

THE CITIZEN'S
HANDBOOK
CIVICS IN ACTION



The Citizen's Handbook: Civics in Action
Edited by Bethany Poore

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www.notgrass.com
books@notgrass.com

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The Citizen's Handbook

INTRODUCTION

These readings represent civics in action.

The ideas, laws, procedures, and systems of government that are discussed in these pages are not just theories—they live every day in every American town. Laws are passed which give people more freedom or less. People write to their Senators and Congressmen and influence real issues. Citizens vote, most of whom would not have had that freedom at previous times in our history. The procedures for becoming an American citizen are a framework for changed lives and new hopes. Government leaders are real people with ideas, failings, friends, families, and dreams for our country. The people they lead look to them as examples and depend on them to perform their duties with integrity. Government makes a difference in your life. It is an essential way we all interact with each other as Americans.

All the action, give-and-take, opinions, plans, and memories in these pages represent our government at work in everyday life. American government is not something trapped in marble statues, penned on fading documents, stuck in black-and-white photographs, or hidden in dusty books. The American government has a pulse. We see and feel that pulse when Congress votes on an important bill, when the President holds an emergency meeting with his Cabinet, when Supreme Court justices read late into the night to understand a case, when judges administer the oath of office, when government employees listen to people explaining their problems at length over the telephone, when a custodian at the Smithsonian unlocks the front doors in the morning, when a Glacier National Park ranger drives through the wilderness in a jeep, when citizens line up on a cold Tuesday morning in November to cast their votes, when a mayor opens a new school building, when jurors give up their daily responsibilities for the sake of justice, when men in orange vests repair the Interstate, when firemen jump off their cots to respond to a bell in the middle of the night, when policemen cruise downtown to keep an eye on things, and when far out in a distant ocean U.S. sailors raise the Stars and Stripes on a cruiser. Our government is living, breathing, changing, and always moving.

I hope the varied readings in this volume give you a greater respect and appreciation for the people that make our system of government work and for the key role you play in the life of the United States of America.

Bethany Poore



THE CITIZEN'S HANDBOOK

INCLUDES THESE TYPES OF ORIGINAL SOURCES:



**Journals, Memoirs,
& Biographies**



Documents



**Newspaper &
Magazine Articles**



Virtue Stories

Poems



Songs



Letters



Speeches



My Country 'Tis of Thee

Samuel F. Smith



Samuel F. Smith wrote the following reply to an inquiry about the origins of his song, "America," commonly known as "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

Newton Centre, Massachusetts, June 5, 1887

Mr. J. H. Johnson:

Dear Sir: The hymn "America" was not written with reference to any special occasion. A friend (Mr. Lowell Mason) put into my hands a quantity of music books in the German language early in the year 1832—because, as he said, I could read them and he couldn't—with the request that I would translate any of the hymns and songs which struck my fancy, or, neglecting the German words, with hymns or songs of my own, adapted to the tunes, so that he could use the music. On a dismal day in February, turning over the leaves of one of these music books, I fell in with the tune, which pleased me—and observing at a glance that the words were patriotic, without attempting to imitate them, or even read them throughout, I was moved at once to write a song adapted to the music—and "America" is the result. I had no thought of writing a national hymn, and was surprised when it came to be widely used. I gave it to Mr. Mason soon after it was written, and have since learned that he greatly admired it. It was first publicly used at a Sabbath school celebration of Independence in Park Street Church, Boston, on the 4th of July, 1832.

Respectfully,
S. F. Smith.

My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing.
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From every mountain side
Let freedom ring!

My native country! Thee—
Land of the noble free,—
Thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills
Like that above.



Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees
Sweet freedom's song.
Let mortal tongues awake;
Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break,—
The sound prolong.

Our fathers' God, to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King!



Letter to Mrs. Abraham Lincoln Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass was born a slave and escaped to freedom. He became a well-known speaker and writer against slavery. Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln became friends during the Civil War.

Rochester, N.Y. August 17, 1865

Mrs. Abraham Lincoln:

Dear Madam: Allow me to thank you as I certainly do thank you most sincerely for your thoughtful kindness in making me the owner of a cane which was formerly the property and the favorite walking staff of your late lamented husband—the honored and venerated President of the United States. I assure you, that this inestimable memento of his presidency will be retained in my possession while I live—an object of sacred interest—a token not merely of the kind consideration in which I have reason to know that the President was pleased to hold me personally, but as an indication of his humane interest [in the] welfare of my whole race.

With every proper sentiment of Respect and Esteem,

I am, Dear Madam, your obedient,

Frederick Douglass



Frederick Douglass



Mary Lincoln

Remembering Mr. and Mrs. Madison

Paul Jennings



Paul Jennings was born a slave on James Madison's estate in 1799. He worked as Madison's personal attendant and went to Washington, D.C., with the Madisons during their presidential years. After James Madison's death, Senator Daniel Webster purchased Paul Jennings' freedom, which Jennings paid back in work. Later, Paul Jennings worked in the Pension Office of the Department of the Interior. There he met a fellow employee named John Brooks Russell who was fascinated by Jennings' recollections of the Madisons. He published Jennings' stories in a magazine in 1863, and they were later published as a book titled A Colored Man's Reminiscences of James Madison. (At the time, "colored" was a polite way to refer to African Americans, though it is no longer.) These excerpts are from Jennings' book.



