throughout the country, Lincoln County was ready to do its part in the war effort. On April 19, 1917, the women of North Platte organized a Red Cross chapter and began making bandages and creating care packages.

On November 11, 1918, the end of the war was announced. The original North Platte Canteen served more than 100,000 World War I servicemen. The legacy of the seven women who served during World War One was inscribed on a ‘Welcome Home Arch’ on the north end of Dewey Street, with the name of every Lincoln County man who served during World War One.

**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’s vision for the war against Imperial Germany.

Though thousands of 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 new national identities in the wake of the war.

On September 1919, having served 313,190 troops. The legacy of the seven women who served during World War One and the countless donations by Lincoln County citizens eventually served as the seed for the greatest volunteer effort of World War Two, the famous North Platte Canteen.

World War One became a turning point for the United States. Though it embraced isolationism after the war, the world now wanted American products and money. The ‘Roaring Twenties’ were about to begin.
Wilson's own modern liberalism furnished the ideological foundation for his new foreign policy, which historians have labeled as “liberal internationalism” or “Wilsonianism.” He envisaged a new world order that would preserve the peace by pre- venting future aggression across national borders. Wilson gave top priority to the creation of this new League at the Paris Peace Conference of 1919.

It promised what was to become the ideological foundation for a new world order that emerged as the League of Nations. Wilson said the new League would replace the old world order that relied on balance of power to prevent wars; the member states of the League would guarantee the national security of all members without having to maintain large armies or navies.

Self-Determination

A second tenet of Wilsonianism was the notion of national self-determination, affirming both state sovereignty and democracy.

As historians have noted, 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, Austrian-Hungarian, and Ottoman empires in Europe and the Middle East. While proclamations of self-determination as a universal principle, Wilson hesitated to promise this right to all peoples throughout the world. He felt only nations that had achieved a mature level of political development could be entrusted to self-government.

International Trade

Wilson’s vision of a liberal democratic world order favored an “Open Door” in international commerce and finance as well as in travel and cultural exchange. He wanted to guarantee free trade and investment across national borders for open diplomacy to make international transacciones.

Progressive History

The final underlying tenet of Wilsonianism that underpinned the progressive history. In Wilson’s view, world history revealed a progressive pattern of development in all aspects of life as progressive peoples worked toward greater maturity over time.

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Ideological Framework

Despite the resistance to this new world order, 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 wrote that this vision of the world was elevated to a place of influence and power which it can get by commercial rivalry, it can get by the notion of national self-determination without the support of other nations.

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Wilsonianism was the ideology of American exceptionalism, and believed the world was safe for democracy required the global triumph of American civilization.

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 the idea of an all mankind. We did set this Government up in order to protect the individual and the collective, for we are now ready to continue your year’s assurance and fight out upon the field of the world the cause of the common people.

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

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

By Paul Vickery, Ph.D.

“We kept out of war,” claimed the slogan that won the 1914 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 bloodshed and disbestial of all wars. Civilization itself seeming to be in the balance.”

What caused Wilson to change from maintaining strict neutrality in joining the Allies against the Hun? Party splitting voters between Roosevelt and Taft, Wilson became President in 1912. As the first southerner since Andrew Johnson, and the only Democrat to win the national election since 1856, Wilson immediately appointed Democrats to key federal agencies. With his party in control of Congress, Wilson pushed his progressive policies, including the formation of the Clayton Anti-Trust Act, the Federal Reserve Act, and with the passage of the Sixteenth Amendment, an income tax. Despite these three 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 months later, Wilson, believing that belligerents were squandering the trip to Washington to face both an election year and the world’s problems. Because of its ferocity, horrendous casualties, and the 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. de- parted from Europe’s problems. It was not to be.

On May 7, 1915, a German submarine sank the Lusitania cruise liner. Out of 1,917 passengers and crew, 1,195 lost their lives, including 128 Americans. Realizing the普法尔战争, Woodrow Wilson became President in 1912. As the first southerner since Andrew Johnson, and the only Democrat to win the national election since 1856, Wilson immediately appointed Democrats to key federal agencies. With his party in control of Congress, Wilson pushed his progressive policies, including the formation of the Clayton Anti-Trust Act, the Federal Reserve Act, and with the passage of the Sixteenth Amendment, an income tax. Despite these three domestic accomplishments, foreign policy marked his administration most profoundly.

