



WORLD WAR ONE:
CHEYENNE CO. MAN SERVES IN ARMY HOSPITAL

John Hornicek was born March 5, 1896 near Sunol, Nebraska. His parents had emmigrated to the United States from Moravia, Austria. John was their fifth child, but he was the first born in the U.S.

The Horniceks were farmers on a homestead south of Sunol. Their first language was Czech, which John learned to speak before he learned English.

Registered for Service

On May, 28, 1917, John, then 21 years old, registered for United States Army draft in the Colton Precinct, Cheyenne County. His WWI Draft Card has a notation that he enlisted.

It would not be long before he was called to serve. On the first of August, John was sworn into the Army at Fort Logan, Colorado.

Eight days later, he was sent to Fort Riley, Kansas. For the next four months, he received training in the Medical Corps Provisional Company B.

It was just weeks after the U.S. began sending base hospitals to Europe to assist the Allies in treating the many wounded. Records show that the first U.S. Army base hospital arrived in France on May 18, 1917.

Within a month, six base hospitals had been established, staffed with 1200 independent medical officers to serve alongside British forces.

Many more would follow, including John Hornicek, though others were assigned camps and hospitals in the United States so that more experienced personnel could serve at the front.

John's training ended on January 6, 1918, when he was sent to Camp Merritt, New Jersey, to await a ship to Europe. His journey included stops in Scotland and England.

Arriving in France

On March 10, 1918, John traveled from England to France on the Carpathia—the same Carpathia that had become famous for rescuing survivors of the Titanic disaster in 1912. A few months later, in July 1918, the Carpathia was sunk by a German torpedo off the coast of Ireland.

John arrived at his final destination, Paris, France, on March 21, 1918. There, he worked in hospitals and clinics, treating Allied casualties.

Hastily Built Hospitals

The U.S. Army base hospitals set up in sites termed "general hospitals" by the British medical staff, who remained on site temporarily to train and orient arriving American medical teams.

These hospital sites were usually not what we think of as hospitals. They included former hotels and sprawling complexes of new, temporary buildings hastily built in rural fields to accommodate the

vast numbers of wounded.

A recuperating soldier might find himself in a war tent of 60 beds, a heated hut for 30 men, or lined up with other wounded in an opulent casino ball room.

Maj. Julia C. Stimson, Chief Nurse of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF), later described "...rows and rows of canvas tents, each of which holds about 14 beds" and "huts...made of thin wood and roofed with tarred paper and are divided into single cubicles...accommodating 16 to 18 people."

In Paris, where John Hornicek was stationed, additional base hospitals were established at the Clignancourt Barracks and various schools.

Sobering Statistics

Many of these hospitals could serve more than 2,000 patients in times of need. They were situated on rail lines between the front in Flanders (Northern Belgium) and the English Channel to move patients and supplies as efficiently as possible.

During a quiet time there might be several dozen operations daily and several hundred patients in the wards. However, those numbers could suddenly surge following a major battle. Admitting over 1000 patients and completing over 100 operations in a day was not unusual.

Narrow Escape

Although these hospitals were beyond the range of enemy artillery fire, they were sometimes targeted by enemy bomber attacks. One night, John survived a bombing by hiding behind a heavy wooden door in the hospital. He retrieved a large piece of shrapnel imbedded in the door and brought the metal piece back to the U.S.

Staying to Help

John served with integrity and honor during his time in Paris. The war may have ended in November of 1918, but John and other medical person-

nel stayed on in Paris to help the many wounded soldiers and civilians. In May of 1919, he was promoted to sergeant.

A couple months later, on July 24, 1919, John left Paris and arrived at Camp Dodge, Iowa. He was honorably discharged on August 26, 1919.

In addition to the shrapnel he had narrowly avoided, John also brought back many pictures, some of his military equipment, and a German Stahlhelm helmet. Some of these items can be seen in the military room of the Ft. Sidney Museum.

Returning to the Farm

Once home in Nebraska, John resumed his life as a farmer. On October 4, 1921, he married Mary Seda, who was also from a Czech immigrant family, neighbors of the Horniceks.

They farmed and raised three children on the Hornicek homestead where John lived the rest of his life. The original homestead is still owned and occupied by Hornicek descendants.

John is remembered as being very patriotic. He always marched in the Ar-



Sgt. John Hornicek, right, with fellow medic Claude Brandon, during the Great War.

mistice Day parade in Sidney in his Legion uniform.

Canteen Volunteer

During World War II, John organized the Sunol area food contributions for the famous North Platte Canteen.

On Sunol and Lodgepole's designated day, John and Mary would load their car with the food donations, drive to North Platte, and work at the canteen all day, serving troops coming through on the trains.

Meanwhile, their son served in the Navy.

John was also active in

his community. He served on Rural Electric Association Board of Directors (Wheatbelt), Sunol School Board, and the Lodgepole United Methodist Church. He was a Master Mason and sergeant at arms for WWI American Legion in Lodgepole.

He also found a way to put his Army medical training to good use. John was reported to be a very good nurse when anyone in the family was sick or injured.

On March 25, 1971, John passed away at the age of 75. He is buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

Sidney honored for Army Enlistments

According to the *Sidney Telegraph* the first to enlist at Sidney and the first on Friday, January 25, 1918, Sidney reported death from the area.

The following names are the among last group of soldiers from Cheyenne County to enlist for Army service, as reported in the *Sidney Telegraph* on September 28, 1917.

Leo A. Bartholomew, Sidney	Grover Hatcher, Sidney	John Peetz, Sidney
James Collins, Dalton	Anton Henzl, Jr., Lodge Pole	William Eugene Pierce, Sidney
Jesse Cox, Dalton	William A. Holm, Sidney	Harold M. Robb, Dalton
Marion Lee Daniel, Sidney	Herman J. Kalloff, Dalton	Hughlen O. Sauers, Sidney
Earl V. Deitrick, Peetz	Pat Keenan, Dalton	Louis Schumacker, Dalton
Algol B. Erickson, Potter	Joe T. Kucera, Sunol	Elmer H. Seyfang, Potter
Albert C. Fecht, Dalton	Charles A. Lawson, Sunol	Michael Troidl, Dalton
Willie Carl Fraas, Lodge Pole	Jim Lazaroff, Potter	John Ernest Wilburn, Peetz
William Gifford, Lodge Pole	John A. Lingwall, Sidney	Pearl Willis, Potter
John F. Harshman, Dalton	Sidney A. Moore, Sidney	



Sergeant John Hornicek

Making the World Safe for Democracy?

By Dr. Lloyd Ambrosius, University of Nebraska Emeritus Professor of History, with Kristi Hayek Carley

"The Great War" as it was called at the time had started in the summer of 1914 and not only continued horrifically for years, but had also expanded beyond Europe to become a true world war.

By April 1917, the U.S. Congress agreed with President Woodrow Wilson that it was time for the United States to enter into the war against Imperial Germany.

Though thousands of fresh American soldiers were arriving daily, World War I did not end until November 1918. Germany, exhausted and alone, gave up after other Central Powers capitulated.

The large-scale fighting may have ceased that November, but conflicts continued in the postwar era. Various powers on the periphery sought to preserve or extend their

empires, while others struggled to establish their national identities in new states. The Great War continued to influence domestic politics and international relations in the coming years.

New World Order

Wilson had hoped to guide Europe and other nations into a new world order. He wanted, as he proclaimed in his war

message, to "make the world safe for democracy."

That vision proved far easier for the president to articulate in theory than to accomplish in practice. The world was deeply divided by competing ideologies and by imperial, national, racial, ethnic, and economic interests. A new democratic world order would prove elusive after the Great War.

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Making the World Safe for Democracy?

A CALL TO ARMS THAT CONTINUES TO SHAPE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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Wilson’s own modern of nations, the League well as in travel and liberalism furnished the would replace the old cultural exchange. He ideological foundation for world order that relied on wanted to guarantee free- his new foreign policy, balances of power and mil- dom of the seas and to which historians have itary alliances. Each of the remove barriers to trade labeled as “liberal inter- League’s member nations and investment across nationalism,” or, “Wilso- could achieve national se- borders. Wilson also called nianism”. He envisaged a curity without having to for open diplomacy to new world order that em- maintain large armies or make international trans- braced the fundamental navies. actions more transparent. tenets of America’s own national identity.

League of Nations

Wilson hoped the Great War would culminate in an international community of liberal democracies with capitalist economies. He saw nation-states as the building blocks of this new world order.

Pivotal was his idea for the League of Nations, a postwar international organization that would preserve the peace by preventing future aggression across national borders. While proclaiming the idea of national self-determination as a universal principle, Wilson gave top priority to the creation of this new League at the Paris Peace Conference of 1919.

It promised what was later called collective security, one of the tenets of Wilsonianism. As the president conceived it, the League would consist of democratic nation-states that joined together to guarantee their mutual defense against external aggression, and thereby enforce international peace. As a global community

Self-Determination

A second tenet of Wilsonianism was the notion of national self-determination, affirming both state sovereignty and democracy. Just as Americans had claimed this right during their revolution against the British Empire, some new nations would emerge from the dissolution of the old Russian, German, Austro-Hungarian, and Ottoman empires in Europe and the Middle East.

While proclaiming the idea of national self-determination as a universal principle, Wilson hesitated to promote it for all peoples throughout the world. He felt only nations that had achieved a mature level of political development could be entrusted to govern themselves.

International Trade

Wilson’s vision of a liberal democratic world order favored an “Open Door” in international commerce and finance as

This kind of world order would facilitate the operations of international capitalism, just as Wilson’s New Freedom promoted it at home.

Progressive History

The final undergirding tenet of Wilsonianism was a belief in progressive history. In Wilson’s view, world history revealed a progressive pattern of development in all aspects of life as primitive peoples moved toward greater maturity over time.

