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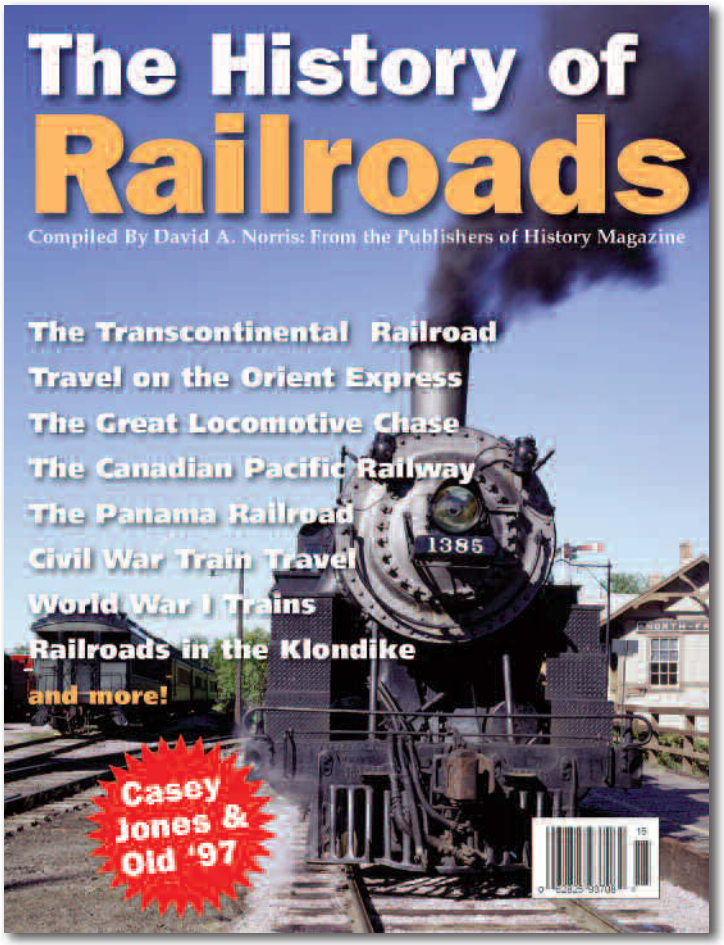

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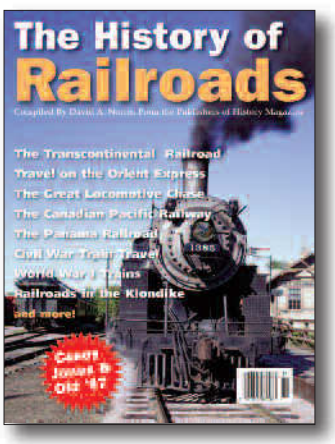

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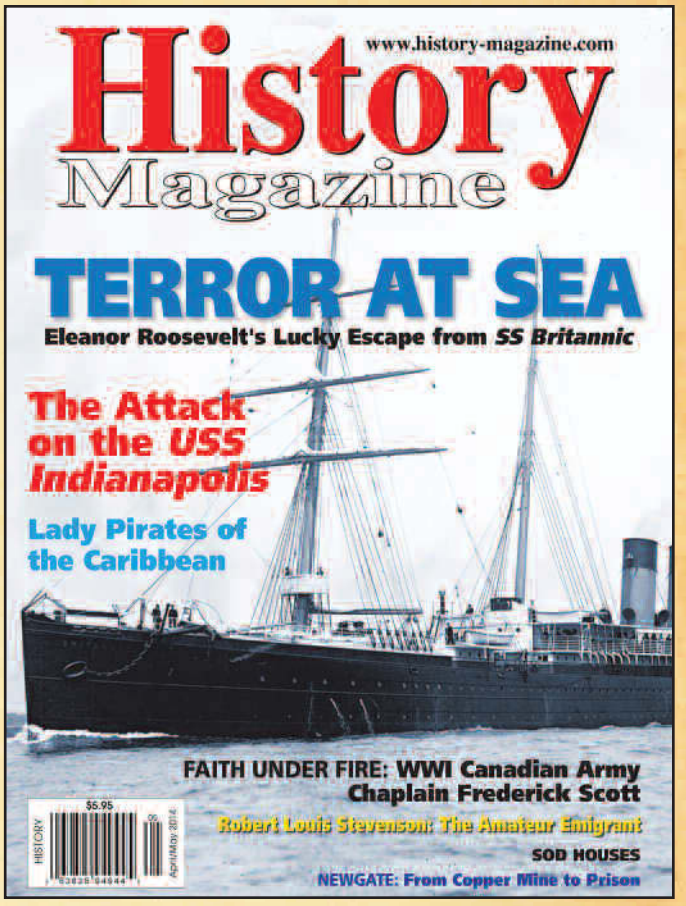

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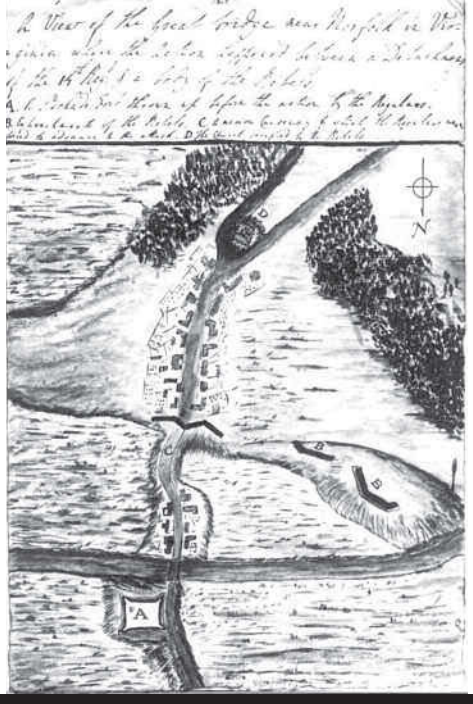

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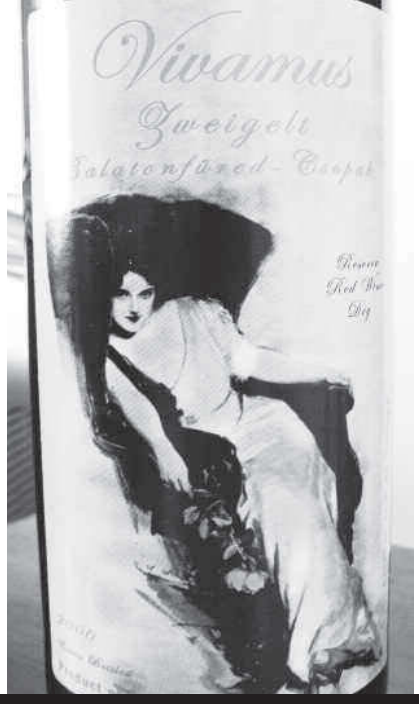

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TAKE A MULLIGAN

These days, you don't have to be a golfer to take a 'Mulligan'. The term 'Mulligan' shows up in business or even politics, and refers to someone being given a second chance when their first one has failed. Most every golfer, professional or amateur, has heard of taking a 'Mulligan' at one time or another.

Of course, you won't see a PGA golfer taking a 'Mulligan' – it's not in their rulebook. But you may see it being used on a golf course where you play. In fact, you just might win your next golf match by taking a 'Mulligan'. That's what happened to David Mulligan, the man gave his name to the "second chance".

In the late 1920s, Canadian-born amateur, David Bernard Mulligan was a member of a golf foursome who often played at Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, NY. Mulligan owned a vintage 1920 touring car called the Briscoe. More often than not, he was the one who drove to Winged Foot over New York's bumpy gravel back roads and even bumpier Queen Victoria Bridge. One day, while Mulligan and his friends warmed up at the first tee, he was complaining about the numbness in his hands from driving the rough roads. Then, Mulligan stepped up to the tee, took his first swing and watched his ball dribble off the tee and roll lazily down the fairway. On an impulse, he stooped over and put another ball on the tee. His friends looked puzzled and asked him what he was doing. "I am taking a 'correction shot'," he explained.

Eisenhower in good company. Seated on bench, with golf clubs, left to right: Byron Nelson, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Ben Hogan, and Clifford Roberts. Photo by Morgan Fitz, Augusta, Ga. *Library of Congress*

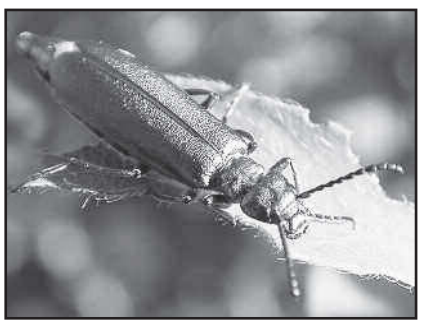
His friends laughed and told him to go ahead with his 'correction

THE AMOROUS BUG

What mental picture do you see when you hear the word "aphrodisiac"? Perhaps the image is of a plate of raw oysters on the half shell. Or maybe your mind conjures up Cleopatra floating down the Nile on her barge being fanned by Nubians as her lover, Mark Antony, plies her with pomegranate juice and fresh figs from a reed basket. Chances are that your image does not include an iridescent green beetle whose noxious emissions can blister the skin and are as deadly as strychnine. And yet, this beetle, when dried and processed into a powder, is the most famous (or infamous) aphrodisiac of them all – Spanish fly.

The name of the person who first coined the term "Spanish fly" has been lost to history. Just as well as he was wrong on both counts. In fact, the insect used to make Spanish fly is not a fly, but the blister beetle, Lytta vesicatoria. Additionally, the beetle is found worldwide, not just in Spain.

Spanish fly has a unique way of stimulating sexual arousal. While the great majority of aphrodisiacs are foods that work their magic by increasing circulating testosterone or by liberating neurotransmitters such as dopamine, serotonin or norepinephrine, Spanish fly has a completely different mechanism of action. The active ingredient in Spanish fly is a vesicant known as cantharidin – a chemical secreted by the male blister beetle. Cantharidin is present in the powder made from the dried beetles. In small quantities, cantharidin acts as an irritant to the genitourinary systems of both males and females. This produces what has been called the "fire in the loins". To relieve the "fire", both sexes, but primarily males, seek to engage in sexual



Blister Beetle. *Wikimedia Commons*

shot', but one of them insisted that they give it a name. The quick-thinking golfer replied with a smile: "I think we should call it a 'Mulligan'!"

Mulligan won the match by one stroke! As you can imagine, there was some discussion in the clubhouse about whether they should have allowed Mr. Mulligan to 'take a mulligan'. But after that, it became an unwritten rule in their foursome that you could take an extra shot on the first tee if you weren't satisfied with your first swing. Gradually, the idea of taking a mulligan on the first tee spread to all the golf clubs where Mulligan and his foursome played. Other golf courses allowed one mulligan per match.

The mulligan may have faded into oblivion had it not been for Dwight D. Eisenhower. When General Eisenhower returned home from World War II, he took up the game of golf. In 1947, the Washington Post reported that, one day, after hooking his first shot into the trees, the General invoked 'executive privilege' to hit another ball without taking a penalty. General Eisenhower gracefully took another swing and smacked the ball down the middle of the fairway.

In 1952, Eisenhower was elected president by a landslide. During his term in office, he played so much golf that he actually became known as the "duffer-in-chief". Of course, the press followed him on the golf course and often complained that he was on the golf course more than in the White House. But their coverage rejuvenated the mulligan and made it popular across the nation. *Hm*

— Linda Beach

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intercourse. A secondary effect of urethral irritation is the dilation of surrounding blood vessels.

The side effects of Spanish fly are directly dose related. At moderate doses, cantharidin can cause severe blistering in the mouth and gastrointestinal tract resulting in abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, and bloody diarrhea. At higher doses, the ingestion of Spanish fly can cause renal failure and ultimately an agonizing death. Cantharidin has no antidote. For this reason, the sale of Spanish fly has been banned in many countries including the United States and Canada.

Despite its known dangers, many famous people have experimented with Spanish fly. For example, Empress Livia, wife of Caesar Augustus, fed it to her dinner guests and then blackmailed them for their amorous adventures. Madame de Montespan slipped some to King Louis XIV of France. For her efforts, she became the King's favorite mistress.

Not all uses of Spanish fly met with such gratifying results. In a misguided attempt to bolster his sex life, the Marquis de Sade added it to bonbons, which he gave to French prostitutes. The concoction nearly killed them. As a result of his actions, the Marquis had to flee France to escape execution. Perhaps he would have been better off employing a nice box of Belgium chocolates as his aphrodisiac of choice. *Hm*

— Charles Bush, M.D.

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Alexandre Dumas' famous characters d'Artagnan and the Three Musketeers were based on real historical characters who served in the *Mousquetaires du Roi* of King Louis XIV.

"THE REAL MUSKETEER"

DAVID A. NORRIS LOOKS BACK AT ALEXANDRE DUMAS' FAMOUS FICTIONAL 'MUSKETEER' D'ARTAGNAN, AND THE REAL-LIFE PERSON WHO WAS THE BASIS FOR THE CHARACTER

Around the year 1611, the world's most famous musketeer was born in southwestern France. One of fiction's most famed characters, the legendary swordsman and adventurer d'Artagnan, was more than a just the star of Alexandre Dumas' 1844 novel *The Three Musketeers*. D'Artagnan was indeed a real figure from French history.

Charles Ogier de Batz de Castelmore, Comte d'Artagnan, was born around 1611 in Lupiac in southwestern France. The baby's father, Bertrand de Batz, was the son of a wealthy merchant named Arnaud de Batz. The elder Batz had been elevated to the nobility, and purchased what would become Charles' birthplace, the Château de Castelmore. On the other hand, the baby's mother, Françoise de Montesquiou d'Artagnan, was from an aristocratic family with a lineage that went back for centuries.

About the time the young Charles turned 21, he arrived in Paris in 1632 to seek his fortune. Using his mother's more prestigious surname may have opened doors for him that would have otherwise remained closed. With the influence of highly-placed relatives or friends, Charles de Batz d'Artagnan won appointment to a military company known as the *Mousquetaires du roi* or the *Mousquetaires de la Garde.*

Founded by Louis XIII in 1622, the Musketeers of the Guard served as the personal guards of the king whenever he was away from the palace. They served on foot or on horseback, as required. Originally, each Musketeer was armed with a *mousquet*, a long matchlock firearm that was so heavy that it was aimed when resting on a stand. These unwieldy weapons were later dropped in favor of shorter and lighter carbines, as well as swords and pistols.

The Musketeers of the Guard were the elite of the French military. Even the enlisted personnel were from aristocratic or noble families. The musketeer companies served as something of a military training academy, and service with them earned great prestige. Among the high-ranking alumni of the musketeers was the Marquis de Lafayette, who later served as a general on the side of the Continentals during the American Revolution.

Two decades after Charles de Batz d'Artagnan joined the company, the Musketeers of the Guard were disbanded in 1646. For some years, de Batz d'Artagnan served Cardinal Mazarin, the chief minister of Louis XIV. In 1657, the cardinal formed his own company of

musketeers. Mazarin died in 1661, and his guards became the new *Mousquetaires du roi.*

One of de Batz d'Artagnan's tasks was the 1661 arrest of Nicholas Fouquet, the finance minister of France. Fouquet had become wealthy on an almost imperial scale. A spectacular fete held at Vaux-le-Vicomte, Fouquet's palatial estate, showed that the minister was already outshining the king himself. So extravagant were the festivities that Fouquet held a premiere of a new play by Moliere, and gave horses and diamond tiaras as party favors to the guests.

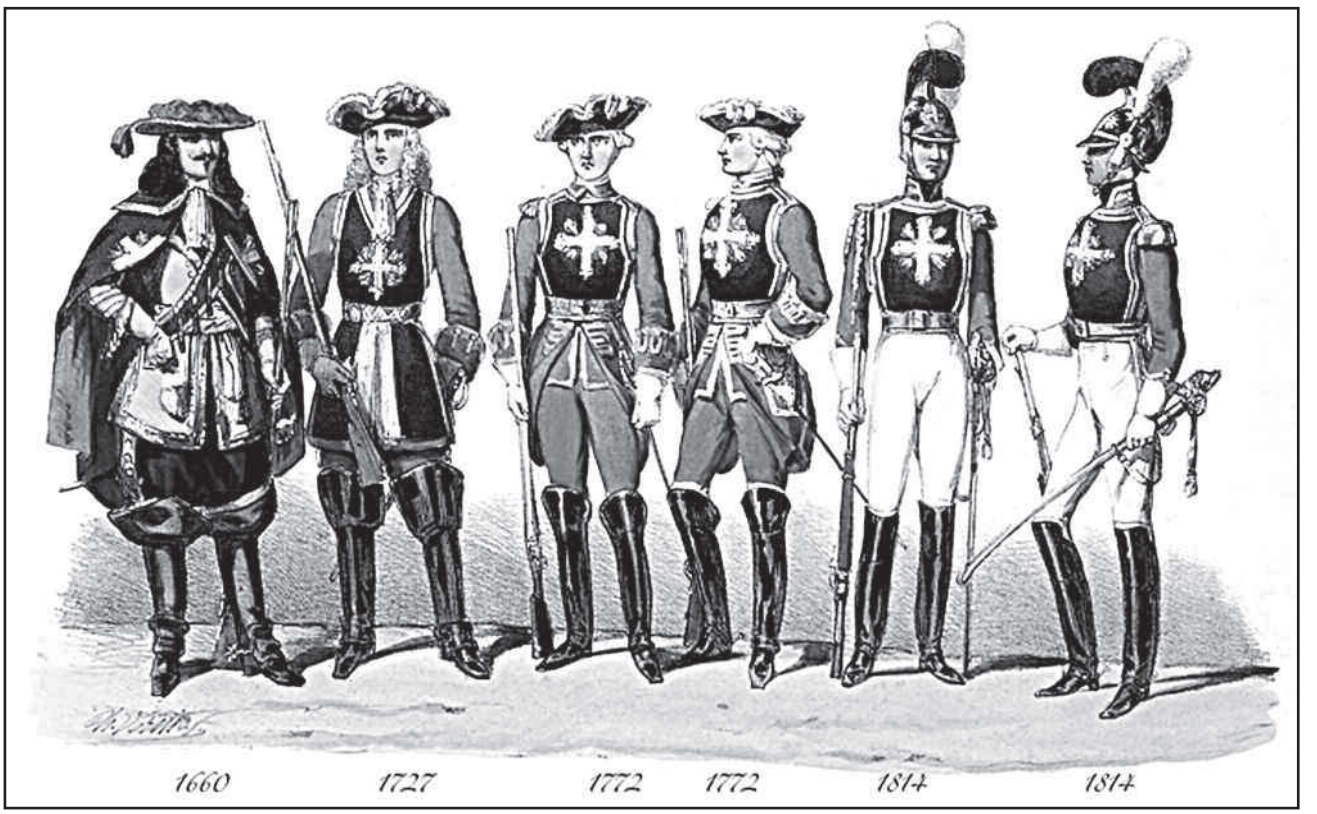
It was a sign of the king's trust in d'Artagnan that he entrusted the arrest to this musketeer officer. Fouquet went to prison after a three-year trial. A detachment of musketeers under the command of de Batz d'Artagnan guarded the prisoner for several years, until Fouquet was transferred to the fortress of Pignerol in the Alps.

Alexandre Dumas (1802-1870) loosely based his famous musketeer characters on historical figures.

The commander of Pignerol was another musketeer, Bénigne d'Auvergne de Saint-Mars.

At the fortress, one of Fouquet's fellow prisoners was a mysterious figure known as "the Man in the Iron Mask". Imprisoned from 1669 until his death in 1703, the captive always wore a mask and elaborate steps were taken to prevent anyone from knowing his name. Evidence regarding the captive's identity remained scanty and contradictory. The elaborate precautions taken to isolate the prisoner hinted that he held information that could bring down the French state, but that he was also too important to put to death. On the other hand, he sometimes served as a valet for aristocratic state prisoners. Different historians have considered that he may have been an unknown brother of Louis XIV; an illegitimate son of England's Charles II; a disgraced high-ranking official; or a servant who was privy to dangerous secrets.