James Madison

About ten years before Mr. Madison was President, he and Colonel Monroe were rival candidates for the Legislature. Mr. Madison was anxious to be elected, and sent his chariot to bring up a Scotchman to the polls, who lived in the neighborhood. But when brought up, he cried out: "Put me down for Colonel Monroe, for he was the first man that took me by the hand in this country." Colonel Monroe was elected, and his friends joked Mr. Madison pretty hard about his Scotch friend, and I have heard Mr. Madison and Colonel Monroe have many a hearty laugh over the subject, for years after.

When Mr. Madison was chosen President, we came on and moved into the White House; the east room was not finished, and Pennsylvania Avenue was not paved, but was always in an awful condition from either mud or dust. The city was a dreary place.

Mr. Robert Smith was then Secretary of State, but as he and Mr. Madison could not agree, he was removed, and Colonel Monroe appointed to his place. Dr. Eustis was Secretary of War—rather a rough, blustering man; Mr. Gallatin, a tip-top man, was Secretary of the Treasury; and Mr. Hamilton, of South Carolina, a pleasant gentleman, who thought Mr. Madison could do nothing wrong, and who always concurred in every thing he said, was Secretary of the Navy.

. . . Mrs. Madison was a remarkably fine woman. She was beloved by everybody in Washington, white and colored. . . . In the last days of her life, before Congress purchased her husband's papers, she was in a state of absolute poverty, and I think sometimes suffered for the necessaries of life. While I was a servant to Mr. Webster, he often sent me to her with a market-basket full of provisions, and told me whenever I saw anything in the house that I thought she was in need of, to take it to her. I often did this, and occasionally gave her small sums from my own pocket, though I had years before bought my freedom of her.



Dolley Madison

Mr. Madison, I think, was one of the best men that ever lived. I never saw him in a passion, and never knew him to strike a slave, although he had over one hundred; neither would he allow an overseer to do it. Whenever any slaves were reported to him as stealing or "cutting

up” badly, he would send for them and admonish them privately, and never mortify them by doing it before others. They generally served him very faithfully.

. . . I have heard Mr. Madison say, that when he went to school, he cut his own wood for exercise. He often did it also when at his farm in Virginia. He was very neat, but never extravagant, in his clothes. He always dressed wholly in black—coat, breeches, and silk stockings, with buckles in his shoes and breeches. He never had but one suit at a time. He had some poor relatives that he had to help, and wished to set them an example of economy in the matter of dress. He was very fond of horses, and an excellent judge of them, and no jockey ever cheated him. He never had less than seven horses in his Washington stables while President.

. . . After Mr. Madison retired from the presidency, in 1817, he invariably made a visit twice a year to Mr. Jefferson—sometimes stopping two or three weeks—till Mr. Jefferson’s death, in 1826.

I was always with Mr. Madison till he died, and shaved him every other day for sixteen years. For six months before his death, he was unable to walk, and spent most of his time reclined on a couch; but his mind was bright, and with his numerous visitors he talked with as much animation and strength of voice as I ever heard him in his best days. I was present when he died. That morning Sukey brought him his breakfast, as usual. He could not swallow. His niece, Mrs. Willis, said, “What is the matter, Uncle James?” “Nothing more than a change of mind, my dear.” His head instantly dropped, and he ceased breathing as quietly as the snuff of a candle goes out. He was about eighty-four years old, and was followed to the grave by an immense procession of white and colored people. The pall-bearers were Governor Barbour, Philip P. Barbour, Charles P. Howard, and Reuben Conway; the two last were neighboring farmers.



Montpelier, the Home of the Madisons

White House Menus



Here are examples of menus served at the White House.

**Everyday menu served in the
Truman White House
Thursday, October 16, 1947**

Luncheon

Hot Bouillon
Melon Ring Salad
(Filled with Bing Cherries)
Melba Toast
Half Grapefruit

Dinner

Minted Orange Cup
Broiled Lamp Chops
Buttered Peas
Buttered Carrots
Curled Celery
Assorted Olives
Baked Apples

**Stag Dinner for
Prince Charles Regent of Belgium
Hosted by Harry S. Truman
Tuesday, April 6, 1948**

Oysters on Half Shell Saltines

Clear Soup
Fairy Toast
Curled Celery Assorted Olives

Broiled Red Snapper
Sour Cream Cucumbers Dinner Rolls

Roast Stuffed Turkey
Giblet Gravy Cranberry Sauce
Casserole of Sweet Potatoes
Asparagus Glazed Carrots

