

**BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WORCESTER: A LIST
OF BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, NEWSPAPERS
AND BROADSIDES, PRINTED IN THE
TOWN OF WORCESTER,
MASSACHUSETTS FROM 1775 TO 1848**

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Bibliography of Worcester: A List of Books, Pamphlets, Newspapers and Broadsides, Printed in the Town of Worcester, Massachusetts from 1775 to 1848 by Charles Lemuel Nichols

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Isiah Thomas

Bibliography of Worcester.

A LIST OF BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, NEWSPAPERS
AND BROADSIDES, PRINTED IN THE TOWN
OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS,
FROM 1775 TO 1848.

WITH HISTORICAL AND EXPLANATORY NOTES.

BY
CHARLES LEMUEL NICHOLS.



WORCESTER :
PRIVATELY PRINTED. MDCCCXCIX.

TO THE
BOOK-LOVERS OF WORCESTER
IS DEDICATED
THIS TREASURE-HOUSE OF HER PAST.



INTRODUCTION.

A RENEWED interest is awakening in local history. Many of our towns and cities have had chroniclers whose duties have been performed with greater or less success according to their ability or the facilities at their command.

But the chronicle stage in historical writing has passed in this country, and we have reached the period which demands a fresh investigation of the facts recorded. The historical method, so universally applied to all questions at the present time, demands a minute search for facts and the conditions bearing upon them, and extreme accuracy in their statement. Indeed, wherever we turn, personal research is found to be the method now employed whether in literature, science or the arts.

It is the discovery of the inaccuracies of the past, in consequence of this tendency to investigate, which is responsible for the awakening of interest in historical study, and in local history in particular, which is conceded to be the foundation of general history.

In this reaching after accuracy, no means is too trivial, no source too humble to be neglected. Newspapers are

scanned, play-bills and advertisements are studied; sermons, addresses and reports give up their treasures to the student in the search for the truth of date, fact and opinion.

Local bibliography therefore becomes a distinct aid in this method of research, and, while it has not yet taken its true place, the time is now approaching when it will be estimated at its real value. No argument is required to show the importance of a permanent and accessible form for town records and for the early documents of settlement in this new country. Great pains is now being taken to the end of preserving these, and placing them within easy reach of the future historian. But in addition to these statements of the official life and growth of a town there are many occurrences which fail of notice in such records.

Broadsides, almanacs, addresses and sermons reflect the opinions of the times, and are as important witnesses of progress as the more formal town record and municipal and court document. Indeed, these precede the more elaborate record and document, and are of great value in consequence, as showing the earlier steps in the formation of public opinion and the beginnings of public movements. It is here that the bibliography of our principal towns may be of great value. Not only do we find reflected in its pages all national, state and local crises, as well as the less serious occasions of interest, but the religious, educational, literary and social growth of the town are represented by the titles, and may be studied within the pages of the books recorded in such collections. Dates of all occurrences, so important for historical accuracy, are settled beyond peradventure by reference to the titles or contents

of the various volumes and pamphlets thus catalogued. It is not every town that has had its printing press, but even these less favored places will find in the larger centres to which they are tributary, data from which facts, occurrences and records may be verified.

Nearly one hundred years passed in the history of the town of Worcester before a press was set up within her borders, and we must look to the printers of Boston for records of our previous history. In 1775, however, after several years of solicitation, a printing press was established here, and Worcester became the fifth town in Massachusetts with that means of progress and enlightenment. This press was brought to us most opportunely, by a man singularly fitted for his work; and ISAIAH THOMAS should receive from Worcester gratitude and respect, not only for his own labors, but also for the position which his reputation won for our town in the esteem of the country.

It would be impossible to see in the earnest patriot of 1775, or in the vigorous man of affairs, with strong convictions upon every public question, of 1790, or in the cultured writer of the *History of Printing* of 1810, that boy of six years, who, with but six weeks' attendance at a village school, was in 1755 apprenticed to Zechariah Fowle of Boston.

The tattered dictionary and the ink-stained Bible which he found in that office started him in his career, and the printing press, together with an invincible determination to excel in his calling, carried him onward, until he stands to-day with Franklin and Baskerville, a type of the man