De Batz d'Artagnan was promoted to Captain-lieutenant of the Musketeers in 1667. In the regular army, this was a fairly low rank between that of a lieutenant and a captain. In the Musketeers, captain-lieutenant was the highest possible rank for any soldier of France, as the king himself was the captain of the company. After his



Known as the *Mousquetaires de la Garde*, and the *Mousquetaires du Roi,* the musketeers served as the personal guard of the kings of France off and on from 1622 to 1815.

promotion, de Batz d'Artagnan commanded the Musketeers of the Guard until he was killed at the Siege of Maastricht on 25 June 1673.

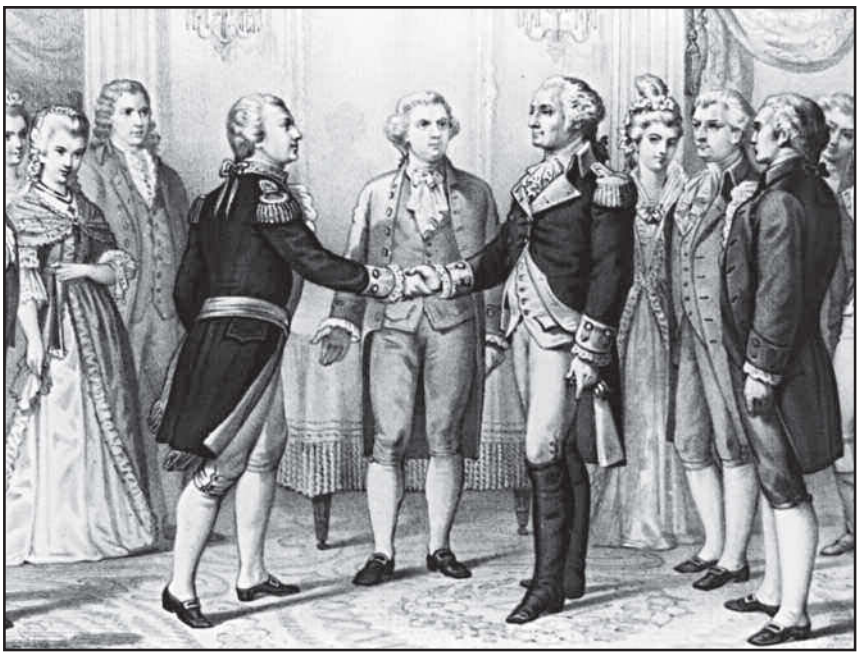
The Musketeers of the Guard remained in the service of the French kings through several wars. They were disbanded in 1776 as a cost-saving measure. In 1789, at the beginning of the French Revolution, the Musketeers were briefly revived then once again dissolved. A final flourish of the tradition came in 1814-1815, when Napoleon was first driven from France and the Bourbon monarchy restored.

D'Artagnan's fame soared after 1844, when author Alexandre Dumas (1802-1870) published his novel *Les Trois Mousquetaires*. The novel first appeared in serial form in a Paris newspaper, *Le Siècle*.

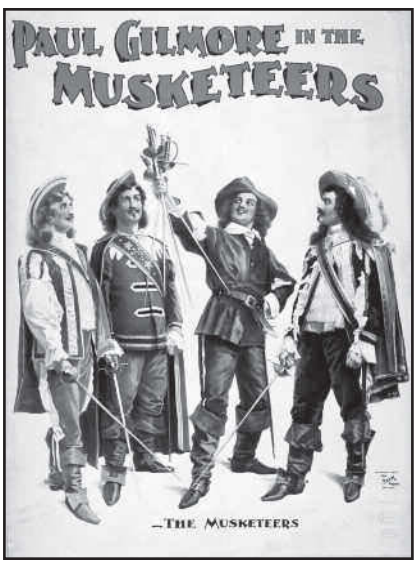
Like d'Artagnan, the original Three Musketeers of Dumas' books, Porthos, Athos, and Aramis, were also loosely based on real 17th century musketeers: Isaac de Porthau; Armand, Seigneur de Sillègue, d'Athos and d'Autevielle; and Henri d'Aramitz. This novel was such a success that it was soon translated into English as *The Three Musketeers*.

Dumas' famous novel was not the first to feature d'Artagnan. Back in 1700, a book appeared with the title *Les mémoires de M. d'Artagnan*. Allegedly a "memoir" edited by Gatien de Courtilz de Sandras, it really was a novel that Courtilz based on d'Artagnan's career.

Courtilz, who was about 30 years younger than d'Artagnan, also served in the Musketeers. So, it seems that he certainly would have had some personal acquaintance with the famous officer. In 1688, Courtilz retired from the King's Musketeers and moved to Amsterdam. There in the Netherlands, safe from French censorship laws, he began writing a stream of heavily embroidered and somewhat fictional biographies of French political leaders. When Courtilz returned to France in 1702, he was arrested and thrown into the Bastille. He died not long after his release from prison in 1712.



Besides d'Artagnan, another famous member of the Mousquetaires de la Garde was the Marquis de Lafayette. Later, Lafayette fought along with the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War and became a friend of George Washington. *Library of Congress*



This 1899 play showed that the Three Musketeers still drew theatre audiences over half a century after their first appearance on the stage in 1845. Since then, d'Artagnan and his comrades have appeared in dozens of movie and TV productions. *Library of Congress*

Encouraged by the success of *Les Trois Mousquetaires,* Dumas began a sequel to follow the adventures of d'Artagnan and his comrades. *Twenty Years After* appeared in 1845. By the end of that year, this sequel was adapted into a play that opened on the Paris stage.

A third Musketeer novel by Dumas, *The Viscount of Bragelonne*, was published in 1847. The last section of this book, also published separately as *The Man in the Iron Mask*, is the best-known. Dumas used a few historical facts, such as de Batz d'Artagnan's arrest of Fouquet, to create an elaborate story line. In the book, the "Man in the Iron Mask" is the brother of Louis XIV. Aramis tries to overthrow King Louis and put his brother on the throne, and the scheme tests the loyalties of the Musketeers to their country and to each other.

In *The Vicomte of Bragelonne,* the fictional d'Artagnan met his death at Maastricht, just as did the real-life captain-lieutenant. Dumas heightened the tragedy in his story. The fatal Dutch bullet

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killed the musketeer just as he received promotion to the rank of marshal from Louis XIV.

Dumas' own life was worthy of a novel. His father, Thomas-Alexandre Dumas Davy de la Pailleterie, was the son of a French aristocrat and a Haitian slave. After his education, he joined the French army as an enlisted man. Before his death in 1806, he rose from the rank of corporal to become a general during the French Revolution. Young Alexandre was raised by his mother, the daughter of an innkeeper, who managed to get him a passable education.

Although he continued writing successful novels, Dumas' spending ran far ahead of his earnings. Although married, he carried on numerous affairs with actresses and other women much younger than he. His earnings disappeared into a fine estate, called Monte Cristo, which teemed with an expensive entourage of admirers. Heavy debts drove Dumas out of France for a time. Upon his return, he wrote constantly while under pressure from debt collectors until his death in 1870. Dumas' son Alexandre was also a noted writer, so the elder is called Alexandre Dumas, *père* (father) to distinguish him from the other Alexandre Dumas, *fils* (son).

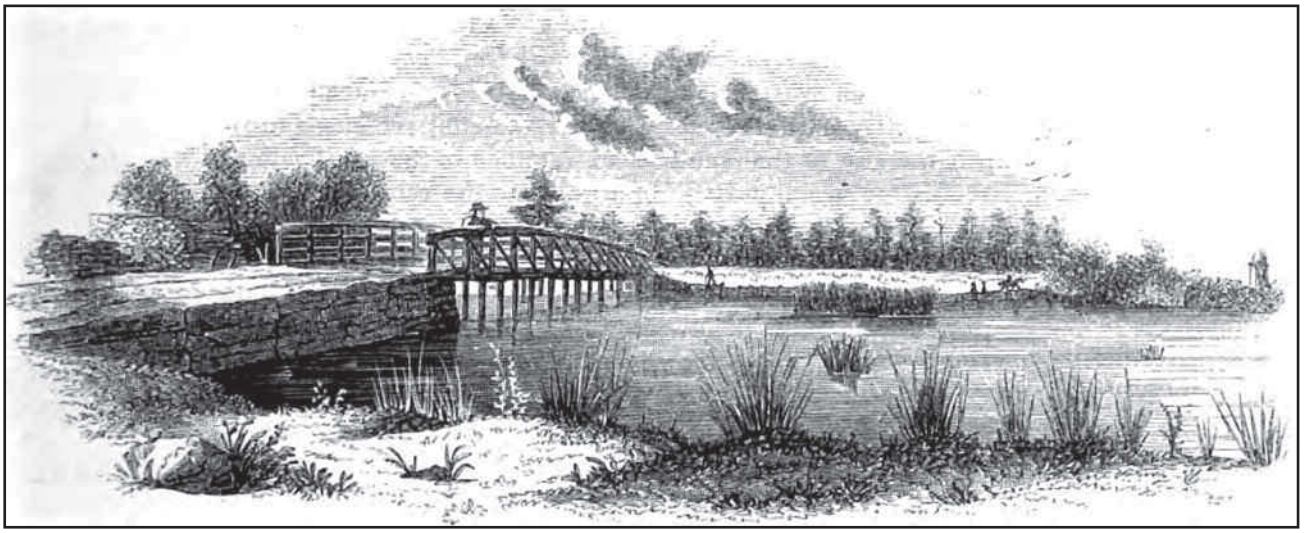
By the time Dumas' second d'Artagnan book was out in 1845, actors portrayed his musketeers upon the stage in Paris. It wasn't long before the characters crossed the Atlantic. In 1851, a play called "The Three Guardsmen" opened in Baltimore. The "guardsmen" were named Porthos, Athos, and d'Artagnan.

The d'Artagnan tales of Dumas were among the first books ever turned into movies. A musketeer movie premiered in France as early as 1903. Thomas Edison's studio produced a musketeer movie in 1911. Dozens of movies, television episodes, and animated versions have followed since then. There is little reason to doubt that the future will hold new entertainments based on the 17th century life of Charles Ogier de Batz de Castelmore, Comte d'Artagnan.

DAVID A. NORRIS *is a regular contributor to History Magazine, Internet Genealogy* **and** *Your Genealogy Today.* ***His most recent special issue for Moorshead Magazines Ltd.,*** *Tracing Your Revolutionary War Ancestors,* ***is currently available at our online store.***

LORD DUNMORE AND THE BATTLE OF GREAT BRIDGE

WILLIAM FLOYD JR. LOOKS AT THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE EXPULSION OF THE BRITISH FROM THE COLONY OF VIRGINIA IN DECEMBER OF 1775



1850 Sketch of Great Bridge in Virginia near Norfolk. The bridge was the site of an early Revolutionary War battle. From Benson John Lossing's *The pictorial field-book of the revolution:* or, *Illustrations, by pen and pencil, of the history, biography, scenery, relics, and traditions of the war for independence.* Harper & Brothers, 1850. *Public Domain*

The British royal government began to collapse in the spring of 1774 as the colonies learned of the passage of "The Intolerable Acts" (the American term for Britain's laws to punish Massachusetts for throwing a large shipment of tea into Boston Harbor). That spring, the Virginia House of Burgesses voted to make 1 June 1774 a "day of Fasting, Humiliation, and Prayer", as a sign of their solidarity with the people of Boston. When Lord Dunmore (given name John Murray, 4th Earl of Dunmore), the royal governor of Virginia, heard of this, he dissolved the House of Burgesses. The Burgesses responded by meeting in an extralegal session at Raleigh Tavern in Williamsburg and called for the election of delegates to the First Virginia Convention. With few British troops at his disposal, the Royal Governor had little, if any, power to stop the rise of a provisional government.

By mid-summer of 1775, the royal governors in Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina had fled to the safety of British warships or other fortifications. Only Georgia's royal governor would stay at his official residence. He stated that he had been reduced to "a mere nominal governor with scarce any power left". Only Governor Dunmore of Virginia would act unilaterally to crush the rebellion with force.

Dunmore was forty-three years old and had little success at this point in his life either as a soldier or Member of Parliament. In 1770, he agreed to become the governor of New York. He was only in office for a year when he moved to Williamsburg to become the royal governor of Virginia. It would not be long before the local colonists would attempt to reduce his power. When hostilities began, he felt personally threatened – with justification. While at his farm, six miles from Williamsburg, he was fired on, barely escaping harm.

Dunmore would vow to resist this open violence. He was soon in possession of two royal vessels – a sloop and a schooner – and three armed merchantmen along with a score of Tories and sixty regulars of the British army.

Lord Dunmore would soon flee the colonial capital in Williamsburg for the safety of the British Fleet. His unwavering support of royal interests over those of the patriots made him a very unpopular figure. He would soon move his headquarters to Norfolk, Virginia, at the time, Virginia's richest commercial center and home to a large loyalist population. He would try to keep the patriots under control by destroying farms and plantations, seizing printing presses, and in a very aggressive move, seized 20 kegs of gunpowder at the public magazine in Williamsburg.

On 18 September 1775, The Virginia Committee of Safety met to select officers and organize two regiments. William Woodford, who would later take part in the fighting at Great Bridge, was selected as one of the regimental commanders. The regiments lacked sufficient arms and gunpowder, meaning that they were unable to control Dunmore's aggressive actions in and around the Hampton Roads area. At this point, the colonists and Dunmore's forces were on the brink of open warfare.

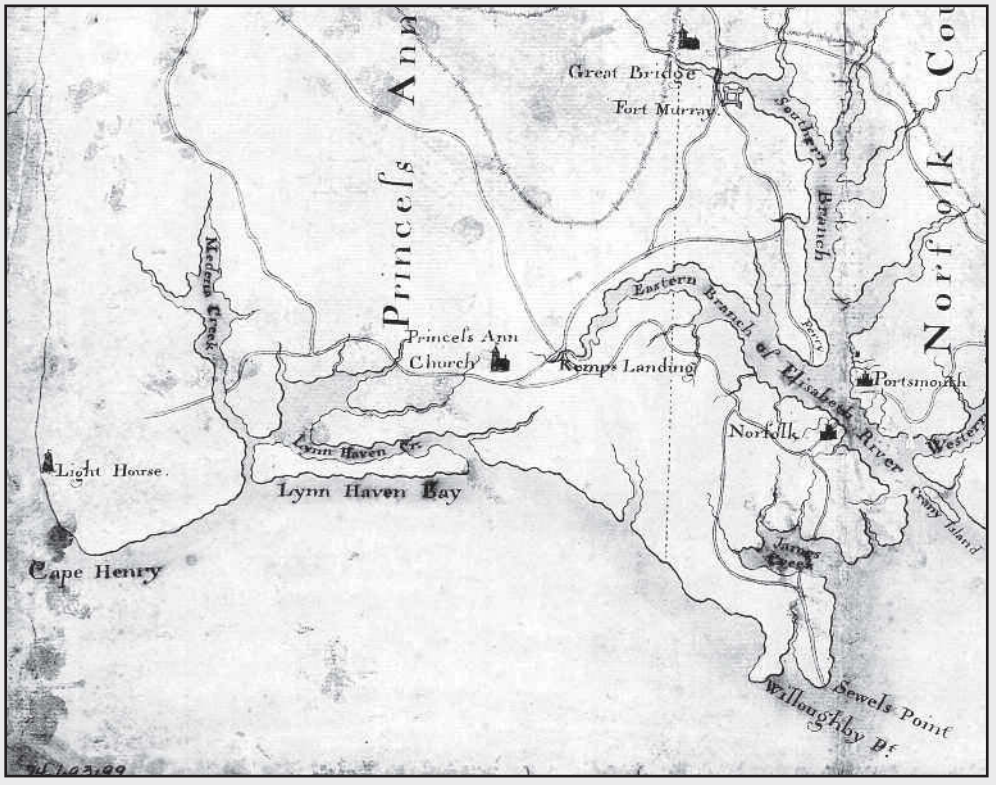
In late October, after resisting a raid by British forces in Hampton, the American forces began crossing the James River to oppose Dunmore's forces in the Norfolk area. During this time, Dunmore was continuing to conduct military raids around Norfolk against American positions. To further arouse the anger of the Virginians, on 7 November 1775, Governor Dunmore issued a proclamation declaring martial law that would summon the people to support the British. It would also offer freedom to all slaves belonging to patriots, who would take up arms for the king. The freed slaves would be known as Dunmore's Ethiopian Regiment. The response from the colonists would come right away. Newspapers would publish the entire proclamation, leading to intensified patriot patrols on both land and water and increased restrictions on slave meetings.

Portrait of John Murray, 4th Earl of Dunmore (1730-1809). By artist Joshua Reynolds (1730-1809).
Wikimedia Commons

After hearing a rumor that American forces were at the village of Great Bridge, Dunmore would move his land forces there on 14 November. Great Bridge was an important position for the British to occupy since it was on the main road that connected Norfolk to North Carolina. If the British lost control of this location, the patriots could cut off supplies intended for Dunmore's forces. On arriving at Great Bridge, the British did not find any American forces present. However, recognizing the importance of the location, Dunmore would leave a detachment at Great Bridge to build a log fort on the north side of the bridge. A small detachment would be left at what the British would call Fort Murray.

While at Great Bridge, Dunmore learned that a patriot militia unit was gathering at Kemps Landing, an area then located in Princess Anne County, today it is in the City of Virginia Beach in an area known as Kempsville. Dunmore would march from Great Bridge to Kemps Landing with 150 British troops. Approximately 170 soldiers of the Princess Anne Militia were planning to attack the British at Kemps Landing. The British troops easily routed the American forces who fled into the woods. After his victory at Kemps Landing, Lord Dunmore marched his forces into Norfolk and took possession of the city. He was greeted by a number of people who would pledge loyalty to the Crown.

On 2 December 1775, Colonel Woodford, with about 350 men including elements of the 2nd Virginia Regiment and the Culpepper minutemen, reached Great Bridge on the southern branch of the Elizabeth River. The town itself was only a small cluster of homes and a bridge some twelve miles south of Norfolk. The patriots would make their camp almost within gunshot of the British post and build a breastwork in the form of a sagging "M" for effective crossfire. The works would be seven feet high, 150 feet in length, with mounting platforms and loopholes. In addition, two earthworks

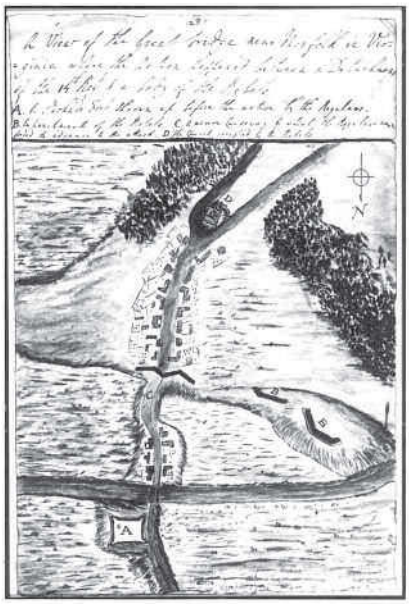


Detail from a 1775 map showing the Norfolk area. Oriented with North to the bottom, Fort Murray is visible near the top of the map. *Wikimedia Commons*

for cannon were built for when the weapons could be made available.

Over the next several days, there was a constant exchange of gun fire. Some small skirmishes would occur and at one point, the British burned five houses to obtain a better field of fire. On 7 December, Colonel Woodford wrote to Patrick Henry. "The enemy are strongly fortified on the other side of the bridge, and a great number of the negroes and Tories with them; my prisoners disagree as to the numbers. We are situated here in the mud and mire, exposed to every hardship that can be conceived, but the want of provisions, of which our stock is but small, the men suffering for shoes; and if ever soldiers deserved a second blanket in any service, they do in this."

It may have been because of a false rumor that the Virginia forces were pitifully small that Dunmore decided to end the daily skirmishing and attack the



A sketch by Lord Rawdon of the 1775 Battle of Great Bridge, Virginia. Title: A view of the Great Bridge near Norfolk in Virginia where the action happened between a detachment of the 14th Regt: & a body of the rebels.
Key: A – A stockade fort thrown up by the regulars before the action;
B – Entrenchments of the rebels;
C – A narrow causeway by which the regulars were forced to advance to the attack;
D – The church occupied by the rebels.
Wikimedia Commons

American position. At 3:30AM on 9 December, additional British troops began arriving at Great Bridge. They consisted of 200 regulars along with sailors and marines from the British ship *HMS Otter.* They would be reinforced by 300 blacks and a few Tories for a total of almost 700 effectives. The Americans, at this time, totaled between 800 and 900. The British would form up and advance down the causeway, bringing cannon with them. An advance guard led the attack, followed by a grenadier company, appearing to be seven feet tall in their bearskin hats. They would cross the bridge followed by the Tories and blacks who were ready to support the expected breakthrough.