Tomato Aspic Cheese Sticks

Ice Cream Molds Sponge Drops

Demitasse

**State Dinner
for Chancellor
Helmut Schmidt
of West Germany
Hosted by Jimmy Carter
July 13, 1977**

Chilled Crab Gumbo
Cheese Straws

Glazed Virginia Ham
with Brandied Peaches
Corn Pudding
Green Squash

Bibb Lettuce Salad
Sharp Cheddar Cheese

Lemon Chiffon Pie

Demitasse

**State Dinner for David Cameron,
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and
Northern Ireland and Samantha Cameron
Hosted by Barack Obama
March 14, 2012**

Crisped Halibut with Potato Crust
Shaved Brussels Sprouts,
Applewood Smoked Bacon

Spring Garden Lettuces,
Shallot Dressing, Shaved Breakfast Radish,
Cucumbers and Avocados

Bison Wellington
Red Wine Reduction, French Beans,
Cipollini Onion

Warm Meyer Lemon Steamed Pudding
with Idaho Huckleberry Sauce
and Newton Pippin Apples



Kentucky's New State Capitol Building Dedicated at Frankfort

This article appeared in The Citizen newspaper of Berea, Kentucky, on June 2, 1910, the day Kentucky's current state capitol was dedicated.

New Building Formally Opened With Elaborate Program—Three Addresses Are Delivered At the Dedication Exercises

Frankfort—Every true Kentuckian viewed with heart full of pride the dedication of the new state Capitol, for the Capitol building of this grand old commonwealth is one of the finest in the United States and stands as a monument to the honesty and integrity of the people who made it possible.

The national commission, composed of Governor A. E. Willson, Treasurer E. Parley, Auditor Frank P. James, Secretary of State Bruner and Attorney General Breathitt, arranged the dedication exercises. United States Senator William O. Bradley delivered the principal address, and short talks were made by Gov. Willson, former Gov. J. C. W. Beckham and Mayor James H. Polagrove, mayor of Frankfort.

Following the formal exercises the building was opened for inspection by the public. Gov. Willson and the other state officials received during the evening in the governor's reception room.

The members of the 1910 general assembly were all present and the majority of the members of the general assemblies of 1906 and 1908 who appropriated the money for the erection of the building were also present to rejoice with the citizens that so great a work has been accomplished and that no taint of corruption attaches.

. . .The grounds surrounding the Capitol were not entirely completed, but the visitors got a fairly good idea of the beauty of the approach to the building when completed.

Kentucky's New State Capitol Building Dedicated at Frankfort

New Building Formally Opened With Elaborate Program—Three Addresses Are Delivered At the Dedication Exercises—Some Historical Kentucky Facts.

President—Every true Kentuckian viewed with heart full of pride the dedication of the new state Capitol, for the Capitol building of this grand old commonwealth is one of the finest in the United States and stands as a monument to the honesty and integrity of the people who made it possible.

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KENTUCKY'S HANDSOME NEW STATE CAPITOL BUILDING AT FRANKFORT. Dedicated June 2, 1910.

INSIDE VIEW NEW STATE CAPITOL BUILDING FROM HALL OF THE HOUSE TOWARD THE SENATE CHAMBER.

A. E. WILLSON, GOVERNOR OF KENTUCKY.

WILLSON AND GOVERNOR BREATHITT (left) with other members of the national commission at the dedication of the new state capitol building at Frankfort, Ky., June 2, 1910.

ANDREW HOLMES (left) JAMES LEVY'S HOUSE, FRANKFORT, KY., DEDICATED TO THE AS THE STATE TEMPORARY STATE HOUSE.

. . .The new Capitol building, grounds, electric light plant, landscape gardening and other improvements will cost when completed two and a half million dollars, and there has never been the least suspicion of graft connected with the work.

The building of a new state house commensurate with the wealth and dignity of the Commonwealth had long been considered and discussed at many sessions of the General Assembly, but it was not until 1894, under the administration of Gov. Beckham, that an appropriation of one million dollars was made to begin the work.

The commission . . . together with Architect F. M. Andrews, decided that the grounds occupied by the old state house were not large enough, or that its location in the center of the city was not a suitable place for the new building.

Accordingly, in 1905, Gov. Beckham convened the legislature in extraordinary session to consider the matter of a new location. After some weeks' consideration it was decided to purchase a new site at the extreme south limit of South Frankfort, about a mile from the old, and an appropriation was made to buy the forty or more acres selected.

Ground was broken for the new building in 1906, and the magnificent building was completed and occupied in less than four years. It is one of the most complete and convenient Capitol buildings in the country, many persons who are familiar with public buildings throughout the United States pronounce it without a superior for the purpose for which it was erected.

. . . The various offices for the departments are commodious and convenient. Nothing that would conduce to the dispatch of business or the comfort of the officials seems to have been overlooked or neglected. After many years of wishing and waiting those who have felt a pride in Kentucky's wealth and greatness are rejoiced that she is no longer ashamed to invite a stranger to visit her Capitol.



