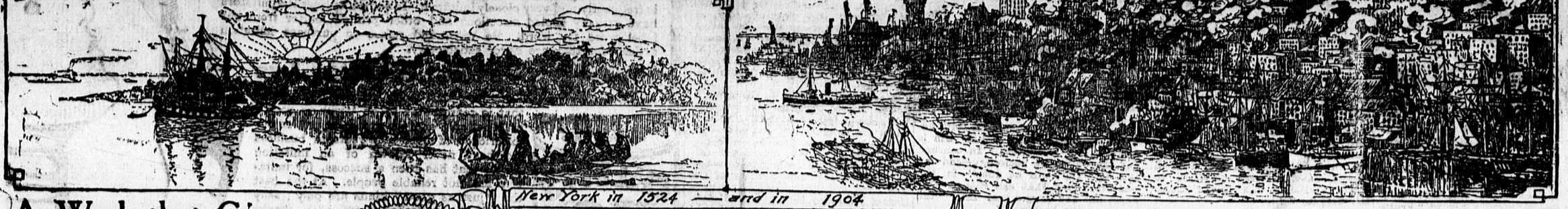


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MAKING AN ACCURATE AMERICAN HISTORY



A Work that Gives Years of Labor to the Minutest Details

By Leigh Mitchell Hodges

MILLIONS of persons have seen portraits of Henry Hudson, who discovered the river bearing his name. At least, they think they have! But they have not. For no authentic likeness of him has yet been found anywhere.

The same is true of Champlain and Edward Braddock, and many another historical character of earlier times, whose supposed likenesses are common enough in textbooks and histories.

Thousands of school children have learned that the first raising of the Stars and Stripes in battle was on August 2, 1777, when, as a matter of fact, the correct date of this important event is August 3, 1777. The flag in question was not even made until the morning of this latter day!

Multitudes have read how Columbus, on his return to Spain, cast anchor in the port of Palos on Friday, March 14, 1493, and yet there never was such a date as Friday, March 14, 1493! It was Friday, March 15.

With many persons it is an historical fact that the immortal encounter between the Bon Homme Richard and the Serapis took place off the coast of Flamborough Head, SCOTLAND, on the evening of September 25, 1779, and that the contest was waged through "the long hours of the night," whereas, in truth, it was off England, on September 23, and the fight was finished by 10.30 P. M.

These and numerous other corrections of important historical facts which we have long accepted as final are the result of a desire for accuracy which is the ruling passion in the life of a certain man in Cleveland, Ohio.

And, if this man's dearest wish be granted him before another Man with a Scythe comes along, he shall have reared as his monument a history of our own country from its very beginnings which will be as nearly accurate as is humanly possible.

CHARLES WILLIAM BURROWS was a young New Englander with a West Point training when he went to the thriving city of Cleveland years ago, and he was poor. Today he is the head of a big publishing house in that city, and already famous as one of two men who are making our history according to its FACTS, and not the fancies, more or less correct, with which most historians have contented themselves.

And in this great and interesting task, to which he is devoting his time and his fortune with all the enthusiasm of a boy on circus day, he is constantly tripping over the mistakes made by less careful chroniclers of the past; mistakes such as those just cited.

Twenty-one years ago he conceived the idea, which was with him a patriotic purpose, of producing an accurate history of the United States and its people from the earliest records to the present time. He saw in his mind a row of eight or ten octavo volumes which would, in the course of a few years, realize his ambition.

To busy to assume the writing thereof, he sought a scribe to co-operate with him, and selected his friend and fellow-townsmen, Elroy McKendree Avery, already well known as an author and scholar. The two went over the preliminary plans for the vast work and agreed that it would be at least a matter of four years.

At the end of four years not even the first volume had appeared, though both men had been working away steadily and enthusiastically. At the end of ten years it was the same. Now, at the end of twenty-one years, four volumes have come from the press, and the total number to be issued has been increased to fifteen.

So prodigious of growth is history of this sort when once it is taken in hand! And back of the quartet of tomes that are, and the remaining eleven in various stages of preparation, are scores of experiences romantic enough to form foundations for so-called works of fiction.

"These are acknowledgments from historians whom we have corrected," he said. "Whenever we found evidence that a historian was wrong, we communicated with him at once, and our proofs have usually been accepted with good grace and gratitude. Because of them many a book long adjudged standard has had to



add new notes, or even be put through a revised edition. Especially notable is the case of the first raising of the Stars and Stripes in battle, which instance will serve to illustrate the methods of these historians of a new sort.