The causeway was narrow enough that the British advanced only six abreast in perfect parade formation. They would alternate firing volleys by platoons, stopping only to reload. At this point, the Virginians had produced an

accurate, but sporadic, fire against the British, causing their formation to waver. Captain Fordyce, the British commander, would now order a charge against the Virginian's position. The Virginians were ready, but waited until the British were within 50 yards. When the Virginians opened fire, Captain Fordyce went down within 15 feet of the defenses, struck by 14 shots. With their commander dead, the British broke formation, taking their dead and wounded back to the bridge. While this was taking place, the Culpeper minutemen, led a dash of 100 men, compromising the British entrenchments on the eastern peninsula, forcing the British back into Fort Murray.

The battle was essentially over, lasting only about 30 minutes. The estimated casualties for the British were 102 men killed or wounded. On the Virginian's side, as remarkable as it may sound, only one soldier was slightly wounded. The British would abandon Fort Murray on the evening of 9 December 1775. The victory achieved at Great Bridge, which would be considered minor by later standards was decisive and would affect future events during this period. The route from North Carolina to Norfolk was now open. The victory would encourage the Virginia Convention to issue a counter-proclamation to the one previously put out by Dunmore. The counter-proclamation offered full pardons to the Royal Ethiopian Regiment if they threw down their weapons and surrendered to Colonel Woodford. After leaving the fort, the British headed back to Norfolk, with many going aboard naval vessels. Dunmore would blame the officers of the Fourteenth Regiment for the loss, who had worse to say about the governor.

On 13 December 1775, Colonel Woodford wrote to Edmund Pendleton, president of the convention: "Great Bridge, near Norfolk, 9 December 1775. The enemy were reinforced about 3 o'clock this morning with (as they tell me), every soldier of the 14th regiment, at Norfolk, amounting to 200, commanded by captain Leslie; and this morning, after reveille beating, crossed the bridge by laying down some plank, and made an attack to force over our breast-work (the prisoners say the whole number amounted to 500, with volunteers and blacks) with two pieces of cannon, but none marched up with his majisty [sic] soldiers, who behaved like Englishmen. We have found of their dead captain Fordyce and 12 privates, and have lieutenant Battit, who is wounded in the leg, and 17 private prisoners, all wounded."

The victory at Great Bridge was a huge step in eliminating British supply lines, which would force Dunmore to abandon the south side of the Chesapeake Bay by the spring of 1776. This meant that Norfolk could no longer be used as a major base of operations by the British. Perhaps one of the more important results for the Virginians would be that they had proven that volunteer soldiers and militia could withstand a cannon-supported attack by some of the best professional soldiers in the world. After the battle, Governor Dunmore would no longer receive any assistance from those loyal to the crown or the slaves that he had used against Virginia. Dunmore would disarm his "Ethiopians", order his regulars aboard ship, and gave asylum to a few Tories.

Five days later, Woodford and his men marched into the eerily quiet city of Norfolk. Colonel Howe and his men from North Carolina, who had been too late for the fighting at Great Bridge, were just in time for the occupation of Norfolk. Colonel Woodford would send a contingent to arrest any remaining Tories at Great Bridge. Others were tracked down in the fields and woods around Norfolk. The Tories who had born arms for Dunmore were sent to Williamsburg, where they would be dealt with by civil authorities. Troops from Virginia and North Carolina would patrol the empty streets of Norfolk, destroying property which had belonged to some of the most notorious Tories. The slaves who had been in the service of Dunmore were pardoned and returned to their owners. Though Dunmore's ships were generally at anchor beyond the range of colonial firearms, a rifleman on shore could sometimes be successful in picking off a British soldier on deck.

In a scholarly paper presented by Ronald Hoffman, Pullen Professor of history at William and Mary College, he cites a December 1775 letter George Washington wrote to his friend Richard Henry Lee, warning him, "of what he called Dunmore's diabolical schemes: "If my Dear Sir that Man is not crushed before Spring, he will become the most formidable enemy America has …" The results of the battle of Great Bridge played a significant role in Dunmore not becoming that formidable enemy.

WILLIAM FLOYD JR. *is retired from the City of Norfolk, VA after 40 years service. He is attending Tidewater Community College concentrating in history. He is also currently writing articles on various historical topics, mainly on the Civil War and World War II.*

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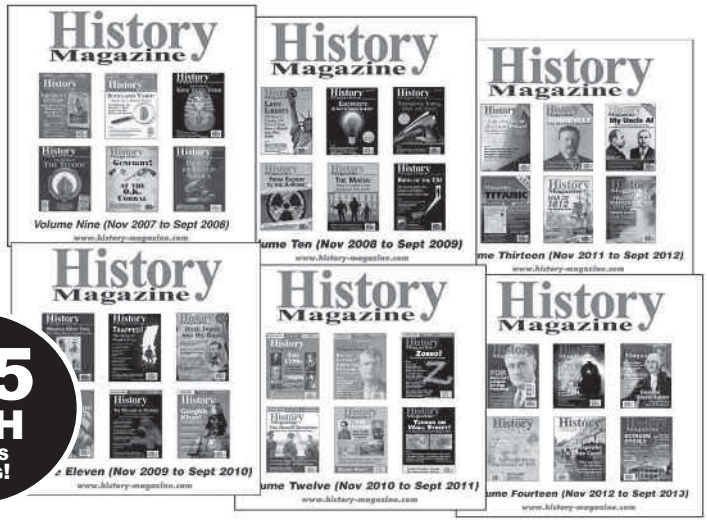

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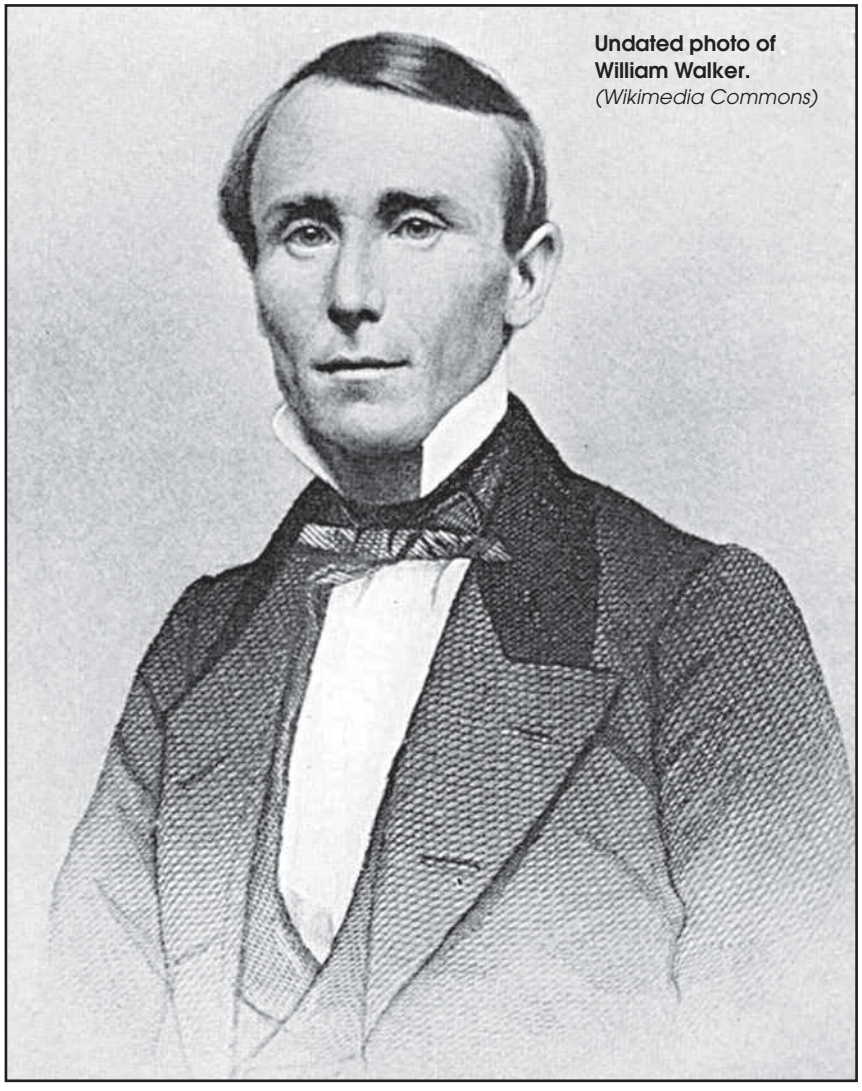


Undated photo of William Walker. *(Wikimedia Commons)*

William Walker: FILIBUSTERER OF NICARAGUA

BRIAN D'AMBROSIO RECOUNTS THE SHORT LIFE OF THE REMARKABLE AND ADVENTUROUS MID-19TH CENTURY TENNESSEAN

In a region long familiar to land snatches and shadowy foreigners with veiled agendas, none has managed to shine quite like William Walker – a Tennessean who thought he could take on Central America, but ended up in front of a Honduran firing squad.

While Walker's name is essentially unheard of outside Central America, every Nicaraguan seems to know exactly who he is.

After the Spanish Conquest in the early 1500s, Nicaragua et al (plus Chiapas in south Mexico) were part of the Captaincy of Guatemala. More than three hundred years later, 15 September 1821, independence from Spain was declared and the federation became part of the newly formed First Mexican Empire.

In July 1823, with the exception of Chiapas, the federation declared independence from Mexico and formed the United Provinces of Central America or the Federal Republic of Central America, (depending on who was in charge of the letterhead). Problems evolved, irreconcilable disputes ensued, and the federation broke up in 1837.

With the federation's disintegration, Nicaragua declared its own independence on 30 April 1838 and embarked on its trajectory of internecine conflict between rival factions seeking to hold power. Francisco Morazán's 1842 attempt at regional reunification failed, as did another in 1852.

Seeing opportunity in disarray, William Walker from the States came to seize the day, not to mention the most promising path for a shipping canal through the isthmus. Walker was born in Nashville, Tennessee, on 8 May 1824. A quiet, poetry-reading youth who had mastered several languages and earned various degrees by early adulthood (including a degree in medicine at age 19), Walker first found work as a newspaper editor, publishing blunt pieces condemning slavery and the interventionist policies of the US at the time.

An avaricious opportunity presented itself in 1848 when the Treaty of Guadalupe was signed, ceding half of Mexico to the US

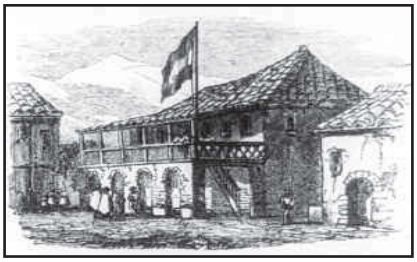
and leaving the other half dangling temptingly. Walker, working as a journalist in San Francisco, quickly jettisoned his liberal ideals, assembled a posse of men together and embarked on a career that would etch his name into history books forever as a "filibusterer". (Derived from the Dutch word meaning pirate, filibustering came to mean invading a country as a private citizen with unofficial aid from your home government.)

Walker's foray into Mexico was brief. On 15 October 1853, Walker set out with 45 men to capture the Mexican territories of Baja California Territory and Sonora State. He raised his flag, named himself president of the region, and captured La Paz, the center of Baja California. He declared Baja California the capital of a new Republic of Lower California and placed the region under the laws of Louisiana, which made slavery legal. After meeting stiff resistance, he returned north to California, where he was arrested and put on trial for conducting an "illegal war", in violation of the Neutrality Act of 1794. Filibustering was common and a jury sympathetic to the spread of Manifest Destiny in the southern and western United States acquitted him in minutes.

Word of Walker's gumption spread to Nicaragua, though, and soon the city of Leon offered him the job of intimidating or eliminating their pesky opposition in Granada. Walker arrived in Nicaragua and sided with the "democrats", or Liberals of Supreme Director in Dissidence Francisco Castellón, against his rivals, the "legitimists", or Conservatives of Fruto Chamorro, Nicaragua's first "official" president.

With another group of mercenaries at his command, Walker arrived in San Juan del Sur in September of 1855 and, aided by the element of surprise and the latest in US weaponry, handily took Granada.

Walker's Liberal Leonese employers must have felt a bit deceived when he decided not to fork over Granada after all, but instead stayed around and self-anointed himself as President of Nicaragua in 1856; reinstituted slavery; mandated English; confiscated and sold huge tracts of land; and led an ill-fated invasion attempt on Costa Rica. In an extreme case of overreach, he set his sights on the other four Central American republics under the battle cry of "Five or None".



Residence of General Walker, City of Granada, Central America.
(Wikimedia Commons)

But even getting chased back to the States by several Nicaraguan groups or armies (stopping long enough to burn Granada to the ground) didn't dampen Walker's imperial ambitions. He and his not-so-modestly named crew of filibusterers ("The Immortals") returned and eventually met their Waterloo at San Jacinto, outside of Managua, on 14 September 1856. Hacienda San Jacinto commemorates the Battle of San Jacinto, when Walker's filibusters and Leon liberals were met by stiff resistance from the southern Conservatives. At one point, Andres Castro, a 23-year-old Granadino with an arm cannon, ran out of ammunition and began hurling rocks instead, killing a filibusterer. The gorgeous early-1800s Spanish hacienda has several murals and busts depicting the event.

Walker lost the battle, fleeing barefoot, and ultimately the war.

He once again defiantly showed up in the region – this time in Honduras. But he was captured in the port city of Trujillo by Honduran authorities, who considered him a menace and agitator in the region and put him before a firing squad on 12 September 1860. He was 36.

Possible annexation of the region into the USA and the restoration of slavery (abolished in Nicaragua in 1824) had been avoided, but Central American unification still proved elusive.

Justo Rufino Barrios of Guatemala tried to force integration of the countries in the early 1880s and died in battle for his efforts. El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua declared the "Greater Republic of Central America" in 1896, but it only lasted until 1898.

Another "Federal Republic of Central America" was constituted on paper in 1921 by El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Costa Rica in the capital of the latter. Guatemala lost interest in 1922, and the other two northern states followed suit soon afterwards.

In the late 1980s, Ed Harris played William Walker in the movie "Walker", directed by Alex Cox (Sid & Nancy). Some of the symbolism is a bit contrived, but the film was shot on location in Nicaragua and there are some beautiful, sweeping landscape shots. Walker's grave can be located in the Old Trujillo Cemetery, Colón, Honduras. *Hm*

BRIAN D'AMBROSIO *lives, works in, and writes from Missoula, Montana. He contributes regularly to multiple publications on a vast variety of subjects. His most recent contribution to History Magazine was a piece on Turkey Pete, which appeared in the Aug/Sept 2016 issue.*

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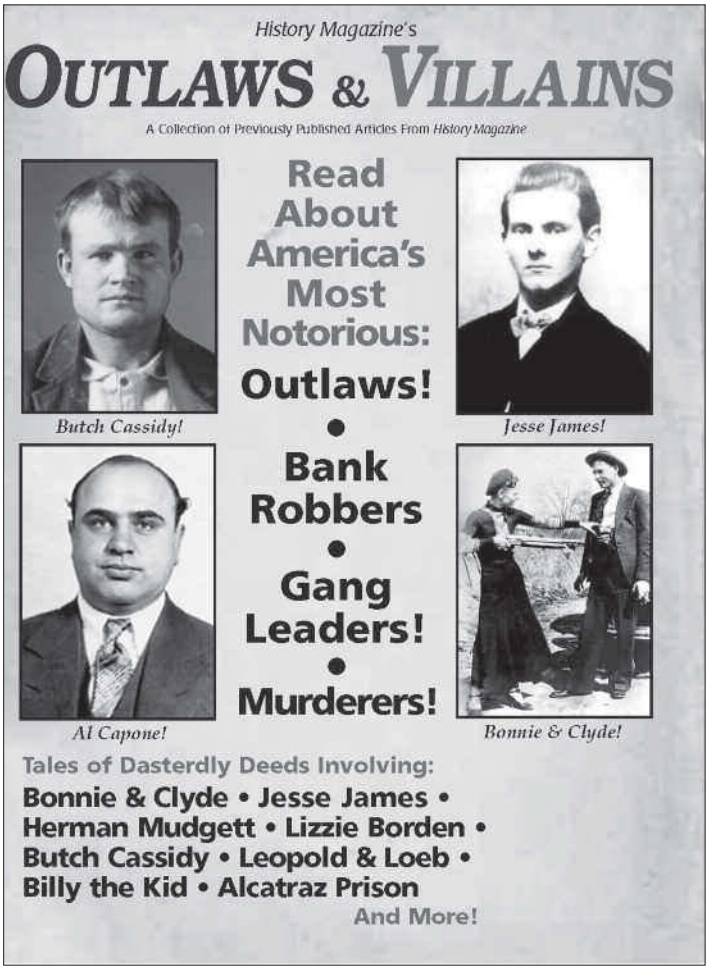

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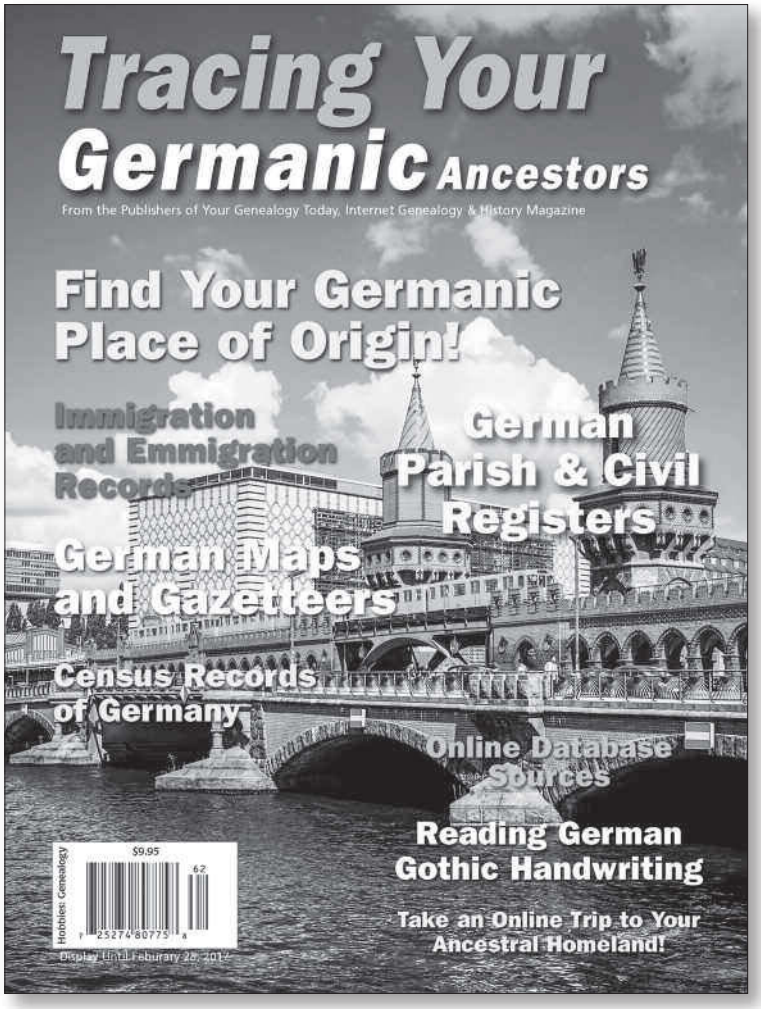

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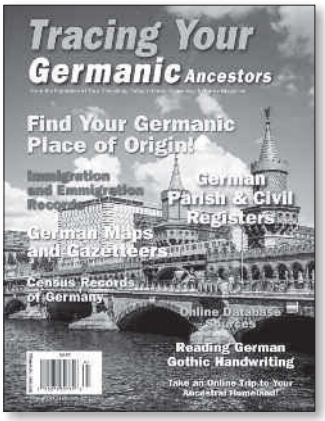

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Badacsony, on Lake Balaton. *Photo by Tomas Orth –Creative Commons*

THE HISTORIC HUNGARIAN WINES OF LAKE BALATON

ERIC BRYAN LOOKS AT HUNGARY'S RICH HISTORY THROUGH ITS FAMOUS BADACSONY AREA AND ITS WINE PRODUCTION

Fourteenth-century Hungarian King Charles Robert once travelled to Veszprem on the north shore of Lake Balaton to visit the Bishop. Before dinner, the king noticed a gigantic cup in the monastery treasury. "The monks used to drink from it long ago," the bishop told him. As they sat down to sup, the king asked that the cup be placed at their table.