Kentucky State Capitol



Circular Letter to the State Governors

George Washington

After America won the Revolutionary War, General George Washington thought he had accomplished his duty of service to his country. He looked forward to retiring to his beloved home at Mount Vernon near present-day Washington, D.C. He didn't know that he would soon be called upon to spend several more years away from home, serving the United States of America as its first President. As he made plans to resign and retire to his home after the war, he wrote a long letter to be sent to the Governor of each state. Washington was concerned about the infant country and knew that the cooperation of all the states was essential to its success. From his position of respect and influence, he addressed his concerns and advised leaders in each state on what was needed from them in the coming days. Cooperation of state Governors in what is best for the whole country is something we take for granted today, but the leadership and spirit of unity shown by state Governors and legislators is a key part of what keeps our country running smoothly. Excerpts of Washington's letter are below, with his own capitalizations.

Head Quarters, Newburgh, June 14, 1783

Sir:

The great object for which I had the honor to hold an appointment in the Service of my Country, being accomplished, I am now preparing to resign it into the hands of Congress, and to return to that domestic retirement, which, it is well known, I left with the greatest reluctance, a Retirement, for which I have never ceased to sigh through a long and painful absence, and in which (remote from the noise and trouble of the World) I meditate to pass the remainder of life in a state of undisturbed repose; But before I carry this resolution into effect, I think it a duty incumbent on me, to make this my last official communication, to congratulate you on the glorious events which Heaven has been pleased to produce in our favor, to offer my sentiments respecting some important subjects, which appear to me, to be intimately connected with the tranquility of the United States, to take my leave of your Excellency as a public Character, and to give my final blessing to that Country, in whose service I have spent the prime of my life, for whose sake I have consumed so many anxious days and watchful nights, and whose happiness being extremely dear to me, will always constitute no inconsiderable part of my own.

Impressed with the liveliest sensibility on this pleasing occasion, I will claim the indulgence of dilating the more copiously on the subjects of our mutual felicitation. When we consider



Washington Resigning His Commission in the Army

the magnitude of the prize we contended for, the doubtful nature of the contest, and the favorable manner in which it has terminated, we shall find the greatest possible reason for gratitude and rejoicing; this is a theme that will afford infinite delight to every benevolent and liberal mind, whether the event in contemplation, be considered as the source of present enjoyment or the parent of future happiness; and we shall have equal occasion to felicitate ourselves on the lot

which Providence has assigned us, whether we view it in a natural, a political or moral point of light.

. . . There are four things, which I humbly conceive, are essential to the well being, I may even venture to say, to the existence of the United States as an Independent Power:

1st. An indissoluble Union of the States under one Federal Head.

2dly. A Sacred regard to Public Justice.

3dly. The adoption of a proper Peace Establishment, and

4thly. The prevalence of that pacific and friendly Disposition, among the People of the United States, which will induce them to forget their local prejudices and policies, to make those mutual concessions which are requisite to the general prosperity, and in some instances, to sacrifice their individual advantages to the interest of the Community.

. . . I have thus freely disclosed what I wished to make known, before I surrendered up my Public trust to those who committed it to me, the task is now accomplished, I now bid adieu to your Excellency as the Chief Magistrate of your State, at the same time I bid a last farewell to the cares of Office, and all the employments of public life.

It remains then to be my final and only request, that your Excellency will communicate these sentiments to your Legislature at their next meeting, and that they may be considered as the Legacy of One, who has ardently wished, on all occasions, to be useful to his Country, and who, even in the shade of Retirement, will not fail to implore the divine benediction upon it.

I now make it my earnest prayer, that God would have you, and the State over which you preside, in his holy protection, that he would incline the hearts of the Citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to Government, to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another, for their fellow Citizens of the United States at large, and particularly for their brethren who have served in the Field, and finally, that he would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all, to do Justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that Charity, humility and pacific temper of mind, which were the Characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed Religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy Nation.



Six of the State Governors in Office in 1783 (from left to right): Benjamin Harrison V of Virginia, John Dickinson of Pennsylvania, John Hancock of Massachusetts, William Paca of Maryland, Lyman Hall of Georgia, and George Clinton of New York.



When the Cows Come Home

Agnes E. Mitchell

Agnes E. Mitchell, a minister's wife, wrote this poem while she was living in Louisville, Kentucky. It was published in The Humbler Poets, an 1899 collection of poetry that appeared in newspapers and magazines between 1870 and 1885.

With klinge, klange, klingle,
'Way down the dusty dingle,
The cows are coming home;

Now sweet and clear, now faint and low,
The airy tinklings come and go,
Like chimings from the far-off tower,
Or patterings of an April shower
That makes the daisies grow;
Ko-ling, ko-lang, kolingleingle
Far down the darkening dingle,
The cows come slowly home.

