



"Upper Ashuelot"

a history of

KEENE

NEW HAMPSHIRE

by the

Keene History Committee

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PREFACE

Keene is indeed fortunate to have a newspaper that dates back to 1799. The files of the *Keene Evening Sentinel* have been invaluable in compiling this work.

The first printed history of Keene was Salma Hale's *Annals of the Town of Keene*, first published in 1826 and revised in 1851. The next text was Simon Goodell Griffin's *A History of the Town of Keene, from 1732, when the Township was granted by Massachusetts, to 1874, when it Became a City*. To this was added a list of events of interest from 1874 to 1904, compiled by Frank H. Whitcomb.

Other sources for the present history include Clifford C. Wilber's *The Repertory*, *The Old Timer*, and newspaper column, *The Good Old Days*; the Keene City Reports, the Keene directories, the *Vital Statistics of the Town of Keene, N.H.*, compiled by Frank H. Whitcomb, the *K.H.S. Index*, 1883-1884, the newspaper articles of Alice Matthews, the works of Samuel Wadsworth, Thomas C. Rand, and William Orne White.

Assistance has also come from beyond the city boundaries. The editors are especially indebted to Helen McKearin for checking the topical on Keene glass. They appreciate, also, the help of John McDonough of the Library of Congress, of John Morrill Foster of Indiana and Millard F. Rogers, Jr. of the Toledo Museum of Art. Charles B. Gardner of Connecticut was most generous with pictures of his Keene glass.

Countless unnamed citizens of Keene have generously given of their time, as well as of their pictures and other data. Businesses and industries, clubs and organizations, church and educational groups—all have lent a hand. Each writer has utilized many sources, both printed and verbal, without which this book would not have been possible. Any reader desirous of a bibliography on a particular subject is referred to the author of that topical.

The seemingly contradictory date of the departure of Keene's patriots in response to the Lexington alarm was taken from the diary of Abner Sanger, one of the local citizens who answered the call to arms. The existence of this diary was unknown at the time of the writing of Griffin's history. Names and dates have frequently been at variance in printed sources. Though the editors have endeavored to verify each one, they realize that in many instances this was impossible, and have been forced by circumstances to rely entirely on their judgment.

The writers and editors regret that space does not permit the naming of everyone who has so thoughtfully contributed to this project.

To them, and to Mayor Richard E. Bean, City Manager James C. Hobart, and all other members of the city government, this book is gratefully dedicated.

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