# CERDE TO THE STUDY AND READING OF MERICAN HISTORY

TANNING TERRETURNER

# **GUIDE**

# TO THE STUDY AND READING OF AMERICAN HISTORY

BY

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#### PREFACE

In 1896 appeared the Guide to the Study of American History, which is the foundation of the present work. The two original authors have taken part in the preparation of the volume now laid before the public, and with them has joined Professor Turner. The book is therefore the outcome of thirty years' experience in the study and teaching of American history by the three authors, and is based upon their own class work and investigation. Their point of view is that every scholar owes it to the cause to communicate his collection of materials, so that through such mutual exchange American history may be made clearer and more authentic.

In several ways the present work differs from the preceding form: it has been extended from 1865 down to 1910; it includes a great number of references to the immense literature which has accumulated since 1896; it replaces earlier and less accessible books with references to more available works; it enlarges and increases the sections on social, economic, and industrial history; and it includes a new set of references from the growing wealth of writings upon the West.

As in the previous issue, the volume is divided into parts. Part I attempts to make clear the general place of American history as a study, a recreation, and a discipline. Part II is a reclassified and enlarged set of references to groups of related books, such as general works, biographies, sources, and so on. This is intended to contain the titles of the most significant books dealing with America, the United States, the states, and notable individuals and phases of history. It must be understood that all these lists are selected from a larger mass of material, and are not intended to be complete or comprehensive bibliographies. Part III includes the pedagogical apparatus of the work, much reduced in length from the first edition because of the large amount of good material on the teaching of American history

which has come forward in the last sixteen years. In § 10, Part I, is a bibliography of books and articles on this subject.

Parts IV, V, and VI contain references made and classified on an entirely different basis from that of the earlier part of the work. Under one hundred and seventy-nine successive topics appear specific references to works and designated parts of works, arranged under the four captions, General, Special, Sources, and Bibliography. These references are intended to be useful to readers, students, and teachers who wish to be directed to the most convenient and most available treatment of particular subjects. In some cases, particularly in the topics on economic and social history, there is a subdivision easily understood by the user.

As to the general scope of the work a paragraph may be quoted from the preface to the first edition: "No one can be better aware than the authors of the inadequacy of this work; the immense mass of rich material on American history cannot be condensed into a single volume; and doubtless much has been omitted that ought to go in, or inserted that might well be left out. It is to be remembered, however, that the plan of the work does not admit of complete bibliographical information on any topic. It has been our endeavor to select out of the available material that likely to be most immediately useful to the searcher into political, social, constitutional, and economic history. For the antiquarian and the genealogist we have not been able to provide. We have, however, noted as many as possible of the more elaborate bibliographies, to serve as guides to more complete information; and we have ventured to save space in some cases by referring to bibliographies or other material previously prepared by the same hands."

In the preparation of the book every effort has been made to select accurate references and to verify them. The Index covers, together with other matter, an alphabetic list by authors of most of the works to which reference is made; but, inasmuch as little additional information is given by a mere second reference to a title, the Index enters only that page upon which the name of a book is printed in full, with place and date of publication, or on which the book is first mentioned if the title is nowhere given fully. In spite of all efforts to the contrary, errors have doubtless crept in; and the

authors will be grateful for any indication of mistakes, and for any suggestions as to the improvement of the *Guide* in case later editions should be called for. Without the expert aid of David M. Matteson and Miss Addie F. Rowe, the work could not have been carried to completion.

All three authors take joint responsibility for the whole book; but Professor Channing has been especially interested in Part II (Classified Bibliography) and Part IV (Colonial History and the Revolution); Professor Hart has worked upon Parts I and III (Methods), and Part V (United States History to 1865); Professor Turner has taken responsibility for most of the references on the West, and for Part VI (Recent United States History).

EDWARD CHANNING ALBERT BUSHNELL HART FREDERICK J. TURNER

CAMBRIDGE, August 31 1912

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# GUIDE TO AMERICAN HISTORY

# PART I. STATUS AND METHODS

#### CHAPTER I

#### STATUS OF AMERICAN HISTORY 1

#### § 1. What is American History?

USED in its broadest sense, the term "American History" would mean an account of everything that has ever happened within the western hemisphere. But such an inclusion would be beyond the bounds of human acquirement; for previous to the discovery by Europeans written records are few and are with the greatest difficulty deciphered. The records of Mexico and Peru have little that is suggestive to the modern world; native traditions are scanty and ill-preserved; among the Indians there were no great national organizations, and hence little history in the modern sense. There is little significance to present-day readers in American history earlier than the discovery by Columbus. Before that we get but an imperfect notion of native communities confusedly struggling with each other, and a few far-away suggestions of earlier discoverers. It is impossible to ascertain even the race origin of the aborigines.

In the development of America during the historic period the Latin-American races have had a large part. Spain was the first to discover, first to conquer, first to colonize. France preceded England, both on the Atlantic coast (except for Cabot) and in the interior. Portugal was in the field a century earlier than England as a colonizing American power. During the three hundred years

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>A longer discussion of this subject may be found in the Guide, 1st ed. (1896), §§ 1-7.