

**THE STORY OF  
AMERICA FOR  
YOUNG AMERICANS**

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The Story of America for Young Americans by G. M. Beattie

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**G. M. BEATTIE**

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Young Americans

By  
G. M. BEATTIE

Published by  
THE AMERICAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

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## TO THE TEACHER

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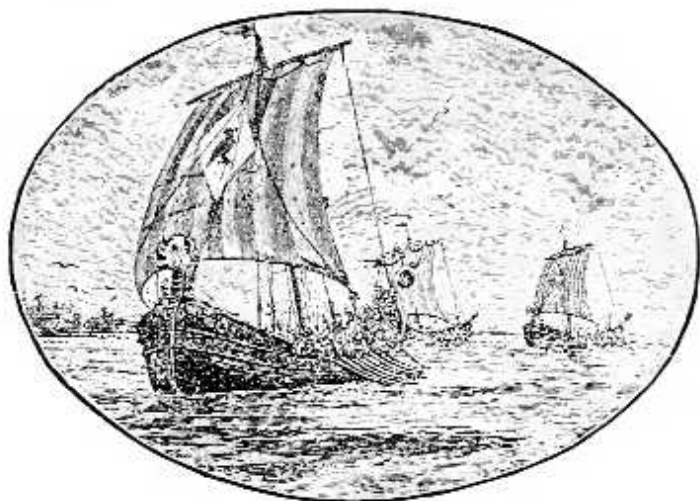
As the history of our country is but a continuation of that of the Old World, before beginning the story of America our pupils should learn something of the history of the countries from which our forefathers came. In the introductory chapter of this book the purpose is mainly to point out the chief phases in the civilizations of the European nations which have contributed mostly to our own civilization. Merely an outline has been given which it is hoped the teacher will fill in as she sees fit for her particular class, or it may be that she will deem it best to omit certain portions. Some of the myths and other stories of Greece and Rome should be given as supplementary reading, and certain historical characters and events might be touched upon.

In the story of our country which follows, it has been the aim to tell only of the events most important for children to know and to use language so simple and clear that it may be easily comprehended by young pupils.

As children are more readily interested in persons than in bare statements of events, we have tried to give as much of the history as possible through the medium of biography. In addition to this, complete sketches of the most prominent characters of our nation have been given throughout the book so that they may be studied independently of other parts of the text when so desired.

In the preparation of lessons, the location of all places named should be clear in the mind of the pupil, and in recitations we suggest that large maps be kept before the class. We believe that topical recitations given in the pupil's own words develop ease in expression and clearness in ideas, and with this in mind we have given suggestions for such recitations at the end of each chapter.

# THE STORY OF AMERICA



*From a Painting*  
NORWEGIAN SHIPS

## CHAPTER I

### Introductory

#### I

Five hundred years ago there were no white people living in America. Only Indians were to be found scattered over the land. Most of them lived in villages of wigwams or roved through the forests and over the plains and mountains.

It is not known exactly when the first white people came to

America. The first we know of are told about in some old stories of Norway and Sweden. These stories say that parties of Norwegians made voyages to the eastern coast about a thousand years before Christ.

At that time the people of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, who were called the Northmen, were the most daring seamen in the world. They had long ships which they sailed or rowed to distant lands. Some of them finally settled in Iceland, and later one of them called Eric the Red founded a colony on the southwestern coast of Greenland.

According to the old stories, it was Lief Ericson, the son of Eric, and other Norwegians from Greenland who sailed to the eastern coast of America. It is supposed that they landed at several places on the coast of what is now Massachusetts. But they stayed only a short time, nothing came of their discoveries, and in time they were forgotten.

The first white people who settled in our land came from countries in Europe, — chiefly from England, France, Holland, Spain, Italy, and Germany.

These countries are all very much older than ours. For hundreds of years before there were any white people in America, there had been great cities in them. When our forefathers crossed the Atlantic, they had already learned how to make laws and to govern cities and countries, and they could build fine buildings, make ships and guns, and write and print.

## 2

It will help us to understand our own history if we learn something about the countries from which our forefathers came.