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On May 7, 1915, a German submarine sank the Lusitania cruise liner. Out of 1,917 passengers and crew, 1,195 lost their lives, including 128 Americans. Realizing the war, Wilson asked for Congressional support for a declaration of war. America’s entry into the war was 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 signed a treaty with Germany for a large number of troops and supplies in the Western Front. Yet the American effect came slowly. Treaty Troubling

In the decisive battle of Argonne Forest in France, at least 1.2 million dough-boys participated in crush- ing the German Hinden- burg Line. On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month, Ger- many signed the armistice. Peace broke out. In all, 4.4 million Americans were mobilized and 320,000 killed or wounded. Ger- many 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 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 hope- ful yet naive vision for world peace and includ- ed the formation of the League of Nations. To present his case, and to urgently attend the conference in Paris. First, however, he would need to convince his hero’s welcome. The Euro- pean people loved him. The allied leaders, however, did not share Wilson’s idealism. They wanted revenge.

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

Although Wilson rec- ognized the vindictive na- ture of the treaty and the dilution of most of his Fourteen Points, he ac- cepted it with the League of Nations.

Discouraged, Debilitated

Stateside, Wilson still needed congressional ap- proval. Presidents negoti- ated treaties, but the Senate confirmed them. Wilson had devised the treaty without Republican help. The Republican- controlled Senate rejected the treaty, believing it forfeit- ed too much U.S. auto- nomy to the League. Despite counter proposals, Wilson refused to compromise, believing he could capture public support.

Beginning a twelve city, 3,500-mile trip, Wil- son desperately tried to sway public opinion, but the strain on the President began to show. His head- aches and high blood pres- sure worried his doctor and Edith. After a nursing speech in Pueblo, Colorado, he suffered a debilitating stroke and became paral- yzed on his left side.

With Edith largely in charge of presidential du- ties, Wilson, disappointed, dejected, and spent all the last months of his pres- idency largely isolated from the public.

Paul Vickery

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

In 2006, Vickery published “Bartolome de las Casas: Great Prophet of the Americas,” with Paulust Press, one of the leading Catholic academic publishers. In addition, in 2010, he published “Washington: A Legacy of Leaders,” and in 2011, “Jackson: The Iron-Willed Leader.” Both are part of The Generals se- ries by Thomas Nelson. He has also published in graduate journals. Paul has traveled extensively in Europe and Latin America. As a member of the Mediterra- nean Studies Association, he has presented ac- cademic papers at universities in six countries. Vickery also is a destination lecturer for cruise ships around the world.
William Jennings Bryan: The Great Commoner’s call: “Let the people rule!”

By A. Theodore Kachel, Ph.D.

William Jennings Bryan was born March 19, 1860 in Salem, Illi- nois. When he realized there was little chance of getting into politics in his home state, he moved to Nebraska in 1887 where he was elected Congress- man three years later. He was a three-time Presidential nominee of the Democratic Party. In 1896, he was the youngest to throw his hat into the race, and is still the young- est ever to run, at 36 years old. He ran in 1900 and 1908.

Today, Bryan is best remembered in the public’s mind through a distorted historical portrait found in the popular play and movie, Inherit the Wind. The script was based on the Scopes Trial in 1925 where Bryan successfully opposed the teaching of evolution in Tennessee’s public schools.

On stage, the character representing Bryan is portrayed as an almost comical religious fanatic who dramatically dies of a “busted belly” while attempting to deliver his sermon in a choric courtroom. In reality, Bryan was a passionate

Protestant but also a thoughtful, educated man who died peacefully in his sleep the day after the trial. During his lifetime, only the men who came before him were as well known or perhaps as effective in shaping the direction of American life through political and legal change as Bryan. Yet now he is the largely forgotten man of this pe- riod in American political and cultural history.

