



President Woodrow Wilson will introduce

THURSDAY William Jennings Bryan

FRIDAY Edith Wharton

SATURDAY General John J. Pershing

JULY 13•14•15

5:30 FOOD | 6:00 ENTERTAINMENT | 7:30 PROGRAM

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Welcome to the 23rd Annual Big River Chautauqua!



History of The Chautauqua



The Chautauqua originated as an adult education movement in the United States, highly popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Named after Chautauqua Lake, in western New York, where the first event was held, Chautauqua assemblies expanded and spread throughout rural America until the mid-1920s. The Chautauqua brought entertainment and culture for the whole community, with speakers, teachers, musicians, entertainers, preachers and specialists of the day. Former U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt was quoted as saying that Chautauqua is "the most American thing in America."



History of Big River Chautauqua



The Big River Chautauqua is a festival of American history, and first became a reality in 1995, thanks to the efforts of co-founders Joe Layden and Sherry Greminger, who with their dedication to community involvement brought this unique form of entertainment and education to our area. The Big River Chautauqua has received recognition as being an outstanding example of experiential, interactive learning by the Missouri Humanities Council, and is the longest running privately funded Chautauqua west of the Mississippi River.



*We hope everyone has an enjoyable
and educational experience at the
23rd annual Big River Chautauqua!*

The Emcee each evening is Beth Allen



Schedule



Thursday, July 13, 2017

Sponsored by Parkland Health Center

- 5:30 pm Dinner
to *Barbeque by Samaritan Lodge*
- 6:45 pm *Desserts by St. Joseph Catholic Church*
Beverages by Lively Stone Tabernacle Youth Group
- 6:00 pm Darren Thomas
- 6:30 pm Loel Hickman - *The Lead Belt Riot of WWI*
- 6:45 pm Chautauqua Singers
Under the direction of Linda Sowers
- 7:30 pm Paul S. Vickery as President Woodrow Wilson Page 5
A. Theodore Kachel as William Jennings Bryan ... Pages 6-8



Schedule



Friday, July 14, 2017

Sponsored by First State Community Bank

- 5:30 pm Dinner
- to *Barbeque by Chamber of Commerce*
- 6:45 pm *Desserts by First Christian Church*
- Beverages by Lively Stone Tabernacle Youth Group*
- 6:00 pm Darren Thomas
- 6:30 pm Mike Ramsey - *Captain Oren Rose, Missouri Ace of WWI*
- 6:45 pm Chautauqua Singers
- Under the direction of Linda Sowers*
- 7:30 pm Paul S. Vickery as President Woodrow Wilson Page 5
- Karen Vuranch as Edith Wharton Pages 8-9

Saturday, July 15, 2017

Sponsored by The Family of Joe and Mary Etta Layden

- 5:30 pm Dinner
- to *Food by Centenary Methodist Church of Bonne Terre*
- 6:45 pm *Desserts by Lively Stone Tabernacle Youth Group*
- Beverages by Lively Stone Tabernacle Youth Group*
- 6:00 pm Brittney Asher
- 6:30 pm Mike Ramsey - *Captain Oren Rose, Missouri Ace of WWI*
- 6:45 pm Chautauqua Singers
- Under the direction of Linda Sowers*
- 7:30 pm Paul S. Vickery as President Woodrow Wilson Page 5
- Kevin Culton as General John J. Pershing Pages 10-11

In Memory of
Joe Layden

He loved and supported the tradition of Chautauqua.



*Best wishes for continued success from
Mary Etta and the Layden family.*

President Woodrow Wilson



Paul S. Vickery as
Woodrow Wilson

“He kept us out of war,” claimed the slogan that won the 1916 presidential race for Woodrow Wilson. Yet in an address to Congress on April 2, 1917, he asked for a declaration of war. “It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful people into war,” he declared, “into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars, civilization itself seeming to be in the balance” (Wilson). What caused Wilson to change from maintaining strict neutrality to joining the Allies against the Hun? What factors led the nation into an anti-German attitude that promoted the burning of German books and newspapers and banned German composers such as Beethoven and Bach? The man who insisted, “I come from the South and I know what war is—for I have seen its terrible wreckage and ruin,” was now calling for war to make the world “safe for democracy” (Fried 308). Why?

