

[PDF] New England Miniature, a History of York, Maine

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George Ernst

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George Ernst : New England Miniature, a History of York, Maine before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised New England Miniature, a History of York, Maine:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Well researched, well writtenBy C. D.Unlike Charles Banks' HISTORY OF YORK, MAINE (Regional Publishing Co., Baltimore 1967), NEW ENGLAND MINIATURE: A HISTORY OF YORK, MAINE (Bond Wheelwright Company, Freeport, ME, 1961) is a highly accurate account of the history of the region. Banks had a tendency to "fill in the blanks" without benefit of source material to support his suppositions. In MINIATURE, author Ernst is careful to avoid that pitfall. Because MINIATURE is written in a more conversational style, certain historical details (dates, most often) are either not mentioned or inserted in other places in the book, but overall this little book is an excellent reference. It is a great resource for people looking for a consise unravelling of the complex Maine land grant claims, charters, and patents, as they unfolded over the years, especially in the turbulent 1640's-1660's when England went from monarchy to parliamentarism and back to monarchy again. Along with the shifting of English politics so went colonial business. My interest in the history of the region stems from my ancestry from early English "planters" (settlers), and there is plenty in the book to satisfy genealogists as well as historians. The author, while admitting that the "usurpation" of Maine by the puritanical Massachussets Bay Colony had its definite benefits, is quick to point out (repeatedly) that Massachusetts wreaked havoc in the lives of Maine settlers who, a decade prior, had declared that Maine should be a place of (Christian) religious freedom, and whose aims were not to impose any specific brand of Christianity upon its residents, but simply to pursue the freedom to own land and to make a living. The book contains very good biographical information about Maine's early luminaries, such as Sir Firdinando Gorges (who literally and figuratively shaped Maine, despite never having set foot there), Edward

Godfrey, Col. Walter Norton, Edward Rishworth, and many more. I highly recommend this very readable little book.