"In his 'History of the Flag of the United States of America' Preble gave the date of its first use in action as August 2, 1777, and the place as Fort Stanwix, N. Y., while no eminent historian as John Fluke gave August 3 as the date and Oriskany, N. Y., as the place," says Mr. Burrows. "Aside from these, certain local historians claimed the honor for Cooch's Bridge, Del., on September 3, insisting that the flag raised at Fort Stanwix was an improvised rather than a regularly manufactured one.

"Both Preble and Fluke are authorities, and, in the main, worthy of full confidence. The correct date for the first raising of the flag in battle, however, is Sunday, August 3, 1777, and, as Preble gives it, Fort Stanwix was the place.

"This fort stood where Rome, N. Y., now is, on the portage between the headwaters of the Mohawk, running east to the Hudson, and of Wood creek, running west to Oneida lake, to Oswego river and Lake Ontario, at Oswego, N. Y. This fort was defended in the number of 1777 by Colonel Peter Gansevoort in command of a regiment of New York colonial troops, consisting of eight companies.

"When Burgoyne came south from Canada upon his campaign which ended in the surrender at Saratoga Heights on October 17, 1777, he sent Lieutenant Colonel Barry St. Leger (acting brigadier) with about 700 regular troops, together with Indian allies, to cross Lake Ontario to Oswego and ascend the streams to the portage and fort, which, it was planned, he should invest and reduce, and then rejoin Burgoyne in the vicinity of Albany.

"In our researches we came upon two journals kept by officers of Gansevoort's regiment, one that of Ensign William Clewreath and the other that of Captain Abraham Swartwout—the latter being privately printed in 1839 in an edition of 100 copies, none of

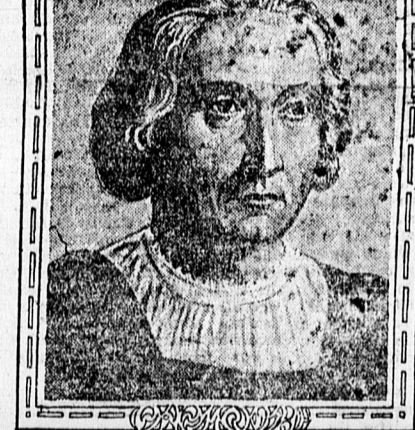
which was offered for sale.

"In these journals it is plainly shown that the knowledge of the enactment of the flag statute by Congress on the 14th of June, 1777, got to Albany, N. Y., on the 31st of July, 1777, and that Lieutenant Colonel Marinus Willett, commanding some troops, 200 in number, started on the same day to proceed up the Mohawk river in bateaux, carrying to the garrison supplies, ammunition and provisions and his men as reinforcement.

"Their arrival at Fort Stanwix did not occur until 5 o'clock on the afternoon of Saturday, which was the 2d of August. A great deal of enthusiasm was displayed, and during Sunday forenoon an improvised flag, in accordance with the new statutes, was prepared. The only piece of blue cloth to be found in the garrison was the blue cloth military cloak of Captain Swartwout, which he sacrificed for the occasion, and, after the flag had been prepared, it was flown on the northeast bastion and a cannon leveled and fired at the enemy, who had, in the meantime, appeared in force before the place."

And as a further and even more striking example of the time and labor devoted to the verification of details, let me cite another instance as told me by this indefatigable seeker after historical certainties: "The surrender of Fort William Henry, on the shores of Lake George, occurred, as you know, on the morning of August 9, 1757. The surrender was made by Lieutenant Colonel Monro. In no history known to us, though we have carefully gone through thirty standard works on the subject, is Monro's first name given. It was George.

"Moreover, the spelling of his last name is given in at least eight ways—Monro, Monrow, Munro, Munroe, Munrow, etc.—and he is often referred to as 'Colonel.' We, therefore, attempted to secure correct data as to his first name, correct spelling and correct rank. For eighteen months we corresponded with the great archival libraries of the world, seeking this information. Search was also made in the archives of the French Department de la Guerre, French Rolls and Records Office, English Army Coun-



Portrait and Signature of Columbus from Painting in Marine Museum at Madrid

cil, English War Office and the English Rolls and Records Office, to find any original document signed by him.

