

A HISTORY OF MADISON TOWNSHIP

by W. M. Baillie

This first-ever history of Columbia County's westernmost township and its village of Jerseytown is based on extensive archival research and local-resident interviews. Chapters in Part I highlight the Original Settlers, Native American traces, Civil War era, Schools, Churches, Farms, Industry, and Transportation. Included are accounts of the church ghost, the empty coalmine, and the "Dinky" railroad service. Part II features brief (1- to 4-page) family histories for 75 surnames in the township before 1860, tracing each to its immigrant ancestor. Most of these families had extensive branches in other Columbia County townships. A complete Index of Persons lists over 2,000 individuals.

Among the fascinating characters who come alive in the book are pioneer John Eves, Indian captive Sarah Whitmoyer, renowned deer hunter Peter Brugler, state legislator Thomas Funston, farmer-entrepreneur Conrad Kreamer, tipping innkeeper Samuel Rimby, and intrepid schoolgirl Arwilda Shoemaker.

The book has 201 pages, 4 maps and over 50 photos; included are a full list of sources and extensive endnotes.

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