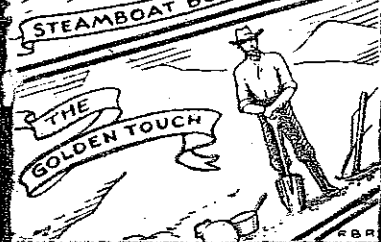
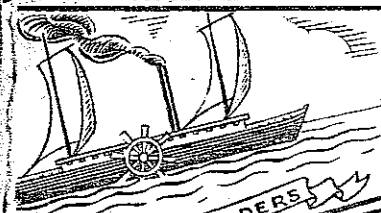
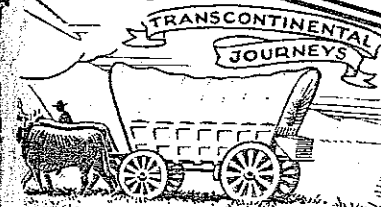


The CAVALCADE of AMERICA



A chronicle of the Pageant of Progress down through the ages of America's evolution

written from the human interest viewpoint, with dramatic interludes of unfamiliar incidents which influenced the cultural and industrial development of a nation...

from the casting of the Pine Tree shilling to P. T. Barnum's exploitation of Jenny Lind.

Informative — authentic — and fascinating in text and literary style, **THE CAVALCADE OF AMERICA** is a book to enjoy and treasure.

Edited by **DIXON RYAN FOX**
and **ARTHUR M. SCHLESINGER**

The
Cavalcade of America



Edited by

DIXON RYAN FOX

*President of Union College, President of The
New York Historical Society*

and

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Professor of History at Harvard University

Illustrated by

WILLIAM SANDERSON

1937

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We are indebted to the DU PONT COMPANY for the generous co-operation we have received in publishing this collection of stories based on dramatic sketches presented to the public over the radio as *The Cavalcade of America*, to the authors of the original stories, and to the historians who have collaborated to make this volume outstanding in its field for historical accuracy and interest.

MILTON BRADLEY COMPANY

FOREWORD

AT EIGHT O'CLOCK on Wednesday evening, October 9, 1935, those of us who were gathered around our radios listened for the first time to a half-hour program called *The Cavalcade of America* sponsored by E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY. Some of us who had been concerned in the preparation of the program listened with a keen, in fact a nervous, interest. We hoped that the people of the United States, the millions upon millions of them who were drawing up their chairs to choose entertainment out of the air, would agree with us that one of the best uses they could make of a half hour once a week would be to listen to a series of spoken dramas which revealed the spirit of America as it had issued from American hearts and minds during the past three hundred years. The Du Pont Company, which itself is almost as old as the Republic, felt that this was the kind of program with which it could appropriately associate its name. Those of us who had been called into counsel, men primarily interested in education and in the history of our country, believed that it was what people ought to want. But would they, in the midst of so many competing alternatives, actually give time and attention to it week after week? The original engagement was made for eight weeks. We wondered and waited.

Now, after more than two years of growing interest, it is hard to realize that there could have been any doubt. Prizes and ceremonial commendation, deliberate endorse-

ment of important educators, all welcome as they have been, have meant less to those in charge, I think, than the thousands of grateful letters from the plain people of every state. They know that it is their story, that their own forebears and forerunners were the participants in this Cavalcade here rehearsed. The program was originally conceived and steadily developed in patriotic faith, informed by understanding and responsible research, to remind us of the purposes and motives on which our fathers and mothers based and built this nation. In it have been heard the inspiring voices of the past, when men and women of public spirit and lofty resolution faced and conquered difficulties which might have wrecked our national undertaking before we could inherit it. We have listened to the authentic life of America, vastly more stirring and persuasive because it is true.

One of its fascinations has been in its freshness. It would have been much easier to rehearse the familiar matter of the textbooks, to say again what everybody knows about the great heroes of American history. That has been done before. Those in charge have followed another plan. The dazzling geniuses, the supermen, appear now and then, though in aspects and episodes by no means so well known. For the most part, however, the designers of this program have dipped into the common mass for their instances of heroism, virtue, ingenuity and public service. They have drawn their stories from the great folk of America, the same folk on which we must, and happily can, with full faith now rely. They have tried to analyze the American character and find instances which vividly illustrate American traits and ideals.

It will immediately be apparent that this has involved an immense amount of inquiry in unconventional histori-

cal material. Professor Arthur M. Schlesinger, of Harvard University, and I have had the responsibility not only to suggest episodes but also to see that the scripts turned in by the many writers were faithful to the facts. This does not mean that all the dialogue is an exact transcript from the record. Oftentimes an historical character's known beliefs and mental attitudes have to be indicated more succinctly than he has stated them in any one place. Now and then characters have had to be invented to voice what we know was the sentiment of some group or element in American society. But, with the minimum of error that care could establish, we have tried to insure that it was the real voice of America, or some part of America, that was heard in each speech. The authors themselves have shown a scholarly resourcefulness in discovering material and a fine conscientiousness in using it, as well as dramatic skill in fashioning the program. There is no question that they, and particularly the producers with their corps of actors and musicians, have made a broad and deep contribution to America's understanding of its heritage.

Neither can there be a doubt as to a public interest in this little book containing fifteen stories, taken as samples from the hundred and more that have been produced. We like to think that in their content they will contribute to our appreciation of the American spirit. But in their form they will have value too. Whatever their individual merits they may stand as approximate specimens of what experience has proved successful writing for the radio.

DIXON RYAN FOX

Union College
November, 1937

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