Two Famous Speeches

Bryan earned—and enjoyed—the nickname “The Great Commoner” in defense of his standing as an orator. Two major speeches bracket Bryan’s public career, one given the other only weeks before and two warring powers to prevent further blood- shed. When Congress did declare war on Germany, Bryan immediately off- ered his service to Wilson in whatever capacity he wished in the American war effort. After our troublesome

Some political schol- ars say that outside of the Supreme Court itself, Bryan had probably changed the U.S. Constitu- tion more than any other single American politician, including presidents. In Wilson’s Cabinet

President Wilson re- garded Bryan with ap- proach, it was finally put to another close associate. Bryan chose the State Department after Wilson agreed that Bryan, a life- long teetotaler, would not have to taste 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 prove successful for that constitu- tional change. Bryan served Wilson energetically at the State Department. He was ac- tively 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 Inter- national Arbitration Agreements with the ma- jor world powers of that day. These presented a formula for resolving dis- putes between nations without resorting to mili- tary force through the In- ternational 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 be- cause of Wilson’s move to favor Britain in its dis- putes with Germany. Bryan was attacked as a German sympathizer, but he only wished for an im- partial and neutral stance by America between these two warring powers to prevent further blood- shed. When Congress did declare war on Germany, Bryan immediately of- fered 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 prin- ciple and public policy disagreement exhibits a statesman’s candid integrity rather than the usual censure that inhibits such actions by today’s political elite.

Democratic Faith

So, why was Bryan lost to our political memory?

As a “passionate pro- gressive conservative” he was a genuine paradox for later political commenta- tors and scholars. As con- cern for minority rights and religious freedom grew, our legal system has moved to trust procedures and de- liberative 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. Communities can only rule through force, so “Let the People Rule!”
Like other educated, middle-class girls who chose not to marry, Jane Addams struggled for many years to discover her path to a productive and useful service to others. As a founder of a settlement house, educator, author, labor agitator, peace advocate, and suffragist, Addams promoted publicly her inter- pretation of democratic ideals, while maintaining a lifestyle that modeled her beliefs.

Born in Cedarville, Ill., 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 life.

Finding Direction
Upon leaving 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 offering possible career choices for women who had had few opportunities to develop public lives.

Concerned for her neighbors' needs for education, recreation, childcare, and medical service, Addams established Hull House’s many programs at Hull House to benefit 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.

JANE ADDAMS: Activist who championed human dignity

By Helen Lewis

Championing Peace
Furthermore, between her involvement with Hull House and her work for labor unions and suffrage, Addams became a leading champion for world peace.

She published numerous articles and books about the issues important to her, including efforts to end warfare.

Addams' deep concern for the unflinching support of what she believed remain quite applicable today: Her stories about actual individuals and their intimate struggles make her prose memorable.

Her concrete, highly accurate portrayals of individuals and their actions give her words even more power. Whether, for example, an expression of autobiography or passion. Whether in her treatise on Hull House or her history: “Peace and Bread in a Forgotten War.”

Ironically, Addams' fierce devotion to the “morality of one” never stopped her from engaging in political activity for all. But Addams always questioned when her ideas were met with scorn, she describes this audience. Nor did she ever cease to use her public opinion to dissuade her readers to a logical stance based upon social de- pressed, regardless of gender, racial, or intellectual discrimination.

Typically, Addams objectively clarifies all viewpoints regarding an issue, such as an international conflict. She then guides readers to a logical stance based upon social de- pressed, regardless of gender, racial, or intellectual discrimination.

Throughout her life, Addams wrote a great deal of her stories about actual individuals and their actions. Her words give her words even more power. Whether, for example, an expression of autobiography or passion. Whether in her treatise on Hull House or her history: “Peace and Bread in a Forgotten War.”

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

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


Besides bringing Addams to many humanities events, Lewis has also portrayed Nebraska’s own Grace Abbott—“Lewis from 2002. Lewis earned a B.A. in English Literature from Wil- lacy from Nebraska State University. The Nebraska State University. The Nebraska State University. The Nebraska State University. The Nebraska State University.

League for Peace and Freedom. Addams opposed child labor, lynching, and chan- tity. She supported trades unions, the NAACP, and peace movements.

Resolving Injustice
Wherever Jane Addams saw injustice—physical or moral—she carefully con- sidered 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 be- came a co-recipien- t of the Nobel Peace Prize. This was an affirmation that her chosen path, although marked with crit- icism, had remained the right choice for humanity. From her establishing Hull House to her death at age 84, 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.

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

Du Bois used scholarship, activism, and art to build an international 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), working alone and in concert with an international group of scholars, used social science to demonstrate the scientific basis for the idea of white supremacy.