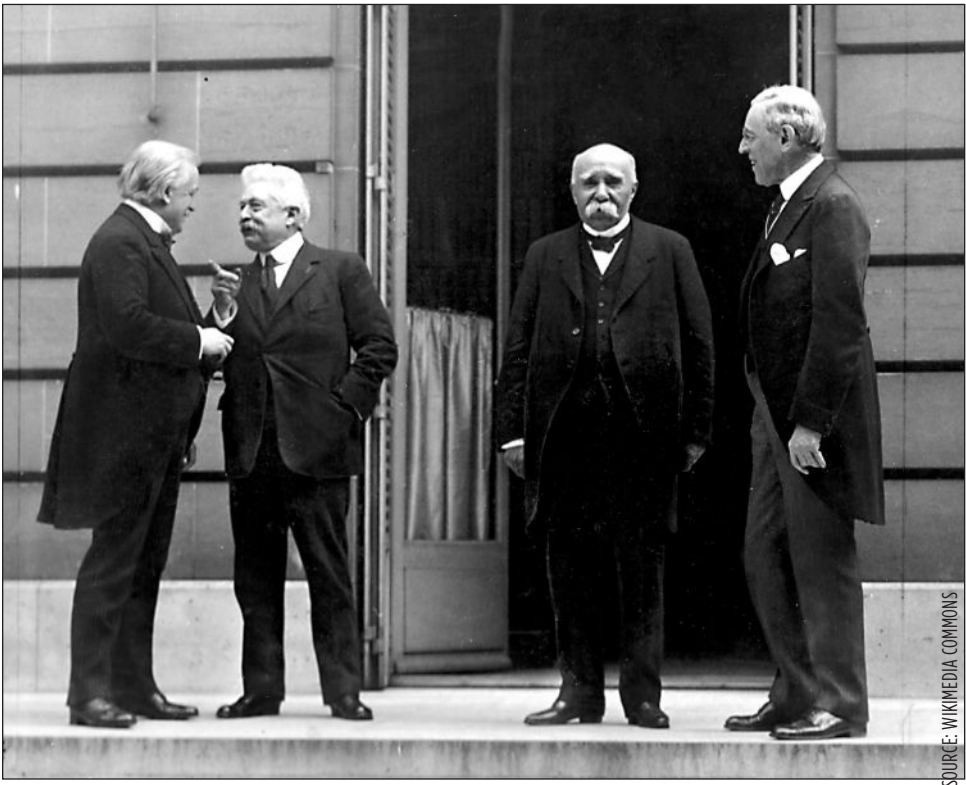
The idea of progress in human history seemed as self-evident to Wilson as the theory of evolution in science. Because the United States represented the pinnacle of progressive historical development, it furnished the best model for other nations.

Wilson espoused the ideology of American exceptionalism, and believed that making the world safe for democracy required the global triumph of Wilsonianism.

Ironically, while he offered the United States as the ideal model for the world, he avowed its own uniqueness. As the global fulfillment of America’s own providential history and destiny, Wilson said the United States would help other nations achieve the same blessings of liberty for themselves.

In 1917, he proclaimed that, “We are saying to all mankind, ‘We did not set this Government up in order that we might have a selfish and separate liberty, for we are now ready to come to your assistance and fight out upon the field of the world the cause of human liberty.’”

He continued, “Such a time has come, and in the providence of God America will once more have an opportunity to show to the world that she was born to serve mankind.”



Council of Four at the WWI Paris peace conference: U.K. Prime Minister David Lloyd George, Italian Premier Vittorio Orlando, French Premier Georges Clemenceau, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson. China, Germany and Russia protested these nations’ domination of the peace treaty.

Ideological Framework

Despite the resistance to this new world order from other nations that Wilson encountered at the peace conference, after the war he continued to interpret international relations within the ideological framework of American exceptionalism.

In September 1919, he stated, “With every flash of insight into the great politics of mankind, the nation that has that vision is elevated to a place of influence and power which it cannot get by arms, which it cannot get by commercial rivalry, which it can get by no other way than by that spiritual leadership which comes from a profound understanding of the problems of humanity.”

Wilson claimed to have offered that understanding to the peacemakers at Paris and expected his fellow Americans to accept it as well. He expected the U.S. to support the Versailles Treaty with Germany, and especially the Covenant that made the new League of Nations an integral part of the peace settlement.

Wilson’s providential mission to reform the world challenged his fellow Americans to undertake an unprecedented role in international affairs. But while he touted his vision of a new world order, it was not reforming the world as he had promised.

Forced Compromise

At Paris foreign leaders had resisted or rejected Wilson’s ideas, forcing him to compromise. The real world did not match his vision of a community of nations based on modern liberalism. The Allies pursued their own national interests, although they agreed sufficiently to draft the Versailles Treaty.

Germany challenged the peace settlement in a more fundamental way. Even after formally ratifying the treaty, the Germans evaded its requirements and sought its revision.

The peace conference represented only the victors. It had excluded Lenin’s

Bolshevik regime, which Wilson and the Allies still did not regard as Russia’s legitimate government. The United States, Great Britain, and France dominated the proceedings. Although Italy and Japan were present among the top five powers at the peace conference, their contributions were minimal. China refused to accept the treaty, departing from Paris in protest.

Rejection at Home

At home, Wilson also experienced rejection. The Republican-controlled Senate refused to approve the peace treaty, especially the League Covenant, without attaching amendments.

Wilson resisted any changes and went on a speaking tour of western states to win support for the League, defending it as the best way to end aggression and contain the spread of Bolshevism into Europe.

Wilson’s western tour not only failed politically, it also led to the collapse of his health. On April 21, 1919, he suffered a stroke, which left him with limited capacity to fulfill his presidential duties.

After adopting Republican reservations, the Senate voted against the treaty in November 1919 and again in March 1920. Because the treaty lacked a two-thirds majority the United States declined to join the League of Nations. Wilsonianism was failing to furnish the foundation for a new world order.

Freedom & Democracy

Wilson valued liberty more than equality. He understood liberty in the United States within the framework of law under the Constitution.

For Wilson, as for most Americans, freedom and

democracy were deeply intertwined. His belief in constitutional liberalism as the framework for freedom and democracy was typical among white Americans in the 19th and early 20th centuries, despite the long history of slavery in the U.S., especially in the South.

Wilson’s vision did not include more Americans. He did not advocate granting the right to vote to women. He had no qualms about excluding African Americans and other people



A 1919 cartoon lampooned Republican Senators for failing to ratify the treaty. SOURCE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Indeed, the Wilson administration brought the Jim Crow system of racial segregation, which southern states had written into their constitutions, into the federal government. The president encouraged southern appointees to his cabinet to draw the color line in their departments. He wanted to expand freedom for white Americans, not equality for people of color.

While seeking support of working-class Americans in the Democratic Party, Wilson abhorred socialism and hesitated to recognize the rights of labor unions. He sought primarily to expand economic opportunities for producers in industry and agriculture.

His modern liberalism did not challenge the existing gender, race, and class divisions in the U.S. His vision of American democracy and capitalism focused on the rights of white men. Perhaps this is ultimately why his idea of “making the world safe for democracy” failed.



A Russian political cartoon by Hinko Smerka depicts Vladimir Lenin’s response to Woodrow Wilson’s “New World Order.” SOURCE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

What to Expect at Chautauqua

Chautauqua audiences will gather each evening to enjoy entertainment and first-person portrayals of important characters during the World War I era. There are four parts to each Nebraska Chautauqua evening:

1. Entertainment by a musical or theatrical performer.
2. Presentations from two historical figures (the moderator and the evening’s special guest).
3. Questions from the audience directed to the historical figures, who will answer as the figures would have responded.
4. Questions from the audience directed at the scholars, who will answer as their research suggests. They can correct self-serving answers by the historical figures or shed light on a subject the historical figure would not have known.

Chautauqua begins Wednesday night with scholars taking part in a “Meet the Chautauquans” event. President Woodrow Wilson (Paul Vickery) opens each evening presentation and serves as moderator. Thursday will feature politician William Jennings Bryan (Ted Kachel). Friday evening, the Youth Chautauqua campers will perform, followed by humanitarian Jane Addams (Helen Lewis). Saturday’s main speaker will be sociologist W.E.B. Du Bois (Charles Pace). Closing the “World War I: Legacies of a Forgotten War” Chautauqua week on Sunday will be author Edith Wharton (Karen Vuranch). For further details about this Chautauqua and a related reading list, please visit:

www.NebraskaChautauqua.org.

Additional Sources:

- “The Public Papers of Woodrow Wilson: War and Peace,” eds. Ray Stannard Baker and William E. Dodd
- “Woodrow Wilson and the American Diplomatic Tradition: The Treaty Fight in Perspective,” by Lloyd Ambrosius
- “Making The World Safe for Democracy Guide to U.S. Foreign Policy,” by Lloyd Ambrosius
- “The Long Shadow: The Great War and the Twentieth Century,” by David Reynolds

WOODROW WILSON: *Advocate for peace...but at what cost?*

By Paul Vickery, Ph.D.

“He kept us out of in 1912. war,” claimed the slogan that won the 1916 United States presidential race for Woodrow Wilson. Yet in an address to Congress on April 2, 1917, he asked for a declaration of war. “It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful people into war,” he said, “into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars. Civilization itself seeming to be in the balance.” What caused Wilson to change from maintaining strict neutrality to joining the Allies against the Hun?

ponents quickly labeled him spineless. Within two years, Wilson would reverse his position.

Provoking Paradox

Wilson narrowly won the election of 1916 against Charles Evans Hughes, the former Governor of New York, who was also a progressive. With his campaign focusing on peace, preparedness, progressivism, and prosperity, Wilson faced challenges. The country was still in an isolationist mode. Wilson won by hammering the slogan, “He kept us out of war.” Less than a month after his second inauguration, he grew frustrated with German actions in early in 1917, such as the sinking of the Lusitania and meddling in Mexican internal affairs. Paradoxically, he would soon set aside his commitment to neutrality and seek a Congressional support for a declaration of war.

America’s entry into the bloody conflict marked a turning point in the war. Wilson believed what was at stake was nothing less than “the existence of democracy and freedom itself in the world.”

The war indeed was going badly for the Allies. In December 1917, Russia called it quits, allowing

for a large number of troops and supplies to shift to the Western Front. Yet the American effect came slowly.

Troubling Treaty

In the decisive battle of Argonne Forest in France, at least 1.2 million doughboys participated in crushing the German Hindenburg Line. On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month, Germany signed the armistice. Peace broke out. In all, 4.4 million Americans were mobilized and 320,000 killed or wounded. Germany incurred nearly 6 million casualties.

The controversial treaty ending the war, however, proved difficult and cost Wilson his health.

Taking the moral high ground, Wilson realized that if the belligerents did not come together in a mode of reconciliation, the world would not be “fit and safe to live in.” His plan, called the Fourteen Points, presented a hopeful yet naïve vision for world peace and included the formation of the League of Nations.

To present his case, Wilson would personally attend the conference in Paris. First, however, he arrived in England to a hero’s welcome. The European people loved him.

The allied leaders, however, did not share Wilson’s idealism. They wanted revenge.

The Allies forced Germany to accept total blame for the war and demanded reparations totaling nearly \$33 billion. The goal was to thoroughly crush German imperialism.

Although Wilson recognized the vindictive nature of the treaty and the dilution of most of his Fourteen Points, he accepted it with the League of Nations.

Discouraged, Debilitated

Stateside, Wilson still needed congressional approval. Presidents negotiate treaties, but the Senate confirms them.

