

**THE HISTORY OF  
MISSOURI, FROM  
THE EARLIEST  
TIMES TO THE PRESENT**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649050291

The History of Missouri, from the Earliest Times to the Present by Perry S. Rader

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**PERRY S. RADER**

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REVISED EDITION

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BY  
PERRY S. RADER

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THE HUGH STEPHENS COMPANY  
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

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## PREFACE.

My History was the first school history of Missouri ever published. It had grown out of a conviction that I could not render a more valuable service to the boys and girls in school than by writing a connected narrative of the heroic deeds and great achievements of the great people who had built up their beloved commonwealth. When the State Text-Book Commission met in 1897 to adopt a series of books for use in public schools, I submitted it for adoption. One day I received a telegram from a Commissioner requesting me to come to Jefferson City where the Commission was in session. On my arrival I was told that no satisfactory book on the subject of Civil Government had been submitted, and that the Commissioners were pleased with my History but doubted their legal authority to adopt a history of Missouri as a separate study, since the law stated text-books on the subject of history of the United States and civil government should be adopted, but did not use the words "History of Missouri." They were of the opinion that if a civil government and history of Missouri could be combined into one book, it could, under the law, be adopted as a civil government, and it was suggested that I write a Civil Government, both of the United States and the State of Missouri, and submit it in manuscript form, along with an agreement to print it as the first part and the History as the second part of one combined book. I did so, and the one volume entitled "The Civil Government of the United States and State of Missouri and History of Missouri" was published, and at once found a large place in the schools. These facts explain why the Civil Government and History were first published as one book. Revised editions have since been issued and have been extensively used, and in all

of them this combination of the two books into one volume has been retained, and has met with such general approval by superintendents and teachers as an arrangement best adapted to the course of study prescribed for schools, that it has been retained in this last edition. However unusual the combination may be, it does not seem wise to depart from an arrangement that best fits in with the needs and work of the schools.

Within the last year the History has been thoroughly revised and brought down to date. One or two chapters have been entirely rewritten, because events and developments have required a different treatment. New and better cuts have been added. In every valuable sense, the History now offered is a new book.

It can be used either as a text, or as a supplementary reader. Every child in school who has reached the higher readers should be required to read it as a collateral reader. Maturer students, able to undertake the Civil Government, should be required to know its principal statements of facts. Even as to them some of it should be studied, and other parts simply carefully read; and the discriminating teacher will be able to designate what parts are for study and what for reading.

Again, as in the Civil Government, the questions at the end of chapters are not designed for use in recitations, but to aid pupils in centering their attention upon the facts they should accurately know.

The author wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness to Mr. Louis Houck, whose late comprehensive *History of Missouri* has greatly aided in clarifying certain historical facts, and to the Missouri Historical Society of St. Louis for a recent picture of Laclède and other valuable favors.

THE AUTHOR.



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# HISTORY OF MISSOURI

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## PART I.

### FRENCH AND SPANISH PERIOD.

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#### CHAPTER I.

##### DISCOVERIES.

**1. The First White Man.**—The first white man to put foot on the soil of Missouri was Hernando De Soto, in 1541. De Soto was a Spaniard. He had been with Pizarro in the conquest of Peru, and had returned from his buccaneering ventures there to Spain with a fortune of a half million dollars. Hearing of the wonders of Florida and the country beyond it, that it abounded in gold and precious stones, he was fired with a passion for its conquest, and obtained permission from the king to fit out an expedition for this purpose at his own expense. It was more like a royal pageant than an exploring party or a conquering army. His force consisted of six hundred followers, twenty officers, and twenty-four ecclesiastics, all gorgeously arrayed in splendid armor. He landed in great pomp at Tampa bay in 1539, and driving a large number of cattle and hogs before him for food for his men, proceeded west. The Indians and forests interposed. His followers were not trained to overcome such hardships. Some were killed by the Indians, and others died from sickness. No gold was found. The Indians told him of fabulous amounts of it to be had on the Mississippi river. He