The bishop announced that none of the canons at table could possibly drain the gigantic cup, with the possible exception of the formidable Father Eusebius. The king challenged Eusebius to take the cup and uphold the honor of the house, but the father declined and held his ground despite the needling and beseeching of the assemblage.

But then, after the fifth course, Father Eusebius rose magisterially to his feet, lifted the huge cup in a toast to the king, and swallowed its contents in one superhuman draught. The monastery resonated with cheers and applause, and King Charles Robert questioned the father's initial reluctance.

"Your Majesty," Father Eusebius replied, "I was afraid that I would fail. But I had a try under the table and found that I could, and that gave me the courage to do it for you and in front of the company."

HUNGARY'S HISTORIC WINES

The wine which shimmered in Eusebius' legendary cup would almost certainly have been one of what are known as Hungary's "historic wines": Badacsony Kéknyelű, Szürkebarát ("Grey Monk"), Zöldszilváni, or Olaszrizling. These are the wines from vineyards around Lake Balaton in west central Hungary, the largest and shallowest lake in Central Europe.

The heritage of these wines goes back over two-thousand years. What is now Hungary was then Pannonia, a province of the Roman Empire. The area's vineyards were created when Emperor Probus waged a vine-planting campaign in the Badacsony area

An illumination from the fourteenth century Chronicon Pictum, depicting King Charles Robert, the ruler who challenged Father Eusebius to drink an enormous cup of wine. *Image scanned by Szilas from A korona kilenc évszázada by Katona Tamás, Corvina 1979, Budapest. Public Domain*

of Balaton, south of the Bakony Mountains.

A thousand years later, the first Hungarian monarch, King Stephen, rose to power and set out to Christianize his country. He granted most of the fertile northern Balaton land to church dignitaries and religious orders. The priests and monks, being partial to a jug or two themselves, produced some of the finest wines from the vineyards.

Hospitality seems to have been part of the wine culture: Legend has it that no vintner on the slopes of Badacsony could become mayor of any of the villages if he had failed to offer a passing stranger a glass of wine from his cellar.

The castle at Szigliget, on the north shore of Lake Balaton.
Photo by ferengra – Creative Commons

THE WINE SUB-REGIONS OF LAKE BALATON

by Eric Bryan

Badacsony:
The volcanic soils topped with sand and clay of Badacsony produce full-bodied white wines with significant acidity. Grapes of Badacsony include Chardonnay, Italian Riesling, Szürkebarát (Pinot Gris), Kéknyelü, Muscat Ottonel, Rhine Riesling, and Tramini.

Balatonboglár:
This sub-region on the south shore of Lake Balaton has become known for its champagne. The grapes of Balatonboglár are Cabernet, Chardonnay, Italian Riesling, Kékfrankos, and Merlot.

Balaton-felvidék:
In this sub-region, the chalky, volcanic and forest soils produce full-bodied white wines with significant acidity. The grape varieties of Balatonfelvidék include Chardonnay, Italian Riesling, Muscat Ottonel, Rizlingszilváni, and Szürkebarát.

A bottle of Zweigelt, from Balatonfüred-Csopak. *Photo by Geographer – Creative Commons*

Balatonfüred-Csopak:
The Balatonfüred-Csopak sub-region features mineral-rich terra rosa and forest soils, which result in full-bodied white wines with significant acidity, and also some red wines. Amongst the grapes of this sub-region are Cabernet Franc, Furmint, Italian Riesling, Merlot, Muscatel Ottonel, Pinot Noir, Rhine Riesling, Rizlingszilváni, Sauvignon Blanc, Tramini, and Zweigelt.

Dél-Balaton:
This sub-region produces full-bodied white as well as red wines with moderate acidity. The grapes of Dél-Balaton include Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Italian Riesling, Kékfrankos, Királyleányka, Merlot, Muscat Ottonel, Sauvignon, Tramini, and Zöldveltelini.

Somló:
The volcanic soil of this historically coveted sub-region results in full-bodied white wines with high acidity. The principal grape varieties of Somló are Furmint, Hárslevelü, Italian Riesling, Juhfark (Sheep's Tail), Olaszrizling and Rhine Riesling.

Zala:
This sub-region on the west side of the lake produces primarily white wines from its sandy, clayey sediments overlaid with loess-based forest soil. Zala's grape varieties include Chardonnay, Italian Riesling, Kékfrankos, Olaszrizling, Oportó, Red Tramini, Rizlingszilváni, Zalagyöngye (Pearl of Zala), Zöldveltelini, and Zweigelt.

THE BLACK ARMY OF HUNGARIAN KING CORVINUS

by Eric Bryan

The Black Army of King Matthias Corvinus was a standing mercenary force which had its origins in the 1440s during the reign of Corvinus' father, John Hunyadi. The Black Army's traditional period of activity was from 1458 to 1494. Unlike the mercenary soldiers of other countries, those of the Black Army were full-time soldiers, wholly dedicated to the skills of warfare. The Black Army saw many battles and conquered portions of Austria and Moravia.

The Black Army's core initially was made up of 6,000 to 8,000 soldiers, but subsequently expanded to a standard quantity of 30,000 mercenaries. During enemy invasions, the army's size increased to 60,000 men. Originally, the army consisted of soldiers from Bohemia, Germany, Serbia, and Poland. By 1480, the force was mainly made up of Hungarians.

Gunpowder was expensive during the Middle Ages, so only one in five infantrymen carried a firearm. This was in the form of a harquebus, an early muzzle-loading smoothbore weapon which was a predecessor of the musket.

The Black Army troops consisted primarily of light and heavy cavalry, artillery, and infantry. The heavy cavalry was assigned to defend the artillery and infantry, while the other corps concentrated on offensive actions. The army had a notable victory when they vanquished the Ottomans at the Battle of Breadfield (Kenyérmezei csata) on 13 October 1479. This conflict was one of the most massive of the Hungarian-Turkish Wars fought on Transylvanian soil. The Black Army also fought battles against the Czechs, the Holy Roman Empire, the Hussites, the Moldavians, the Papal States, the Kingdom of Poland, Saxony, and Venice.

A representation of King Matthias Corvinus. Image extracted from page 244 of Szabad királyi Kassa Városának történelmi Évkönyve ("Historical Yearbook of the Free Royal City of Kosice") by József Tutkó, 1861. Original held and digitized by the British Library. *Public Domain in the US*

Historians disagree about the origins of the term "Black Army". The name apparently wasn't applied during King Matthias' lifetime, but appears in accounts written immediately following his death. Various theories aver that the soldiers dressed in black or displayed a black stripe on their shoulders while in mourning for King Matthias. Mediaeval Italian scholar Antonio Bonfini (1434–1503) used the term "Black Army" to signify the hardiness of the force's veterans. Another theory is that the name comes from the black breastplate worn by Captain Frantisek Hag, or alternately from the nickname of another Black Army officer, Captain "Black" John Haugwitz.

The Badacsony area is ancient volcano country, and the grape vines thrive in the lava soil and plentiful sunshine of the lower slopes. The Avars, whose empire in the seventh century AD stretched from the Black Sea to the Adriatic, used to bury grape seeds with their dead — an effort to ensure viniculture continued into the hereafter.

Writers and artists have long been attracted to the strange and romantic landscape of Badacsony, with its sharp volcanic hills overlooking smooth Lake Balaton. In fact, a mansion in the nearby

Lake Balaton in winter. *Photo by Valtameri –Creative Commons*

A portrait of Queen Maria Theresa, mother of 16 children (including Marie Antoinette) and the last of the House of Habsburg, whose family owned some of the Somló Hill land, painted by Imperial artist Martin van Meytens (1695-1770). *Photo by Buchscan – Wikimedia Commons*

village of Szigliget is the private preserve of the Hungarian Writer's Union.

SOMLÓ HILL WINES

The smallest Hungarian wine region is Somló, about 34 miles north of Lake Balaton. Somló is believed to boast the highest per-capita male population in Hungary. Traditional folklore tells that a glass of any Somló wine – Juhfark in particular – on the eve of the wedding day influences the odds in favor of the birth of a male heir.

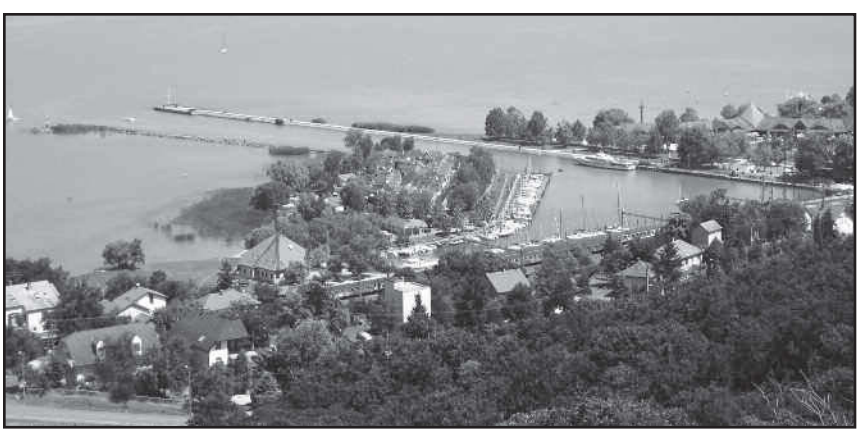
The Habsburg royal family were alleged to have held to this belief, and from 1526 to 1918, as they ruled Hungary from Vienna, they consistently produced male heirs. Emperor Charles III was the one exception, whose daughter Maria Theresa reigned from 1740 to 1780. But Duke Stephen, her consort, may have consumed his fair share of Somló wine: Maria Theresa had 16 children and was succeeded by her son, Joseph II (ruled 1780–1790).

The Ezerjó, Olaszrizling and Mézesfehér wines come from vineyards on Somló Hill, an extinct volcano. The mild climate and volcanic soil combine to create a golden-green wine with a pleasing twang, reputed to ease indigestion, cleanse the kidneys and fight anemia.

Saint Stephen founded a convent in Somló, and a statute in the 1511 *Urbarium* details the services required of the serfs who tended the convent's vineyards: They were demanded to pay annually one-tenth of the yield of noble Somló grapes, and twelve tubs of wine from surrounding districts.

Brilliant Renaissance monarch King Matthias Corvinus (reigned 1458–1490) also owned land on Somló Hill. He established the vineyards that provided wine to his renowned Black Army, an elite body of mercenaries who reputedly went into battle dressed mysteriously in black.

Other Somló Hill wine growers were the Benedictine and Cistercian Orders. Tamás Bakócz, a maligned humanist who rose from serf to cardinal, owned one of the largest vineyards. When the Cardinal rode through Rome as a candidate in the Papal election, it is said that he had his and his retinue's horses shod with golden shoes. Bakócz hoped the impression of great wealth would secure votes, but history suggests his ploy had the reverse effect. Gift barrels brimming with Somló wine may have been more politically effective.



Fonyód on Lake Balaton. *Photo by Nobli – Creative Commons*

The Eszterházys family, descended from a swashbuckling captain who founded the family fortune by marrying a wealthy widow, became the biggest landowners in Hungary. During Maria Theresa's reign, the family acquired some of the coveted Somló land. Their estate was a vast Eszterházys empire, with the Somló Hill vineyards the jewel in the crown.

LAKE BALATON'S SOUTHERN SHORE WINES

The southern area of Lake Balaton also has its wines. Beyond the shoreline holiday resorts, there lies a sizeable and variegated region of vineyards. These range from tiny, individual holdings to large enterprises boasting their own laboratories and wine producing plants.

The Wine Song Festival

by Eric Bryan

The European Wine Song Festival is held annually on the final weekend of September in Pécs. Celebrations are also presented in villages dotted along the Villány-Siklós Wine Road. Inaugurated in 1993, the festival's motto is "Wine and song go hand in hand in every culture".

The aim of the event is to not only celebrate the link between music and wine, but to reinforce the traditions associated with wine and to represent Hungarian wines to the world through the arts.

The festivities offer performances of male choirs from across Europe. Chorale groups from Croatia, Finland, France, Italy, Latvia, and Spain as well as celebrated Hungarian ensembles have all sung at the event. The festival's host choir is the Bartók Béla Male Chorus.

The next European Wine Song Festival takes place September 22-24, 2017. For more information, contact Tamás Lakner, artistic director of the event:

Convivial Wine Song Festival, Pécs
H-7634 Pécs, Abaligeti út 35, Hungary
Phone: +36 30 994 6380 • Email: lakner.tamas@freemail.hu

THE HUNGARIAN WINE ACT

by Eric Bryan

In modern Hungary, the country's finest wine-growing areas are divided into twenty wine regions as decreed by the Hungarian Wine Act. The act, valid as of September 1994, defines wine and carbonated categories as follows:

- Natural Wine: Table, quality or premium quality wine produced in accordance with legal resolutions with the following stipulation: Table wines are required to be produced from must containing a minimum of 13% sugar by mass.
- Country Wines: Table wines made from the produce of certain wine growing areas and from the must of fully specified grape varieties approved of by the state with a minimum of 15% sugar by mass.
- Quality Wines: Wines made from the must of a growing area's specific grape varieties with a minimum of 15% sugar by mass, provided that they are the produce of a plantation with a maximum yield of twelve tonnes per hectare of a specific wine growing area and contain distinctive flavor and aroma substances specific to the area and grape variety, or possibly to the production technology used, or the vintage.
- Premium Wines: Special wine made from the must of a growing area, specific grape variety grown on a plantation yielding a maximum of ten tonnes per hectare in certain wine-growing areas, the crop of which has ripened or over-ripened on its wine-stock or has shriveled or developed noble-rot, provided that the must contains a minimum of 19% sugar by mass, as well as fragrance, flavor and aroma substances characteristic of that growing area, grape variety and the method of wine-making, and that it is worthy of special distinction due to the vintage and its place of origin.
- Museum Wines (particularly old vintage wines): Quality and exquisite wines aged for a minimum of five years and worthy of distinction due to a specific feature, the vintage and its character.

The most famous white wines from the southern district are the Muscat Lunel, the Tramini, and the Királyleányka. The popular red wines are of the lighter variety, notably Kékfrankos, Blue Oporto and Cabernet Sauvignon.

Fish is the specialty of the area, and the lake beam, carp and perch are made into a number of dishes from fish soup to fish roasted on a spit. Fish is sometimes prepared by slicing in half, sprinkling with paprika, and grilling until crisp. Balaton Cabernet Sauvignon, which has all the advantages of aromatic red wines made from grapes harvested when fully ripe, is the favored wine to accompany the fish specialties.

The Hotel Nádor, in Pécs. *Photo by Csanády – Public Domain*

THE WINE SONG FESTIVAL

Since the reign of Saint Stephen, September has been vintage month in Hungary. Hungary's wines are presented annually in vintage festivals held in Budapest and every wine producing region. In Pécs, a city in the southwest portion of the country near the Croatian border, the vintage celebrations reach their peak in the Wine Song Festival. Schubert's song in praise of wine, delivered by a 200-voice international choir, opens the festivities:

You friends and you golden wine
Make my life sweeter.
Without you bestowers of joy
I would live in fear and trembling . . .

What is the hero without a friend?
What are the great men of the realm?
What is the master of the whole world?
They are all poorly counseled,
Without friends, without wine
I should not even wish to be emperor.

ERIC BRYAN *is a freelance writer originally from Burlingame, California. His work has appeared in many periodicals in North America, Europe, and Australia.*

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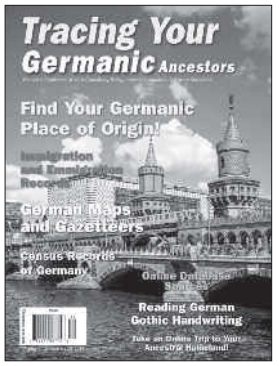

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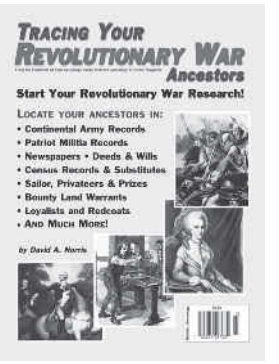

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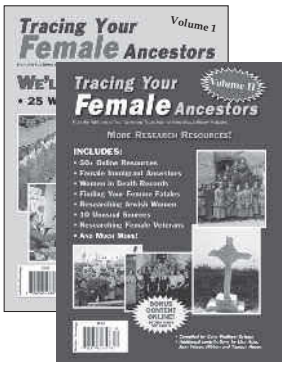

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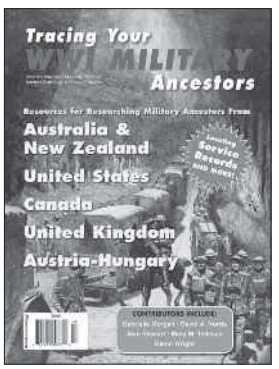

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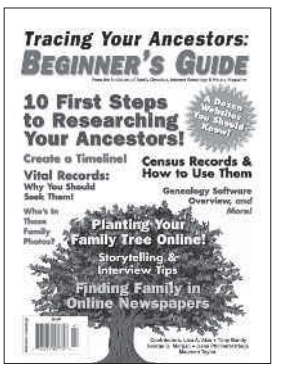

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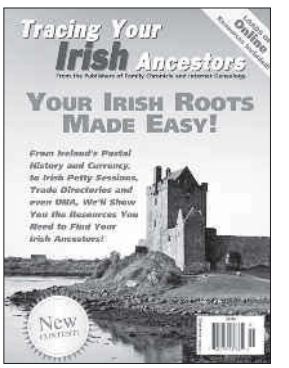

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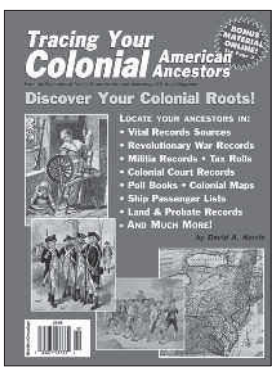

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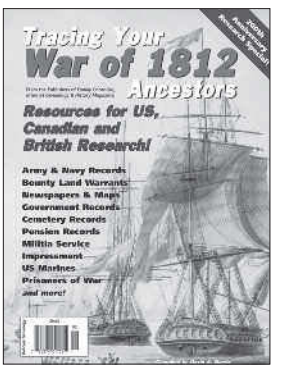

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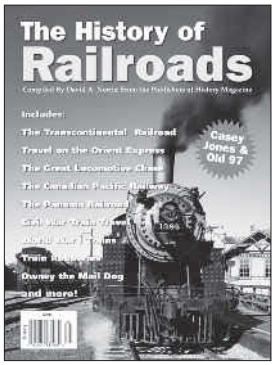

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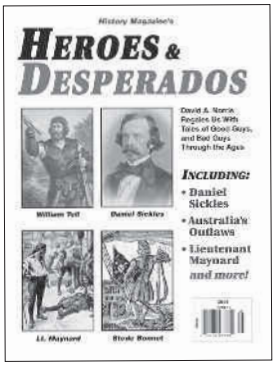

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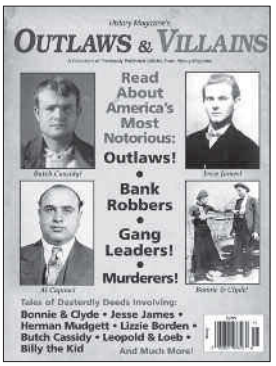

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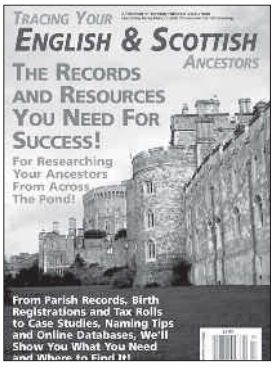

