

Table of Contents and
Sample Readings from

We the People

Part of the *America the Beautiful* Curriculum

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We the People

Edited by Bethany Poore

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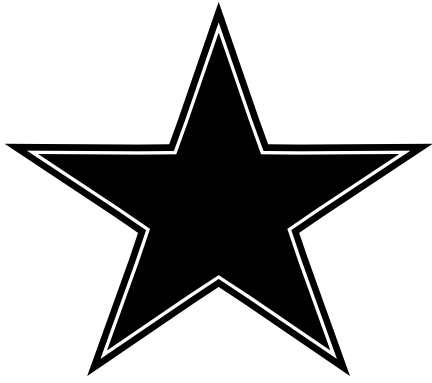


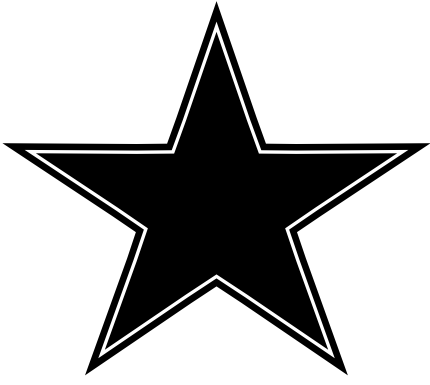
Table of Contents

Introduction.....	vii
America the Beautiful, 1893.....	1
Indian Child Life, Part 1, <i>a Sioux man remembers his childhood</i> , 1913.....	2
Indian Child Life, Part 2.....	3
Indian Child Life, Part 3.....	4
Indian Child Life, Part 4.....	5
Journal of Christopher Columbus, 1492.....	6
The Mountain Chant: A Navajo Ceremony, <i>observed by a representative of the Smithsonian</i> , 1884.....	7
The Coyote and the Turtle, <i>a Hopi folk tale</i> , 1932.....	8
Mesa Verde Wonderland Is Easy To Reach, <i>an article by Willa Cather</i> , 1916.....	9
Florida Tourism Advertisement, 1920.....	11
The Founding of Jamestown, <i>a description by John Smith</i> , 1624.....	12
Great Lakes Poems, <i>by Denise Rogers</i> 2003.....	13
Of Plimoth Plantation, <i>a remembrance by William Bradford</i> , 1620.....	14
Flushing Remonstrance, <i>a demand for religious freedom by Edward Hart</i> , 1657.....	16
Salvation from Sin by Christ Alone, <i>a sermon by William Penn</i> , 1694.....	17
New England Primer Rhyming Alphabet, <i>from America's first textbook</i> , 1687.....	18
The Pharisee and the Publican, <i>a song by Isaac Watts</i> , 1700.....	19
The Village Blacksmith, <i>a poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow</i> , 1839.....	20
The Evening of the 5th of March, <i>a remembrance by John Adams</i> , 1805.....	21
Autobiography and Poor Richard's Almanack, <i>writings of Benjamin Franklin</i> , 1788.....	22
Advertisements in the <i>Virginia Gazette</i> , 1772.....	24
The Declaration of Independence, 1776.....	25
Letter from Valley Forge, <i>from General Nathanael Greene</i> , 1778.....	26
The Liberty Song, <i>a song of the Revolution</i> , 1768.....	27
Chester, <i>a song of the Revolution</i> , 1770.....	28
Preamble to the Constitution, 1787.....	29
Letter to Abigail Adams, <i>from John Adams</i> 1789.....	30
George Washington and the Cherry Tree, <i>an American folk tale</i> , 1806.....	31
Rules of Civility & Decent Behavior in Company & Conversation, 1747.....	32
O Sing a Song of Bethlehem, <i>a hymn by Louis F. Benson</i> , 1899.....	33
The Adventures of Colonel Daniel Boone, 1784.....	34
Letter to Thomas Jefferson Smith, <i>from Thomas Jefferson</i> , 1825.....	35
Journals of Lewis and Clark, 1804-1806.....	37
Myths and Legends of the Sioux, 1916.....	39