And old-time friends, and twilight plays,
And starry nights and sunny days,
Come trooping up the misty ways
When the cows come home,
With jingle, jangle, jingle,
Soft tones that sweetly mingle—
The cows are coming home;

Malvine, and Pearl, and Florimel,
DeKamp, Red Rose, and Gretchen Schell.
Queen Bess and Sylph, and Spangled Sue,
Across the fields I hear her "loo-oo"
And clang her silver bell;
Go-ling, go-lang, golingledingle,
With faint, far sounds that mingle,
The cows come slowly home.

And mother-songs of long-gone years,
And baby-joys and childish fears,
And youthful hopes and youthful tears,
When the cows come home.
With ringle, rangle, ringle,
By twos and threes and single,
The cows are coming home.

Through violet air we see the town,
And the summer sun a-sliding down,
And the maple in the hazel glade
Throws down the path a longer shade,

And the hills are growing brown;
To-ring, to-rang, toringleringle,
By threes and fours and single,
The cows come slowly home.

The same sweet sound of wordless psalm,
The same sweet June-day rest and calm,
The same sweet smell of buds and balm,
When the cows come home.
With tinkle, tankle, tinkle,
Through fern and periwinkle,
The cows are coming home.

A-loitering in the checkered stream,
Where the sun-rays glance and gleam,
Clarine, Peach-bloom and Phebe Phillis
Stand knee-deep in the creamy lilies,
In a drowsy dream;
To-link, to-lank, tolinkleinkle,
O'er banks with buttercups a-twinkle,
The cows come slowly home.

And up through memory's deep ravine
Come the brook's old song and its old-time sheen,
And the crescent of the silver queen,
When the cows come home.
With klinge, klange, klingle,
With loo-oo, and moo-oo and jingle,
The cows are coming home.

And over there on Merlin Hill
Sounds the plaintive cry of the whip-poor-will,
And the dew-drops lie on the tangled vines,
And over the poplars Venus shines,
And over the silent mill.
Ko-ling, ko-lang, kolingleingle,
With ting-a-ling and jingle,
The cows come slowly home.

Let down the bars; let in the train
Of long-gone songs, and flowers, and rain;
For dear old times come back again,
When the cows come home.

**Aim for the Stars:
The Story of Shirley Ann Jackson**
Bethany Poore



When freshman Shirley Ann Jackson stepped out of the lonely quiet of her dorm room she was surprised to find the hallway outside crowded with young women. Students leaned against the wall, sat cross-legged facing each other, or lay stretched out on their stomachs. Shirley heard the cheerful hum of many conversations happening at once. Textbooks and papers were scattered everywhere on the floor. Pencils whispered across notebook pages slowly solving problems. Foreheads were knitted. Erasers scratched back and forth. Friendly faces shared smiles as lightbulbs of understanding went off.

When Shirley got back from the bathroom, she gathered up the homework from her desk and stepped back to the inviting camaraderie of the hallway. She was excited to know that at her college there were study groups like the ones she had enjoyed in high school. She walked up to a group of girls and asked, "May I join you?"

A girl glanced up at Shirley and said, "Go away."

Stunned, Shirley told them, "Well, I've, I've done half the problems, and I think the answers are right, and I think I know how to do the other half . . ."

Another girl looked coldly up at Shirley. "Didn't you hear her? She said, 'Go away.'"

Shirley turned, walked back into her room, and closed the door. Tears came. Shirley cried quietly by herself for a long while. Then she told herself, well, you still have to finish your physics homework. Sniffing, she got through the set of physics problems.

Why did the girls keep Shirley out of their study group? When she would join a group at a table for lunch, some people would get up even though they weren't finished. If she sat at an empty lunch table, it would tend to stay empty. In her classes, no one would sit in the desks next to hers. Why?

Shirley Ann Jackson was born on August 5, 1946, in Washington, D.C. She was the second of four children. Her family lived in a quiet neighborhood with lots of children to play with. Shirley and her sister and brother went to school, played and learned at home, did chores around the house, and attended Vermont Avenue Baptist Church with their parents. They were a close, loving family.

Shirley's father, George, worked as a supervisor in the postal service. He had wonderful abilities in math, mechanics, and engineering. He was a veteran of World War II and received special honors for devising a safer steering mechanism for an Army vehicle. As a father, he amazed his children with the math problems he could do in his head. He also modeled for them an unending love of learning. He helped Shirley and her younger sister, Gloria, build wooden go-carts to race with other neighborhood children. Shirley had some of her first lessons in physics figuring out which parts and design would make the fastest go-cart on the block.

Shirley's mother, Beatrice, was a social worker. She worked in a home for children with mental handicaps. Beatrice loved books and read to her children every night. She taught each of them to read before they went to kindergarten. Shirley shared her mother's love of books

and spent a lot of time at the library. She would check out the maximum number of books to take home and read.



One of Shirley's favorite books was a biography of Benjamin Banneker who lived from 1731 to 1806. He was the son of a former slave and learned clock-making, astronomy, and mathematics. In the early days of the United States, Benjamin Banneker helped survey and plan Shirley's hometown, Washington, D.C. Like her hero, Shirley Ann Jackson was an African-American who refused to believe that prejudice could prevent her from doing great things. George and Beatrice Jackson gave their children the support and encouragement to reach their full potential. George liked to tell his children to "aim for the stars."