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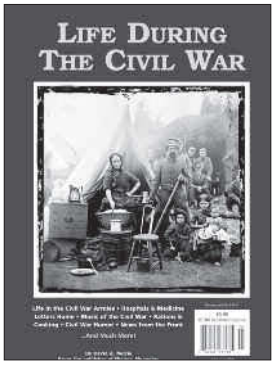

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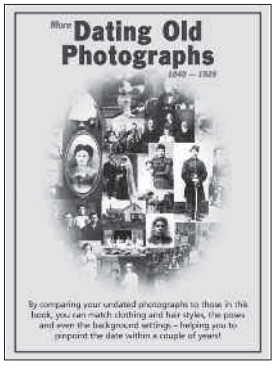

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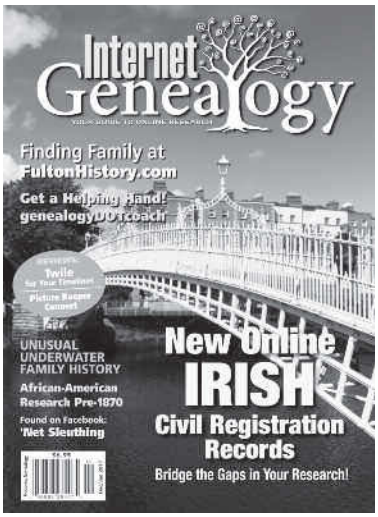

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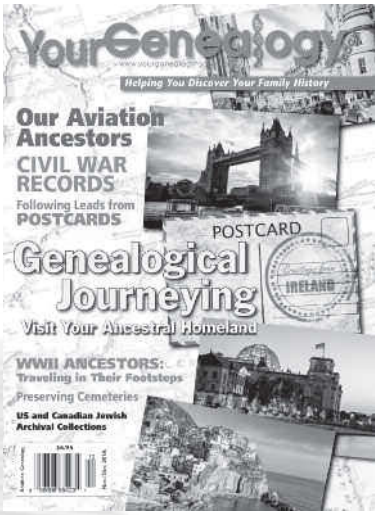

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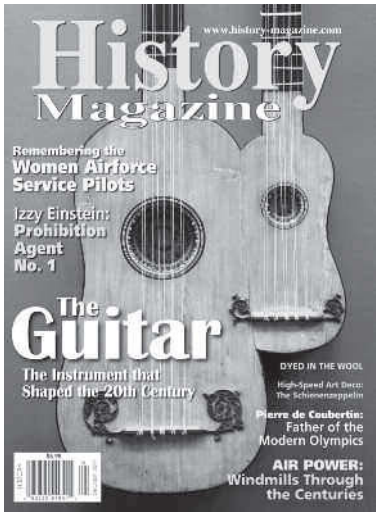

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18th-century engraving of Machiavelli.
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'THE PRINCE' MAKES ITS DEBUT

RAY CAVANAUGH LOOKS AT NICCOLÒ MACHIAVELLI AND HIS PROVOCATIVE CLASSIC — *THE PRINCE*

Niccolò Machiavelli's "little book", *The Prince,* did not see an official printing until 1532, five years after the author died in exile from his beloved Florence. However, manuscript copies of the cynical masterpiece began circulating 500 years ago in 1516, according to the chronology in the 2003 Penguin edition of *The Prince.*

Its composition had started in 1513, a tumultuous year (as were many) in Florentine politics and especially in the life of Machiavelli, who was imprisoned, tortured, then granted release from captivity, only to be exiled from the city where he had risen to political prominence.

The common contention is that Machiavelli wrote *The Prince* – which he dedicated to Lorenzo de' Medici – in an effort to regain entry to Florence and recover his former political position. Whatever the author's exact motives, his masterwork has provoked denunciation, admiration, banishment, plagiarism, and widely-varying interpretation ever since.

The gadfly of modern political philosophy was born in Florence on 3 May 1469, entering a family of good standing, but modest financial means. His father, Bernardo, was an intellectual who made sure that Niccolò received a fine humanist education.

Young Machiavelli devoured his liberal arts curriculum, displaying particular interests in poetry and the ancient philosophers, who were seeing a renewed interest as the Renaissance ethos underwent a secular resurrection across Europe.

For inspiration, Machiavelli did not have to look far: Florence

was a dynamic epicenter of both cultural ferment and political tumult. Coming of age in an exciting and dangerous time, his ambition and intelligence ultimately attached themselves to the political vocation.

While still in his 20s, he was appointed to the coveted positions of Second Chancellor and Secretary to the Dieci di Libertà e Pace – a post that dictated Florence's military endeavors.

A firm believer in a citizen-army, Machiavelli saw mercenaries as unreliable personalities who made destruction their craft and whose loyalty went no further than their material interests; he felt that citizen-soldiers would be more dependable, for they held a vested interest in their families and homeland.

Though Machiavelli's logic was sound, his citizen-army was an altogether different story. Ross King's *Philosopher of Power* tells how, in August 1512, Machiavelli's newly formed militiamen "disgraced themselves by throwing down their weapons and fleeing" when they were supposed to defend the city of Prato against Spanish troops fighting on behalf of the notorious Medici family.

The civilians of Prato then were subjected to most every atrocity known to mankind. As for Machiavelli's hapless citizen-soldiers, most of them were captured and faced agonies more gruesome and protracted than the vast lot of battlefield slaughters.

Giuliano de' Medici rode into Florence in menacing triumph. This arrival did not initially perturb Machiavelli, however. The two met before; it had been amicable. Machiavelli figured that the Medici's new power would not have to impinge on his quality of life.

He figured wrong. The remainder of his failed militia was disbanded, and he was stripped of his role as Second Chancellor. His uncertain future became even more problematic when he was arrested and accused falsely of conspiracy in a plot to assassinate the ruling Medici.

Ultimately, he served just 22 days of incarceration. But this ostensibly brief period was packed with activity – interrogation-based activity. With his arms bound behind the back, Machiavelli was tied to a pulley, elevated to a considerable height, and then dropped abruptly.

Shoulders would dislocate as the arms violently contorted in ways not designed for human movement. This awful torment was assigned to Machiavelli six times. What could he possibly say to make it stop? The tragic futility of an innocent man being interrogated under torture is that he has no information to reveal.

Upon his release from prison, Machiavelli was persona non grata in Florence. So he retreated

Statue of Macchiavelli by Lorenzo Bartolini, now located at the Uffizi Gallery, Florence, Italy. *Photo by "Jebulon", Wikimedia Commons*

to his second residence in the village of Sant'Andrea in Percussina, seven miles to the south of his former city. Though he still clung to hope, most who knew Machiavelli felt that his political career was finished.

Machiavelli's letter to a friend describes his daily post-captive activity of farm work, chatting with locals, reading Dante and Petrarch, and his undertaking of a "little book" called *About Principalities* – now known as *The Prince.*

At the time, Machiavelli did not seem too concerned with leaving an immortal work to posterity. By the sound of things, he was just trying to get his old job back: "If it were read they would see that for the fifteen years I have been studying the art of the state I have not slept or been playing…There is my wish that our present Medici lords will make use of me, even if they begin by making me roll a stone."

The following year, Machiavelli, still unemployed, was beginning to abandon hope of returning to the glories of his former political career. Increasingly, he turned to his literary pursuits, such as an irreverent comedic drama called *The Mandrake Root.*

Other writings included *The Discourses,* his longest work; *The History of Florence,* a work which he was as well-qualified to write as any man alive; and *The Art of War*, which would be the only one of his books officially published in his lifetime.

As was often the case long ago, though, works that were not yet formally published in book form could gain a cult following of sorts by being circulated on loose pieces of paper. In 1516, *The Prince,* though not yet renowned, was making the rounds among the literate, and beginning to swirl in controversy.

There was something distinctive about this political treatise advising princes on how to most effectively lead (or, if need be, tyrannize). Following the earlier lead of Dante, *The Prince* was written in the Italian vernacular, as opposed to the Latin understood almost exclusively by educated elites.

16th-century portrait of Machiavelli rendered by artist Santi di Tito.
Wikimedia Commons

Though clearly a learned work, Machiavelli noted that *The Prince* contains less "big, impressive words" than most other literature of its epoch. He wrote about his desire to avoid any "superfluous decoration" of speech that was much in vogue at the time.

The Prince breaks from any pre-existing idealism about the future state of mankind; rid of any utopian visions, ethical and political goals are tied to the control of one's own leadership. Machiavelli's "virtue" had very little to do with the Christian concept of virtue; Machiavelli's was the sort of virtue found in obtaining glory through power and decisive, often ruthless, action.

Though his works made a brief stir during his lifetime, Machiavelli the Writer largely came alive after the death of Machiavelli the Man on 21 June 1527. Within five years of his death, Machiavelli's *Discourses, History of Florence*, and, now most notably, *The Prince*, saw publication.

About this short and brutally honest last work, the Catholic Church was not amused. Twenty years later, when the Church's first *Index of Banned Books* appeared, all of Machiavelli's existing full-length titles were included. Despite their "banned" status, Machiavelli's works enjoyed further publication and dissemination (especially in certain Protestant venues that had no need to adhere to any papal demands).

As *The Prince* spread across Europe and saw translation into multiple languages, Machiavelli became known as a "teacher

of evil". His name became a byword for treacherous scheming; Jesuit scholars would refer to Machiavelli as the "Devil's partner in crime"; Shakespeare would employ the phrase "murderous Machiavel".

Shakespeare may be the finest writer to refer to Machiavelli, but by no means is he the only one: Browning, Coleridge, Keats, Shelley, Spenser, and Wordsworth are but some of the literary stars who, at the very least, have written of Machiavelli. There is also a colossal heap of far-lesser-known writers who have invoked his name.

Others have omitted reference to Machiavelli, and instead plagiarized his work. Giuseppe Prezzolini's book *Machiavelli* tells of the "brazen plagiarism" committed by one Machiavelli contemporary, who "copied [The Prince] word for word without using any quotation marks".

The influence of *The Prince* has extended far beyond men of letters, of course. Numerous politicians, including despots, have studied Machiavelli's "little book"; Napoleon was a devoted pupil; Mussolini even wrote a discourse on *The Prince.*

As with many classics (*The Bible*, most notably), *The Prince* has given rise to varying, and often conflicting, interpretations. Writer Patrick Curry asks: "Is it a how-to manual for dictators, a cynical philosophy of 'the end justifies the means,' or a more complex and subtle analysis of successful government?"

Many scholars have defended Machiavelli against complaints about the apparent immorality of his work by pointing out that, during such volatile political times, ruthless actions were often mandatory in order to retain power.

Among Machiavelli's prominent modern fans is former heavyweight boxing champ "Iron" Mike Tyson, who says that *The Prince's* author is "the most sophisticated writer outside of Shakespeare, way ahead of his time…such a manipulative person, everything he accomplished he did by kissin' ass." Tyson studied Machiavelli while in prison, where one often has to act Machiavellian in order to survive.

Of course, Machiavelli did his own bit in prison, where, with his arms tortured out of their sockets, he grasped (as well as anyone before or since) the value of holding onto power. *HM*

RAY CAVANAUGH *enjoys long walks, short novels, and people – like a tortured prisoner named Machiavelli – who can make the most out of a bad situation.*

Watercolor portrait of Ada King, Countess of Lovelace (Ada Lovelace), dated 1840. *Public domain, incl. in the US, created before 1923. Wikimedia Commons*

PARTED FOR A LIFETIME

The Story of Ada Lovelace and Lord Byron

DAVID SCOTT BROWN LOOKS AT THE SHORT LIFE OF THE LADY CREDITED WITH BEING THE FIRST-EVER COMPUTER PROGRAMMER

The constant rhythm of the machines would eventually extinguish the fierce cries of the Luddite rebellion, but for one brief moment, the vulnerable class of Nottinghamshire skilled artisans had their own outspoken defender in the British House of Lords. George Gordon Byron (1788-1824), aka Lord Byron, delivered an impassioned speech against that textile frame technology by which "superfluous laborers were thrown out of employment." In the debate on the 1812 Frame Breaking Act, Lord Byron protested against the government's intention to "hang up men like scarecrows" for the "capital crime of poverty". It was man against machine.

Twenty-one years later, another Byron would take a different stance. "The Analytical Engine weaves algebraic patterns, just as the Jacquard loom weaves flowers and leaves," she wrote. It was not the skill of the workman that Ada Lovelace extolled, but the wonder of the machine. While her poet father had railed against the damaging effects of automation on the British worker, August Ada Byron, the Countess of Lovelace (1815-1852) dreamed of a calculating engine that "might compose elaborate and scientific pieces of music of any degree of complexity or extent". Their views on technology were worlds apart – and so were they.

ADA LOVELACE, CHILD OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT

As a privileged young woman of British society, the child Ada Lovelace became acquainted with

some of the more influential innovators of the day. One of those was Michael Faraday (1791-1867), the scientist famous for his monumental contributions to the study of electromagnetism. The two were correspondents:

"Dear Mr Faraday,

I am exceedingly tickled with your comparison of yourself to a tortoise. It has excited all my fun (& I assure you I have no little of that in me).

I am also struck with the forcible truth of your designation of my character of mind:

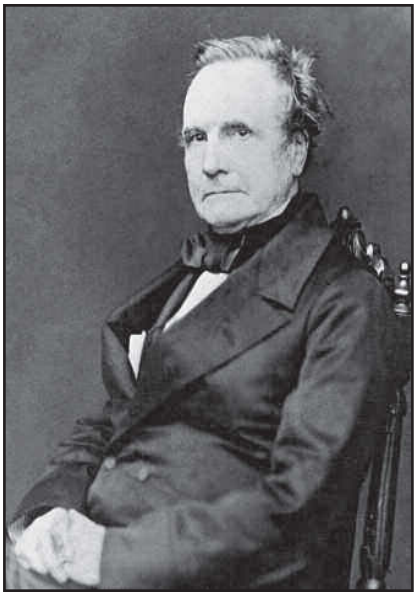
'elasticity of intellect'.

It is indeed the very truth, most happily put into language."

Imagine a young girl immersed in a world of numbers. Every day, she is tutored regarding the great mathematical ideas of the day. Determined that the girl would not become like her wayward father, Ada's mother, Anne Isabella Milbanke Byron, immersed the child in the hard sciences and discouraged any literary pursuits. Ada embraced the challenge, vehemently pursuing mathematical and scientific knowledge with the aid of hired instructors. But the careful mother was not altogether successful. Rather than quenching Ada's imagination, the intense scientific studies only fueled it. Ada wrote:

"What is imagination? It is the Combining faculty. It brings together things, facts, ideas, conceptions in new original, endless, ever-varying combinations… It is that which penetrates into the unseen worlds around us, the worlds of Science."

It was this broad view of the universe, her embrace of "poetical science", which gave Ada Lovelace

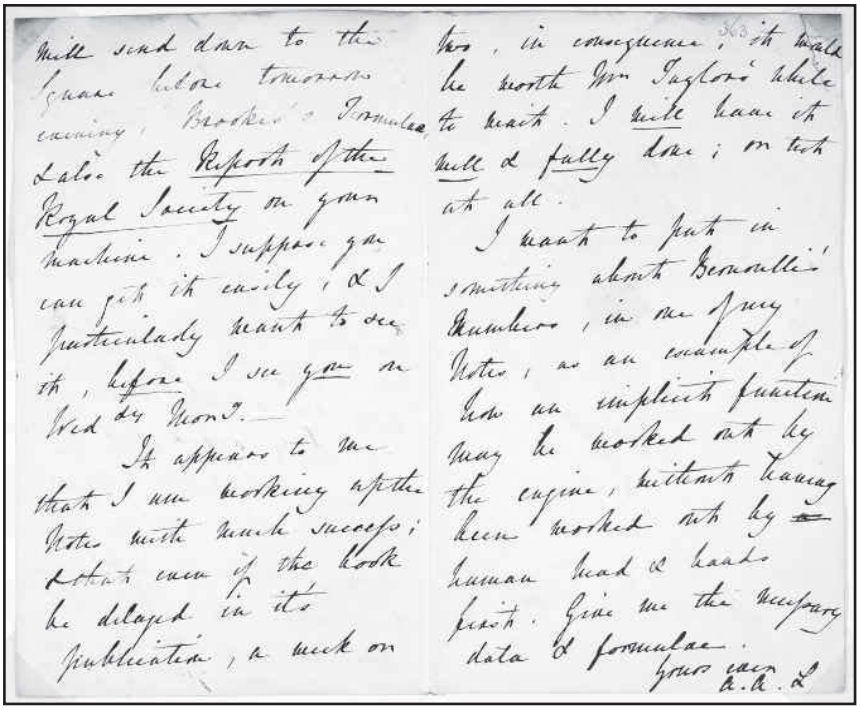


Charles Babbage, dated 1860. *Public domain, Wikimedia Commons*

her own unique perspective on the technological developments of the day. When, at age seventeen, she met society at the party of Charles Babbage, she was given a private demonstration of the inventor's Difference Engine, a machine that was meant to replace the mundane efforts of human calculation. Determined to calculate intricate navigational tables by mechanical means – by steam – Babbage had partially produced a machine that, when finished, would have some 25,000 mechanical parts.

When Babbage later abandoned this first project due to contractual disputes with his manufacturer, he extended his vision with the design of a new machine – the Analytical Engine. It was this enterprise that would occupy the trained mind of the mathematician Ada Lovelace, and eventually define her role in history. Not merely the forgotten daughter of one of England's greatest poets, the Countess of Lovelace would distinguish herself as a pioneer in digital computing with her academic treatment of the machine.

After translating the 1842 work of the Italian officer L.F. Menabrea, "Sketch of The Analytical Engine Invented by Charles Babbage", Ada added her own "Notes by the Translator". These turned out to be more insightful



Ada Lovelace's letter of 2 May 1842 to Charles Babbage outlining a calculation that might have been worked out by his Difference Engine. *Public domain. Letter held by the British Library*

than the original paper, and expressed ideas perhaps more profoundly than the inventor Babbage could ever have done. In her correspondence with Babbage while preparing the "Notes", she had told him:

"It appears that I am working up the notes with much success …. I want to put in something about Bernoulli's numbers, in one of my notes, as an example of how an implicit function may be worked out by the engine, without having been worked out by human head and hands first."

Here was a major departure from the philosophy of her father. She wanted an engine to replace a human, to make calculations independently. She wanted the machine to replace the man.

LORD BYRON, ROMANTIC POET

Ada was not altogether unlike her father. Contemporary English painter William Bewick put it this way:

"I have read some other letters of hers, in which her originality, I may say singularity of expression and humorous jollity, reminds me of her noble father and his extraordinary genius."

Lord Byron was indisputably a literary genius and perhaps the greatest British celebrity at the time. He was also a scoundrel.

Lady Caroline Lamb called him "mad, bad and dangerous to know", and even tried to slit her wrists over him at a formal ball.

It was Byron's zest for sexual adventure that earned him the reputation that would lead to his exile from British shores in 1816. He seemed to have had a premonition of it in the epic poem that made him an instant celebrity. In *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage,* he had written:

"Adieu, Adieu! my native shore
Fades o'er the waters blue…"

Lord Byron was then left to pursue the lonely life of a romantic adventurer he had autobiographically described in *Childe Harold*:

"And none did love him
– though to hall and bower

He gather'd revelers from
far and near,

He knew them flatt'rers of the
festal hour;

The heartless parasites of
present cheer."

Whether he was loved or not by those at home was not the matter. Lady Byron sought to protect her daughter from the foolish ways of her errant father. The last straw had been the alleged affair – and possible love child — with Byron's own half-sister Augusta Leigh. But the poet still had his poetry, and miles of adventure ahead.

"And now I'm in the world alone,
Upon the wide, wide sea;
But why should I for others groan,
When none will sigh for me?"

Throughout his life, Lord Byron engaged in sexual dalliances of many stripes. He boasted of bedding over 200 women in Venice. Less publicized were his relationships with men and boys. (Such wild stories must have been too much information; his friends burned the manuscript of his memoirs after his death.) One such affair was with the stepsister of Percy Shelley, Claire Claremont, whom he impregnated before his departure from England. The resulting child died alone in a convent at age four. Claire later wrote that Byron had "given her only a few minutes of pleasure but a lifetime of trouble."

