

From the Archives

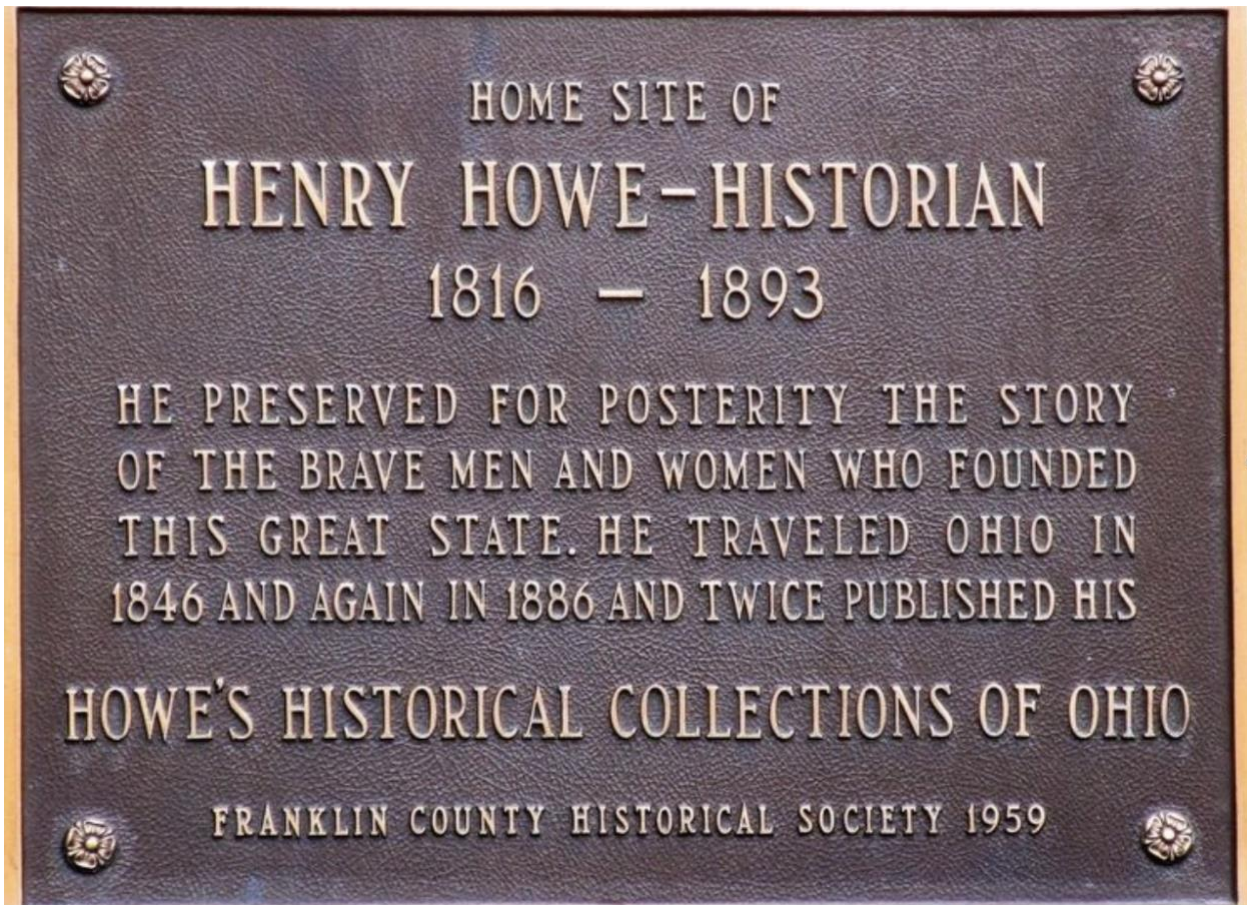


Photo: Rev. Ronald Irick, October 13, 2016

Who was Henry Howe?

Henry Howe, born on October 11, 1816, in New Haven, Connecticut, was raised in a household where printing, publishing, and running a bookstore were as natural as breathing. His father was the publisher of Noah Webster's *American Dictionary of the English Language* (1828), and the family bookshop housed many notable works of the time. One book in particular, *Historical Connections of Connecticut* by John Warner Barber, profoundly influenced young Henry's future. The book, a collection of sketches and stories about Connecticut, left a lasting impact on Howe. He later reflected, "Although born in an atmosphere of books, this impressed me more than any book I have ever seen, and I felt that I would like, of all things, to dedicate my life to traveling and making such books.

With his path now clear, the young Henry Howe partnered with John Warner Barber to write and publish *The Historical Collections of New York* (1841) and *The Historical Collections of New Jersey* (1842). Their collaboration continued with the publication of *The Historical Collections of Virginia* in 1845.

In 1846, Henry Howe shifted his focus to Ohio, where he aimed to travel the entire state on foot, gathering stories—many through interviews with the original pioneers and key figures in the young state, which was less than 50 years old at the time. After walking around 100 miles, Howe decided to purchase Old Pomp, an aging horse, to assist him in completing his journey across Ohio. The result of his travels, the two-volume *Historical Collections of Ohio*, was published in New Haven in 1847, with a second edition following in 1885.

In his later years, Henry Howe and his wife relocated to Columbus, where their home once stood on the site of what is now First Congregational Church, at the corner of East Broad Street and 9th Street. In August 1958, the Franklin County Historical Society honored the location of Howe's Columbus residence by placing a plaque on the church. Today, this plaque can still be seen on the east side of the Parish House, facing Ninth Street.



Photo: Rev. Ronald Irick, October 13, 2016

The following sources were consulted in creating this biographical sketch:

Lentz, E. (2021, October 5). As it were: Henry Howe traveled to Ohio, Columbus in 1840s, eager to tell its story. *Columbus Dispatch*.

Wikimedia Foundation. (2023, February 7). *Henry Howe*.

Wikipedia.https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Howe; accessed 16 November 2023

