

HEINLEIN GENEALOGY

"Forgotten Past" is the story of Moon Township's initial settlement and its demise during the American Revolution. Reborn after the Treaty of Paris, the settlers gradually restored the remnants of their frontier farms and succeeding generations proceeded to make them self-sufficient. As the nineteenth and twentieth centuries arrived, daily life is revealed in the context of local government, economic transition, social amenities, educational advances and the diversity of religious affiliations.

PREFACE

This book, in a sense, is a legacy to the future generations of Moon Township. There currently exists within the student population of our nation a belief that history has little value or significance in our modern day lives. Perhaps we need to reflect and understand, that who we are, how we think and what we believe as Americans were in large measure derived from the conscious perception of events and personal experiences of preceding generations. During the initial settlement period on the frontier men were faced with survival and were forced to discard their mantle of acquired custom. They regressed to a more instinctual behavior. From that frontier environment through generations of hardship and sacrifice there evolved new character traits and new strengths and from these a new American philosophy, culture, and civilization was born.

Moon Township was a microcosm of that evolutionary process and the experiences of her past generations in terms of both success and failure have provided a learning curve. Regardless of whether those experiences were in the political, economic, social, educational, or any one of a hundred different arenas the knowledge gained was enhanced and passed on to the next generation. Each succeeding generation then proceeded to further develop, diminish or eliminate those previously held concepts until today they form the basis of the complex modern society in which we live.

The significance of history then lies in the fact that knowledge of the past enables us to stimulate new thoughts and ideas and to understand previous missteps, learn from them and establish a more positive guide for tomorrow as we are both the heir to the past and ancestor to the future.

Hopefully, this book may provide some insight and understanding of how those who have come before us had struggled and sacrificed to build the world in which we live today. They have placed the gauntlet before us challenging us to protect, preserve and enhance for future generations the freedom that they died for and that we hold so sacred.

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