Wilson had devised the treaty without Republican help. The Republican-controlled Senate rejected the treaty, believing it forfeited too much U.S. autonomy to the League. Despite counter proposals, Wilson refused to compromise, believing he could capture public support.

Beginning a twelve city, 3,500-mile trip, Wilson desperately tried to swing public opinion, but



SOURCE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

the strain on the President began to show. His headaches and high blood pressure worried his doctor and Edith.

After a rousing speech in Pueblo, Colorado, he suffered a debilitating stroke and became paralyzed on his left side.

With Edith largely in charge of presidential duties, Wilson, disappointed, discouraged, and ill, spent the last months of his presidency largely isolated from the public.



President Woodrow Wilson addressing Congress. SOURCE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

What factors led the nation into an anti-German attitude that promoted the burning of German books and newspapers and banned German composers such as Beethoven and Bach?

The man who insisted, “I come from the South and I know what war is—for I have seen its terrible wreckage and ruin,” was now calling for war to make the world “safe for democracy.” Why?

Southern Sensibilities

Wilson indeed knew the ugly face of war. He was born three days after Christmas 1856 in Staunton, Virginia. The son of a Presbyterian minister who served as Chaplain in the Confederate Army, Thomas Woodrow Wilson grew up in the charred city of Columbia, South Carolina.

One of his earliest memories was viewing Jefferson Davis being led in chains to prison in Augusta, Georgia. By 1885, Wilson had married Georgia native Ellen Louise Axson. His southern sensibilities would always inform his forays into both academia and state and national politics.

Political Prowess

By championing a campaign promise to end the influence of party machine politics, Wilson became Democratic Governor of New Jersey in 1910. He rose quickly in the Democratic national political party.

With the Republican Party splitting voters between Roosevelt and Taft, Wilson became President

these domestic accomplishments, foreign policy marked his administration most profoundly.

Difficult Developments

In late July 1914, World War I broke out in Europe. The U.S. firmly declared neutrality.

Less than two weeks later, Wilson’s beloved wife Ellen passed away. Although wracked by grief, Wilson began dating the wealthy widow Edith Bolling Galt in March 1915. By December, they were married. After a relaxing honeymoon in Virginia, the couple returned to Washington to face both an election year and the world’s problems. Because of its ferocity, horrendous casualties, and number of nations involved, The First World War was optimistically dubbed “the war to end all wars.” Protected by two great oceans, the U.S. desired to remain aloof from Europe’s problems. It was not to be.

On May 7, 1915, a German submarine sank the Lusitania cruise liner. Out of 1,959 passengers and crew, 1,185 lost their lives, including 128 Americans. Republicans, led by former president Teddy Roosevelt, demanded war. He wanted the U.S. to wield the “big stick.” When Wilson refused, Roosevelt labeled him “a prime jackass.”

In a speech to newly nationalized citizens three days after the sinking, Wilson urged “...not always to think first of America, but always, also, to think first of humanity.”

Because of his continued neutrality, his op-



Following Wilson’s stroke that left him paralyzed on the left side, carefully staged photos protected his image. His wife, Edith, fulfilled many of his presidential duties herself.

SOURCE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Paul Vickery



Although originally from Massachusetts, Paul Vickery grew up in Hollywood, Florida.

He received his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Florida State University, studying International Relations and specializing in Inter-American Studies, Spanish and Portuguese.

After graduation he was commissioned in the U.S. Army Counterintelligence Service and spent nearly four years in Europe.

In 1989, Vickery received his M. Div. from Oral Roberts University. He is an ordained United Methodist Pastor. His Ph.D. is in Latin American History, and Spanish from Oklahoma State University.

Vickery has performed in Chautauquas around the country, portraying Henry Ford, Senator Joe McCarthy, Bishop Francis Asbury, Bartolome de las Casas, Marquis James, and H.L. Mencken.

Vickery has been a Professor of History at

Oral Roberts University for 25 years, primarily in the area of Latin American and U.S. History. He also has accompanied students in travels in Europe and the Caribbean.

In 2006, Vickery published “Bartolome de las Casas: Great Prophet of the Americas,” with Paulist Press, one of the leading Catholic academic publishers. In addition, in 2010, he published “Washington: A Legacy of Leadership,” and in 2011, “Jackson: The Iron-Will’d Commander.” Both are part of The Generals series by Thomas Nelson. He has also published in academic journals.

Paul has traveled extensively in Europe and Latin America. As a member of the Mediterranean Studies Association; he has presented academic papers at universities in six countries. Vickery also is a destination lecturer for cruise ships around the world.



WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN: *The Great Commoner: “Let the people rule!”*

By A. Theodore Kachel, Ph.D.

William Jennings Protestant but also a Bryan was born March 19, thoughtful, educated man 1860 in Salem, Illinois. who died peacefully in When he realized there his sleep after the trial was little chance of getting ended. into politics in his home During his lifetime, state, he moved to Ne- only the men who be- braska in 1887, where he came president were as was elected Congressman well known or perhaps as three years later. effective in shaping He was a three-time the direction of Amer- Presidential nominee of ican life through the Democratic Party. In political and legal 1896, he was the youngest change as Bryan. Yet to throw his hat into the now he is the largely race, and is still the young- forgotten man of this pe- est ever to run, at 36 years riod in American political old. He also ran in 1900 and cultural history. and 1908.

Today, Bryan is best remembered in the public’s Bryan earned—and mind through a distorted enjoyed—the nickname historical portrait found “The Great Commoner” in the popular play and in deference to his stirring movie, *Inherit the Wind*. skills as an orator. Two The script was based on major speeches bracket the Scopes Trial in 1925 Bryan’s public career, one where Bryan successfully given and the other only opposed the teaching of written but left unspoken. evolution in Tennessee’s The first is his famous public schools. “Cross of Gold” speech at

On stage, the character the Democratic conven- representing Bryan is tion in Chicago, which portrayed as an almost produced such a popular comical religious fanatic outcry that it won him the who dramatically dies of nomination for President a “busted belly” while the next day in July 1896. attempting to deliver The second might have his summation in a cha- kept his reputation as a otic courtroom. In reality, great public leader intact Bryan was a passionate had he lived to give it as

Two Famous Speeches



SOURCE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

he planned on a national lecture tour after the Scopes Trial in July 1925, in Dayton, Tennessee. It was the closing argument he had prepared to explain his opposition to Evolution, or what we call now Social Darwinism. However, because Clarence Darrow pleaded John Scopes guilty to prevent Bryan from having the last word, it was never delivered. Five days after the trial ended, the “Great Commoner’s” voice was silenced 29 years after it had launched his public life in Chicago.

Voice for “Will-Haves”

Throughout his many campaigns and crusades one theme is constant: “Let the People Rule!”

Bryan fought for a government and laws that would support common people’s hopes and dreams for a better life for them and their children. He fought, therefore, against elitism in politics, in economics, and in education.

His was not a voice for the “haves” against the “have-nots,” but for the “will-haves,” as he put it. Bryan’s leadership not only helped elect a Democratic President in Woodrow Wilson, which allowed for many progressive reforms in the law, but also was instrumental in passing four major Constitutional

Amendments: the federal income tax, the direct election of Senators, prohibition of alcoholic beverages, and the right of women to vote.

Some political scholars say that outside of the Supreme Court itself, Bryan had probably changed the U.S. Constitution more than any other single American politician, including presidents.

In Wilson’s Cabinet

President Wilson rewarded Bryan with appointment to what would be Bryan’s only national office, Secretary of State.

The appointment was initially ridiculed by many who asked “what does a small-town Midwestern lawyer know about world affairs?” True, Bryan himself had initially asked for Secretary of the Treasury, ostensibly so he might influence national economic policy. But Wilson had already committed this post to another close associate.

Bryan chose the State Department after Wilson agreed that Bryan, a life-long teetotaler, would not have to serve alcoholic beverages at any official functions. This “grape-juice” policy held Bryan up to further ridicule in the press, but he made no attempt to use his national office at that time to push for legal Prohibition. Later he would campaign

successfully for that constitutional change.

Bryan served Wilson energetically at the State Department. He was actively involved in the formation and execution of foreign affairs in an administration that would become famous for major decisions of war and peace.

Parting of Ways

Bryan’s personal sense of achievement was found in his negotiation of International Arbitration Agreements with the major world powers of that day. These presented a formula for resolving disputes between nations without resorting to military force through the International Court.

Although Wilson strongly supported this approach, it was finally the issue of war that led to their parting of ways. In 1915, only two years into his office as Secretary of State, Bryan resigned because of Wilson’s move to favor Britain in its disputes with Germany.

Bryan was attacked as a German sympathizer, but he only wished for an impartial and neutral stance by America between these two warring powers to prevent further bloodshed. When Congress did declare war on Germany, Bryan immediately offered his service to Wilson in whatever

capacity he wished in the American war effort.

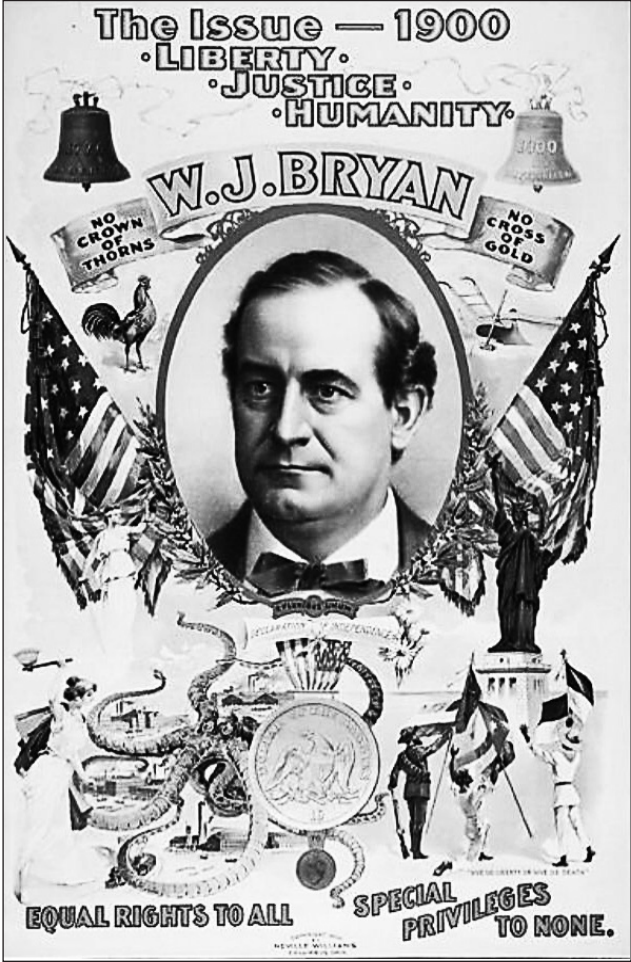
After our troublesome times of the Vietnam War, Bryan’s forthright resignation as a matter of pacifist principle and public policy disagreement exhibits a statesman’s candid integrity rather than the usual careerism that inhibits such actions by today’s political elite.

