

OUR PATRIOTS

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Our patriots by Wilbur F. Gordy

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WILBUR F. GORDY

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BY

WILBUR F. GORDY

AUTHOR OF

"STORIES OF EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY," "AMERICAN BEGINNINGS IN EUROPE,"
"ABRAHAM LINCOLN," ETC.

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PREFACE

This is one of a group of books designed to teach American ideals and American patriotism. The author has no intention of narrating historical events or of presenting biographical details. His leading purpose is rather to make definite and clear the meaning of patriotism and to give a true conception of our country as a land of freedom and opportunity, where the government is of the people, for the people, and by the people. To this end he has made a careful selection of the men and women whose lives give expression to these ideas, and has tried to set forth clearly their patriotic aims and the ideals which animated and inspired their words and deeds.

Two large groups of readers have been kept in mind. The first includes all those children who are certain to leave school as soon as the law for compulsory attendance will permit. Of these one-half leave school before reaching the

end of the sixth year and more than a third before they have finished the fifth year. Ten million out of twenty million children will never have the advantage of much more than five years in school. The other group, and it is very large, consists of foreign-born adults. Of these there were in 1910 in this country two million five hundred thousand who were unable to speak or write English.

Both these groups should be made ready to meet the responsibilities of intelligent citizenship in a democracy like ours. They should be taught the fundamental elements of our institutions, the basal facts in our national history, and the moral idealism which has guided and controlled the lives of our leaders and heroes. Thus will our children be socialized, the foreign-born adults Americanized, and the standard of citizenship elevated throughout our land.

In carrying on this work of education and training, it is hoped "Our Patriots" may be made to play a useful part. The author has tried to present the facts in such simple language as to make the book easy to read either by young children or by adults who have not

advanced far in their ability to read English. The typographical arrangement and the suggestions to be found in "Some Things to Think About" will, it is hoped, assist in bringing vividly before the mind of the reader the events and ideals presented in the text.

In conclusion, I wish to acknowledge my deep obligation to Miss Elizabeth P. Peck, of the Hartford Public High School, who has read the manuscript and has made many valued criticisms and suggestions, and also to my wife, whose helpful sympathy and able assistance have done much to give the book whatever merit it may possess.

WILBUR F. GORDY.

HARTFORD, CONN., July 1, 1918.

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