FOREWORD

In the study of the geology of any region there is seldom, if ever, a report prepared that can be looked upon as final, and the almost universal wish of any geologist is that he might delay publication until further data were available. On the other hand, the general recognition that progress toward ultimate truth is facilitated by the dissemination of existing information prompts scientific workers to acquaint their fellow-workers with the results of their investigations, incomplete though they may be.

In the inauguration of this work it was intended to include only discussions of the geology and physiography of Northampton County. Gradually, however, the plan has been extended to include other geographic features. The development of scientific knowledge has called for careful examination of the literature, which has led to the preparation of an elaborate bibliography and cartography. If these be regarded as unnecessarily detailed and to include some references of minor importance, the excuse may be offered that such a presentation may be the means of saving much time for future investigators. The chapter on the derivation of the place names is the outgrowth of the cartographic studies. Finally, the discussion of the industries of the county is included because of the fact that in most cases they are intimately related to the physiographic or geologic features of the region.

To the scores of persons who have contributed information useful in the preparation of this volume, the unstinted thanks of the authors are offered. Most of these must be unnamed because of the inability to recall the exact contributions made by these individuals over a period of more than thirty years. The assistance of several however has been so material that they must be mentioned even though their specific contributions cannot be described. Among these are Dr. Edgar T. Wherry, the late Dr. Edward H. Williams, Jr., and J. Osborn Fuller, in addition to those whose contributions are included in this volume. It must also be recognized that the authors have freely drawn on the publications of previous workers in the region; in fact, these investigations are built on the foundations laid by others during the past hundred years.

With the expressed hope that this volume may be helpful to the residents of Northampton County and others in their scientific investigations or in their utilization of the natural mineral products of the region, the authors present it to the public. The prosecution of the work has been a real pleasure in every respect and the continuation of these studies is commended to those persons of similar interests. The profits of scientific research cannot be evaluated in dollars and cents, but must be measured by the enjoyment, mental stimulation and positive thrills that come with the discovery of some scientific fact or principle. If the perusal of the pages of this volume inspires some young as well as older minds and leads them to devote some of their efforts to unraveling the geological story or to the further investigation of Nature's processes, the labors of the authors will not have been in vain.

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