Democratic Faith

So, why is Bryan lost to our political memory?

As a “passionate progressive conservative” he was a genuine paradox for later political commentators and scholars. As concern for minority rights against possible majority tyranny grew, our legal system has moved to trust procedural rules and deliberative processes rather than electoral politics and legislative reform.

Bryan believed even when he lost that “in the long run, given enough time, the people will form the questions, they will find the answers, and make the changes that will be best for all.” This was his democratic faith, perhaps as important to him as his evangelical protestant faith in shaping his actions, his ideas, and his hopes for the American future. Bryan bet his life on the will of the majority. Minorities can only rule through force, so “Let the People Rule!”



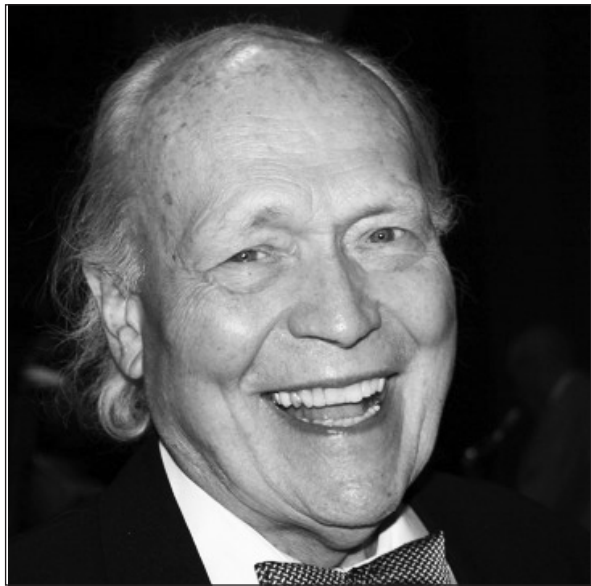
SOURCE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



Bryan spoke throughout the country during three presidential campaigns, rallying crowds with his “Cross of Gold” speech.

SOURCE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

A. Theodore Kachel



After 40 years teaching humanities and theatre at colleges and universities across Midwestern America, Professor Kachel retired as Head of the Theatre Program at Tulsa Community College in 1999. Although retired, he has taught part-time in religious studies and humanities at TCC using

his Ph.D. studies in Religion and Society from Columbia University (1975). He graduated *magna cum laude* from Union Theological Seminary, NYC, in 1965 and was a campus minister at Penn and Michigan universities until 1975.

His work today is touring in first-person performances as William Jennings Bryan, General William Tecumseh Sherman, Sir Winston Churchill, William Shakespeare, Joseph Mallord William Turner, or H.G. Wells. Since the summer of 2010 he has presented General Robert E. Lee in Oklahoma, Colorado, and Nevada Chautauqua programs as well as at the University of Kansas.

In the summer of 2008, he was invited to present William Jennings Bryan in Dayton, Tennessee, for the annual July reenactment of the Scopes Trial in the historic courtroom where it happened. The climax of this performance was the recreation of Clarence Darrow’s cross-examination of Bryan during the final full day of this famous trial.

Beginning in 2006, Dr. Kachel has worked with First Matter’s Watts Wacker, a futurist, present-

ing several of these Chautauqua characters while adding new character sketches of P.T. Barnum, Thomas A. Edison, Frederick Law Olmsted, and Frank Lloyd Wright at meetings for Genworth Insurance, Hasbro Toys, T.B.G. Landscaping, Inc, and R.J. Reynolds American.



JANE ADDAMS: *Activist who championed human dignity*

By Helen Lewis



SOURCE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Like other educated, middle-class, 19th-century women who chose not to marry, Jane Addams struggled for many years to discover her path to a productive life of useful service to others. As founder of a settlement house, educator, author, labor agitator, peace advocate, and suffragist, Jane Addams promoted publicly her interpretation of democratic ideals, while maintaining a lifestyle that modeled her beliefs. Born in Cedarville, Illinois, September 6, 1860, Jane Addams developed her social graces from her stepmother and her social conscience from her father. Early exposure to less fortunate children influenced her desire to assist the poor. After graduating from Rockford Seminary in 1881, she began what would become an eight-year search for purpose in her life.

Finding Direction

Upon visiting Toynbee Hall, a settlement house in London’s impoverished lower East End, Addams received her inspiration for her life’s direction: to found a settlement house in Chicago. She established Hull House in 1889 to serve Chicago’s many immigrant families. Through this endeavor, Jane Addams fulfilled her dream of working among the poor while also creating possible career choices for women who had had few, if any, opportunities to develop public lives.

Concerned for her neighbors’ needs for education, childcare, and medical service, Addams recruited kindergarten teachers, nursery workers, physicians, and visiting nurses. From Hull House came the founder of the first juvenile detention center, organizers of youth clubs to deter delinquency, national leaders in factory legislation, and local leaders in sanitation issues. From Hull House came preservers of ethnic heritage and teachers of survival skills for success in a new land. For the creative, caring women behind these works, Jane Addams had supplied a home from which they could apply their intelligence and talents to foster public improvement.

Valuing Heritage

Determination to benefit others balanced by flexibility in how she could best affect those ends led Addams to work with the new Sociology Department of the University of Chicago. Her openness to new theories led her to adapt psychological and sociological studies to her plans for Hull House, thus developing a model of social reform based on contemporary research. Yet, her genuine respect and compassion for the underprivileged combined with her sincere appreciation for the value of other people’s heritages allowed her to adjust programs at Hull House to provide what her neighbors wanted, not just what Addams or others thought they needed. She believed that for social assistance to succeed, those in need had to identify what could best help them raise themselves out of poverty. This trust in social democracy informed Jane Addams’ personal life as well as her political activities. Detesting snobbery and pity, Addams influenced others to join her in creating conditions that allowed her neighbors in Ward 19 to improve their own lives, rather than perpetuating the “charity work” that created a sense of superiority in the giver and a sense of inferiority in the receiver.

Voting Rights

Addams’ social morality influenced her to assume the causes of the marginal. Even without the right to vote herself, she still openly exerted pressure on public officials to make possible the means for others to achieve the American ideal of a decent life. Exhorting local politicians to hear the immigrant voice, encouraging working class men to become politically active,

her, including efforts to end warfare. Addams’ deep concern for others and her unflinching support of what she believed remain quite apparent in her writings. Her stories about actual individuals lend a persuasive intensity to her style that makes her prose memorable. Her concrete, highly accurate descriptions brought home the reality of the conditions faced by those oppressed, whether by gender, racial, ethnic, economic, or intellectual discrimination. Typically, Addams objectively clarifies all viewpoints regarding an issue, such as an international conflict. Then she guides readers to a logical stand based upon social democracy as the means to preserve human dignity while achieving permanent social improvement. Whether, for example, an expression of autobiography: “Twenty Years at Hull House” or history: “Peace and Bread in Time of War,” Addams’ books express concern for the marginal individuals, especially children and women.

Espousing Democracy

Ironically, Addams frequently spoke as the “majority of one” when espousing democracy for all. But even when her ideas were met with scorn, she never lacked an audience. Nor did she ever allow public opinion to dissuade her from what she believed the morally right course: to uphold the dignity and worth of the individual. She steadfastly argued for the social claim to replace the family claim on daughters. She staunchly and unwaveringly criticized war even when her many of her former supporters would attack her pacifist position and call her unpatriotic for her role in the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom. Addams opposed child labor, lynching, and charity. She supported trades unions, the NAACP, and social science.

Resolving Injustice

Wherever Jane Addams saw injustice—physical or moral—she carefully considered the situation and then boldly set herself the task of resolving that issue. Like her father, Jane Addams placed honor before popularity and integrity before personal convenience. In 1931, Addams became a co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. This was an affirmation

that her chosen path, although marked with criticism, had remained the right choice for humanity. From her establishing Hull House to her death at age 74, Jane Addams never ceased to encourage an environment that would allow people world-wide a chance for a decent life—a means to feed and house their families in peace. Much more than a

social worker or political activist, Addams seems to have been a catalyst who inspired others to achieve their dreams. She taught by example the necessity of cultural tolerance, and she stood secure in upholding her values of personal integrity and social democracy, even when she stood alone. By the time of her death, May 21, 1935, the world had become Jane Addams’ neighborhood.



Suffragists gathered to protest Wilson’s views in October 1919.

CE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Helen Lewis



delight participating again with Pace in this year’s Nebraska Chautauqua, “World War One: Legacies of a Forgotten War.” Lewis earned a B.A. in English Literature from Wilkes College and an M.A. and A.B.D. in English Literature from the University of Maryland. A 1990 NEH

Helen M. Lewis teaches Humanities and English at Western Iowa Tech Community College in Sioux City, Iowa. She also serves on numerous college, community, and state committees and boards.

A Pennsylvanian by birth, Lewis attended fourteen schools in twelve years as a Navy child. With that foundation, Chautauqua travel feels quite comfortable.

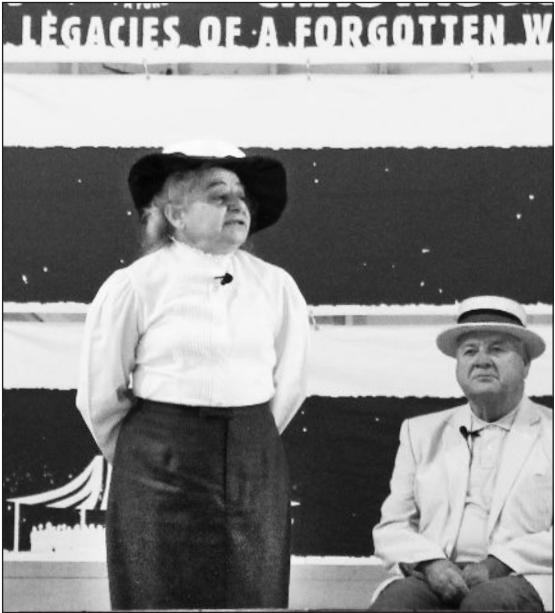
A long-time fan of Chautauqua, Lewis herself became part of the Great Plains Chautauqua in 1999, portraying Jane Addams in “Behold Our New Century.” Lewis learned much by working with veteran Chautauquan Charles Pace as Booker T. Washington.

Besides bringing Addams to many humanities audiences since 2002, Lewis has also portrayed Nebraska’s own Grace Abbott.

