

# **HISTORY OF THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE**

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History of the Louisiana Purchase by James Q. Howard

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**JAMES Q. HOWARD**

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LOUISIANA  
PURCHASE**



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BY  
JAMES Q. HOWARD

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TO ETHEL HOWARD,

*A grateful recognition is due for reflecting a radiant joy upon  
one life that may prove a benediction to others than the author  
of her being, and of this book.*

LOTOS CLUB, NEW YORK,  
*August 17, 1902*

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William J. Dreecher.*

## PREFATORY OBSERVATIONS.

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This History of the Louisiana Purchase was written prior to a work on the same subject by Mr. J. K. Hosmer. The latter being essentially a work of fiction, but faintly historical, in no way conflicts with this relation of fact which has gone forth with the approval of the Exposition Company at St. Louis. The early history of the vast domain transferred by France to the United States in 1803 is found in the *Margry papers*, in the other official or personal accounts of the first explorers and settlers, and in various cotemporary records and writings. The American *State Papers*, the archives of the Department of State, the acts and utterances of public men, best make known what took place at the time of the actual acquisition of Louisiana. These sources of information having been examined, long lists of references and authorities need not burden a condensed account of our first peaceful expansion of territory.

JAMES Q. HOWARD.

Washington, August 6, 1902.

# CONTENTS

## CHAPTER I.

### THE LOUISIANA REGION PRIOR TO THE YEAR 1700.

De Narvaez, De Soto, Joliet and Marquette, La Salle .....	7
---	---

## CHAPTER II.

### THE LOUISIANA DOMINION.

Period of Settlement and Transition—From 1700 to Peace Treaty of 1782.....	18
--	----

## CHAPTER III.

### REACHING TO THE MISSISSIPPI.

Great Treaties of 1782-3—Who Made Them.....	34
---	----

## CHAPTER IV.

### THE CRITICAL PERIOD OF SPANISH RULE IN LOUISIANA.

From 1784 to 1789—Disturbed Relations with the West .....	48
---	----

## CHAPTER V.

### THE FIRST PRESIDENT.

Steps to Secure Free Navigation—This Great Government's Real Beginning .....	62
--	----

## CHAPTER VI.

### WASHINGTON'S SECOND TERM.

Louisiana from March, 1793, to 1797—Young Nation Beset by Enemies .....	74
---	----

## CONTENTS

## CHAPTER VII.

## LOUISIANA DURING THE TERM OF JOHN ADAMS.

Foresight of Hamilton—More Trouble with Spain— St. Louis Serence.....	83
--	----

## CHAPTER VIII.

## LOUISIANA DURING THE YEARS 1801 AND 1802.

Transfer from Spain to France—Livingston, Napo- leon, Jefferson, Madison .....	94
---	----

## CHAPTER IX.

## THE GREAT TREATY OF APRIL 30, 1803.

The Correspondence Preceding It—Who Made It..	106
---	-----

## CHAPTER X.

## ECHOES OF THE GREAT TREATY.

Bonaparte's Motives for Selling Louisiana—His Prophecies—How Acquisition Was Received....	117
--	-----

## CHAPTER XI.

## LOUISIANA PURCHASE STATES.

Conditions in 1803 and 1900 Contrasted.....	126
---	-----

## SUPPLEMENTAL.

Creators and Preservers of the Republic.....	142
Foremost Patriots and Benefactors—	
Washington .....	143
Hamilton .....	145
Lincoln .....	147
Franklin .....	149
Marshall .....	151
Webster .....	153
Grant .....	155
Livingston .....	157
Jackson .....	159

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William J. Duercher.*

HISTORY  
OF THE  
LOUISIANA PURCHASE

CHAPTER I.

THE LOUISIANA REGION PRIOR TO THE  
YEAR 1700.

DE NARVAEZ, DE SOTO, JOLIET AND MARQUETTE,  
LA SALLE.

**T**O KNOW the history of the Louisiana Purchase, we must know the prior history of the territory purchased. Who discovered and explored this vast domain? Who settled and developed it? Who exercised sovereignty and established political governments over it? are questions to be considered and answered.

The first European commissioned to exercise any legitimate authority over any part of this territory was the ill-fortuned Spanish officer, Narvaez. Panfilo de Narvaez was fourteen when Columbus discovered the West Indies. He was born where the great navigator died—at Valladolid. As second in command to Velasquez, who had conquered Cuba, he was sent to supersede the indomitable