Proving Science Wrong

Du Bois and a coalition of black scholars published groundbreaking research that convinced art critics that race was socially constructed and not biologically determined as science at that time asserted. His publication, The Philadelphia Negro (1899), and the yearly series he edited, The Atlanta University Studies (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 photography] showing the condition of the Negro for the Paris Exposition which gained a Grand Prize. The organization came to be known as the American Negro Association for the Advancement of Science in 1900 and I 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 emerging 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 Race (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 its first issue in 1910, 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, the national force for change.

Making Truth Reality

Blacks were lynched by the scores yearly, on a frightening scale of violence. As he informs us in The Crisis: A Record of the Darker Race: “During that year, Negroes were lynched, of whom one woman and 11 were sold as slaves. Fifteen were public- ly burned, 11 of them being burned alive.”

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

Throughout de-stocking the legal basis for violence, the NAACP was the agreed upon method. Du Bois was one who then arose an internal conflict; a conflict of the timetables, and the unacceptably acceptable compromise in accomplishing that goal between the two schools of thought that guided the race.

By 1915, this disagreement with Booker T. Washington, and Booker T. Washington—now, the most powerful black man in the United States (and some would argue, of all time) came to an end.

Thus, by a 1925 vintage point, Du Bois was the greatest leader of the time at the same time locking horns with the emerging group known as the “New Negro” Arts Movement, most notably as the Harlem Renaissance.

Arguing About Arts

The conflict centered on the perception of the potential of the arts in society. Some scholars date the Movement’s beginning in 1921, when The Crisis published Langston Hughes’ “The Negro Speaks of Rivers.” This flowering of black artistic expression was caused by the triumph of dance, theater, the visual and plastic arts, photography, and especially literature reflecting a difference in concept more than a difference of generation.

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 national myth of white supremacy, rather than as the arts for-arts-sake. 

Du Bois wrote the novel “The Dark Princess,” the second of his five novels. Yet, even the champions of speaking truth to power, Du Bois took their cause as a sign of an advancing democracy.

Lasting Legacy

Historians all agree that he left a lasting legacy in each of the following domains: art, activism, and activism. His most lasting legacy is his book publication, of speeches, and photography. He founded the sociology department at Harvard University, and served as the founding editor of the scholarly journal, Phylon, Quarterly Review of Race and Culture.

In 1913, his colleague, W.E.B. Du Bois, the most important black scholar in the nation’s culture, wrote the following comment about Du Bois’ apocalyptic place in our nation’s culture: “Du Bois is one of the few men in history who was hurt on the federal court and became the head of a popular movement.”

Victories came slowly, but most significantly, through the founding of the NAACP. This organization directly challenged the doctrine of white supremacy and the segregation laws that sprang from it. This in turn, triggered the national force for change.

In 1954, W.E.B. Du Bois, alongside two second from the right gathered with other arts rights activists who were part of this Movement, a prizewinner of the Nobel Peace Prize, was presented with the Nobel Peace Prize. Charles Everett Pace was a program advisor at the 100th Anniversary of the founding celebration of the NAACP via photos at the Peace Exhibition.

By Charles Pace


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 Varunch

When Edith Wharton once said, “There are two ways to spread light: to light the candle or the mirror that reflects it,” she was 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 power of influence as her motor journeys through Europe, books on architecture and gardens, and her 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 until the end of her life.

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.

When Wharton passionately adored European architecture and gardens and wrote about these topics, she also created a stir in America with her first book, 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 design movement in America, according to biographer R.W. 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 essays, short stories, travelogues, and 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. In 1916, A Red地处rosed Predicament appeared, a master of satire and irony.

Edith Wharton

Wharton was an American writer, social critic, and cultural observer who is generally ranked among the most important American novelists of the 19th and 20th centuries. She is best known for her novels, such as The House of Mirth (1905) and The Age of Innocence (1920), which are considered masterpieces of American literature.

Edith's work explores themes of class, gender, and the American conscience. She employed her background as a socialite and hostess to gain access to the high society of New York City and beyond, allowing her to observe and comment on the behavior of the wealthy and influential.

Her works are characterized by their sharp wit, psychological insight, and critical view of society. Wharton was a pioneer in writing that focused on psychological realism, and her novels often explored the inner lives of her characters.