Paul S. Vickery

The author of three books, Paul S. Vickery has been a Professor of History at Oral Roberts University for the past 26 years. In addition to teaching U.S. and Latin American History, Vickery, a former counter-intelligence officer, regularly gives lectures on cruise ships around the Mediterranean and Caribbean. He has also participated in Chautauquas around the country bringing to life such characters as H.L. Mencken, Sen. Joe McCarthy, Henry Ford, Marquis James, President Woodrow Wilson, and Bishop Francis Asbury. A founding member of the History Alive Program he performed these characters to more than 50 public schools around Oklahoma and Kansas. Married 50 years, he and his wife have 4 grown children.



Paul S. Vickery

William Jennings Bryan

William Jennings Bryan, three times Presidential nominee of the Democratic Party in 1896, (the youngest ever at thirty-six), 1900, and 1908, is now remembered mostly through a distorted play and movie, *Inherit the Wind*, based on the Scopes Trial. Yet in his lifetime only Presidents Roosevelt and Wilson were as masterful in American political revolutions as he was.

Two major speeches bracket his public career, one given and the other left unspoken. The first is his famous “Cross of Gold” speech at the Democratic Convention in



A. Theodore Kachel, Ph.D.
as William Jennings Bryan

Chicago, which produced such a popular outcry that it won him the nomination for President the next day in July 1896. His theme of “Free Silver” made him the Voice for Western mining and Midwestern farming interests in their search for fair markets then inhibited by the fixed Eastern money markets of “the Gold Standard”. The second might have kept his reputation as a great public leader intact had he lived to give it after the Scopes Trial in July of 1925. It was his closing argument denouncing Social Darwinism’s harsh ethic of ‘survival of the fittest’. When Clarence Darrow pled John Scopes guilty he precluded Bryan from having the last word at that trial. Bryan died five days later silencing the Great Commoner’s voice almost twenty-nine years to the day after that first speech in Chicago had propelled him into the forefront of American political life.

In both of these speeches and throughout his many campaigns and crusades one theme is constant—“Let the People Rule!” He fought for a government and laws that would support the common people’s hopes and dreams for a better life for them and their children. He fought against elitism in politics, in economics, and in education. His was not a voice for the “haves” against the “have-nots,” but for the “will-haves,” as he put it.

His leadership helped elect the next Democratic President Woodrow Wilson in 1912, whom he then served as Secretary of State. In this role for President Woodrow Wilson from 1913-1915 he sought through diplomacy to prevent the outbreak of the war by

negotiating arbitration treaties among thirty nations. In these they agreed to negotiate their disputes, and take a one year ‘cooling off’ period as the means to settle these hostile matters. Although these proved finally unsuccessful with the European powers, it set the stage for delaying the entry of the United States as Bryan urged Wilson to be a neutral peacemaker in this bloody dispute. Only when Wilson dropped American neutrality taking the side of Britain upon the sinking of the Lusitania did Bryan resign in protest. Yet in 1917 upon America’s entry in the fighting Bryan outside of office led the campaign for Liberty Bonds to raise funds to support the American Expeditionary Force.

In office then or after he guided many progressive reforms into five Constitutional Amendments: the federal income tax, the direct election of Senators, prohibition of alcoholic beverages, the right of women to vote, and the Presidential Lame Duck date for inauguration. Outside of the Supreme Court itself, Bryan changed the constitution more than any other single American politician, excepting his democratic hero Thomas Jefferson’s writing of the Bill of Rights.

