

**THE SALT-BOX HOUSE:  
EIGHTEENTH CENTURY  
LIFE IN A NEW ENGLAND  
HILL TOWN. [1900]**

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The Salt-Box House: Eighteenth Century Life in a New England Hill Town. [1900] by Jane de Forest Shelton

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**JANE DE FOREST SHELTON**

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EIGHTEENTH CENTURY  
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HILL TOWN. [1900]**



*"The Ornament of the House is Neatness,  
The Luck of the House is Contentment,  
The Honor of the House is Hospitality,  
The Blessing of the House is Piety."*

*"Love is the true key of history."*

# The Salt-Box House

Eighteenth Century Life in a New  
England Hill Town

By Jane de Forest Shelton



New York : The Baker and Taylor Co.  
Five and Seven East Sixteenth Street

**In Honor of the Long-Ago;**

AND TO THOSE, WHO, PASSING AN OLD HIGHWAY,  
SEE THE SIGNS WRITTEN ON MOSS-COVERED FENCES,  
IN TRACES OF OLD DOOR-YARDS,  
BY LONE-STANDING CHIMNEYS,  
AND WOULD KNOW THE INTERPRETATION THEREOF;  
TO THOSE WHOSE PULSES ARE STIRRED  
AS THEY STAND BENEATH THE LONG SLOPING ROOFS,  
AND WHOSE HEARTS BOW REVERENTLY  
AS THEY READ THE RECORDS  
ON THE GRAVE STONES OF THE SEVENTEEN HUNDREDS,  
**This book is inscribed.**

## PREFACE

**FIRE**, with its relentless touch; the paper-mill during the Civil War with its eager grasp and large recompense; and the hand that knows no reverence for "Yesterday" have combined to cast into the pit of Oblivion much that would now be deemed priceless. But the faithful seeker along the shores of the Past will find that there yet remain sheltered beaches where some of the treasures left by the flood of Time have escaped the wear of waves, a careless foot, and crumpling fingers.

This record of life in the eighteenth century has been compiled from a careful searching of private papers, and by mention of the long-ago, a stirring of old memories, parting the mists of the present and welcoming the wafts of recollection, till the vision dear to the old hearts grew clear, and tradition and knowledge were secured.



## PREFACE

It is believed that in the following pages there is not recorded a custom or a costume, an article of use or adornment, a habit of life or of manner, for which there is not authority for the period and locality designated.

Life in the various New England colonies had many common characteristics, but it had also differences dependent upon the situation of towns, their accessibility or isolation, the class of persons founding them, and the possible means of subsistence. The purpose of this record is to show the life on one group of hills in western Connecticut, which, although typical, had nevertheless some special features.

All life in the primitive days of our country had its hardships, its trials, and privations, but it had also its amenities, and although To-day would not willingly change places with Yesterday, it is quite possible that Yesterday would not change with To-day.

J. DE F. S.

GREYSTONE, DERBY, CONN., August, 1900.

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