Wharton's writing also reflects her deep interest in the history and culture of Italy, where she lived and worked for many years. Her novels, such as The Age of Innocence and The House of Mirth, are set in Europe and the United States, and her works often draw upon Italian art and architecture.

In her autobiography, Wharton wrote, “I had to fight my way through a fog of indulgence, if not tactless abandon.”

Her activity during World War I, profoundly affecting her chosen community of Paris. Whatever Edith Wharton did, she shone brilliantly. Even in the candle or the mirror of spreading light: to beilluminate the war zone, but need- ed the emotional release of creative joy. She had a novelist and writer, few could overcome that disapproval to fight my way through those desperate days.

The Chautauqua Reader

Wharton novels have been popular adaptations for film and theater. Actress Katherine Cornell portrayed Countess Ellen Olenska in a 1927 dramatization of "The Age of Innocence." Wharton continued writing the decade through the 1920s. Sadly, while she had been considered by her peers to be a brave writer in her early days, taking chances with writing about real human experiences, by the 1920s, she was considered outdated.

Contemporary writers such as T. S. Eliot and F. Scott Fitzgerald speculated that perhaps number. She was already in the catch of an inex- table-able climate. Wharton said her charac- teristic work was forced upon her by the war’s recapitulation, her novel was written amid a thousand interruptions. But, while she was considered a novelist and writer, few were aware of her extraordinary eff- ort during World War I and the light she spread in those desperate days.

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Karen Varunch

Karen Varunch 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 Chautauqua in the late 19th and early 20th centuries brought the world to rural communities in Nebraska. Chautauqua combined programs of political, poetic, and literary lectures and authored works, as opera singers and stage performances of Shakespeare. Many heard about national issues and discussed their views with others from many rural Nebraskans, Chautauqua was the most important week of the year. 

Blossoming in Nebraska

On June 26, 1883, the first Chautauqua program 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. Tours brought culture-hungry participants from Wymore, Lincoln, and Hastings. Open to all, Chautauqua traveled all the way from Chadron to the local city hall and the tent city. 

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 movement emphasized entertainment more than serious lectures presented by 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.”

Opposition to the Great War

Presented by A. Theodore Kachel

The issue of women’s suffrage was ongoing during the World War I. What does a movement for democratic change continue through a world crisis and arguably gain ground? This workshop will look at the women’s struggle to gain the vote in 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 responsibility of not pressuring for civil rights during war-time.

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 a religious faith and seeking religious 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 spirit 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.

Modeste Chautauqua

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

Humanities Nebraska is honored to continue this Chautauqua tradition by partnering with the communities of Hastings, North Platte and Lincoln to present “World War I: Legacies of a Forgotten War” in 2016.

WWI Chautauqua Workshops

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

Literature of the World War I Era

Presented by Karen Vuranch

Men of Bronze: Black Units in World War I

Presented by Charles Everett Pace

This workshop will introduce audiences to the story of the 369th Infantry Regiment, also known as the “Harlem Hellfighters,” one of the most honored units in the U.S. army, along with others from authors who wrote during the war or directly after the war. How did each author turn their experiences into a story? What topics did readers read about? How did the views of the war in literature change 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 after-war change in the literature as time passed from the turn of the 20th centuries brought the world to rural communities in Nebraska.

Shadows of War: German-Americans in WWI

Presented by Paul Vickery

The 369th served with the French and spent 191 days under continuous fire, the longest stretch of any American regiment. Also, the most famous Chautauquan was William Jennings Bryan, who presented his speech “Prince of Peace” more than 5,000 times. Several factors led to the decline of traveling Chautauquans: greater mobility, radio and film entertainment, economic change in the early 20th century, and perhaps the most famous Chautauquan, Theodore Roosevelt. The success of the Crete Chautauqua appeared to be a permanent one, and, for many years, Nebraskans worldwide would pack the benches to participate in what Theodore Roosevelt called “the most American thing in America.”