Still, he remains a paradox as a ‘passionate progressive conservative’. Bryan believed even when he lost that “in the long run, given enough time, the people will form the questions, they will find the answers, and make the changes that will be best for all.” This was his Democratic Faith, perhaps as important to him as his evangelical Protestant faith in shaping his actions, his ideas, and his hopes for the American future. Bryan bet his life on the will of the majority. “Let the People Rule!”

A. Theodore Kachel, Ph.D.

After forty years teaching humanities and theatre at colleges and universities across Midwestern America, Professor Kachel, retired as Head of the Theatre Program at Tulsa Community College in 1999. Although retired he has taught part-time in religious studies and humanities at TCC using his PhD. studies in Religion and Society from Columbia University (1975). He graduated magna cum laude from Union Theological Seminary, NYC, in 1965 and was a campus minister at Penn and Michigan universities until 1975.

His work today is touring in first-person performances as William Jennings Bryan, General William Tecumseh Sherman, Sir Winston Churchill, William Shakespeare, Joseph Mallord William Turner, or H.G. Wells. Since the summer of 2010 he has presented General Robert E. Lee in Oklahoma, Colorado and Nevada Humanities Chautauqua programs as well as at the Dole Institute at the University of Kansas. Beginning in 2006, he has worked with First Matter’s Watts Wacker, a futurist, presenting several of these Chautauqua characters while adding new character

sketches of P.T. Barnum, Thomas A. Edison, Frederick Law Olmsted, and Frank Lloyd Wright at meetings for Genworth Insurance, Hasbro Toys, T.B.G. Landscaping, Inc, and R.J. Reynolds American.

In the summer of 2008 he was invited to Dayton, Tennessee for their annual July reenactment of the Scopes Trial in the historic courtroom where it happened in 1925 to present William Jennings Bryan. The climax of this performance was, when joined by a local lawyer, they recreated Darrow's cross-examination of Bryan the final full day of this famous trial. More recently he presents Bryan as President Woodrow Wilson's Secretary of State leading to Bryan's resignation in protest to U.S. entry into World War I.

Edith Wharton



Karen Vuranch as
Edith Wharton

Edith Wharton is one of the most prominent American writers. She is considered to be one of America's finest novelists and short story writers, known for cutting satire, irony and realism. She received numerous honors and awards, including the Pulitzer Prize, the first woman to win that award for literature. But, in addition to her work as a writer, Edith Wharton made significant contributions to humanitarian efforts during World War I. As an expatriate, she was living in Paris when the war began and worked tirelessly for the war effort, earning her honors and awards from the French government.

Wharton was a tireless crusader during the war, raising money for Belgian refugees, war orphans and soldiers. She recognized that many women were now supporting their families and created workrooms where women could earn a decent living. She also raised awareness of the war in America. Edith Wharton was the only foreign journalist that the French government permitted to visit the front. Articles detailing front line tours of the trenches were published in America, raising both funds and awareness for the war effort.

Karen Vuranch

Karen Vuranch brings Edith Wharton to life and giving audiences a glimpse of this amazing woman. In Wharton's character, she discusses not only Wharton's tremendous success as a writer and the difficulty she had in her life becoming a writer, but also her vivid descriptions of the trenches and No Man's Land. It is a moving portrayal of one of the most important women of the twentieth century.

In addition to the performance of Edith Wharton, Vuranch is well known for other portrayals of women in history. She also presents Pearl S. Buck, Clara Barton, Mother Jones, Mary Draper Ingles, Irish pirate Grace O'Malley and Wild West outlaw Belle Starr and the First Lady of Food, Julia Child. She has recently developed

Hollywood gossip columnist

Louella Parsons and beloved children's writer Laura Ingalls Wilder. She has performed these characters throughout West Virginia and the nation and participated in many national Chautauquas including Arkansas, Colorado, Ohio, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Nevada, and North Dakota. She has completed five performance tours of Wales and England and a storytelling trip to China. Vuranch has written two plays about women in history, *Coal Camp Memories* about life in the West Virginia coalfields and *Homefront* about women in World War II. *Potluck* is a show performed with singer/songwriters Julie Adams and Colleen Anderson about women and food. She is also an acclaimed storyteller and has performed for over 1,000 schools, colleges, libraries and conferences.



