

FOREWARD

In New England, the story of one old town could easily be the story of many old towns. In her book "Wilderness Town", Louise Brown tells the story of Bedford, Massachusetts, from the time in 1637 when Governor Winthrop acquired the first land grant in the area which is now Bedford, to the very different days of the present. Her careful research in the old town records and her selection of excerpts from Town Meeting references make an entertaining story the factual history. A through list of old Bedford families pertinent to the history of the town completes the book.

It has been said that the history of a town gets written but once, so much goes into the work. Eighty years ago, another history of Bedford was written to the delight of the inhabitants of that day and to the consternation of readers of today who cannot understand the town of so many years ago. Although Bedford of 1968 is little like Bedford of 1890, many of the hopes and aspirations of its inhabitants have not changed. There is still the wish to preserve as much of the old and historic as can be done without making to many concessions. A better understanding of the true nature and worth of one of the old towns of our county will be found in Mrs. Brown's book about her native town.