World War I: Legacies of a Forgotten War

Presented by Karen Vuranch

Women of World War I

Presented by Kenneth Howard

To begin with, the great war effort. Chautauquas were so successful 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 these methods change over time? How might we apply lessons learned from these experiences to the future? How has our connectedness in terms of information and communication technology changed? How has our connectedness in terms of information and communication technology changed? How has our connectedness in terms of information and communication technology changed? How has our connectedness in terms of information and communication technology changed? How has our connectedness in terms of information and communication technology changed? How has our connectedness in terms of information and communication technology changed? How has our connectedness in terms of information and communication technology changed? How has our connectedness in terms of information and communication technology changed? How has our connectedness in terms of information and communication technology changed? How has our connectedness in terms of information and communication technology changed? How has our connectedness in terms of information and communication technology changed? How has our connectedness in terms of information and communication technology changed? How has our connectedness in terms of information and communication technology changed? How has our connectedness in terms of information and communication technology changed? How has our connectedness in terms of information and communication technology changed? How has our connectedness in terms of information and communication technology changed? How has our connectedness in terms of information and communication technology changed? How has our connectedness in terms of information and communication technology changed? How has our connectedness in terms of information and communication technology changed? How has our connectedness in terms of information and communication technology changed? How has our connectedness in terms of information and communication technology changed? How has our connectedness in terms of information and communication technology changed?
North Platte: Centerpiece of America

By Muriel Clark, Chautauqua Co-Chair, North Platte/Lincoln County Convention & Visitors Bureau

North Platte is the county seat of Lincoln County, Nebraska. It was platted in 1872, when the town was created directly on the direction of General Dodge of the Union Pacific Railroad. By November, the rails had crossed the North Platte River. There was some consternation over what to call the new community forming there. A toss of a coin determined the name would be “North Platte” rather than “South Platte.”

Railroad construction crews were ahead of their time when those conducting the railroad continued its roundhouse and other buildings in 1875 and a first-class city in 1910, when the population reached 4,793.

At the dawn of 1920, the population had reached 10,466. North Platte was listed 17,180 by 1960, and was officially recorded as 24,733 in the census of 2010.

Old Glory Blowout

Buffalo Bill Cody organized an Independence Day celebration in 1882 called “Old Glory Blowout.” The great success of the Blowout, Cody took his Wild West Show on the road the next year. He became a well-known showman and North Platte’s most famous citizen.

The spirit of the Wild West lives on each year in June during the Buffalo Bill Rodeo and NEBRASKA DAYS.

Railroad Town

In 1890, native-born William Jeffers quit school to become a “call boy” for the Union Pacific Railroad. During the next 47 years, he rose from the company’s lowest paid job, to its highest position, president of the great Union Pacific system.

Jeffers chose his home town of North Platte, which to build a “retard-ant” rail yard. Constantly updated and expanded, looking the massive operation. In 2008, North Platte was named Rail Town USA by an act of Congress.

During World War II, North Platte volunteers built upon the foundation laid by their mothers and grandmothers. The town of North Platte became a major focal point for shipping troops, supplies and containing more than 315 miles of track.

As many as 10,000 cars each day passed through the yard each day. The recently opened Golden Spike National Historic Site is an eight-story observation tower overlooking the massive operation.

Transportation History

North Platte is a center piece of America’s transcontinental transportation history. Seven road runs in the area served pioneers making their way west on the Oregon, California and Mormon Trails. Many of these were used to service the Pony Express as that service was developed.

Following the railroad, the Lincoln Highway, America’s first transcontinental road, was mapped along the Platte River Valley in 1917. The first transcontinental airmail route passed through North Platte in February of 1921. Jack Knight made his airmail trip successfully and lighted the “on-ed air stripe in the middle of America.” It was the first lighted airtail in the U.S.

Finally, Dwight D. Eisenhower’s “ Ike” crossed his country’s trip across the Lincoln Highway as a part of his journey in 1919, developed the Interstate Highway System. More than 80 passed by North Platte in 1974 when Nebraska became the first state in America to complete its mainline Interstate Highway System.

Today North Platte remains a railroad town. Union Pacific’s Bailey Yard employs nearly 2,500 workers, and more than 150 rail cars continue making their home in one community.

North Platte also acts as a regional healthcare, financial, shopping and entertainment center for west central Nebraska. Great Plains Health has recently undergone a multimilion dollar renovation and addition. Numerous banks dot the streets of the business district.

The Plateau Mall remains at nearly 100% occupied, and new retail developments are planed to add more than half a million square feet of more shopping opportunities.

This article was based on the writings of Nettie Tolonen and Deloyt Young.
Welcome to the North Platte Chautauqua!