THE SPIRIT OF PROMETHEUS

Despite carrying his child, Claire Claremont joined Byron and the couple Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822) and Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (1797-1851) for a summer on the shores of Lake Geneva. It was a gathering of key figures of the Romantic Movement, which may be seen as a reaction to the stark scientific philosophy of the Enlightenment. There were no menacing machines on the lake to fret the socially-minded Bohemians, but that did not prevent Mary Shelley from awakening in terror after a night of ghost stories.

"I saw the hideous phantasm of a man stretch out, and then, on the working of some powerful engine, show signs of life, and stir with an uneasy, half vital motion."

Mary Shelley's vision would become the inspiration for one of the greatest horror stories ever written, *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus*. The hidden meanings of her novel remain unclear. But it may be that her work was an allegory that illustrated how badly things could go when mankind attempts to gain power over nature. To snatch from the Divine the power to create life – as did the ancient Prometheus – is to tempt fate, and perhaps unleash the unintended consequences of human foolishness.

That summer on the lake, viewing the lightning and hearing the

thunder, experiencing the storms and feeling the breeze that swept across the water, these Romantics, in their little commune, wanted nothing to do with the restrictions of polite society. They cared little for industrial mechanization or the right order of things in the burgeoning cities. In their natural and carnal conclave, they were a law unto themselves. They obeyed their emotions and submitted to the calls of nature, wherever it might take them.

The Romantics did not believe in using machines to manipulate or control the world or the people in it. Lord Byron had defended the Luddites, and turned toward a naturalism that included sexual freedom and daring travel.

He had little use for the numbers that were so important to his daughter Ada. Byron and his cohorts were free spirits riding the dangerous waves of nature.

A century later, the computer genius Alan Turing noted Ada's opinion about the possibility of Artificial Intelligence when he referred to "Lady Lovelace's Objection". Ada had stated in her Notes: "The Analytical Engine has no pretensions to originate anything. It can do whatever we know how to order it to perform."

But the Romantic author of Frankenstein had no such reassurance. Mary Shelley confessed that "the prospect that a man-made contraption might originate its own thoughts has unnerved generations". Lord Byron, defender of the Luddites, and his companions in the Romantic Movement were concerned about the effects of mechanization and the Industrial Revolution upon the human race. Man's uneasiness with technological advances remains an issue for debate as futurists look toward the potential for Singularity, the predicted moment when machine intelligence finally exceeds that of humans. An artificially constructed man would be the ultimate horror for the human race.

The desire of Enlightenment thinkers to assert man's power over nature found its counterbalance in the writings of strong-willed Romantics like William Blake, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, William Wordsworth, the Shelleys, and Lord Byron. These visionaries were in awe of nature and its power to destroy. Byron wrote of the impenetrable Spirit of Prometheus:

"Which Earth and Heaven
could not convulse,

A mighty lesson we inherit;

Thou art a symbol and a sign

To Mortals of their fate
and force…."

CONCLUSION

Ada Lovelace and her father saw the world differently. They were on opposite sides of the push toward mechanization. Ada sought truth in numbers. "Mathematical Science shows what is. It is the language of the unseen relations between things." Lord Byron looked to nature, raw experience, and human emotion to guide him. He subjected himself to "the winds and waves" of life. It was an outlook and lifestyle that would deprive him of any relationship with his bright child.

Self-exiled from Britain, cast upon the seas, Lord Byron could not help but think of his daughter. He wrote of her in Canto III of *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage:*

"Is thy face like thy mother's,
my fair child!

Ada, sole daughter of my house
and heart?"

And again:

"I see thee not, — I hear thee not,
but none

Can be so wrapt in thee;
thou art my friend

To whom the shadows
of far years extend…."

But Byron's years did not extend so long. On his deathbed at age thirty-six in distant Greece, taken by fever, Lord Bryon proclaimed, "Oh my poor dear child! My dear Ada! My God, could I but have seen her!" Ada's life too was cut short. She would fall to cancer, also dying at age thirty-six. Against her mother's wishes, she insisted to be buried in the vault beside her famous father. A man of letters and woman of numbers, they had spent a lifetime apart. Now they remain together forevermore. HM

FURTHER READING

The Innovators: How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution, Walter Isaacson, 2014

Lord Byron: Major Works, Edited by Jerome J. McGann, 1986.

Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus, Mary Shelley.

DAVID SCOTT BROWN
is a freelance writer living on a Tennessee mountain, close to his family's roots. A former tech professional, he now writes about technology, history, and current events.

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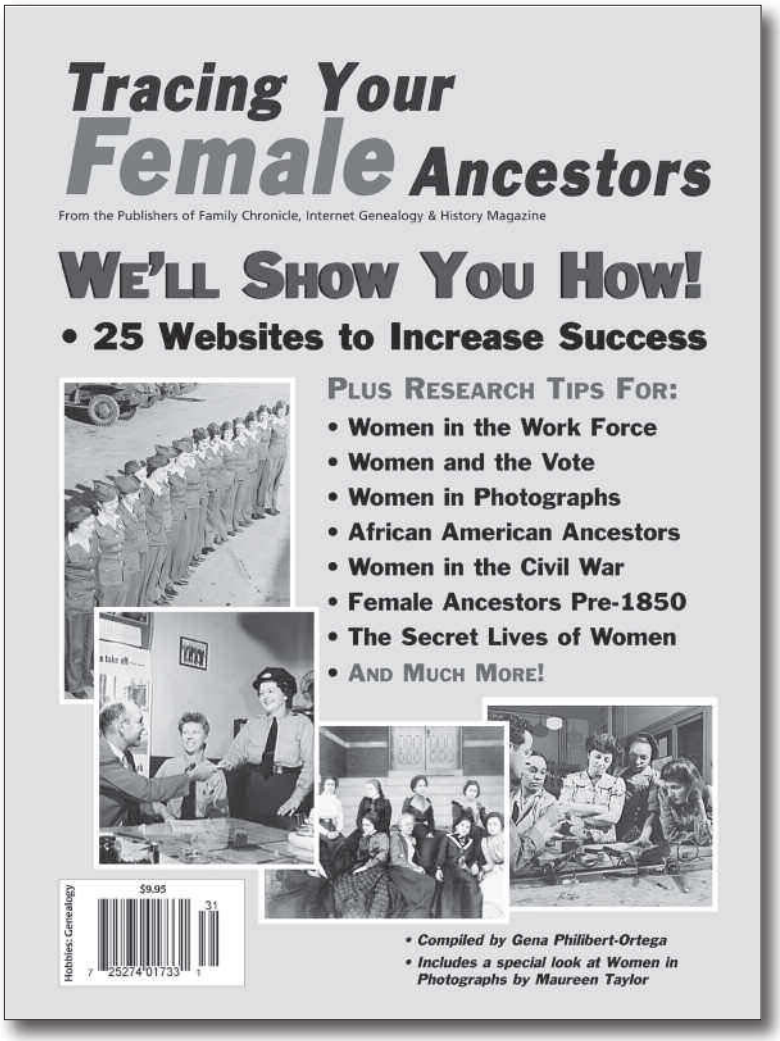

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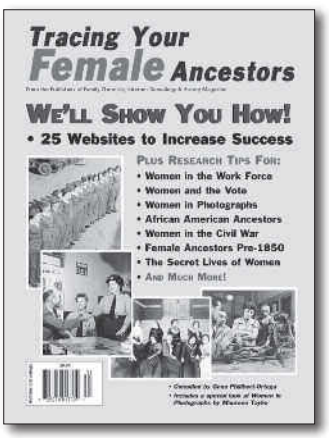

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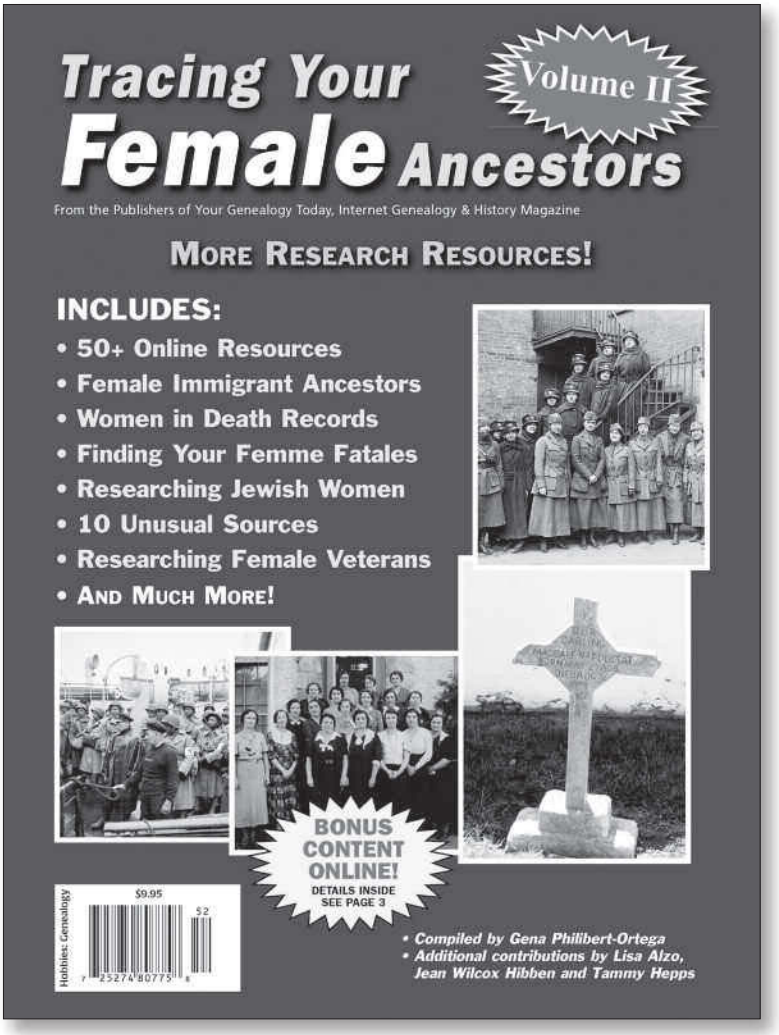

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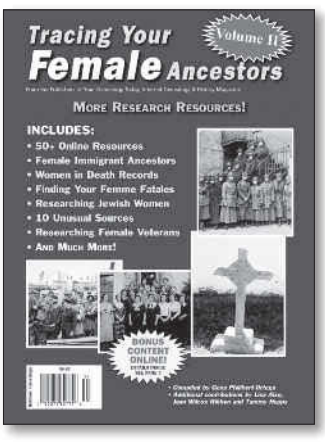

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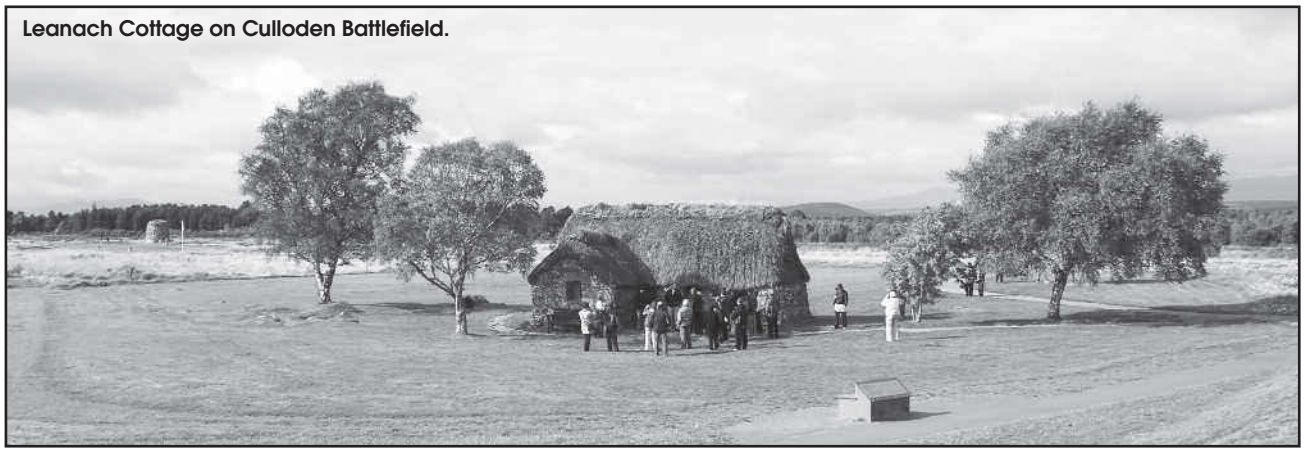

Leanach Cottage on Culloden Battlefield.

TWO ROYAL ESCAPES

DAVID MCVEY EXAMINES AN INTERESTING PARALLEL IN THE LIVES OF CHARLES II AND CHARLES EDWARD STUART

This is a story that anyone with a romantic view of the past will recognize, particularly if they have an interest in 18th century Scottish Jacobites and the doomed Rising of 1745-6.

Charles Stuart, a man who would be king of Great Britain and Ireland, has to flee for his life after defeat in battle. His enemies are determined to hunt him down, but Charles is protected and shielded by a succession of loyal supporters; he is disguised, hidden in obscure corners of great houses, led by guides across wild country, forced to sleep rough and narrowly escapes close encounters with government troops. Finally, after weeks on the run, Charles manages to slip aboard a vessel bound for France, where he continues plotting for the throne.

It certainly reads, in every detail, like the story of Charles Edward Stuart, the Young Pretender, 'Bonnie Prince Charlie', fleeing after Culloden in 1746. But it could also apply, in its entirety, to his ancestor, the future Charles II, after *his* defeat at the Battle of Worcester in 1651.

The House of Stewart began in Scotland. It became the family name of those who inherited the role of High Steward (or Governor) of Scotland. Later, the spelling *Stuart* was developed to make the name easier for the dynasty's French allies to pronounce. It became the accepted usage; the Scottish spelling by now smacked of servanthood anyway, too much like the original 'Steward'.

Famously, the Stuarts were exported from Scotland to the rest of Great Britain in 1603, when James VI succeeded Elizabeth in England; he had been king in Scotland since he was an infant, since 1567. There are many parallels between the various Stuarts and Stewarts down through the centuries; few would deny them their bravery, but they also tended to show a certain melancholy, as well as a durable tendency to cling to old ways – not least, the Divine Right of Kings – when the rest of the world had moved on. But few Stuart parallels are as striking as those between Charles II and Charles Edward Stuart in their shared experience of flight after defeat.

Charles II (as he would become, and as we'd better call him) escaped from Worcester on 3 September 1651 as victorious Cromwellian troops poured into the town. Street battles began to rage and Charles claimed, in later life, that he slipped out of the back door of his lodgings as government forces began to force their way in at the front. Cromwell was triumphant, Great Britain would be run for a decade as a unit, on republican lines, and there was no place for the prince. He was a wanted and hunted man.

Ninety-five years later, the other Charles fled after a losing battle, a short but decisive encounter on Drumossie Muir, at Culloden near Inverness. There were some who still hoped to rally, but on 16 April 1746, Jacobitism and the Stuart claim to the throne had died. Charles did not accept this – and he was still free. And like his ancestor, he was being ruthlessly hunted.

Back in 1651, Charles II initially headed north. His advisors recommended escaping to Scotland, but neither he nor any other prominent refugee from Worcester succeeded in reaching there. Charles is often described in contemporary accounts as 'the Scottish king' and his opponents closed the net accordingly. In fact, Charles himself favored heading for London, a shrewd choice since it would be far easier to escape detection among the crowds of a city. Later, though, plans evolved, and taking a ship to France became the preferred option. The coasts of Wales, Dorset and Sussex were all considered, in their turn, as possible embarkation points.

In 1746, Charles Edward Stuart fled westward toward the more remote Western Highlands and the offshore islands. Here, the population was so sparse and travel so difficult in the rugged landscape that it was hoped it would be easy to disappear. In the course of some intricate and convoluted journeyings – some of the details of which are still uncertain or disputed – he visited several islands and an acreage of mainland that would do credit to the most intrepid modern hiker. One author, Ian Mitchell, in *Scotland's Mountains before the Mountaineers*, credits him with at least four first recorded ascents of major peaks, and suggests that there were probably others. But in all these wanderings, the central aim was the same as that of his ancestor 95 years earlier – to find a ship bound for France.

Charles II's northward flight took him only as far as Whiteladies, near modern Wolverhampton. A servant at Whiteladies would later be executed for his role in helping Charles, the only person involved to pay the ultimate price. Charles stayed in the area for some days, shuttling between various places of refuge around Brewood Forest, under the protection of various royalist families. Most famously, he and another Worcester refugee, a Colonel William Carlis, hid in the upper branches of an oak tree on the grounds of Boscobel House, fortified by bread, cheese and weak beer and with only a few pillows to smooth out the gnarled branches. At this most symbolic moment in Charles' escape, he had not slept for three nights and still had little opportunity for ease. From their perch, Carlis and Charles could sometimes see and hear searching Cromwellian troops passing beneath them. They remained undetected: a legend was born, and hundreds of inns and several Royal Navy vessels looked no further for a name. The oak itself suffered and died in the decades to come as tourists swarmed over it and broke off souvenirs. The Royal Oak to be seen at Boscobel today may be a descendent of the original, but is no more than that.

Charles Edward Stuart also had to dodge government forces, but there's no record of him seeking refuge in an oak tree: however, the rugged and rocky Highland landscape offered a number of caves as suitable hideouts. Several, well-known to his local guides, were used in the course of the flight. Tom Weir, one of several Scottish mountaineering writers who have been drawn to retrace Charles' route after Culloden, investigated a number of these rough lodgings, including Macleod's Cave, near Borrodale, a nameless boulder in Kintail and Rory's Cave in Coire Dho. Weir also visited MacEachine's Refuge near Loch Morar, one of those earmarked for use by the Prince, but never actually pressed into use.

Weir confidently claimed to have identified the most famous of the Prince's mountain refuges, Cluny's Cage above Loch Ericht, the bolthole of the Jacobite chieftain of Clan MacPherson (Robert Louis Stevenson sets some of *Kidnapped* there). However, on a conspicuously bouldery mountainside, there are many possible sites. It was while hiding in Cluny's Cage that Charles finally received good news about ships from France.

The most radical disguise adopted by Charles II during his flight from Worcester was to have his long hair shorn while wearing the garb of a workman. The Young Pretender famously went several levels beyond this. For the journey back to Skye from the outer isles, he posed as 'Betty Burke', Flora MacDonald's Irish maid, in history's most celebrated instance of cross-dressing. When someone questioned the wisdom of a mere maid concealing a pistol under her petticoat, Charles reasonably pointed out that if the search became *that* intimate, his true gender, and thus his identity, would be discovered anyway.

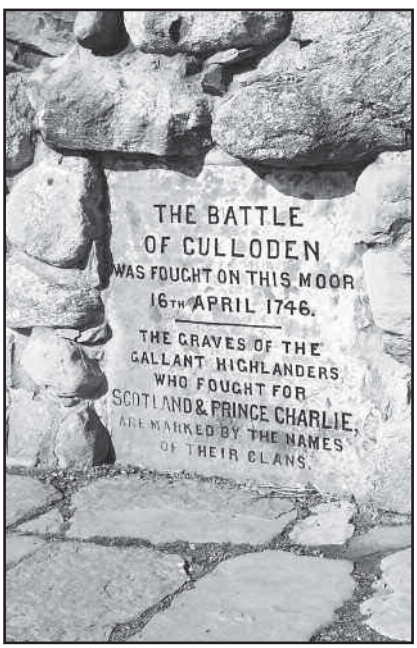
Charles' journey was quite harrowing – nearly drowning at sea when his party's open boat was caught in a storm near Arisaig; driven to distraction by fearsome clouds of Highland flies; often sleeping rough on wet hillsides or in a rolling open boat, and undertaking many long marches, sometimes in darkness, over rough, steep, mountainous terrain. Whatever we make of the tourist legend of Bonnie Prince Charlie, he could hardly have been the effete, pampered young man he is sometimes portrayed. Similarly, the bravery and pluck of Charles II – who was only 21 at the time of his flight – must command our respect. A £1,000 reward was offered for his capture, an offer that even the lowest-born of his 60 or so post-Worcester helpers felt able to resist.

Memorial Cairn on Culloden Battlefield.

After the Boscobel Oak incident, Charles II was conveyed south via Bristol to Dorset. His first attempt to take ship came to grief in circumstances that belong to farce. Stephen Limbry, master of a small coasting vessel, agreed to take the royal party from Charmouth to France. When Mrs. Limbry heard that her husband was about to head out for an unexpected voyage, she guessed correctly and, fearing the consequences of discovery, locked him in their bedroom, ignoring all his demands and thumpings on the door. Thus, ignominiously, Stephen Limbry vanishes from recorded history.