Shirley was an exceptionally bright student. Her teachers had to give her extra work so she wouldn't get bored in school. She loved her high school math classes and her teacher, Mrs. Marie Smith. Mrs. Smith was also African American and was an inspiration to Shirley as well as a wonderful teacher. Mrs. Smith was passionate about math as a way of seeing the world and making sense of it. Shirley Jackson shared her special teacher's passion.

One of the principals at Shirley's high school suggested that she go to college at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, one of the top schools in the world for the sciences. With two major scholarships and financial help from her church and her parents, Shirley arrived at MIT in September 1964. Out of about 900 students in her freshman class, only 43 were women. And there was only one other female African American student.

Shirley excelled in her college classes as she had in school. At MIT, she was able to delve into her favorite subjects and discover new realms of science. But living day by day with the prejudices of students and even teachers meant that MIT was not a warm, welcoming home for Shirley. For strength and support, she had to seek more than what the MIT community was willing to give her. In the quiet of her dorm room, Shirley often read the Bible. She found friendship with African American women from other universities in the area. She spent weekends with their families that lived in Boston. She volunteered in the children's ward of the Boston City Hospital. She tutored high school students in math and science at the YMCA.

As Shirley approached graduation from MIT, she knew she wanted to continue her education in graduate school. She applied to several different universities and was accepted by all of them. In April of 1968, she visited the University of Pennsylvania at the invitation of the graduate school. She saw the campus and met the physics research staff. As Shirley rode to the airport to fly back to Boston, she heard terrible news on the radio: Martin Luther King Jr. had been shot and killed. When Shirley was in high school, King had delivered his most famous speech, "I Have a Dream," in her hometown of Washington D.C. Suddenly, he was gone, and his dream that his children, "will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color



MIT Campus

of their skin but by the content of their character,” was left in the hands of those whom he had taught. Shirley was deeply shaken at the news.

By the time Shirley got back to her dorm room at MIT, she had decided where she would attend graduate school. She would stay at MIT to carry on Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream, working to make it a better place for minority students. When she began graduate school in the fall of 1968, she got right to work—studying theoretical physics and taking action to help other young minority scientists have more opportunities and a better experience at MIT.

Shirley Ann Jackson’s perseverance paid off. She was the first African American woman to receive a Ph.D. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her parents, sister Gloria, and her high school math teacher, Marie Smith, were there to watch her become Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson.

Shirley Ann Jackson has worked at many important jobs in the field of physics. She has worked for large companies and taught at the university level. In 1985 the governor of New Jersey asked her to be a founding member of the New Jersey Commission on Science and Technology. The purpose of the commission was to increase research and investment in scientific areas that would help the New Jersey economy. She served under three different Governors for a total of ten years. In 1994 President Bill Clinton asked Shirley Ann Jackson to become the first woman and the first African American to chair the Federal government’s Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The NRC is responsible to make sure that nuclear power plants across the country are safe and nuclear materials are handled properly. Her knowledge of science and experience in many types of work helped her succeed in this important government position. In 1999 Shirley Ann Jackson became the president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, one of the United States’ oldest universities that focuses on science and engineering.

When Shirley Ann Jackson faced cruel rejection when she asked to study with her classmates, simply because of the color of her skin, she had to choose how she would respond. She could have shown cruelty in return. She could have harbored anger and bitterness. She could have left MIT, saving herself the pain and letting the prejudiced students win. But she believed in another way. When she was a girl, her father taught her, “You can’t control everybody else, and you can’t control the world and everything that happens, but you can have your greatest control—and certainly your greatest influence—by how you control yourself.” Shirley Ann Jackson responded with perseverance. That perseverance opened for Shirley a world of opportunities and a chance to make a difference. She has given many students the gift of knowledge in math and science, developed technologies that impact daily life, made the world safer, and helped give other minority scientists the chance to dream. All because she refused to give up.



Shirley Ann Jackson at Rensselaer



The First Long Distance Telephone Call

Thomas A. Watson

Thomas A. Watson (1854-1934) was Alexander Graham Bell's assistant. Together they experimented, struggled, and succeeded in inventing the telephone. On October 17, 1913, Thomas A. Watson gave a speech entitled, "The Birth and Babyhood of the Telephone" at the Third Annual Convention of the Telephone Pioneers of America. As he began his speech, he said, "I shall ask you . . . to be indulgent if I show how proud and glad I am that I was chosen . . . to be the associate of Alexander Graham Bell, to work side by side with him day and night through all these wonderful happenings that have meant so much to the world." In the following portion of the speech, Watson describes the first long distance telephone call, made by Bell in Boston to Watson in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He refers to the newly invented telephone as "the baby."