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

Our thanks to The North Platte Telegraph for printing this special edition of The Chautauqua Reader.

Please Help Us Thank These Generous Contributors:

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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:

HN

HUMANITIES NEBRASKA

Download the free Nebraska Chautauqua App at GooglePlay or iTunes for your convenience.

Our thanks to the North Platte Chautauqua App for GooglePlay or iTunes for your convenience.

Schedule of Events

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY, JUNE 8-12

Exhibit at the Prairie Arts Center:
‘Grab The Tow Line’: Lincoln County During The Great War
Courtesy of the Lincoln County Historical Museum

MONDAY, JUNE 6
1-5 p.m.
Youth Chautauqua Camp,
Lincoln County Museum
*Pre-registration required

TUESDAY, JUNE 7
1-5 p.m.
Youth Chautauqua Camp,
Lincoln County Museum

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8
1-5 p.m.
Youth Chautauqua Camp,
Lincoln County Museum
5:30 p.m.
Meet the Chautauquans, Prairie Arts Center.
Program will begin at 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 9
10 a.m.
“Women of WWI,” Karen Vuranch (Adult Workshop), Prairie Arts Center
1 p.m.
“Men of Bronze: Black Units in WWI,” Charles Everett Pace (Adult Workshop), Prairie Arts Center
1-5 p.m.
Youth Chautauqua Camp,
McKinley Education Center, 301 W. F St.
2 p.m.
“Picketing the President” Helen Lewis (Adult Workshop), Prairie Arts Center
6:30 p.m.
Local Entertainment, Chautauqua Tent, Lincoln County Museum
7 p.m.
Paul Vickery as President Woodrow Wilson, Chautauqua Tent
7:30 p.m.
An evening with William Jennings Bryan (Ted Kachel), Chautauqua Tent

FRIDAY, JUNE 10
10 a.m.
“WWI Weapons,” Paul Vickery (Adult Workshop), Prairie Arts Center
12 noon
“Opposition to the Great War,” Ted Kachel (Adult Workshop), Prairie Arts Center
1-7 p.m.
Youth Chautauqua Camp,
Chautauqua Tent
2 p.m.
“Winning Hearts and Minds,” Charles Everett Pace (Adult Workshop), Prairie Arts Center
5:45 p.m.
Youth Chautauqua presentations, Chautauqua Tent
6:45 p.m.
North Platte Municipal Band, Chautauqua Tent, Lincoln County Museum
7:15 p.m.
Paul Vickery as President Woodrow Wilson, Chautauqua Tent
7:30 p.m.
An evening with Jane Addams, Chautauqua Tent

SATURDAY, JUNE 11
All Day
Heritage Festival, Lincoln County Museum
(Info: www.lincolncountymuseum.org)
10 a.m.
“Post War Relief Efforts,” Helen Lewis, Prairie Arts Center
12 noon
“German-Americans in WWI,” Paul Vickery (Adult Workshop), Prairie Arts Center
2 p.m.
“The Literature of the WWI Era,” Karen Vuranch (Adult Workshop), Prairie Arts Center
6:30 p.m.
Local Entertainment, Chautauqua Tent
7:15 p.m.
Paul Vickery as President Woodrow Wilson, Chautauqua Tent
7:30 p.m.
An evening with W.E.B. Du Bois (Charles Everett Pace), Chautauqua Tent

SUNDAY, JUNE 12
All Day
Heritage Festival, Lincoln County Museum
(Info: www.lincolncountymuseum.org)
2 p.m.
“Religion in American Politics: From Bryan to Bush,” Ted Kachel (Adult Workshop), Prairie Arts Center
6:30 p.m.
Local Entertainment, Chautauqua Tent
7:00 p.m.
Paul Vickery as President Woodrow Wilson, Chautauqua Pavilion
7:30 p.m.
An evening with Edith Wharton (Karen Vuranch), Chautauqua Pavilion

Adult workshops are scheduled to last approximately one hour.

The Chautauqua Tent will be located at:
Lincoln County Historical Museum, 2001 N. Buffalo Bill Ave
In case of inclement weather, evening programs will be moved to the McDonald-Belton Theatre, Mid-Plains Community College, 601 State Farm Road.


Adult workshops are scheduled to last approximately one hour.