Lewis reunited with Pace—he as Malcolm X and she as Grace Abbott—in Kearney, Nebraska for the “Visions for America: Notable Nebraska Reformers” Chautauqua. She anticipates much

Summer Seminar at the University of Pennsylvania, “British Women Romantic Poets,” influenced Lewis to seek gender balance in her courses and women’s participation in other disciplines.

An active public speaker in the Humanities, Lewis’s topics also include film and America’s West. Lewis shares life with her spouse LeRoy Spurgeon, a railroad man from Kansas working in Iowa, whom she met at a square dance in Nebraska. Naturally, both have high regard for Nebraska.



W.E.B. DU BOIS: *Personification of the Civil Rights Movement*

By Charles Pace



SOURCE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

William Edward Burghardt Du Bois’ ideas provide insight for understanding how one man helped turn his vision for a more democratic America into a concrete reality.

Du Bois used scholarship, activism and art to build an interracial coalition of leaders that mobilized the black public to transcend the obstacles embodied in the idea and ideology of white supremacy and so advanced democracy in America.

He was born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts in 1868. Du Bois, Harvard University’s first black Ph.D. (1896), worked alone and in concert with an international group of scholars, used social science to destroy the scientific basis for the idea of white supremacy.

Proving Science Wrong

Du Bois and a coalition of white and black scholars published groundbreaking research that convincingly argued that race was socially constructed and not genetically determined as science at that time asserted.

His publication, *The Philadelphia Negro* (1899), and the yearly series he edited, *The Atlanta University Studies* series (1896-1917), produced a body of scholarship that still serves as a model of urban sociology scholarship.

Uniting Black Artists

Du Bois started the emergence of “the Black Atlantic,” the international artistic and intellectual coalition of black artists on both sides of the Atlantic in 1900.

As he informs us in “Dusk of Dawn”: “I prepared an exhibit [of art and photographs] showing the condition of the Negro for the Paris Exposition which gained a Grand Prize. I became a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1900 and was made a fellow in 1904.”

This international representation of black life began the 20th century’s

very close association of black writers, artists, musicians, and entertainers with the French public that continues to this day. Examples of the participants include such luminaries as: Josephine Baker, Richard Wright, James Baldwin, Miles Davis, Langston Hughes, and Gordon Parks, and many others.

Following the Atlanta white race riot (1906) and the Springfield, Illinois, white race riot (1908), Du Bois became convinced that scholarship, while necessary, must be empowered by public action to stop the terror of lynching that was then emergent in American society.

This realization set in motion a creative coalition of white New York liberals, along with a select group of black leaders who, in 1909, founded the National Association for

the Advancement of Colored People (N.A.A.C.P.). This organization directly challenged the doctrine of white supremacy and the segregation laws that sprang from it.

Representing NAACP

Throughout these developments Du Bois quickly became the national personification of the NAACP.

As founding editor of *The Crisis: A Record of the Darker People* (1910-1934), the monthly publication of the NAACP, Du Bois’ vision was quickly absorbed by tens of thousands of readers around the country and the world. Beginning with publication of 1,000 copies of 1910 issues, in excess of 100,000 copies of *The Crisis* were sold by 1918.

Combined with his many national public speaking tours, and several trips abroad, Du

Bois helped build “the Association,” root and branch, into a national force for change.

Making Truth Reality

Blacks were lynched by the scores yearly, on a nationwide basis. And, as the Great War progressed so did the terror. Du Bois lamented about the year 1919: “During that year, 77 Negroes were lynched, of whom one was a woman and 11 were soldiers; of these, 14 were publicly burned, 11 of them being burned alive.”

Du Bois understood that the implications of scientific knowledge would require generations before its meaning would have practical effect upon social behavior, and upon federal law. Therefore, his democratic vision required political mobilization to turn scientific truth into political reality.

Though destroying the legal basis for white supremacy was the agreed upon outward goal, there still arose an internal conflict; a conflict over the means, the timetable, and the degree of acceptable compromise in accomplishing that goal, between the two schools of thought that guided the race.

By 1915, this disagreement between Du Bois and Booker T. Washington, the most powerful black leader of the time (and some would argue, of all time) came to an end with Washington’s death. Thus, by a 1925 vantage point, Du Bois is the greatest champion of (while at the same time locking horns with) the emerging group of young artists in the vanguard of the “New Negro” Arts Movement, now known as the Harlem Renaissance.

Arguing About Arts

The conflict centered on the propaganda potential of the arts in society.

Some scholars date the Movement’s beginning in 1921, when *The Crisis* published Langston Hughes’ poem, “A Negro Speaks of Rivers.” This flowering of black artistic expression in music, dance, theater, the visual and plastic arts, photography, and especially literature reflects a difference in concept more than a difference of generations.

Du Bois argued that the arts should be used to propagate the “explicit” idea of a co-equal black humanity, as an explicit

counter to the idea of white supremacy, rather than as the arts-for-arts-sake stance that the “Young Turks” demanded.

To illustrate his point, Du Bois wrote the novel “The Dark Princess,” the



Du Bois showcased “the condition of the Negro” via photos at the Paris Exhibition. SOURCE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

second of his five novels.

Yet, ever the champion of speaking truth of power, Du Bois took their vehement disagreement as a sign of an advancing democracy.

Lasting Legacy

Historians all agree that he left a lasting legacy in each of the following domains: scholarship, art, and activism. His most lasting legacy is his publications, including 22 single-authored books.

His other academic legacies include founding the sociology department at Atlanta University, as well as being the founding editor of the scholarly journal, *Phylon: A Quarterly Review of Race and Culture*.

In 1913, his colleague William Ferris made the following comment about Du Bois’ atypical place in our nation’s culture: “Du Bois is one of the few men in history who was hurled on the throne of leadership by the dynamic force of the written word...who leaped to the front as a leader and became the head of a popular movement through impressing his personality upon men by means of a book.”

His activist legacy, of course, includes the folding of his organization The Niagara Movement, into the founding membership of the NAACP, and *The Crisis Magazine*, arguably the most influential black news publication ever.

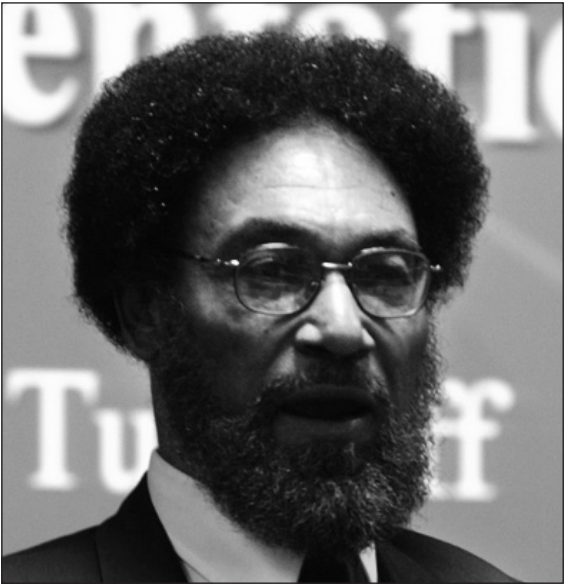
Victories came slowly, but most significantly, through a series of United States Supreme Court cases.

Two in particular confirmed the wisdom of employing the courtroom as a site for structural political change. First, was the case against the all-white primary election system in 1944. Prior to this case, in the solid democratic south, the Democratic Party was run as a “private club” that barred blacks from participation, really. A decade later, the 1954 Brown vs. the Board of Education case struck down the legal basis for white supremacy.



In 1905, W. E. B. Du Bois, middle row, second from the right gathered with other civil rights activists who were part of his Niagara Movement, a precursor to the NAACP. SOURCE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Charles Everett Pace



Now a full-time national Chautauqua scholar, Charles Everett Pace was a program advisor for the Texas Union, University of Texas at Austin. He also taught at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Purdue University, and Centre College of Kentucky.

Pace graduated from Texarkana Community College, The University of Texas at Austin (B.A. in Biology) and Purdue University (M.A. in American studies-history/anthropology).

Pace and George Frein gave the keynote address at the final Presidential debate between Senators John McCain and Barack Obama at Hofstra University on Long Island, New York. Pace was also featured as W.E.B. Du Bois in 2012 at the third Presidential Debate between President Obama and Governor Mitt Romney, also held at Hofstra University.

A 17 year veteran of The Great Plains Chautauqua, Pace has also conducted U. S. Government

Public Diplomacy Missions in 25 cities and nine countries across Africa. He does Chautauqua presentations on Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, W. E. B. Du Bois, Langston Hughes and Malcolm X.

His extensive Chautauqua work provides the background for his latest work in “Taking the Lead: Creative Leadership Training for Today’s Students.”

In 2009, Pace as Du Bois was the featured presenter at the 100th Anniversary of the founding of *The Crisis Magazine*. *The Crisis*, the official journal of the NAACP was founded and edited by Du Bois in New York City. This event was held at the *New York Times* building and was sponsored by the national office of the NAACP.

Charles Everett Pace is a Silver Life Member of the NAACP, travels nationally and lives in Texarkana, Texas.



EDITH WHARTON:

Brilliant light in the Roaring Twenties

By Karen Vuranch

Edith Wharton once said, “There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.”

Wharton truly did shine brilliantly. Even in her own day, according to biographer Connie Nordhielm Wooldridge, she was thought to be the most accomplished and admired American writer of the times.

She was the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize and her books became immediate bestsellers. However, besides her impact on the field of literature, Wharton was a powerhouse of relief activity during World War I, profoundly affecting her



Born into wealth, Wharton defied convention as an author and World War I social worker.

chosen community of Paris. Whatever Edith Wharton did, she shone with the bright luminosity of a candle.

Passion for Europe

Born into a wealthy New York society family, Wharton spent much of her childhood in Europe. As an adult, she divided her time between America and Europe, eventually settling in France.

Wharton passionately adored European architecture and gardens and wrote about these topics. She also created a stir in America with the first book she ever published, “The Decoration of Houses.”

Written with architect Ogden Codman, Jr., their book celebrated simplicity of design inside houses as well as out. The first edition sold out quickly and the book became a touchstone for a new de-

sign movement in America, according to biographer R.W.B. Lewis.

Prolific Author

So began Wharton’s illustrious career in writing, producing an impressive quantity and quality of work. Over her lifetime she published 23 novels, numerous short stories filling 18 volumes, and three volumes of poetry.

Additionally, she published non-fiction books including travelogues of her motor journeys through Europe, books on architecture and gardens and first-hand accounts of World War I. A dedicated professional, Wharton devoted every morning to her craft, writing at least two to three hours a day.

This commitment to a writer’s life did not come easy. Fashionable society of old New York did not approve of writers.

As she states in her autobiography, “I had to fight my way through a fog of indifference, if not tacit disapproval.”

