



# Historic Homes and Institutions and Genealogical and Family History of New York, Vol. 1 (Classic Reprint)

*William S. Pelletreau*

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Excerpt from Historic Homes and Institutions and Genealogical and Family History of New York, Vol. 1

The number of books, relating to the history of New York, which have been written in recent years, by no means exhaust the subject. To do so would require a series of volumes larger than the encyclopaedias, and far more numerous. Some of the most valuable works are monographs upon particular subjects, admirably written and carefully prepared, and in some cases lasting memorials to the names of the authors. The great characteristic of the city has been its constant change. In conversation with an aged man he informed us that he had seen houses built in the days of Peter Stuvvesant, and within his recollection every house south of Wall street had been destroyed or rebuilt. The same may be said of families. Of the "Knickerbocker" names found in the list made by Dominie Selyns, scarcely a tithe remains, and can be found in our present city directories. Their descendants however still remain in collateral branches and are proud of their Knickerbocker descent, though no longer bearing the ancient names. The most prominent descendants of the Bavards are not Bavards, and the wealthiest and most distinguished descendants of the famous Governor of New Amsterdam, are not Stuyvesants. If within the limits of these volumes any new facts have been given, or if anything can be found which would otherwise have been lost, the object of the author will be fully satisfied. It has been our desire to embrace as many families as possible who have been connected with the advancement of the city, whether they are of the ancient race, or newer arrivals.

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