"Finally there was discovered, through the kindly aid of our embassy in London and the English Army

Council, by the keeper of the rolls and records in Ireland, an authenticated letter of Monro, of September 17, 1753, recommending the promotion of an officer, and from this was facsimiled, on tracing cloth, his signature, which has been engraved for reproduction in Avery's history.

"In addition, it was discovered that Monro was Lieutenant Colonel of the Thirty-fifth Fusiliers, so an examination was made of the records of the two battalions of the Royal Sussex Regiment of England, this being the name borne today by that regiment. When finally obtained, it may be of interest to know that the tracing came to me as a Christmas gift. The letter now in my possession, bearing the desired information and tracing, left the office of our embassy in London on December 12, 1904; reached New York December 23, and was distributed in Cleveland in the last mail of Saturday afternoon, December 24, 1904, the day before Christmas, and, needless to say, after a search extending over a year and a half, was received as a highly valued Christmas gift."

The huge history will be full of facsimile signatures of the great ones who pass through its pages, and in many instances these will be the first genuine reproductions of the sort ever made public, for here, as in other ways, we have all these years been accepting certain bits of chirography as original with certain men, when, in fact, their handwriting was vastly different.

To get at such signatures has often been a ticklish task, requiring the aid of diplomats in gaining access to documents of priceless worth, which are kept hid in the secret places of the Old World. But such determination as has been displayed by Mr. Burrows and Dr. Avery usually wins, and thus far they have met no obstacle beyond its power.

MASTERPIECE OF WRITING

As to the literary excellence of the work, the four volumes now off the press proclaim it a masterpiece of historical writing. Dr. Avery has the rare ability of making a few words say great things, as witness this description of the discovery of America, from the first volume:

"In his journal, Columbus says that on this Thursday they encountered a 'heavier sea than they had met with before on the whole voyage,' and that 'after sunset they sailed twelve miles an hour until two hours after midnight, going ninety miles.' When, at 2 o'clock in the morning, Rodrigo de Triana sighted land two leagues distant (his direction from the ship is not recorded), the mariners 'took to their oars and remained under square sail, lying to till day.

"With what impatience the dawn must have been awaited! Who can comprehend the emotions of Columbus in those hours? The wisdom and the sublime faith, the persistence and the enthusiasm that for eighteen years had kept him from despair, had guided him to triumph—triumph over the sneers of monks and scoffs of sages, triumph over the treachery and doubts of monarchs, triumph over the errors of ages and the superstitions of millions, a triumph that revealed the great mystery of the ocean and realized the visions of a lifetime.

"There before him in the gloom of early morning lay the Indies, with all the opulence and splendor of her palaces and cities. There in peaceful slumber lay the countless millions to whom he had come as the messenger of the glad tidings of salvation. He thought that he had discovered a new world, and he knew not, nor did he ever know, that he had found a world and not a way. He had sailed upon the unknown sea to seek the El Dorado of wealth and power, and found instead the battlefield of liberty."

Each volume thus far produced has been written and rewritten, and no manuscript has been allowed to reach the printers until the best of authorities on the subjects included therein have had it in hand for revision and possible correction. In this way it is hoped to get at and preserve the truths of our history for all time, and to sanction these truths the wide world has been ransacked for nearly a quarter of a century, and neither of the men interested can say how much longer it will take to complete the task.

Already Mr. Burrows has spent a fair fortune—nearly \$200,000—in the acquisition and preparation of the facts, but this does not seem to bother him in the least.

"Of course, I do not expect to get it back," he says, "but I shall be fully repaid if I am allowed to live long enough to see the work finished as Dr. Avery and I have planned it."

EXHAUSTIVE TASKS

Think of spending several years of time and much good money to make sure of the fact that no genuine likeness of Champlain exists! Think of traveling thousands of miles to get first-hand evidence that the so-called first printed picture of the American bison was NOT the first! Think of working nights and onlisting the assistance of five famous authorities to secure a perfect chart of the movements of one warship in a famous sea fight!

Yet these are only samples of what these two men, lately joined by Dr. Paul Leland Haworth, have done in their labor of love, for such it really is. Not content with such access as they themselves had to the libraries, museums and universities of the world, they, from time to time, called to aid them the foremost of authorities on matters in hand. Even then, not content to risk accuracy in any degree, they delved into odd and half-forgotten nooks and corners to unearth the original documents and data upon which these authorities based their decrees.

