IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED
BY THEIR FRIEND OR KINSMAN
THE AUTHOR

INTRODUCTION

It has been said that to write a good town history was the work of a lifetime. It requires, beyond question, just as other tasks exact, a great amount of patient research and careful study in order to accomplish satisfactory results. The haste with which some works of this kind are prepared prove in their failure the truth of this statement.

While the writer of this History of Hudson cannot claim as much for his undertaking, yet he has been collecting data relating to the town, to some extent, for a great many years. At first he had no thought of attempting a work of this kind, but possessing a historical temperament he prepared such historical material as he thought would be useful to some one who might attempt to do it. These early gleanings and savings eventually reached a porportion which seemed to make the compilation of a history, if not easy, at least within his grasp.

In December, 1884, while canvassing the county of Hillsborough, N. H., for a history to be compiled and published, D. Hamilton Hurd, Philadelphia, suggested that I should prepare a brief account of the town of Hudson for his work, to be published as the sketches of the other towns were to be given. He allowed me twenty pages of space, but before my article was finished I found I had material enough for more than double that number of pages. Mr. Hurd finally allowed me twenty-five pages, which were filled with solid historical matter. My part of the work in the book was almost entirely a labor of love, the compensation being very small.

It is possible this effort was an unconscious stimulant towards causing me to attempt a more ambitious work.

Until that time, and for some years since, my life has been a very busy one. However I might have seen the necessity of a comprehensive town history of Hudson, or whatever willingness I might have felt towards undertaking the task, I could not find the time to accomplish it. Still, anticipating that some one, if not myself, might in the future carry out the work, I felt it a duty I owed the citizens of Hudson, and especially to the early settlers, including several of my immediate ancestors, to treasure up and preserve all of the valuable and interesting local incidents that I was able to discover. Accordingly I made copious extracts from the early town records, including all of the births, marriages and deaths, arranging each item alphabetically, so as to be easy for reference. I copied the laying out of the highways, the tax lists, as far as could be found during the first century, and transcribed the inscriptions found in the cemeteries. I also copied the records of all the most important business transactions of all the town meetings held in town, until I had the substance of the records of Hudson in my own office. Nor did I stop here, but I thoroughly investigated all of the church records I could find and copied and arranged them for ready reference. This placed within my use all of the records of Hudson as far as it was possible.

In addition to these collections of official and personal facts, I conversed with many of the most intelligent aged people of the town, who many years since passed away. In these ways, and other opportunities that came my way, for more than thirty years I collected and arranged the material, much of which has been embodied in this work.

And yet, until recently, or within a few months, I did not expect to ever accomplish the task of the publication of a town history, but the opportunity came and I improved it. No attempt has been made to prepare genealogies of the different families, but considerable history of the older families has been given; enough, I trust, in many cases to materially enable the descendants who wish to trace their

lineage. In writing this work my chief aim has been to be accurate as far as lay within my power. That errors have crept in is inevitable, but I cannot help thinking that, as a whole, the book will compare favorably with others of its class. The book has grown to larger proportions than was really intended at the outset, but from the abundant material at hand, I did not feel like omitting any considerable portion, so it must meet public recognition as it stands. Aware of its imperfections, I hope there will be sufficient of common interest and value found to make it an acceptable product.

My thanks are due to those who have so kindly assisted me in one way or another, and not least among these I wish to speak of Messrs. C. E. Paine and C. W. Barnes for the photographs they have so kindly furnished to embellish the work. My thanks are also due to Elwin O. Hathaway for assisting me in the preparation of the map, which lends additional value to the text.

So, not without some hesitation and a few misgivings, this history is offered to the present inhabitants of Hudson, many of whom are descendants of those early settlers who broke this wilderness, and long since passed to their reward. They were honest, rugged, true-hearted men and women, and it is impossible for us to know so much of them as we could wish. They labored faithfully and well for the common good, as they saw it. They builded even better than they knew. All honor to the memory of those worthy pioneers.