Wharton was able to overcome that disapproval and establish herself as an acclaimed writer. According to biographer R.W.B. Lewis, she earned as much as \$200,000 a year from the sales of her books in the 1910s, a considerable income in those days.

Also, she was considered to be a significant American writer. She was a master of satire and irony. Many of her novels explored the issues of class and hypocrisy and women’s role in society.

Wharton’s fame was global; she was celebrated internationally as well as in America. In 1907, she established a home in Paris, moving there permanently in 1913 when her marriage to Teddy Wharton ended in divorce.

Committed to Serve

When the Great War began, Wharton immediately immersed herself in projects for the war effort.

One of her first initiatives was to begin a workroom for women refugees in Paris. Not thinking the war would last, she left the workroom in capable hands, to visit her friend Henry James for an extended stay in England.

It soon became apparent that the war would continue. Wharton could have stayed safely away from the war zone, but instead made her way back to Paris. For the remainder of the war, she would work tirelessly, helping refugees, wounded soldiers and many orphans.

Edith was good at raising money, but she also used her skills as a writer to help the war effort.

She edited a book of essays, poems and artwork from artists throughout Europe. All proceeds from “The Book of the Homeless,” published in 1916, went to support those directly affected by the war. The book featured prominent writers and artists of the day, including her dear friend Henry James. Still, more money was needed.

From the Trenches

Wharton made at least six expeditions to the front, touring war-torn villages, visiting soldiers in the trenches, gazing out on No Man’s Land.

Her purpose was to inform the American public, raise much-needed funds and encourage American involvement.

Her efforts resulted in numerous articles in American magazines and eventually a book, “Fighting France.”

The French revered her for her efforts and awarded her the Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor in 1916. This award was even more exceptional because, in that year, the French government had just decreed that it would grant no more awards to civilians or foreigners until the end of the war, according to R.W.B. Lewis. An exception was made for

Edith Wharton.

After World War I, Edith remained in Paris, to help with the rebuilding of her beloved France.

Her Need to Create

Several people have speculated that perhaps it was the war that gave Wharton purpose in life. But, she disputed that.

In her autobiography, “A Backward Glance,” Wharton acknowledged that there were many people who found themselves during the war. They were people “whose call of duty turned them from discontented idling into happy people with a purpose.”

She went on to say, “I cannot say that I was of that number. I was already in the clutches of an inexorable calling.”

Wharton said her charitable work was forced upon her by necessity, but her respite came when she was free to return to her own work.

Indeed, one of her finest novels was written amidst war work. She was relentless in her dedication to her relief work and tours of the war zone, but needed the emotional release of writing.

In her autobiography, Wharton wrote, “Throughout my travels, when my mind was burdened with practical responsibilities and my soul was wrung with the anguish of war, I continued to have an intense desire to write and I was tormented by the need to create.”

Edith spoke of the dreadful realities of what she witnessed in the course of the war and how they all became “strangely injured.” She said that it was possible to bear the suffering because you knew you were doing all you could.

“But, for me,” she said, “I had to write. I wrote of what I saw, but I also began a new novel, ‘Summer.’ The work made my other

tasks lighter and was written amid a thousand interruptions. But, while the rest of my being was steeped in the tragic realities of war, the novel was written at a high pitch of creative joy.”

After the war, Wharton and others began the process of mourning. They mourned not only the loss of 9 million soldiers, but also grieved for what society had lost.

She began a novel about the world she had known before the war. ‘Age of Innocence’ won the Pulitzer Prize in 1921, and Wharton was the first woman to receive that honor.

Dismissed as Outmoded

Wharton continued writing through the decade of the 1920s. Sadly, while she had been considered to be a brave writer in her early days, taking chances and writing about real human experiences, by the 1920s, she was considered to be outmoded.

Contemporary writers such as T. S. Eliot and James Joyce looked upon her work as old-fashioned, according to Mary Carney. However, several Jazz Age writers still admired Edith Wharton.

In her autobiography she related a comical story of when F. Scott Fitzgerald came to visit, visibly nervous at meeting the great writer. In fact, Helen Killoran said



that Wharton’s novel “Glimpses of the Moon” was an important influence on Fitzgerald’s “The Great Gatsby.” But it was “Glimpses of the Moon,” that Carney states, “became identified as evidence of Wharton’s outmoded sensibilities and style,” despite its popularity and success at the time.

Perhaps Wharton is not considered as modern as the writers of the Roaring Twenties. Still, her work has lasted the test of time. She was certainly honored in her day, receiving both the Pulitzer and an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from Yale University in 1923, the first women to receive this honor.

Wharton continues to be read, and films have been made of her novels, including “Age of Innocence” and “Ethan Frome.” But, while she is celebrated as a novelist and writer, few Americans today know of her extraordinary effort during World War I and the light she spread in those desperate days.



Wharton novels have been popular adaptations for film and theatre. Actress Katherine Cornell portrayed Countess Ellen Olenska in a 1929 dramatization of “The Age of Innocence.”

SOURCE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Karen Vuranch



Karen Vuranch of West Virginia is a traditional storyteller, as well as a Chautauqua scholar.

She has toured nationally and internationally with her play “Coal Camp Memories,” based on oral history and chronicling a woman’s experience in the Appalachian coal fields. “Homefront” is a play based on oral history she collected about women in World War II.

Vuranch also recreates author Pearl Buck, labor organizer Mother Jones, humanitarian Clara Barton, Indian captive Mary Draper Ingles, Grace O’Malley, a 16th century Irish pirate, Wild West outlaw Belle Starr, television cook Julia Child, and pioneer/author Laura Ingalls Wilder. She has performed in a number of Chautauquas in West Virginia, Ohio, Oklahoma and Nevada, and in 2002 she participated in the Nu Wa Storytelling Exchange to China.

Vuranch is a faculty member at Concord University, teaching theater, speech and Appalachian studies. She is a freelance consultant for the Coal Heritage Highway Authority and is currently directing an oral history project.

She has an undergraduate degree from Ashland University in theater and sociology and a master’s

degree in humanities from Marshall University, with a major in American studies and a minor in Celtic studies. She has eight publications and has released two CDs of stories and a DVD of “Coal Camp Memories.”



The History of Chautauqua in Nebraska

Traveling Chautauquas in the late 19th and early 20th centuries brought the world to rural communities in Nebraska.

Chautauqua combined programs of political oratory and lectures about health, science, and the humanities with entertainment, such as opera singers and stage performances of Shakespeare. Audiences heard about national issues and discussed their views with their neighbors. For many rural Nebraskans, Chautauqua was the most important week of the year.

Blossoming in Nebraska

On June 26, 1883, the first Chautauqua program in Nebraska opened in Crete. In 1884 the Crete Chautauqua Association acquired 109 acres along the Blue River for two lecture halls, a dining hall, and 700 trees on site.

Trains brought culture-hungry participants from Wymore, Lincoln, and Hastings. One delegation traveled all the way from Chadron to live in the tent city and hear the 10-

day series of inspirational lectures, lantern-slide illustrated travelogues, and musical concerts. One day in 1888, 16,000 people attended the Crete Chautauqua, giving it the reputation of the greatest in the Missouri Valley.

The success of the Crete Chautauquas encouraged businessmen in Beatrice to start a similar enterprise in 1889. Other Chautauqua programs sprang up across the state.

Tent cities blossomed for week-long periods at Chautauqua. Some people camped while hundreds drove in, returning home to farm chores by night.

Chautauqua Circuits

At the turn of the 20th century, Chautauqua circuits were created. National Chautauqua promoters would roll into town, put up a big canvas tent, and overnight, towns would be transformed into bustling cultural centers.

Tent cities still appeared, but the Chautauqua circuits emphasized entertainment more than serious lectures or political debates.

In 1907, Kearney had its first Chautauqua circuit. According to Edna Luce’s “Chautauqua,” the 1907 circuit brought campers to Kearney who would “enjoy the week living the simple life mid the cool breezes and delightful shade of the park.” Locals gathered at Third Ward City Park to hear orators and such musical performances as the Williams’ Original Dixie Jubilee Singers.

According to a 1914 souvenir program, J.D. Reed, who hailed from Hastings, had “the vision and ideals that make for permanent Chautauquas.” At that point, the idea of Chautauqua appeared to be a permanent one and, for many years, Nebraskans statewide would pack the benches to participate in what Theodore Roosevelt called “the most American thing in America.”

World War Connection

At its peak, President Woodrow Wilson called the Chautauqua movement a major contributor to the war effort. Chautauquas presented military bands

and introduced wounded soldiers on the platform who told their stories to audiences otherwise limited to local papers and letters for updates on what they called “The Great War.”

Chautauquas were so popular that it was not uncommon for Lexington’s Charles F. Horner, co-founder of the Redpath-Horner Chautauqua Circuit, to book more than 60 shows in one season.

Chautauqua speakers included Teddy Roosevelt, Helen Keller, Mark Twain, Clarence Darrow, Carrie Nation, George Norris, and perhaps the most famous Chautauquan,

William Jennings Bryan, who presented his speech “Prince of Peace” more than 3,000 times.

Several factors led to the decline of traveling Chautauquas: greater mobility, radio and film entertainment, economic decline, and a change in national attitude.

Perhaps most significant was the radio, where news was quickly and directly broadcasted to the general public, making it possible to hear FDR’s “fireside chats,” the Metropolitan Opera, and radio shows like “Amos and Andy” from the comfort of one’s own living room.

Modern Chautauqua

Humanities Nebraska (HN) rekindled the tradition in 1984 with modern Chautauquas that use public forum and discussion to focus on a particular historical era or theme. For more than 30 years, HN has brought humanities-based Chautauqua programs to communities all across this great state.

Humanities Nebraska is honored to continue its Chautauqua tradition by partnering with the communities of Wayne and Sidney to present “World War I: Legacies of a Forgotten War” in 2018.



WWI Chautauqua Workshops

See schedule on back page for dates, times, and locations.

Literature of the World War I Era

Presented by Karen Vuranch

Many great works of literature came out of the World War I era. Explore excerpts from a number of works including “All Quiet on the Western Front,” “One of Ours,” “Farewell to Arms,” and “Son at the Front,” along with others from authors who wrote during the war or directly after the war. How did each author turn their war experiences into works that became beloved by readers both then and now? How did the views of the war change in the literature as time passed from the beginning of the war to the time after the war? How did these works help the country to deal with the aftermath of the war? What is their value for readers today?

Men of Bronze: Black Units in World War I

Presented by Charles Everett Pace

This workshop will introduce audiences to the story of the 369 Infantry Regiment, “The Harlem Hell-fighters,” one of the most decorated American fighting units in the War as well as discussing the role of African-American soldiers in the War. The 369th served with the French and spent 191 days under continuous fire, the longest stretch of any American regiment. Also discussed will be the contrast in how they were treated by the American High Command and the French High Command, as well as the French public.

