



# **Barkhamsted, Conn;, And Its Centennial, 1879: To Which Is Added a Historical Appendix (Classic Reprint)**

*Unknown Author*

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Excerpt from Barkhamsted, Conn;, And Its Centennial, 1879: To Which Is Added a Historical Appendix

When the matter of an observance of the Centennial of our town was first agitated, and even after it was fully decided upon, I expected to bear no more part in it than could with propriety be expected of anyone who felt a deep interest in the project and desired its success. I had no doubt that among all the lawyers, doctors and ministers who had gone out from the town, plenty of men could be found who would do the historical and oratorical part of the celebration, and that with the others I should simply do the "looking on," and enjoy the occasion. The large and enthusiastic meetings which were held in May at Riverton, the Valley and the Hollow, were an assurance of the success of the undertaking, and it was evident that with such efficient committees as were appointed at those meetings, and all the townspeople united in the project, there was no such thing as failure, as was fully proven by the grand result of September 10th, 1879.

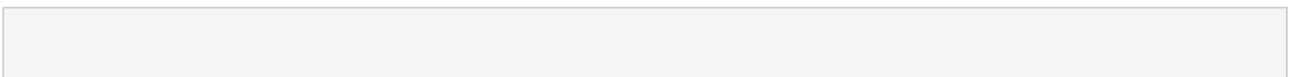
It was with great reluctance that I consented to attempt the historical address, and the summer was well advanced before I yielded to the request of the committee. My memory of the town as a whole did not go much farther back than 1840, when I was a boy of twelve, and as I left the town in 1845, and have never since been a resident of it, it will be readily seen that I labored under a great disadvantage, leaving my lack of qualifications for the work entirely out of the question. Circumstances beyond my control prevented my devoting more than two or three days to traveling about the town to obtain from the records and the older people the material for an address. It was all prepared and every word written within three weeks of the time it was delivered.

Being a native of the Valley, of course, I should be expected to know more about the western portion of the town than of the eastern, of which my knowledge is even now limited. I have found it necessary to revise some portions of the address by reason of information obtained since the celebration. I well know the address is not as complete as is desirable, (and perhaps it is in some respects inaccurate) but it is impossible to crowd into a two hours' address a full and complete history of even a small community for a hundred years, to say nothing of a large township like ours.

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