K. W.

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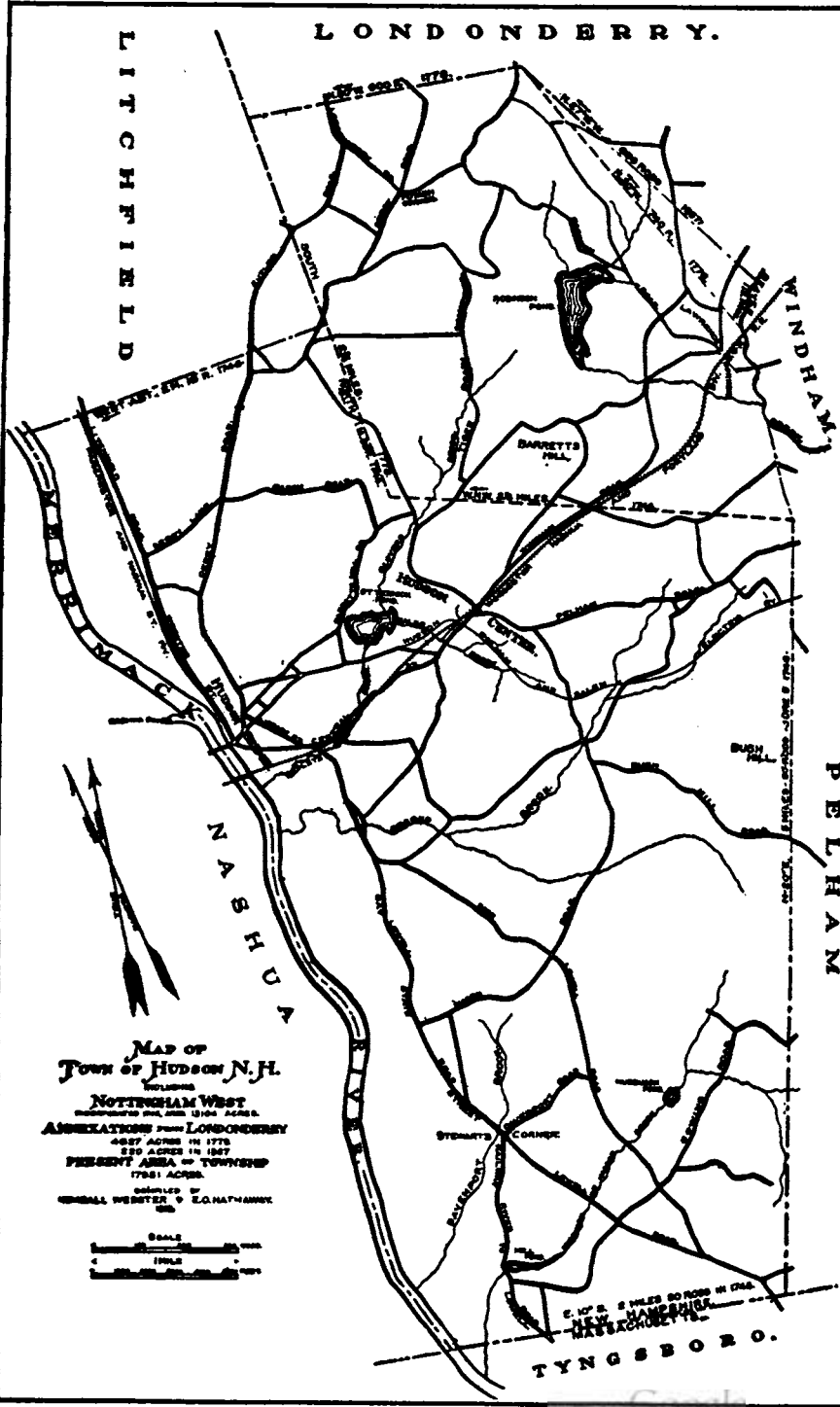
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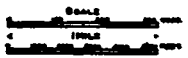
LONDONDERRY.

LITCHFIELD



MAP OF
TOWN OF HUDSON N.H.
 INCLUDING
NOTTINGHAM WEST
 INCORPORATED 1801, 1804 ACRES.
ANNEXATIONS FROM LONDONDERRY
 4687 ACRES IN 1776
 250 ACRES IN 1807
PRESENT AREA OF TOWNSHIP
 17981 ACRES.

DRAWN BY
 GENERAL WENTWORTH & E. G. NATHANSON
 1888.



E. 1/2 E. 2 MILES 80 RODS IN 1748
NEW HAMPSHIRE
MASSACHUSETTS
TYNGSBORO.

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From Photo by C. E. PAINE

HUDSON SHORE, MERRIMACK RIVER, ABOVE BRIDGE