Progress was rapid, and on October 9, 1876, we got ready to take the baby outdoors for the first time. We got permission from the Walworth Manufacturing Company to use their private [telegraph] wire running from Boston to Cambridge, about two miles long. I went to Cambridge that evening with one of our best telephones, and waited until Bell signaled from the Boston office on the Morse sounder. Then I cut out the sounder and connected in the telephone and listened. Not a murmur came through! Could it be that, although the thing worked all right in the house, it wouldn't work under practical line conditions? I knew that we were using the most complex and delicate electric current that had ever been employed for a practical purpose and that it was extremely "intense," for Bell had talked through a circuit composed of 20 or 30 human beings joined hand to hand. Could it be, I thought, that these high tension vibrations leaking off at each insulator along the line, had vanished completely before they reached the Charles River?

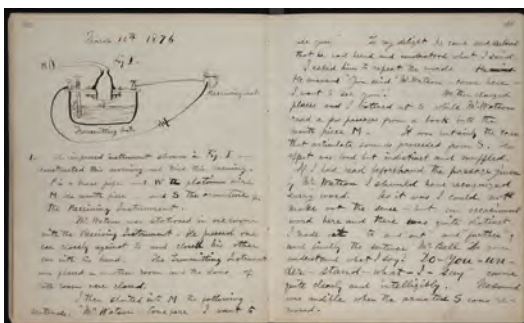


Thomas Watson

That fear passed through my mind as I worked over the instrument, adjusting it and tightening the wires in the binding posts, without improving matters in the least. Then the thought struck me that perhaps there was another Morse sounder in some other room. I traced the wires from the place they entered the building and sure enough I found a relay with a high resistance coil in the circuit. I cut it out with a piece of wire across the binding posts

and rushed back to my telephone and listened. That was the trouble. Plainly as one could wish came Bell's "ahoy," "ahoy!" I ahoyed back, and the first long distance telephone conversation began.

Skeptics had been objecting that the telephone could never compete with the telegraph as its messages would not be accurate. For this reason Bell had arranged that we should make a record of all we said and heard that night, if we succeeded in talking



Bell's Laboratory Notebook About the Development of the Telephone

at all. We carried out this plan and the entire conversation was published in parallel columns in the next morning's *Advertiser*, as the latest startling scientific achievement. Infatuated with the joy of talking over an actual telegraph wire, we kept up our conversation until long after midnight. It was a very happy boy that traveled back to Boston in the small hours with the telephone under his arm done up in a newspaper. Bell had taken his record to the newspaper office and was not at the laboratory when I arrived there, but when he came in there ensued a jubilation and war dance that elicited next morning from our landlady, who wasn't at all scientific in her tastes, the remark that we'd have to vacate if we didn't make less noise nights.



Bell (front right) and Watson (behind him) celebrate the 40th anniversary of the telephone at the home of the National Geographic Society.



The House by the Side of the Road

Sam Walter Foss

This is a favorite American poem by New Hampshire native Sam Walter Foss (1858-1911). Foss authored many poems in his lifetime, published in newspapers and magazines and collected into volumes. Foss was a journalist with several Massachusetts newspapers and served as the librarian of the Somerville Public Library of Somerville, Massachusetts, from 1898 until his death.

There are hermit souls that live withdrawn
In the peace of their self-content;
There are souls, like stars, that dwell apart,
In a fellowless firmament;
There are pioneer souls that blaze their paths
Where highways never ran;
But let me live by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.

Let me live in a house by the side of the road,
Where the race of men go by,
The men who are good
 and the men who are bad,
As good and as bad as I.
I would not sit in the scorner's seat,
Or hurl the cynic's ban;
Let me live in a house by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.

I see from my house by the side of the road,
By the side of the highway of life,
The men who press with the ardor of hope,
The men who are faint with the strife.
But I turn not away
 from their smiles nor their tears,
Both parts of an infinite plan;
Let me live in my house
 by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.

I know there are brook-gladdened
 meadows ahead
And mountains of wearisome height;
That the road passes on
 through the long afternoon
And stretches away to the night.
But still I rejoice when the travelers rejoice,
And weep with the strangers that moan.
Nor live in my house by the side of the road
Like a man who dwells alone.

Let me live in my house
 by the side of the road
Where the race of men go by;
They are good, they are bad,
 they are weak, they are strong,
Wise, foolish—so am I.
Then why should I sit in the scorner's seat,
Or hurl the cynic's ban?
Let me live in my house
 by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.



New York Subway Opened

This article about the opening of New York City's famous subway appeared in the Daily Capital Journal of Salem, Oregon, on October 27, 1904. The New York subway is now managed by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, a corporation chartered by the state of New York for the public benefit. MTA is a network of buses, subways, and commuter railways that serves a population of 15 million people. MTA's bus fleet is the largest in the nation, and it has more subway and rail cars than all the rest of the nation's subways and commuter rails combined. This mass transit system saves 17 million metric tons of pollutants, which would be emitted if MTA's 2.5 billion annual passenger-trips were taken by car.



