

PREFACE

Since its inception in 1893, the Bedford Historical Society has strived to preserve all that is valuable in the history of our community. In the midst of a decade that spans both the second centennial of the American Revolution and the 250th anniversary of our revolutionary town, no endeavor could be more worthwhile. For this reason, the society takes great pride in publishing *A Revolutionary Town*, a book which provides a unique perspective on the founding of both our community and nation. We are equally proud that this book comes from the pen of Louise K. Brown, long esteemed by the residents of Bedford as Town Historian, Secretary-curator of the Historical Society, and devoted citizen. Bedford has been well served by its native historians, but none has labored with as much diligence, skill and feeling as Mrs. Brown.

At a time when the bicentennial is stimulating a new wave of interest in things historical, this book synchronizes the temper of Bedford's present with the spirit of its past. But even as historical appreciation grows, the remnants of our heritage are vanishing rapidly before our eyes. In a very subtle but unmistakable way this book reminds us of those aspects of our past which survive and function of those which have been changed for the better, and of which have degenerated through neglect or have been destroyed through ignorance.

It is the hope of the Historical Society that this book will help to generate a new feeling of curiosity and respect for the most enduring and valuable aspects of our community. If this feeling can be translated into the lives of its readers, Mrs. Brown shall feel more than rewarded for years of work.

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