



# Origin of the Names of the Towns in Worcester County (Classic Reprint)

William B Harding



Excerpt from Origin of the Names of the Towns in Worcester County Proper names are mere labels or badges, given to distinguish between persons or places, without any more significance or meaning than a policemen's badge, a soldier's uniform, or a nation's flag. We name a person Charles or Mary and a town Worcester or Boston from pure sentimentality, without thought or idea as to the derivation and significance of the name. But all proper names originally had a significance and import, and there was once just as good a reason for calling a person Charles or Mary, and a town Worcester or Boston, as we to-day have for designating certain places as Coes Pond, Jamesville and Barbers Crossing. The antiquarian by research, and the philologist by study of the history of languages, is at the present time enabled to tell us with a reasonable degree of certainty, the derivation and meaning of the greater portion of our proper names, but the manner, time and occasion of their origin is involved to a great extent in the oblivion of the past. As an illustration, we know that the first Mason, Carpenter, Taylor, Smith and Fuller, derived his name from his trade or occupation but the reason why he was so named and the manner and occasion of his christening, are pure matters of theory and speculation. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at [www.forgottenbooks.com](http://www.forgottenbooks.com) This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.

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