Charles and his party then travelled east to Sussex and finally set sail from Shoreham on the *Surprise*, a vessel of less than 60 tons and with a crew of six. Thus, in less than kingly state, Charles was borne to Fécamp, his six weeks as a fugitive over.

Ninety-five years later, on 19 September 1746, Charles Edward Stuart finally set sail for France, on the French warship *L'Heureux* which, along with the *Prince de Conti,* had anchored in Loch nan Uamh. The French ships had boldly waited just offshore for nearly two weeks, flying British colors, but in no real danger, since the Royal Navy were far to the north, protecting merchant ships around Orkney from attacks by French privateers. There was a nearer Royal Navy presence at Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis, but, in any case, no one thought it worth informing the authorities that two French ships were in the heart of the Western Highlands. And so, Charles left Scotland forever. It must have hurt that he did so from almost the very spot on which he had made landfall on the Scottish mainland 14 months earlier.



The Inscription on the Culloden Battlefield Memorial Cairn.

Even the bitterest enemies of the Stuarts concede that the fugitive princes had faced hardship and danger with bravery, resilience, grace and no little humor. And so another Stuart parallel emerges. In an excellent popular account of Charles II's flight, Richard Ollard writes, 'all that was likable or admirable or striking in [his] character showed, in this testing time, to best advantage; all that was base lay dormant or accepted the discipline of his situation.'

Eric Linklater, in a similarly readable account of Charles Edward Stuart's escape, called the story, 'a story that lives… among the great stories of the World,' while Charles 'throughout the long months of his flight, became a man of the proper sort to inspire such a story.' He also observed that '[Charles'] life – all of it that amounted to anything – was lived in Scotland between 25 July 1745 and 19 September 1746.' Tom Weir agreed; 'After the "Forty-Five", nothing of Charlie's life was of any consequence.' In exile, the Pretender continued plotting Jacobite enterprises, once even, it's said, paying a furtive visit to London seeking support, but none of them came to anything. He declined into drunken,

wife-beating self-indulgence and died a pathetic parody of the hero of romantic legend. The very length of that decline – he did not die until 1788 – is staggering. He would never be Charles III.

Charles II also became a sensualist, abusing wine and women and approving cruel persecutions on his opponents. Unlike his descendent, though, this Charles actually came into his kingdom and was able to reward many of those who had helped his 1651 escape. This he often did generously. Even the *Surprise* was remembered, being brought into the Royal Navy and renamed the *Royal Escape*. She remained on the navy lists until 1750. Charles himself died in 1685.

But the final mention should go to the two princes' brave and loyal supporters, where we find a final parallel. Supporters who resisted fabulous sums offered in reward had helped both Stuarts. By the time of the Young Pretender, inflation had upped the price of a fleeing Stuart to an unimaginable £30,000; you can imagine some people betraying their leaders for that sum even today. But the followers of the two princes not only shunned the rewards, they also risked their lives to help their princes. In the case of Charles Edward Stuart, numerous supporters did actually lose their lives while others helped him reluctantly. He was often passed between followers more like a hot potato than a thing of value – but he was never betrayed.

From the low-born to the titled, these people are the real heroes of the two stories. In displaying such courage they not only helped their princes to escape, but they also played their part in creating two gripping real-life stories. But the dynasty they served with such devotion was doomed, and the princes they served were hardly worthy of their loyalty. HM

(All photos courtesy of author)

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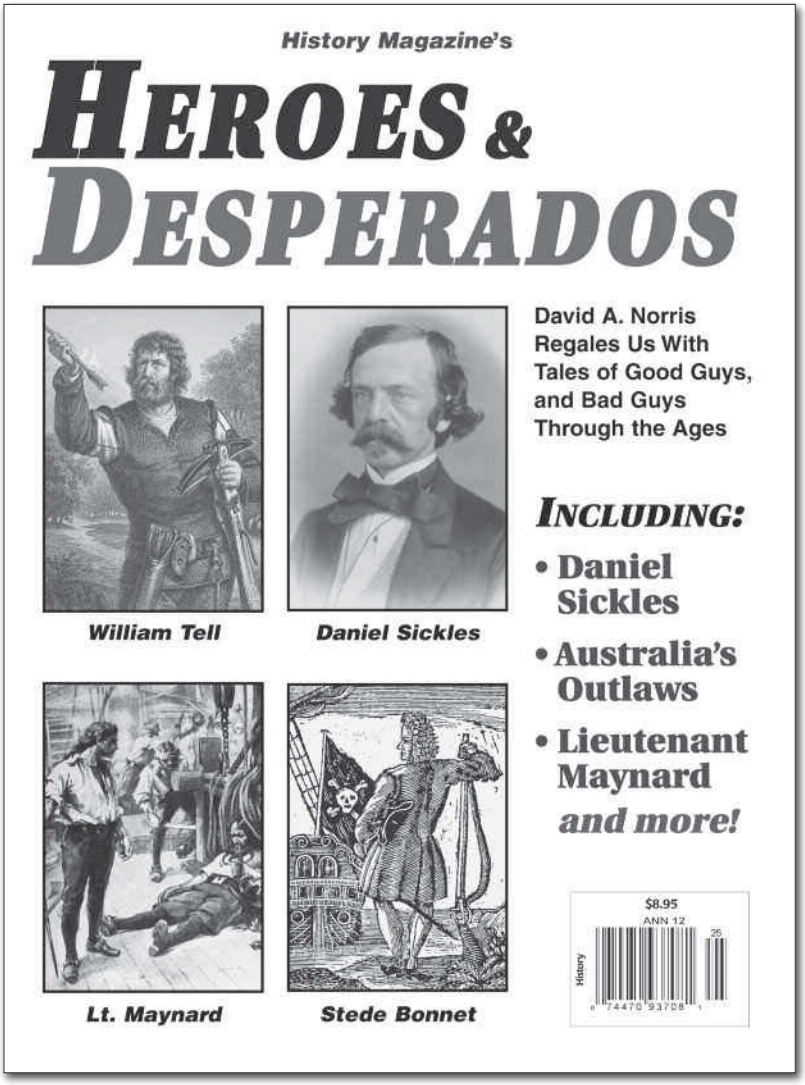
DAVID MCVEY *writes short stories and non-fiction articles, and lectures in Communication at New College Lanarkshire in Scotland. He enjoys hillwalking, watching football, visiting historic sites and reading.*

Heroes & Desperados!

by David A. Norris

This special issue from *History Magazine* features a collection of stories about famous, and not-so-famous characters down through history: some nice — and some not-so-nice. David A. Norris, a regular contributor to *History Magazine* as well as several of our other successful special issues, has compiled entertaining accounts of William Tell, Daniel Sickles, Lieutenant Maynard, Australia's Bushrangers, Boyle The Turncoat, The Bow Street Runners, Highwaymen and more!



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The Auto Train at Sanford, Florida.
(Roger Puta, Wikimedia Commons)

HISTORY OF THE AUTO TRAIN

JOHN CHRISTOPHER FINE LOOKS AT THE HISTORY OF A UNIQUE US RAIL SERVICE THAT HAS OPERATED SUCCESSFULLY FOR OVER FORTY YEARS

It is often described as the longest train in the world. With a full complement of 33 auto carriers and 18 passenger cars, the Auto Train stretches three-quarters of a mile long. It is also Amtrak's most profitable, carrying 130,000 automobiles and 250,000 passengers each year.

The Auto Train concept began with a US Department of Transportation commissioned study in the 1970s to determine the feasibility of a passenger train that would be capable of transporting automobiles.

Eugene K. Garfield worked on the study while employed by the DOT. Recognizing the potential for an automobile-carrying train, Garfield quit his government post and founded a company that implemented the study called Auto Train Corporation. Garfield's company ordered Auto Racks, vehicle carriers with 75-foot doors that opened at each end. The Auto Racks are 20' 2" high with two rows that accommodate vehicles.

Garfield's Auto Train began service on tracks owned by Seaboard Coast Line Railroad and the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Line from Lorton, Virginia to Sanford, Florida on 6 December 1971. It was an immediate success. Passengers wanted the luxury of overnight rail travel that cut 855 miles off their trip. It was impossible to bring the large train into New York or Boston as the Auto Racks and Superliner passenger cars were too high to pass under Washington, DC's First Street tunnel or under narrow bridges on the run from DC north.

Passengers accepted the fact that Auto Train originated about 20 miles south of DC and 20 miles north of Orlando. Their cars, motorcycles, trucks, even boat and small utility trailers can be loaded into the Auto Racks. Passengers board double decker Superliners with sleepers or coach class seats. All meals are included in Auto Train. There is bar service in

lounge cars with large windows that offer magnificent vistas of scenery along the route.

Auto Train can attain speeds of 80 miles per hour on some right of ways, however, the average speed is about 49 mph overall for the roughly 16-hour trip.

The Florida east coast route proved to be so profitable that Garfield expanded service to Louisville, Kentucky. It would have worked, but for the fact that tracks were in disrepair. Two derailments caused near bankruptcy for Garfield's company. Service was suspended for a 22-month period in April 1981.

The US Congress passed the Rail Passenger Service Act of 1970. The law, signed by President Richard Nixon, established the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, dubbed Amtrak, to take over rail passenger service between cities. This revolutionized rail passenger service previously operated by many railroads in the US. Amtrak service was begun on 1 May 1971, prior to initiation of service by Garfield's privately owned Auto Train Corporation. Twenty railroad companies turned their passenger service over to the new national rail line.

Under Amtrak, Auto Train service was revived on 30 October 1983. New Superliners were purchased. General Electric P 40 diesel-electric locomotives were used in tandem to pull the long trains. Two, and as many as three, locomotives are in service on each train. Amtrak introduced deluxe sleeper class that offers small roomettes with beds, larger rooms with shower and toilet facilities, as well as handicap accessible rooms on the first level that accommodate wheelchairs.

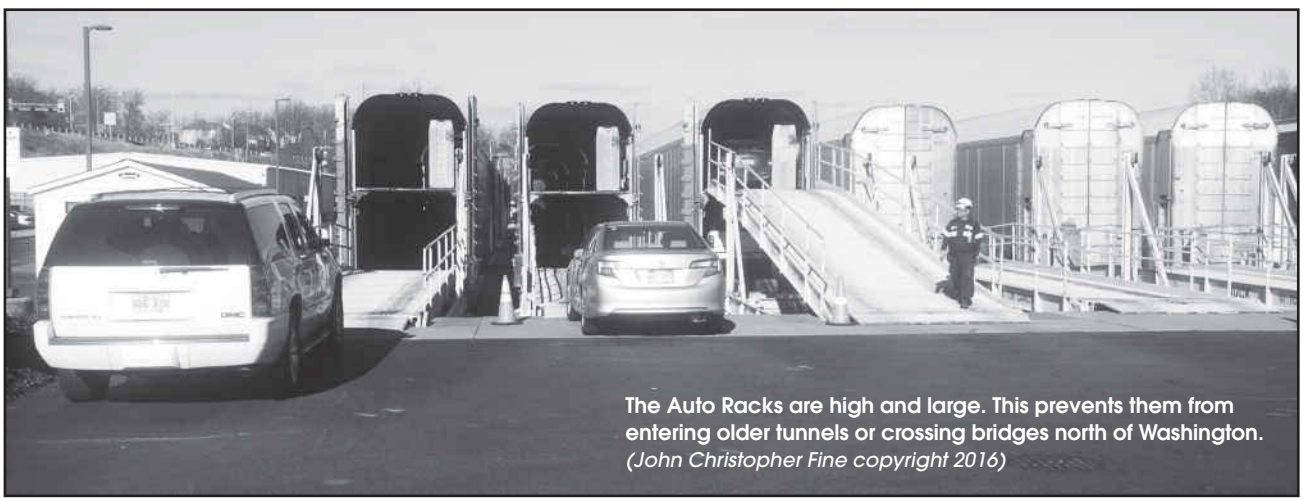
Lounge and dining cars on the top level offer vistas through large picture windows as well as food and beverage service. Amtrak began an advertising campaign that used the slogan: "Go 900 miles on one tank of gas." Another popular ad from the Auto Train 1992 brochure enticed passengers with "Stargazing in the Dome Lounge instead of staring at white lines."

Amtrak initially began triweekly service. Auto Train became so popular that daily service was initiated. Trains depart from Lorton and Sanford at 4PM every day. They arrive at their destinations around 9AM or earlier, depending on conditions. New terminals were built to accommodate passengers in comfort. Crews are changed and engines are fueled about half way along the journey in Florence, South Carolina. Most passengers are asleep and don't even notice that the train has stopped.

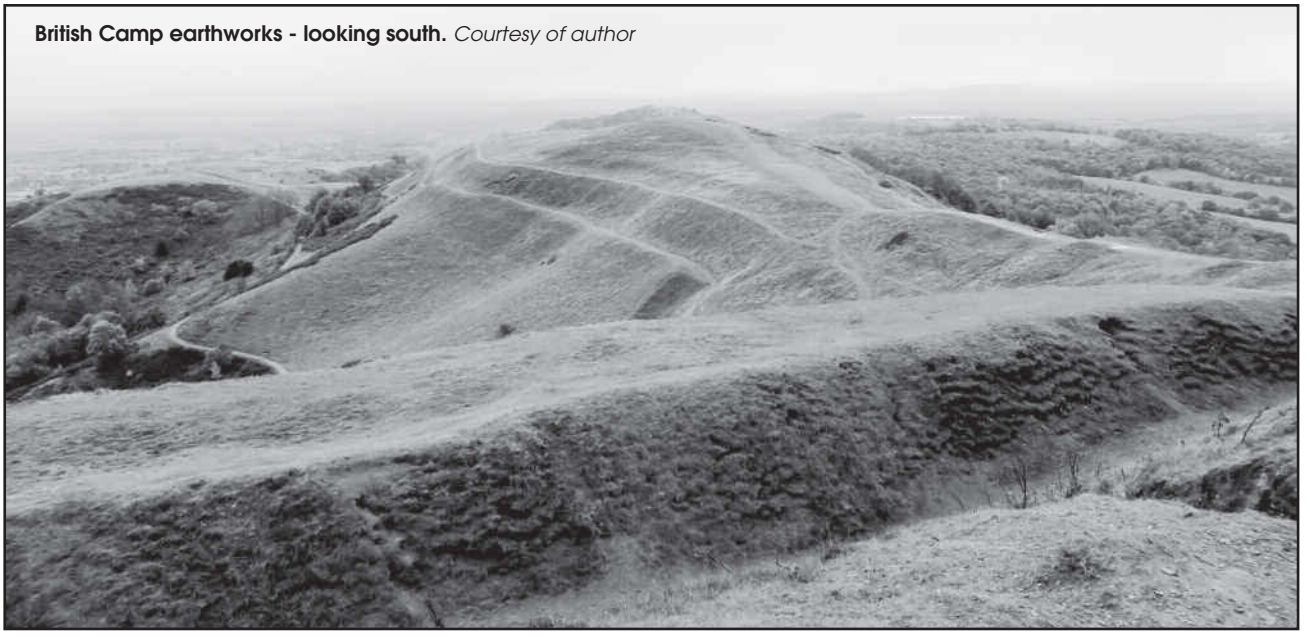
Auto Train is a marvel of technology. Crews work quickly to load vehicles. Motorcycles are placed in special wheeled carriers that are loaded into the Auto Racks. Trucks and trailers are easily accommodated although height restrictions apply. Two conductors and a crew of 22 provide service aboard Auto Train. Hot meals are served at tables set with linen cloths and flowers. There are three dinner services in sleeper class at 5, 7 and 9PM. Breakfast begins at 6AM for early birds or 7AM with a general announcement that the dining car is ready. Continental breakfasts are served on neatly arranged tables with linen cloths in sleeper class.

Auto Train is a concept that is both an engineering marvel as well as a convenience that cuts driving to and from Florida. Eugene Garfield's vision and entrepreneurial skill made Auto Train a reality. Amtrak continues the operational wonder of this unique train every day. *JCm*

***Dr. JOHN CHRISTOPHER FINE** is a marine biologist and expert in marine and maritime affairs. He is a Master Scuba Instructor and Instructor Trainer. The author of 25 books, his articles appear in magazines and newspapers in the US and Europe.*



The Auto Racks are high and large. This prevents them from entering older tunnels or crossing bridges north of Washington. *(John Christopher Fine copyright 2016)*



British Camp earthworks - looking south. *Courtesy of author*

THE MALVERN HILLS AND THE MYTH OF ANCIENT BRITAIN

DAVID LEWISTON SHARPE EXAMINES THE MELDING OF MYTH AND HISTORY IN THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE

Myths exhibit narratives within which there are really two sides to the story. On the one hand, they present archetypes, characters or figures, which, while they may appear in some sense two-dimensional or incomplete, are eloquently representative of an idea – natural phenomena, spiritual concerns, virtues. On the other hand, there are events recounted in myths that carry moral force, beyond foreground allegory – stories like the 'hare and the tortoise', for example. Myths, too, are often linked to a particular place. This is due to distinctive characteristics of their geography, their location in relation to points of origin, journeys to and from hearth and home, or associations with a person – themselves either real or steeped in myth.

The Malvern Hills are one such place. On the Ordnance Survey map, they stand as one strong, north-south line like a parade of sentinels watching over the English Cotswolds and the Welsh Marches. Their line is drawn between two points, the highest hills in the chain. These are the Worcestershire Beacon and the Herefordshire Beacon.

At the south of the Malverns, on the Herefordshire Beacon, is the site of British Camp with its dramatic rings of Iron Age earthworks. Anyone susceptible to musing on the Arthurian stories can readily imagine wars and skirmishes against such an English Parnassus, all taking place at some far distant period in the timeless age of heroes. In reality, its construction dates from some time in the 5th century BC and was probably in use until about 50 AD at the time of the Roman invasion of Britain commanded by Emperor Claudius. Local folklore associates the hill-fort with Caratacus, a prominent tribal prince who led much of southern Britain against the Romans until his capture in about 50 AD, following the battle scholars refer to as his 'last stand'.

If we associate such a period in history with other figures too, then the ancient Celts and their beliefs are another important focus. Druids aside, there are, in the Christian era, the Early Church fathers as well as anonymous wandering mendicants and hermits. There is a cavern two hundred yards or so to the southeast of British Camp, called Clutters' Cave, which historians have asserted may well have been a hermit's refuge in post-Roman times.

Hermits feature – not uncritically – in the medieval English epic poem *Piers Plowman* written by the otherwise obscure William Langland. For him, the hermit is a reflection of his own unwholesome vocation as a poet, *'an heremite, unholy of werkes'*. The search for a moral life, or a Christian life specifically, is the quest related in his story.

The sequence of dreams presented by the 22 'Steps' ('Passus') into which this 7,000-line poem is divided relate how the protagonist, Will, undertakes his search. It is a passive pursuit undertaken in the secluded subjective environment of the unconscious. It is aimed at, and culminates in, the search for the eponymous ploughman, Piers (or Peter). His is the key role; devoted to his worldly work and, thereby, his spiritual well-being, he becomes the moral focus of the story. It is a classic mythological – allegorical – foundation for a story.

VISIONS IN THE WILDERNESS

Langland places the poem's opening in the Malvern Hills, on a day in summer when the heat of the sun abates, and its soft warmth lulls Will to sleep. This is in line 5 of the Prologue. Elsewhere, a few 'Steps' later in the poem, he alludes to the mists that can descend on the Malverns. I've been there too at such a time – in October – when the Hills can seem to rise like a chain of atolls in a sea of clouds, and this imbues them with an uncanny quality. It must have seemed so to Langland if, as has been suggested, he grew up in the shadow of the hills at some formative stage in his life.

In the absence of certainties, there is ample opportunity to mythologize. Little is known of Langland, other than what is revealed by his poem, a work on which he was engaged for 20 years from before 1370, to around 1390, when he revised and expanded the work extensively following the Peasants' Revolt of 1381.

