

Market Street Philadelphia: The Most Historic Highway in America, Its Merchants and Its Story (Classic Reprint)

Joseph Jackson

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Excerpt from Market Street Philadelphia: The Most Historic Highway in America, Its Merchants and Its Story

No more was intended in this volume than to make a gossipy, topographical survey of the most historic highway in America. The word history has not been applied to it because to have done this would justly incur the charge that it has not been presented in a scientific manner. It might also be urged that for a history the style is too familiar.

Having written the story of Arch street and of its more important residents a few years ago, for the Sunday magazine of the Public Ledger, and the series having been favorably received, the writer was requested to apply the same kind of treatment to the history of another prominent thoroughfare, and this story of Market Street and Its Merchants was the result. Run as a serial during many weeks in 1914 and 1915, the object aimed at was to keep the interest alive by avoiding the inflexible style usually associated with a history, but at the same time to visit sources for the facts.

In the main those sources have been the city directories and maps. Information has been kindly offered by many readers of the series, and while all the indebtedness to persons or volumes cannot be told in detail here, it will be found that in the majority of instances the source is mentioned where the facts are given. As the addition of notes would have destroyed the popular character of the work, they have been omitted.

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