Opposition to the Great War

Presented by A. Theodore Kachel

Not everyone shared in Wilson’s views regarding the war or politics. Whether it was William Jennings Bryan resigning in protest from the role of Secretary of State in 1915 (he later adjusted some of his views regarding the War), socialists like Eugene V. Debs who differed with Wilson politically, or pacifists that opposed violence in any circumstances, there were opponents to the Great War in many sectors of American society. What kind of response did the Wilson Administration have to these opponents? If action was taken against them, what kind of constitutional questions does that raise?

Picketing the President: U.S. Women’s Suffrage Protests in War Time

Presented by Helen Lewis

The issue of women’s suffrage was ongoing during the World War I era. How does a movement for domestic change continue through a world crisis and arguably gain ground? This workshop will look at the women’s suffrage movement during the time of World War I. It will also compare the strategies of leaders like Alice Paul and of Carrie Chapman Catt, exposing the risks and the reasons for protesting or not protesting for civil rights during war-time.

Post-War Relief Efforts & Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom

Presented by Helen Lewis

An examination of efforts by Herbert Hoover and other public figures to bring relief to war-torn Europe can generate audience reflection about international responsibility to help rebuild nations destroyed by war. Looking closely at the efforts of the Women’s International Congress at The Hague and the founding of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom after the Great War can raise awareness in the audience of the development of on-going peace efforts since the era of Jane Addams and Aletta Jacobs.

Religion in American Politics: From Bryan to Bush

Presented by A. Theodore Kachel

The emergence of a “religious right” especially in the Republican Party has raised many questions about the role of religion in America’s political life. We go ‘back to the future’ by looking at how Bryan was informed by his Protestant Evangelical faith to seek progressive reforms in his political campaigns and crusades. What is now seen as a religious vision that only leads to conservative economic and political movements found in Bryan just the opposite sense of what his religious faith demanded of him as a political leader. We will look at one of his most famous Chautauqua speeches, “The Prince of Peace,” to uncover how he made this turn from conservative faith to progressive politics.

Shadows of War: German-Americans in WWI

Presented by Paul Vickery

As World War I progressed, German-Americans found themselves often the target of scrutiny or discrimination here in the U.S. Why was this group targeted? What made German-Americans seem to be less loyal to the American/Allied cause? This workshop will look at the situation facing German-Americans in the U.S. and what kinds of anti-German sentiment were practiced in the United States. Also to be discussed is the changing relationship between Germany and the United States from the late 1800s until the U.S. enters the War and why German-Americans in particular were targeted.

Winning Hearts and Minds

Presented by Charles Everett Pace

Since George Creel, America’s chief war propagandist in World War I, began the official U.S. effort to use the arts and humanities to advance our national security interest we have developed a successful series of public programs devoted to “winning hearts and minds” among the domestic and foreign publics. How did Creel and others tap into engaging Americans’ “hearts and minds” in World War I and beyond? What methods of propaganda and persuasion were used in World War I and how did those methods change over time? How might we apply lessons learned from these endeavors to “win hearts and minds” in our on-going post 9/11 world? How has our connectedness in terms of information led to a sense of disconnectedness from our communities?

Women of World War I

Presented by Karen Vuranch


World War I was a brutal conflict in which many men faced danger and loss of life. But, there were many women who braved the dangers of the battlefield. From ambulance drivers to nurses to telegraph operators, women showed bravery in the face of danger during World War I. This PowerPoint workshop will explore the contribution of women during the first great international conflict. The workshop will incorporate historical photographs and will explore both women’s role on the battlefield as well as the relief efforts of women on the home front.

World War I: New Weapons, Old Tactics

Presented by Paul Vickery

World War I proved to be a war of transition in terms of the methods of war. The first battles looked more like conflicts from the 19th century, but as the War progressed new technologies were introduced. These new weapons were ahead of their time when those conducting the war continued to utilize past strategies of combat. This workshop explores the basics of trench warfare as well as new weapons like machine guns, improved rifles, aircraft, tanks, U-boats, and poison gas, among others.

Youth Chautauqua Camp



Presented by Ann Birney & Joyce Thierer of Ride Into History

*For children grades 4 through 8 • Registration required
This camp is offered free thanks to generous sponsors.*

Youth Chautauqua Camp provides students in 4th-8th grades the opportunity to become historians, researchers, scriptwriters and actors. The five-day camp allows each participant to identify and research a local historical figure who was impacted by World War One and portray that person under the tent on the final camp day at the Chautauqua evening presentation. The camp encourages students to uncover fascinating local stories and learn valuable research and performance skills in the process.

From farm to France: Thurow fought for freedom

Arnold H. Thurow was a young man who liked farming. He had gained some experience in that field—no pun intended—in northeastern Nebraska. In an interview with a family member, he said he worked on a farm near Pilger, NE, until the fourth of August, 1917. Then he went to a recruiter’s office in Norfolk, NE where he joined the Army. Presumably, Arnold must have been in the company of other young men. They were likely taken by a troop train to Camp Cody, New Mexico (near Deming).

Desert Training

Camp Cody was an Army training camp for the National Guard units from North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, and Minnesota. The camp was re-named shortly after the death of famous buffalo

hunter and showman William F. Cody (1846–1917), better known as Buffalo Bill Cody. Soldiers received basic training there before leaving for France to join the war. The different National Guard units together formed the 34th Infantry Division and were nicknamed the “Sandstorm Division,” a name based on the camp’s desert climate.

Strenuous Marching

In an interview, Arnold was asked what the hardest thing he had to do while at Camp Cody. He responded that making a training walk from Camp Cody to El Paso, Texas, and back with a “pack on our backs” was the most difficult. He said it was about 180 miles one direction. There was another such march, when the

men walked to Silver City, New Mexico, but that was about 50 fewer miles.

Ocean Crossing

Private Thurow said his time at Camp Cody came to an end on the 26th of August 1918. He and many new soldiers boarded a troop train that would transport them to Camp Dix, New Jersey (now Fort Dix).

They stayed at Camp Dix for about two weeks. At midnight on September 18, 1918, they were then taken to a pier in New York City.

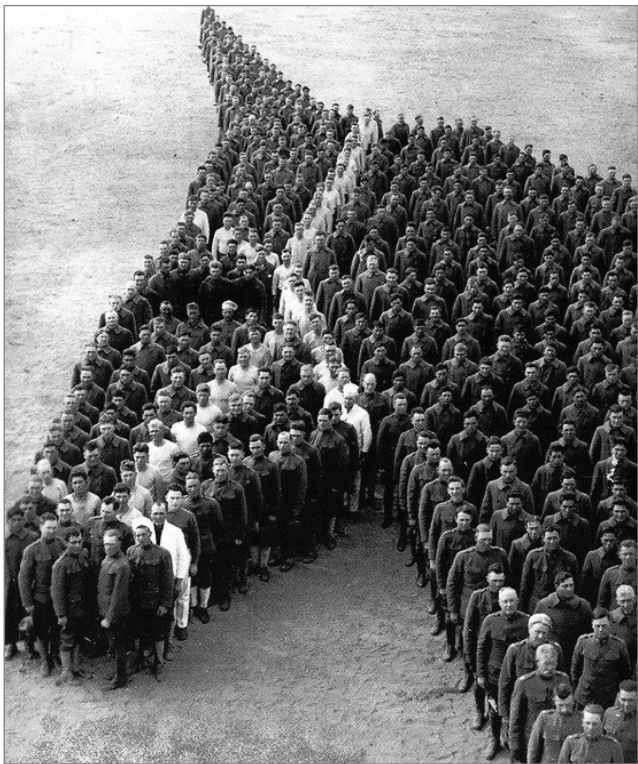
Private Thurow said he was with others when they boarded a smaller ship that carried them down the Hudson River at 0400 hours (4 a.m.). The short jaunt took them to another pier, where they boarded a ship, *the Cretic*, which was part of a convoy that would carry the men

across the Atlantic Ocean to Liverpool, England. Remembering that journey during his interview, Private Thurow said the trip lasted 13 days. From, Liverpool, the next stop was Winchester, England. In the fine mode of “hurry-up-and-wait”, the men remained here for about a week.

Finally Arriving

Boarding another ship, they sailed across the English Channel to Cherbourg, France. Cherbourg is on a peninsula of land at the northwest tip of France. Those familiar with World War II will note that Cherbourg was the site of a Battle during the Normandy invasion. It is very close to Utah Beach.

The men then were marched onto a train bound for Mesves-sur-Loire, a community that sits almost in the exact



Soldiers at Camp Cody during World War One

center of France. As noted on Wikipedia, during World War I, a field between the towns of Mesves-sur-Loire and Bulcy to the east was the site of a huge American Army hospital. As many

as 140,000 Americans were stationed in the area in 1918, so it had a major American presence. Private Thurow was part of the 6th Nebraska Infantry. He was soon transferred to Company F, 109th Engineers, 34th Division and added to the 13th Squad.

Weathering rain, snow

The young farmer’s opinion of France was influenced by the weather: He thought it rained or snowed too much of the time while he was there.

Like all soldiers serving in far and away places, he wanted to come home. He said he didn’t interact with the civilian people in the area unless someone from his unit stole one of their chickens or potatoes.

Private Thurow’s Company was inspected by General John J. “Black-jack” Pershing and an accompanying French General. He also saw future President Herbert Hoover, then head of the U.S. Food Administration, make a speech at a nearby cemetery.

As WWI came to a close, Private Thurow and his squad were taken to the French port of Saint Nazaire, where they boarded *the Pastores*. For the nine day return trip, the Private worked in the kitchen every other day.

He did comment on the food, saying the men were given about five boiled eggs a day. Of the five, typically two were found to have fetal matter and one was inedible, leaving two for eating. The bread served was good, however.

The *Pastores* landed at a harbor in New York. The men disembarked and were taken to Camp Mills, Long Island, New York.

Returning home

After a few days, Private Thurow was on another troop train, headed west. He got off at Des Moines, Iowa and Camp Dodge.

At Camp Dodge, Iowa, he was issued his discharge papers on July 2, 1919, 233 days after The Great War was ended. He was also provided with \$86 back pay and bonus.

Arnold Thurow began to make his way west again. On the 28th of July 1919, he was in Sidney, Nebraska and moving into a different life.

Several of Arnold Thurow’s children and grandchildren live in the area and provided information for this report.



HUMANITIES NEBRASKA

Inspiring and enriching the lives of Nebraskans since 1973

CAPITOL FORUM ON AMERICA’S FUTURE



High school students across the state study and discuss U.S. policy on climate change, trade, nuclear proliferation, immigration, and terrorism. In March, delegations meet at the State Capitol, where students have the chance to question state and national elected officials about global issues.