Dreams and myths arise, to a great extent, outside of reality, certainly extraneous to everyday life, and are an apt arena for contemplation. The Malverns often appear to rise dreamily from the flatter landscape around, and float above those autumnal vapors at other times. Imagining a hermit retreating from the world to the wilderness, like Christ in the desert, they must have communicated attractive connotations for Langland. The hills would also be of greater familiarity to him than the remote deserts to the south, beyond expectations of travel in England of the Middle Ages. Perhaps Langland knew Clutters' Cave – maybe he even knew the hermit for whom it is considered to have served as a shelter.

The author of *Piers Plowman* seems intimately familiar with the region, and in particular this southern point of the Malvern Hills. Half a mile or so on the east side of the Herefordshire Beacon, at Little Malvern, is a priory where a carving on a choir stall illustrates 'gluttony' as two greedy sows. In the sixth 'Step' of the poem, Langland gives *'His gottes gan to gothly as two grydy sowes'* ['His guts began to grumble as two greedy sows']. There are at the priory, carvings of a lion and an angel over the door, which likewise evoked allusions in the poem.

LEFT: **British Camp stone marker.** *Courtesy of author* RIGHT: **Clutter's Cave, Malvern Hills.** *Pauline Eccles*

But Langland makes of his England a mercurial location for an odyssey that rivals Homer, and one with an equal claim to moral value. Will's journey in *Piers Plowman* is akin to Ulysses' troubled voyage home to Ithaca; it is not beyond the bounds of reason to suppose that Langland thought so too. After *Beowulf*, it presents a compelling proposition of national epic. At the very least, he is creating a myth, single-authored and current like Virgil's *Aeneid*, that is tidally locked to its environment in the England of 14th-century Christian aspiration, and inevitably fettered to the unquestionable feudal obligations of his times (godly, if functionally secular).

He is persuasively and passionately critical of his world – perhaps bolstered by recent events in the Peasant's Revolt – but he does so from within the arguable safety of a dream narrative. Myths, like their cousin the apostolic parable, inspire quiet coercion towards change or critique.

In the wilderness, or from a high place looking down at the landscape around, it is possible to see more and further.

THE 'HERO': FACT OR FICTION?

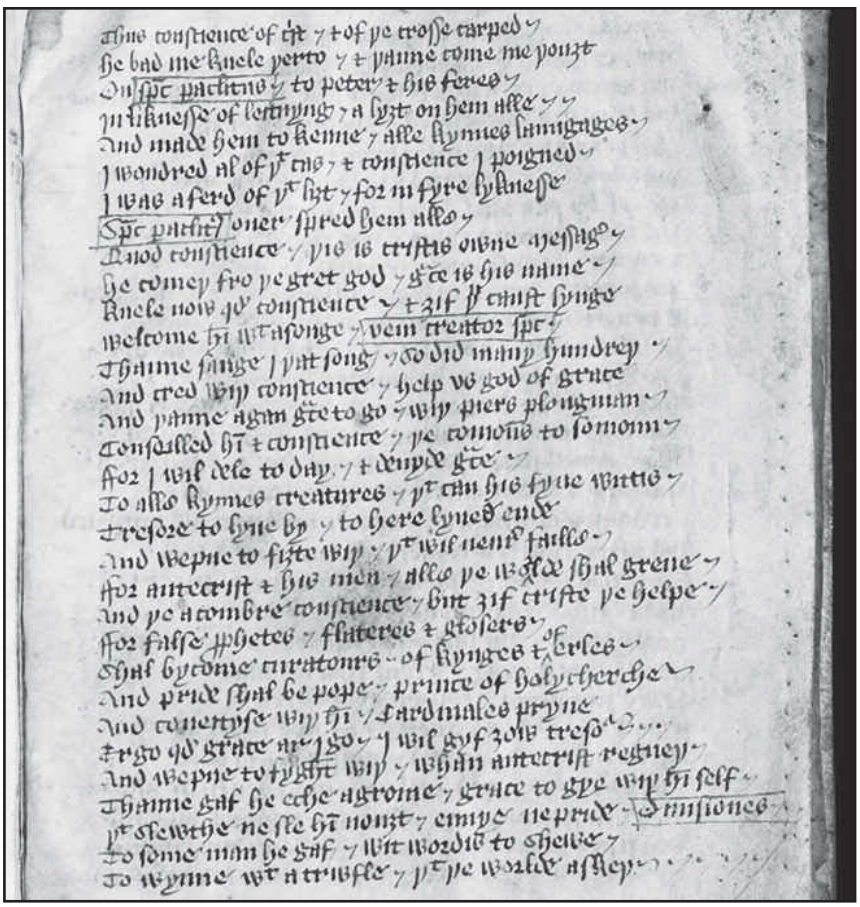
The Malvern Hills allow Langland sufficient altitude at which to attempt an effective change through the might of the written word. Armies amassed at British Camp in the 40s AD would be ranged against the Roman legions to employ physical force.

The hills, a high place for keeping watch, can afford a clear view of many hill-forts in the Welsh Marches which are more likely to be the place where Caratacus fell in his last stand against the generals of Emperor Claudius. Yet in a move of conceivable retreat that led him fatefully to take cover in the north with Cartimandua, queen of the Brigantes tribe in what is now Cumbria and Yorkshire, perhaps confrontations occurred at British Camp. Conceivably, there the tide turned – but not ultimately in his favor.

But for the intervening centuries of Roman rule and Saxon colonization, to say nothing of the Vikings, Caratacus would convincingly serve as a source for the Arthur myth. British Camp is an uncertain location for his response to the Romans; similarly, Tintagel, Cadbury Camp, Arthurian Carlisle, even the 'isle of Avalon' reputed to be Glastonbury in Somerset, in the end, carry equally fictive connections.

The surviving records concerning Caratacus are, at best, sketchy, and date from a generation or two after the events. Cornelius Tacitus (c.56-120 AD) is a key source. He writes that the Roman governor Ostorius Scapula led a campaign against the Britons in 47-8 AD at an interim border by the river Severn, established by his predecessor Aulus Plautus. His aim was to capture Caratacus after he had assumed leadership of the tribes defending the ancient British territory.

Tacitus simply describes a combat site where Caratacus 'chose a place for the battle where the entrances and exits were to our disadvantage [any 'enemy' would surely do the same?] ... on one side ... a steep gradient. There was also a river of uncertain depth flowing past and here bands of fighters were stationed'. It reads a little like Homer's vague description of the river at the place of the Greeks' siege of Troy, where Scamander's two eddying streams surface, where 'hot current flows as from a furnace' and rising 'cold as hail, or water crystallized'. Tacitus, knowingly or otherwise, is implicated in the creation of an epic, Homeric,



Piers Plowman - 15th century manuscript. *National Library of Wales*

Caractacus at the Tribunal of Claudius. *A. Birrell after Fuseli*

legend surrounding Caratacus. It is a noble tribute – civilized, at least on the surface. But winners ultimately get to tell the 'truth' of the events, we should also remember.

Caratacus truly enters the world of myth at the point in his story where he is taken to Rome, after his capture, and confronts the Emperor. So eloquent was his appeal to the Romans, the report goes, that his Latin colloquy was rewarded with the freedom to live out his days with his family in Rome. This is usually the kind of yarn devised to mask the reality of a quiet disposal of the defeated, out of view and earshot, in order to preserve the status of the victor and, in this case, the stamp of 'S.P.Q.R.' on the map of the North.

A HANDSHAKE AFTER THE CONTEST

Caratacus, or at least the story that has grown up around him, demonstrates there can be in defeat some kind of redemption. The great American mythologist Joseph Campbell, in his seminal book *The Hero With A Thousand Faces,* reduced all myths to one fundamental underlying 'monomyth'. This is the 'hero's journey'. The hero sets out, undergoes a series of testing ordeals, and returns home with a reward – physical or experiential – to share for the greater good. This is seemingly thwarted in Caratacus's capture and effective imprisonment, despite being apparently spared execution.

In the Latin speech Tacitus gives him in the *Annals*, Caratacus is critical of Rome. 'If you want to rule the world,' Tacitus recounts as the words of the humiliated British leader, 'does it follow that everyone else welcomes enslavement?' He says there were in him no downcast looks or appeals for mercy, but rather a kind of glory attained by means of strong opposition to ambitious Roman expansion. It is the stuff of myth and legend; like Arthur, he appears almost unvanquished as 'once and future king'. The Malvern Hills offer an enchanting 'I wonder ... what if?' backdrop to this burgeoning myth.

Campbell himself says that, 'even when the legend is of an actual individual personage, the deeds of victory are rendered, not in lifelike, but in dreamlike figurations'. Piers the Ploughman and Caratacus are all of a piece.

If the Caratacus story is more 'anti-myth' than 'monomyth', then *Piers Plowman* is cast in a similar mold. In the sequence of dreams in which Will encounters various illustrations of a battle between good and evil – the seven deadly sins, the life of Christ, Moses' tablets of law – he ultimately and perhaps inevitably meets old age and hypocrisy in his final dream.

But Langland's vaunting allegory does not conceal the dead heartwood of a forlorn hope. The personification of Conscience, to whom is given the closing lines, expresses a desire to search out Piers the Ploughman himself, for his help and healing against '[those] Friars who live by flattery'. We come full circle, and the hero's journey seems to start all over again just prior to completion. The noble ruins of the earthworks at British Camp on Herefordshire Beacon reflect the notion of something overcome by time and human fragility. The dynamic rise and fall of the hills seem to express a sigh in the landscape in response to something lost.

All told, it is a very British romanticism, fuelled by fairy tale and by the re-invention of a landscape with richly poetic, but also vividly historical, associations. ℋm

FURTHER READING

Campbell, Joseph,
The Hero With A Thousand Faces
(London: Fontana, 1993)

Langland, William, ***Piers Plowman: the C-text,*** ed. D. Pearsall
(Exeter: U. of Exeter, 1978/1994)

Tacitus, Cornelius,
The Annals of Imperial Rome
(London: Penguin, 1956/1996)

DAVID LEWISTON SHARPE
is a freelance writer and musician based in the UK. He has published on Egyptology, history, language, and the arts. He is currently researching and writing a book on the phenomenon of the creative impulse, *Rhythms of the Soul;* ***elements of his research are presented in this article.***

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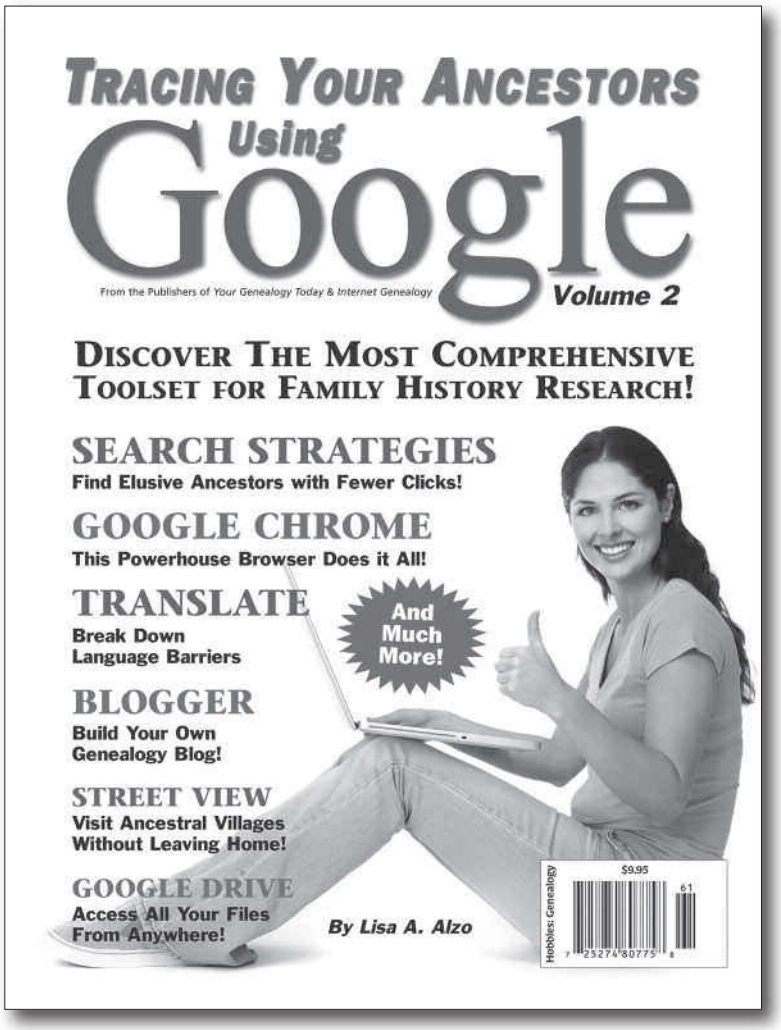

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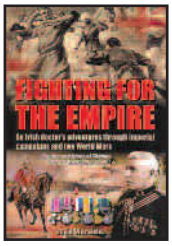


FIGHTING FOR THE EMPIRE

AN IRISH DOCTOR'S ADVENTURES THROUGH IMPERIAL CAMPAIGNS AND TWO WORLD WARS

by David Worsfold

Fighting for the Empire is the story of a remarkable Irishman, a staunch Catholic from Galway who served the British Crown and its Empire for almost fifty years. His extraordinary military career took in countless conflicts, including two World Wars, Imperial adventures, acts of heroism and encounters with royalty. It also included a period of Irish history that split families and communities in two.

Joining the Indian Medical Service in 1896, Thomas Kelly was posted to the turbulent North West Frontier almost as soon as he arrived in India. He was one of the first Westerners to set foot in the mysterious mountain city of Lhasa, winning a commendation along the way for an act for bravery that was illustrated on the front page of London newspapers.

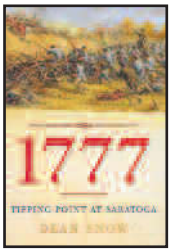
Kelly's many adventures brought him face to face with both hardships and glamour. His duties included entertaining Swedish Explorer Sven Hedin, King George V, and later, the Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII) who he despised, describing him as a drunkard and a womanizer.

The First World War saw Kelly serving with the Indian Medical Service in Aden, Egypt and Mesopotamia (covering present-day Iraq, Syria, Iran and parts of Turkey), collecting the Distinguished Service Order as well as being commended in dispatches four times, including for his role in the aftermath of the infamous siege of Kut. The end of the First World War saw no letup as he was pitched into the brief and bloody 3rd Afghan War that raged across the notorious North West Frontier in 1919.

Bitterly disappointed at being turned down by the Royal Navy at the outbreak of the Second World War (he was now 69), Kelly became ship's surgeon in the Merchant Navy, taking part in the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from Bordeaux as France fell to the German invaders. Going with the 8th Army to Egypt and serving on Atlantic convoys, his service finally came to an end in late 1944 after serving on ships transporting troops for the invasion of Europe. His age (74) caught up with him and he was sent home, still protesting that he was more than fit enough to remain at sea.

Containing many photographs from Kelly's personal albums and private collections, *Fighting for the Empire* is a fascinating look not just at an individual's bravery and hardships, but at the closing years of the British Empire.

Published by Sabrestorm Publishing
240 pages, full color throughout, hardback
ISBN: 978-1-78122-006-1; Price: $32.95



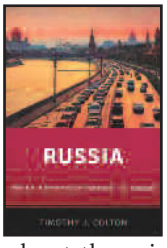
1777

TIPPING POINT AT SARATOGA

by Dean Snow

The two battles that were fought in Saratoga, New York in the fall of 1777 marked the turning point in the American Revolutionary War. An inexperienced and improvised American army led by Horatio Gates faced off against the highly trained British and German forces led by "Gentleman Johnny" Burgoyne, whose strategy in confronting the Americans in upstate New York was to separate rebellious New England from the other colonies. Despite inferior organization and training, the Americans were able to exploit access to fresh reinforcements of men and materiel, and ultimately handed the British a stunning defeat. For the first time in the war, the American victory confirmed that independence from Great Britain was all, but inevitable.

Published by Oxford University Press
456 pages; ISBN: 978-0190618759
Price: $34.95



RUSSIA

WHAT EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW

by Timothy J. Colton

Russia: What Everyone Needs to Know provides fundamental information about the origins, evolution, and current affairs of the Russian state and society. The story begins with Russia's geographic endowment, proceeds through its experiences as a kingdom and empire, and continues through the USSR's three-quarters of a century, and finally, the shocking breakup of that regime a generation ago.

The book shows that, although Russia is not imprisoned by its history, it is heavily influenced by it. Colton illustrates Russia's greatest strength and, ironically, its greatest weakness: the ability of its people to adapt themselves to difficult circumstances beyond their immediate control. Russia, as Putin has asserted, will not soon be a second edition of the United States or Britain. But, Colton shows, there are ways in which it could become a better version of itself.

Published by Oxford University Press; 288 pages
ISBN: 978-0199917792; Price: $16.95

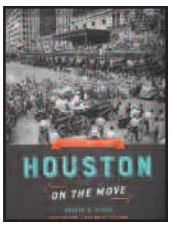
KITCHENER WANTS YOU

THE MAN, THE POSTER AND THE LEGACY

by Martyn Thatcher and Anthony Quinn

Kitchener Wants You presents the first book-length examination of that poster and its legacy. Martyn Thatcher and Anthony Quinn take readers through the origins and design of the poster, the public response, and its long afterlife as a historical icon, as well as a milestone in the history of both design and propaganda. A century after Lord Kitchener died when the HMS Hampshire was sunk, *Kitchener Wants You* brings the period to life through a fascinating analysis of its most lasting visual representation.

Published by Uniform Press
168 pages; ISBN: 978-1-910500-36-1
Price: $22.95



A PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY

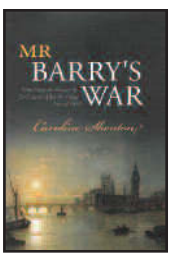
HOUSTON ON THE MOVE

by Steven R. Strom

Houston completely transformed itself during the twentieth century, burgeoning from a regional hub into a world-class international powerhouse. This remarkable metamorphosis is captured in the Bob Bailey Studios Photographic Archive, an unparalleled visual record of Houston life from the 1930s to the early 1990s. Founded by the commercial photographer Bob Bailey in 1929, the Bailey Studios produced more than 500,000 photographs and fifty-two 16mm films, making its archive the largest and most comprehensive collection of images ever taken in and around Houston.

Houston on the Move presents over two hundred of the Bailey archive's most memorable and important photographs with extended captions that detail the photos' subjects and the reasons for their significance. These images, most never before published, document everything from key events in Houston's modern history — World War II; the Texas City Disaster; the building of the Astrodome; and the development of the Ship Channel, Medical Center, and Johnson Space Center — to nostalgic scenes of daily life. Bob Bailey's expertly composed photographs reveal a great city in the making: a downtown striving to be the best, biggest, and tallest; birthday parties, snow days, celebrations, and rodeos; opulent department stores; Hollywood stars and political leaders; rapid industrial and commercial growth; and the inexorable march of the suburbs. An irresistible "remember that?" book for long-time Houstonians, *Houston on the Move* will also be an essential reference for historians, photographers, designers, and city planners.

Published by University of Texas Press; 264 pages
216 b&w and color photos; ISBN: 978-1-4773-1094-6; Price: $45.00



MR. BARRY'S WAR

REBUILDING THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AFTER THE GREAT FIRE OF 1834

by Caroline Shenton

When the brilliant classical architect Charles Barry won the competition to build a new, Gothic, Houses of Parliament in London, he thought it was the chance of a lifetime. It swiftly turned into the most nightmarish building program of the century. From the beginning, its design, construction and decoration were a battlefield. The practical and political forces ranged against him were immense.

The new Palace of Westminster had to be built on acres of unstable quicksand, while the Lords and Commons carried on their work as usual. Its river frontage, a quarter of a mile long, needed to be constructed in the treacherous currents of the Thames. Its towers were so gigantic, they required feats of civil engineering and building technology never used before. And the interior demanded spectacular new Gothic features not seen since the middle ages.

Rallying the genius of his collaborator Pugin; flanking the mad schemes of a host of crackpot inventors, ignorant busybodies and hostile politicians; attacking strikes, sewage and cholera; charging forward three times over budget and massively behind schedule, it took twenty-five years for Barry to achieve victory with his 'Great Work' in the face of overwhelming odds, and at great personal cost.

Mr. Barry's War takes up where its prize-winning prequel *The Day Parliament Burned Down* left off, telling the story of how the greatest building program in Britain for centuries produced the world's most famous secular cathedral to democracy.

Published by Oxford University Press; 368 pages
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