The Rapid Transit Railway, the subway, as it is popularly known, and the most colossal undertaking of its kind in the world's history, was formally opened today with imposing ceremonies. The exercises took place under the point auspices of the Interborough company and the board of aldermen. In City Hall Park, where the great downtown terminal is located, and where the first spadeful of earth was turned, the principal ceremonies of the day took place shortly before noon. The park and city hall were lavishly decorated.

Bishop Potter opened the ceremonies with prayer, and was followed by an address by Alexander E. Orr, president of the Rapid Transit commission, who turned the subway over to the city. Mayor McClellan accepted the trust, and then turned the road over to August Belmont, president of the Interborough Company, who also made a brief address. Archbishop Farley closed the ceremonies.

At 1 o'clock the first train was started over the road, operated by Mayor McClellan in person. Bands of music were stationed at all the principal stops along the route. Included among the passengers on the first train were the city officials, officials of the Interborough Company, a large party of distinguished engineers and other invited guests. Promptly at midnight the road will be opened to the general public. That part of the road that will be operated for the present includes the whole of the main line from City Hall Park to the Harlem River to traffic within a month or so, and also the east side branch to the Bronx.

The great subway today consists of 21 miles of railroad under the city's teeming streets. The actual work of construction has taken just four years and the cost has exceeded \$50,000,000. When the entire system is complete it will enable one to travel from the limits of Brooklyn to the northernmost end of Manhattan entirely underground.

A dazzling array of facts and figures tell the story of the building of the mammoth underground road. For instance, more than



3,000,000 cubic yards of dirt and rock were blasted and dug from the streets of the crowded city. To tear away the rock, 900,000 pounds of dynamite were used. Eleven thousand men were employed in the work

It is estimated that the road will carry 115,000,000 passengers a year. The fare is 5 cents. When the extension to Brooklyn, under the East River, has been completed, it is estimated that the road will carry 200,000,000 passengers a year.

Express trains will run through the subway at the rate of a mile a minute for the benefit of the long hauls from the Bronx to the busiest sections of the city below Fourteenth Street. Local trains will stop at all of the underground stations, every half dozen blocks along the route. The tunnel is ventilated by a system of electric fans, and illuminated the entire route by incandescent lights.



A trip through the great tunnel is all that is necessary to convince one of its entire security. White enameled bricks wall up the sides to a bricked arch overhead. Everything else is of stone and steel and heavy plate glass at the stations to let the light in from the street overhead. It would seem impossible for a disaster to occur where everything is as new and strong and perfect, apparently, as it is within the power of man to contrive. The pneumatic block system is pronounced by experts to be the most wonderful thing of its kind in the world, and it is calculated to make collisions impossible.

The cars have steel bottoms, copper-sheathed sides, and there is very little wood in their construction. The lighting system is entirely separate from the power plant that will move the trains by means of the third rail.

The route of the main line is up Fourth Avenue to Forty-Second Street, then up Broadway until One Hundred and Fourth Street is reached. There it branches into two sections. The first continues straight out Broadway to Kingsbridge, a distance of more than 14 miles from Battery Park. The second section runs east, cutting off a solid rock corner of Central Park, then north through Lenox Avenue and on to the borough of the Bronx.

My Father Theodore Roosevelt

In this excerpt from Theodore Roosevelt's autobiography, he recalls his father's acts of kindness and service in their community. Roosevelt's description of a man as a "Bull Mooser" refers to the Progressive (or Bull Moose) political party, which Theodore Roosevelt supported at the time he wrote his autobiography.



My father worked hard at his business, for he died when he was forty-six, too early to have retired. He was interested in every social reform movement, and he did an immense amount of practical charitable work himself. He was a big, powerful man, with a leonine face, and his heart filled with gentleness for those who needed help or protection, and with the possibility of much wrath against a bully or an oppressor. . . . When in the city on Thanksgiving or Christmas, my father was very apt to drive my mother and a couple of friends up to the racing park to take lunch. But he was always back in time to go to the dinner at the Newsboys' Lodging-House, and not infrequently also to Miss Sattery's Night School for little Italians.



Theodore Roosevelt Sr.

At a very early age we children were taken with him and were required to help. He was a staunch friend of Charles Loring Brace, and was particularly interested in the Newsboys' Lodging-House and in the night schools and in getting the children off the streets and out on farms in the West. When I was President, the Governor of Alaska under me, Governor Brady, was one of these ex-newsboys who had been sent from New York out West by Mr. Brace and my father.

My father was greatly interested in the societies to prevent cruelty to children and cruelty to animals. On Sundays he had a mission class. On his way to it he used to drop us children at our Sunday-school in Dr. Adams's Presbyterian Church on Madison Square; I remember hearing my aunt, my mother's sister, saying that when he walked along with us children he always reminded her of Greatheart in Bunyan. Under the spur of his example I taught a mission class myself for three years before going to college and for all four years that I was in college. I do not think I made much of a success of it. But the other day on getting out of a taxi in New York the chauffeur spoke to me and told me that he was one of my old Sunday-school pupils. I remembered him well, and was much pleased to find that he was an ardent Bull Mooser!

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