CHAUTAUQUA



In this 100th anniversary of the end of World War One, there is only one Chautauqua in the nation focused on the legacy of this largely forgotten war. Scholars portraying Woodrow Wilson, William Jennings Bryan, Jane Addams, W.E.B. Du Bois and Edith Wharton shed light on the long-term effects of the “Great War,” which still affect us today.

23RD ANNUAL GOVERNOR’S LECTURE IN THE HUMANITIES

Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author
JON MEACHAM
October 9, 2018 • Lincoln
Lied Center for Performing Arts



Jon Meacham will explore the watershed year of 1968 and its long-term effects after 50 years in a lecture that is free and open to the public.

GRANTS PROGRAM



Each year, Humanities Nebraska offers grants to non-profit organizations that produce public humanities programs and projects, in visual, verbal, electronic or live formats. Major grants (more than \$2,000) and media grants are awarded twice a year. Mini grants are awarded bi-monthly.

MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET



Nebraska is among the first states to host a new Smithsonian exhibition titled “Water/Ways.” This traveling museum exhibit celebrates water as an essential component of life, impacting each of us in ways simple and profound. It opens June 23 in Valentine and will journey to Broken Bow, David City and Holdrege in 2018.

PRIME TIME FAMILY READING TIME



This free, reading and discussion program helps under-served kids ages six to 10 who struggle with reading and their families. Through award-winning children’s books, kids learn to love reading, which causes measurably higher levels of academic achievement for a lifetime.

SPEAKERS BUREAU



More than 130 speakers offer hundreds of programs around Nebraska each year. There is a topic to suit any group, such as current global issues, world and state history, literature, art, music, and more. Speakers can be booked through HN for any school or other non-profit institution at HumanitiesNebraska.org.

PARTNERSHIPS



In collaboration with other organizations, HN supports even more humanities programming. Partnerships include National History Day: Nebraska, the Nebraska Literary Tour taking you to significant sites across the state, the Nebraska State Poet, Nebraska Warrior Writers, and Humanities Desk features on NET Radio.

Support Humanities Nebraska Nebraska Cultural Endowment

Humanities Nebraska funded programs in more than 150 communities last year, thanks to generous contributions from citizens like you. Please consider joining them in supporting HN’s many programs that enrich personal and public life by offering opportunities to thoughtfully engage with history and culture. To make a gift that will support HN programming, visit our website or pick up an envelope at our Chautauqua information table.

The Nebraska Cultural Endowment is pleased to be a partner with Humanities Nebraska and the Nebraska Arts Council in ensuring a lasting legacy of arts and humanities programs for all Nebraskans. Congratulations to HN for its 2018 Chautauqua season and best wishes to volunteers in Wayne and Sidney for making it possible. To become a partner in Nebraska’s cultural future, contact the Cultural Endowment at 402-285-2226 or info@nebraskaculturalendowment.org.

Schedule of Events

MONDAY, JUNE 11

1-5 p.m. Youth Chautauqua Camp,
Sidney Public Library
*Pre-registration required

TUESDAY, JUNE 12

1-5 p.m. Youth Chautauqua Camp,
Sidney Public Library

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13

1-5 p.m. Youth Chautauqua Camp,
Sidney Public Library
5:30 p.m. Ice Cream Social, Fort Sidney Museum
6:30 p.m. Meet the Chautauquans, Fort Sidney
Museum (Corner of 6th and Jackson)

THURSDAY, JUNE 14

10 a.m. "Women of WWI," Karen Vuranch
(Adult Workshop), Cheyenne County
Community Center
12 noon "Men of Bronze: Black Units in WWI,"
Charles Everett Pace (Adult Workshop),
Cheyenne County Community Center
1-5 p.m. Youth Chautauqua Camp,
Sidney Public Library
1:30 p.m. "Picketing the President" Helen Lewis
(Adult Workshop), Cheyenne County
Community Center
5:30 p.m. Food by Sidney Oktoberfest Committee,
Commons Area, Sidney High School \$
6:30 p.m. Local Entertainment, Performing Arts
Center, Sidney High School
7 p.m. Paul Vickery as President Woodrow
Wilson, Chautauqua Tent
7:30 p.m. An evening with William Jennings
Bryan (Ted Kachel), Performing Arts
Center, Sidney High School

FRIDAY, JUNE 15

10 a.m. "WWI Weapons," Paul Vickery
(Adult Workshop), Cheyenne County
Community Center
12 noon "Opposition to the Great War,"
Ted Kachel (Adult Workshop),
Cheyenne County Community Center
1-7 p.m. Youth Chautauqua Camp, Performing
Arts Center, Sidney High School
1:30 p.m. "Winning Hearts and Minds,"
Charles Everett Pace
(Adult Workshop), Cheyenne County
Community Center
5:30 p.m. Food by Cheyenne County 4-H,
Commons Area, Sidney High School \$
6 p.m. Youth Chautauqua presentations,
Performing Arts Center, Sidney High
7 p.m. Local Entertainment, Performing Arts
Center, Sidney High School
7:15 p.m. Paul Vickery as President Woodrow
Wilson, Performing Arts Center,
Sidney High School
7:30 p.m. An evening with Jane Addams, (Helen
Lewis), Performing Arts Center,
Sidney High School

SATURDAY, JUNE 16

10 a.m. "Post War Relief Efforts," Helen Lewis,
Cheyenne County Community Center
12 noon "German-Americans in WWI,"
Paul Vickery (Adult Workshop),
Cheyenne County Community Center
1:30 p.m. "Literature of the WWI Era,"
Karen Vuranch (Adult Workshop),
Cheyenne County Community Center
5:30 p.m. Food by Sidney Oktoberfest Committee,
Commons Area, Sidney High School \$
6:30 p.m. Aspen County Band, Performing Arts
Center, Sidney High School
7:15 p.m. Paul Vickery as President Woodrow
Wilson, Performing Arts Center,
Sidney High School
7:30 p.m. An evening with W.E.B. Du Bois
(Charles Everett Pace), Performing Arts
Center, Sidney High School

SUNDAY, JUNE 17

1:30 p.m. "Religion in American Politics: From
Bryan to Bush," Ted Kachel (Adult
Workshop), Commons Area, Sidney
High School
5:30 p.m. Food by Sidney Oktoberfest Committee,
Commons Area, Sidney High School \$
6:30 p.m. Local Entertainment, Performing Arts
Center, Sidney High School
7:15 p.m. Paul Vickery as President Woodrow
Wilson, Performing Arts Center,
Sidney High School
7:30 p.m. An evening with Edith Wharton
(Karen Vuranch), Performing Arts
Center, Sidney High School

Adult workshops are scheduled to last approximately one hour.
Visit www.NebraskaChautauqua.org for more information.

Welcome to the Sidney Chautauqua!

★ ★ ALL EVENTS FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ★ ★

Welcome to the Sidney Chautauqua 2018!

The Humanities Nebraska Chautauqua is coming to Sidney with the program theme of World War I: Legacies of a Forgotten War. This 4-day program will be taking place in various Sidney locations in Sidney from June 14th-17th, with the kickoff the evening of June 13th at the Ft. Sidney Museum.

At the kickoff you will have the opportunity to meet the Chautauquans, watch a Flag Ceremony and enjoy an ice cream social. This is also a great opportunity to learn more about Sidney's history with a tour of the Ft. Sidney Museum and Post Commander's Home.

During the June 14-17th Chautauqua events you'll have the opportunity to learn from scholars during daytime programs being offered at three different times throughout the day. Evening programs will entertain you with dignitaries of the time period, including the most astounding, President Woodrow Wilson. You won't want to miss any of the scheduled events! Playing the roles of these prominent individuals of the day, learned scholars will be available (both in and out of character) to inform you and answer your questions about a fascinating time period that had a tremendous impact on the 20th century.

From picketing the President to advocating for Women's Suffrage to Prohibition, explore the many roles that women played during this fascinating time period. Review the politics, the propaganda, the literature, and the social and economic trends of the period. Learn about America's leanings toward isolationism and resistance to entering WWI. You might be surprised to learn about the many decisions made during WWI that affect global decisions we make even today.

In addition to the day and evening programs, Youth Chautauqua Camp will be taking place for children in the 4th-8th grade. This program will include research on local history and residents of Cheyenne County, with a community presentation on Friday evening. During the program the Youth Chautauquans will portray their characters as they tell their personal story.

All these exciting programs are made possible by Humanities Nebraska and the generous financial and volunteer support of the communities within Cheyenne County. We've worked hard to make this an experience you won't want to miss. Please put June 13th through the 17th on your calendar now.

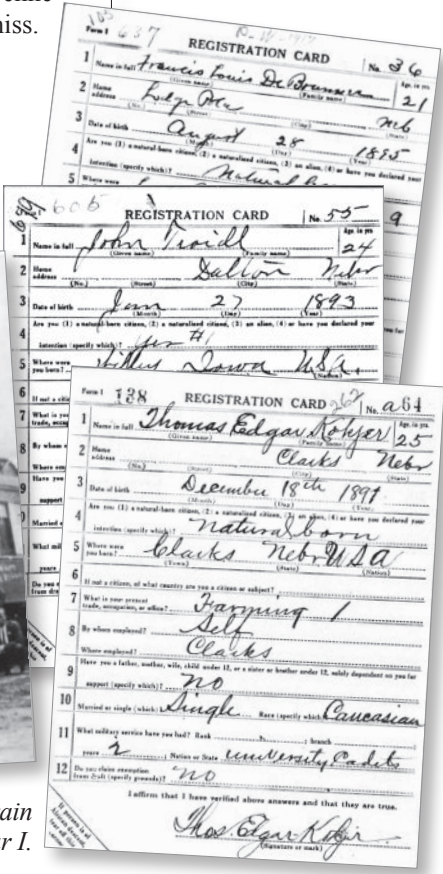
For complete information and a full schedule, search on Facebook for Sidney Chautauqua: World War I or visit NebraskaChautauqua.org.

We'll see you in June!

Chautauqua Planning Committee
Sidney Chautauqua 2018



Cheyenne County men prepare to board a train to serve in Europe during World War I.



Please Help Us Thank These Generous Contributors:



Sidney Fox Theatre

Cheyenne County
Historical Association



Thanks also go to the many generous donors and volunteers whose names were not available at press time. Without your help, this wonderful event could not have happened.

PRESENTED BY:



Try the mobile-friendly agenda at NEChautauqua.org —convenient schedule information on your mobile device.

Our thanks to *The Scottsbluff Star-Herald* for printing this special edition of *The Chautauqua Reader* in cooperation with *The Sidney Sun-Telegraph*.