Karen Vuranch as Edith Wharton

John Pershing

John Pershing was born in Laclede, Missouri in 1860. After the depression of 1873, John's father had to take work away from home, leaving John to run the family farm and care for his mother and siblings, Mary, Elizabeth, Grace, Ward and James. John worked the farms and kept up his school work. At the age of 18, he took a job teaching at Prairie Mound School. He saved money and was able to attend Kirksville Normal College (now Truman State University), where he earned his teaching degree in June of 1880. He returned to Prairie Mound School and taught until the fall of 1881, where he hoped to teach long enough to pursue a law career. When an opportunity was presented to attend West Point Military College, he took the entrance exam and was chosen as the only candidate from the state of Missouri. John intended to use this education to pursue his law career, but John soon found he enjoyed the discipline of the military, and chose to make it his career.



Kevin Culton as
General John Pershing

John graduated from West Point in 1886 and chose the 6th cavalry in New Mexico for his first assignment on the Geronimo campaign. From that time on, Pershing was involved in the following campaigns, Indian Wars, Spanish American War, Philippine Campaign, Punitive Mission of Pancho Villa in Mexico, WWI, and even acted as advisor during WWII.

John was nicknamed "Black Jack" by white cadets while teaching at West Point because of his respect and admiration for the colored troops under his command (the 10th cavalry). Gen. Pershing also had great respect for Native Americans as warriors and as a people. Gen. Pershing was the only person other than Gen. George Washington to be given the rank of General of the Armies for life.

Pershing earned his law degree while teaching military science at the University of Nebraska. He also received a Pulitzer prize in 1932 for his book "My Experiences in the World War."

John Pershing married Helen Francis Warren, the daughter of a U.S. Senator, in 1905. Together they had four children; Helen, Ann, Warren, and Mary. While on assignment in Texas in 1915, Pershing received the devastating news that his family had been killed in a house fire at the Presidio in California. Only his 6-year-old son Warren survived.

Pershing was commander of the American expeditionary forces in WWI. He died July 15, 1948 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

During his time in the Army, Pershing commanded many who later became famous figures, including George Patton, George C. Marshall, Douglas McArthur, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Omar Bradley, and many others. He also served with Theodore Roosevelt at San Juan Hill, where Pershing was given a silver star. During his 60 plus years of military, Gen. Pershing was awarded 33 medals for service honor and valor from 14 countries other than the United States.



Kevin Culton



Kevin Culton was born and raised in Bonne Terre, Missouri. He served 10 years in the USAF as Military police and special operations. This will be Kevin's third time on the Chautauqua stage in Bonne Terre, appearing as notorious Missouri outlaws Sam Hildebrand and Cole Younger.

"I really enjoy the Chautauqua shows, I did some stage shows in high school and college, but the interaction with audience at Chautauqua is an awesome experience. I have been a cowboy all my life, and have a great love of horses and history, so I really enjoy bringing to life men who made history, particularly outlaws and military men."



Kevin Culton as
General John Pershing

Jackson-Thomure Post #83

American Legion

Bonne Terre

The commemorative flag on display and the WWI – era pictures are on loan from the American Legion Post #83. Please take a few minutes and look at the pictures. Any relatives? The large print shows the first group of St. Francois County men drafted on September 21, 1917. The picture appears to be at the Courthouse square in Farmington. Thompson Photo in Bonne Terre took the photograph. Smaller pictures show a Bonne Terre parade on Armistice Day and the American Legion outside their building at East End Drugstore (next to present-day Post Office).

Jackson-Thomure was named after Norman R. Jackson, Corporal 6th Regiment U.S.M.C. 2nd Division. He was born in Washington County on May 26, 1899, and attended St. Joseph Catholic School. He was inducted into the Marine Corps on April 29, 1917. Corporal Jackson was sent to France on October 6, 1917 and was the first Bonne Terre resident killed in action on April 13, 1918, passing away two days later on April 15, 1918. His final resting place is in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial – located in the village of Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, France.



