

The Story
OF AN
Old New England
Town.

History of Lee, Maine.

Compiled and Edited by
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Belgrade, Maine.
(Formerly of Lee, Maine)

Illustrated

NELSON PRINT, WILTON, MAINE
1926

To My BEST FRIEND,

MY MOTHER,

This book is affectionately dedicated.



VINAL A. HOUGHTON.

A decorative border of small, repeating floral motifs surrounds the text on the page.

Mt. Jefferson.

*Oh, silent hill against the evening sky,
How many million years have passed away
Since the great Sculptor took the formless clay
And moulded you, majestically high!
What mighty storms have swept about your crest!
All the fierce wrath of nature cannot mar
Your noble peace, nor leave a lasting scar
Upon the rugged beauty of your breast.
Oh, ancient hill, beneath the shining stars
Teach me the lessons of your quiet strength;
Teach me, when shadows lay their dreary length
Upon my soul, to lift my head and smile;
Silent as you have stood this long, long while,
Oh, steadfast hill, beneath the high cold stars.*

GRACE CORBETT HOUGHTON.

Preface.

IN the estimation of the writer, no preface is needed to a town history. To the great public and the immediate neighborhood most deeply interested, the book is its own preface. This feature is introduced here for the sole purpose of giving due credit to those who have aided me.

To write the history of a town that shall be strictly true as to date and incident, after a lapse of more than one hundred years is next to impossible. As this is the first history of Lee ever published, it remained for me to do the best that was practicable, with the materials at hand, and if the reader finds any errors, the writer trusts he will charge them to the head and not to the heart. I have aimed to give the main facts of the history of Lee, clearly, accurately, and impartially.

In the prosecution of this work I have availed myself of the records of the Town, State and the United States. A special debt of gratitude is due to several persons for valuable assistance — particularly to the late Charles H. Merrill of Lee and to Mrs. Charles J. House of Augusta. To all, whether their names are mentioned or not, who have in any way aided in the preparation of this volume, I express my grateful appreciation.

I hope my critical readers will take into consideration the many difficulties involved, reconciling conflicting statements, and verifying traditions. This work was completed in the

spring of 1922, when the writer was only twenty-one years of age, with no thought of ever publishing it. Not until requested by a resolve passed by the 82nd Legislature did I decide to revise and publish my manuscript in book form.

With this explanation I submit the history of Lee.

VINAL A. HOUGHTON.

THE following is a true copy of the resolve for the purchase of copies of the history of Lee as introduced in the House of the 82nd Legislature by the gentleman from Bangor, Hon. W. H. Holman. It was defended on the floor of the House by the Republican floor leader, Hon. George C. Wing, Jr., of Auburn. The resolve finally passed the House and Senate without a single dissenting vote and was signed by Gov. Brewster on April 10, 1925.

FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE HUNDRED AND
FIFTY COPIES OF THE HISTORY OF THE
TOWN OF LEE

That the State Librarian be authorized to purchase one hundred and fifty (150) copies of the History of the Town of Lee by Vinal A. Houghton at a price not exceeding three dollars per copy; and that there be appropriated for this purpose the sum of four hundred and fifty dollars.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

No history of Lee has ever been published. Mr. Houghton has made an exhaustive search of early original records and the result should be preserved in printed form. The material is now in type-written form only. It has been the policy of the state to aid in the printing of local histories by the purchase of a small number of copies.

LIST OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. DESCRIPTIVE - - -	1
II. HISTORICAL - - -	10
III. REMINISCENCES - - -	18
IV. THE RELIGIOUS HISTORY -	25
V. THE SCHOOLS - - -	37
VI. LEE ACADEMY - - -	44
VII. THE INDUSTRIAL HISTORY -	70
VIII. THE FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS	83
IX. THE MILITARY HISTORY -	97
X. THE CIVIL ROSTER - - -	118
XI. THE CENSUS OF 1860 - - -	139
XII. ODDS AND ENDS OF HISTORY -	161
XIII. FIRST THINGS - - -	177
XIV. LEE IN POETRY - - -	181
XV. EARLY SETTLERS - - -	191
XVI. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS - -	218
XVII. ANGLING ON THE PASSADUMEEAG	234
XVIII. THE MATTAKEBUNE CABIN COLONY	238
XIX. CONCLUSION - - -	247