

PREFACE.

This is intended to be exclusively a *Noyes* genealogy, and with this restriction, the ten years during which it has been compiled, have not been sufficient to do the subject as full justice as was desired; as there are lacking many families in some of the later generation, which could have been given, had all those to whom circulars were sent felt enough interest to fill out and return them.

Restricting the scope of this volume to those of our name, except as mentioned in the preface and marriage index, has deprived us of many pleasant meanderings in the side paths of allied families; for once out of the straight path determined upon, there would have been so many temptations to stray in all directions that but little progress would have been made towards the goal now reached.

The ancestral fever, so prevalent during the last twenty years, was the cause, and is the excuse, for this volume, as personal interest in the subject was soon merged in the greater interest inspired by the early study of the family history and pedigree.

Except in some of the New England States, the name seemed to be rather uncommon; but after a thorough search, the result seems to indicate that the family will rank near the Smiths in number; but a comparison of the families of the later generations with those of the earlier dates will show that the name, in this line, is gradually dying out, although the female line may make up for the loss by the male line. As a single example of the large families of

earlier days, compared with those of to-day, John Noyes, of Bow, N. H. (born in 1720), had eight sons, who had seventy-five (75) children.

Of the Noyeses now living only a few belong to the sixth generation; those of the seventh are, as a rule, well along in years, as are some of the eighth, and a few of the ninth, also. The majority of those now living belong to the eighth and ninth generations, while the younger members of the family are of the ninth and tenth; the eleventh has been reached in only a few lines. The oldest whom the authors have met was Hon. John W. Noyes, of Chester, N. H., who recently died at the advanced age of ninety-two years. He was of the sixth generation.

Considerable assistance beyond that concerning their immediate relatives has been given by quite a number of the family, or those related by marriage. To each and all we make due acknowledgment, especially to Mr. Alfred Poore for the use of his genealogical notes; to Miss Mary T. Little, for her notes concerning the family in Newbury and vicinity; to H. Wallace Noyes, for Noyes records of Portland, Me., and vicinity; to Miss Ollie J. Noyes, for Noyes records of her line; to James Atkins Noyes, for records of the family of Rev. William Noyes of England, and his descendants, in direct line to his own family; and extracts from his pamphlet, "Noyes Inscription and Memoranda"; to Miss Louise and Miss Margaret Noyes, for their valuable assistance in preparing these records for the printer; to Arthur E. Pearson, for records of the descendants of Jonathan Noyes of Rowley, Mass.; to John Noyes Morse, for records of the Sudbury branch; to Miss Hannah M. Noyes, for records of her line in Landaff, N. H., and vicinity; to Miss Florence Noyes, for many family records; to Hon. John J. Currier, for items from his "Ould Newbury" and "History of Newbury;" to Miss Sarah Anna Emery, for extracts from her "Reminiscences of a Nonogenarian"; and last, but not

least, I wish to make full acknowledgment of the obligations I am under to the ladies of the family generally, and especially to the so-called "old maids": but for their valuable assistance I should have abandoned my self-imposed task long ago.

To many of my letters and circulars I have received a few lines in reply, telling me that the writer knew but little about the family history, but had an aunt, cousin, or sister, who was well posted, and that she would answer my inquiries, and she generally did, or referred me to some one who could.

As a rule, they take more interest in the family history than their fathers and brothers, who no doubt find their business cares too absorbing to allow them to devote any time to their ancestry; or are, like Abraham Lincoln, who said that he did not know who was his grandfather, and was more concerned to know what his grandson would be.

H. E. N.