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Our Past Twenty Two Years

1995 • Visions of America

William Jennings Bryan • Rabbi Issac Wise • Andrew Carnegie
Elizabeth Cady Stanton • W.E.B. DuBois

1996 • The Showman – The Author – The Warrior

P.T. Barnum • Louisa Mae Alcott • General William Sherman

1997 • The Story of the Old West

Theodore Roosevelt • Laura Ingalls Wilder • Buffalo Bill Cody

1998 • A Nation at War with Itself

General James Longstreet • Harriet Tubman
President and Mrs. Lincoln

1999 • A World in Change – The War Years

Eleanor Roosevelt • Winston Churchill • Harry Truman

2000 • The Great American Humorists

Dorothy Parker • Will Rogers • Sam Clemons

2001 • The Jazz Age

Willa Cather • John Dos Passos • Edna Ferber • H.L. Mencken
Harry Reser



The Chautauqua Singers in 2016

Our Past Twenty Two Years

2002 • The Founding Fathers

Thomas Jefferson • Ben Franklin • George Washington

2003 • 100 Years of Manned Flight

Orville Wright • Amelia Earhart • Charles Lindbergh

2004 • **Lewis and Clark**

William Clark • York • Sacagawea

2005 • **Men and Their Dreams**

H.G. Wells • Henry Ford • Tom Edison

2006 • **Politics in America** – The Bad Boys of Politics?

Tom Pendergast • Sen. Joseph McCarthy • Huey Long

2007 • **Influential First Ladies**

Dolley Madison
Eleanor Roosevelt
Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis

2008 • **Sports in America**

Joe Louis
Wilma Rudolph
Howard Cosell

2009 • **Famous Missourians**

Josephine Baker
Thomas Hart Benton
Walt Disney

2010 • **Story Tellers**

Dr. Seuss
Beatrix Potter
L. Frank Baum



President Harry Truman, George Washington Carver and Mark Twain in 2013

Our Past Twenty Two Years

2011 • **Civil War: The Front Line**

Sam Watkins • Susan King Taylor • Matthew Brady

2012 • **The Road West**

Margaret Breen • John Fremont • Kit Carson

2013 • **Missourians Who Have Shaped History**

Mark Twain
George Washington Carver
President Harry Truman

2014 • **Big River at War**

Sam Hildebrand
Gen. Thomas Ewing
Jefferson Davis & US Grant

2015 • **Missouri Outlaws**

Cole Younger
Jesse James
Belle Starr

2016 • **The 1960's**

Richard Nixon
Nikita Khrushchev
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Cole Younger, Belle Starr
and Jesse James in 2015



Nikita Khrushchev, Dr. Martin Luther
King, Jr. and Richard Nixon in 2016



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Our Contributors



In addition to our sponsors on the previous page who generously contribute money to Big River Chautauqua, there are many others who contribute their time and talent to make this event possible. Thank you to:

The Chautauqua Singers under the direction of Linda Sowers. They have been an important part of our event since the beginning - 1995

Boyer Funeral Homes for sponsoring our Fans

New Era Bank for sponsoring our Programs

The organizations who bar-b-que each evening:

Thursday night - The Samaritan Lodge

Friday night - The Bonne Terre Chamber of Commerce

Saturday night - The Centenary Methodist Church of Bonne Terre

The organizations who provide desserts for sale each evening:

Thursday night - St. Joseph Catholic Church

Friday night - First Christian Church

Saturday night - Lively Stone Tabernacle Youth Group

Lively Stone Tabernacle Youth Group who provides the drinks

Darren Thomas and Brittney Asher for pre-show entertainment

Kelly Crumpton for her design and printing of our program

North County Schools for providing the stage, chairs and tables

Holekamp Do-It Center for providing materials

The Big River Chautauqua Committee:

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