"And yet, we have not attained absolute accuracy in every instance," said Mr. Burrows to me the other day. "We have gone as far as we could; but in some cases we have been compelled to rest with what might best be termed 'hearsay' evidence, even though it be the highest order of hearsay, and one commonly accepted by historians as final."

A STORY OF THE GLADIATOR.

LONDON, July 16.—The following is related in connection with the recent collision of the ocean liner St. Paul and H. M. S. Gladiator.

The St. Paul was bound for London, and the Gladiator was bound for Benares. The soldiers who had stood guard over the masons during the progress of the work were taken out to a courtyard and shot to death so that the secret of the location of the great Gwallor hoard was safe once more.

For the benefit of those who doubted the truth of the extent of this hoard, was pointed out that several smaller each amounting to from ten to thirty million dollars, had been brought to the attention of the government, which had obliged the latter part of last

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IN WAR.

LONDON, July 16.—Probably in the event of war between Germany and England the former power would in the present relative positions of the navies, keep her battle fleet in her ports at first, and endeavor to render the conditions more equal, by the use of her torpedo flotillas. The delivery of a bolt from the blue is

he seemed to be temporarily dazed by the episode. Rapidly recovering, he sat up again. Then, looking round he seemed to realize his position, and gasped out, "Oh, my God, what have I done? What will my captain say?" Then he jumped back to his own ship.

"What will my captain say?" There is a large majority in that immortal question. It is the heroic note of Raleigh and Grenville, of Drake and Nelson. "What will my captain say?" The splendid simplicity of the phrase hall-marks it. No poet could have been out of death a more breathless a more deathless cry. It is sublime in its symbolism, although the lips that uttered it cared for nothing so literary and so sentimental as a symbol. One wishes that Tennyson were alive to set that great cry of a great heart to verbal music. "What will my captain say?"

"The Captain of Captains who commands the British Navy is the Spirit of Patriotism, Honour, Self-Sacrifice, Discipline, and Courage. As the great Captain looks out over the ocean today, the world he says is, 'Well done!'"

LET MOTHERS READ THIS.

You know it's impossible in the summer for the whole family to escape from cramps, diarrhoea and summer complaint. Before being prepared with good remedy like Nervine, it cures cramps in ten seconds, stops diarrhoea quickly, tones the stomach, aids digestion. For protection against all summer ills use Poison's Nervine.

HIGH PRICES IN BOSTON.

BOSTON, July 16.—In recent years the population of Boston has become accustomed to high prices on meats, and at times pays without grumbling but it bids at prices that are charged today. Quietly those prohibitive figures have been creeping in on the market stall and lately the prices are extremely prohibitive.

"Perfection Brand" clothing is easily the best and sold by H. H. Brown.

HOARDED WEALTH IN INDIA.

LONDON, July 16.—It is said that in India very recently a great hoard of silver, that of sixty million pounds sterling in rupees, has been quietly exchanged for gold. The true extent of this hoard was first brought to light some years ago in evidence before the currency commission which sat at the time of the closing of the Indian mints to the coinage of silver. It is a twice-told story. There is nothing new about it. Chowning-Lall gave his evidence to the commission, and it was widely printed. "You know," he said, "how anx-

moment of sheer old age. If that had appeared the treasure might have been lost to the owner forever, and to the world for ages, because there was only one entrance to the hoard, and that was most cunningly concealed.

"So the Maharajah was in such a fix that he must either get back his hoard or divulge the secret to the government and run the risk of losing the treasure for all time. When after long negotiations the hoard was given back to the Maharajah, even before the British troops had left Gwallor territory, masons were brought from Benares, where they had been sworn to secrecy in the

HAVE YOU HEADACHE, DIZZY SPELLS, LANGUOR?

You feel tired, unwell, all fagged out, in the summer simply because hot days are hard on the liver. Your system needs cleaning, blood's sluggish, liver is not working fast enough. Just in one night this can be changed by using Dr. Hamilton's Pills. Back comes your long lost appetite, checks again grow fleshy, strength and vigor is circulated all through the system by blood that is renewed and full of nutrition. No medicine for the family so mild, safe and always reliable as Dr. Hamilton's Pills. Try a 25 ct. box your-