Domestic Economy, <i>a moral tale by Noah Webster, 1803</i>	41
The Star-Spangled Banner, <i>by Francis Scott Key 1814</i>	42
Low Bridge, Everybody Down, <i>an Erie Canal song, 1905</i>	43
Come, Holy Spirit, Dove Divine, <i>a hymn by America's first foreign missionary, 1832</i>	44
The Legend of Paul Bunyan, 2010.....	45
Letter from the Alamo, 1836.....	46
Letter to Papa, <i>Maria Jay Banyer writes to her father, John Jay, 1821</i>	47
A Soldier Remembers the Trail of Tears, 1890.....	48
To the People of the United States, <i>a proclamation by John Tyler, 1841</i>	49
Life on the Mississippi, <i>a remembrance by Mark Twain, 1883</i>	50
Steamboat Songs.....	52
What Hath God Wrought! <i>a letter from Samuel F. B. Morse, 1844</i>	54
Hail to the Chief, <i>a song for the President of the United States, 1812</i>	55
First Woman on the Oregon Trail, <i>a letter from Narcissa Whitman, 1836</i>	56
An Act to Establish the Smithsonian Institution, 1846.....	57
Over Niagara, <i>a newspaper article about Annie Edson Taylor's daring feat, 1901</i>	58
From Audubon's Journal, 1843.....	60
Ho! for California, <i>a song of the Gold Rush, 1849</i>	61
Letter from a Forty-Niner, 1850	62
Let the Lower Lights Be Burning, <i>a hymn by Philip P. Bliss, 1871</i>	64
Poems of Longfellow, 1842-1864.....	65
Letters from Abraham Lincoln, 1860s.....	67
The Gettysburg Address, <i>a speech by Abraham Lincoln, 1863</i>	68
Recollections of General Robert E. Lee, <i>a remembrance by his son, 1904</i>	69
Childhood Reminiscences, <i>by an African-American Civil War nurse, 1902</i>	70
Camp Songs of the Civil War, 1860s.....	73
The Discovery of Yellowstone Park, <i>the journal of an early explorer, 1905</i>	75
Dedication Prayer, <i>from the Golden Spike Ceremony of the Transcontinental Railroad, 1869</i>	76
Hymns of Fanny J. Crosby, 1860s-1870s.....	77
Cowboy Songs.....	79
How Arthur Was Inaugurated, <i>a newspaper article, 1881</i>	81
Colonel Anderson and Books, <i>a remembrance by Andrew Carnegie, 1920</i>	82
Summer on the Homestead, <i>a letter from a woman homesteader, 1909</i>	84
Thanksgiving Time, <i>an article by Laura Ingalls Wilder, 1916</i>	86
Sears and Roebuck Catalog, 1897.....	88
Wedding in the White House, <i>a newspaper article about the wedding of Grover Cleveland, 1886</i>	90
Galen Clark of Yosemite, <i>a remembrance by John Muir, 1912</i>	92
One of My Closest Friends, <i>a remembrance of Thomas Edison by Henry Ford, 1922</i>	94
Burned Out of House and Home, <i>a letter from a survivor of the Great Chicago Fire, 1871</i>	96
The Glories of the Fair, <i>descriptions of the World's Columbian Exposition, 1893</i>	97
Old Glory, <i>a poem of the Spanish-American War, 1898</i>	99
Gains at Ellis Island, <i>a newspaper article, 1904</i>	100
Experiences of a Bandmaster, <i>remembrances by John Philip Sousa, 1900</i>	102
Letters to His Children, <i>from Theodore Roosevelt, 1898-1903</i>	105
Miss Delia Torrey Consents to Come, <i>an article about Taft's silver anniversary, 1911</i>	108
The Subject of Flying, <i>a remembrance by the Wright Brothers, 1922</i>	110
Alaska Days with John Muir, <i>a remembrance by a missionary to Alaska, 1915</i>	111

Poetry of the Great War, <i>by Edgar A. Guest, 1918</i>	113
Save and Serve, <i>a pamphlet on food conservation from World War I, 1918</i>	115
Sergeant York and His People, <i>an author visits Alvin C. York and his family, 1922</i>	117
The Cat Took the Kosher Meat, <i>a story of immigrants, 1903</i>	120
Canyons of the Colorado, <i>from the journal of scientist and explorer John Wesley Powell, 1895</i>	122
Harding Appoints Taft, <i>a newspaper article from 1921</i>	124
Made in America, <i>advertisements from American companies, 1903-1921</i>	126
The Only Automobile in Detroit, <i>a remembrance by Henry Ford, 1922</i>	128
Steadfast as These Ancient Hills, <i>a speech by Calvin Coolidge, 1927</i>	129
Marveling at the Mysteries, <i>a lecture by William Jennings Bryan, 1922</i>	131
Fireside Chat: On Drought Conditions, <i>by Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1936</i>	133
A Nation-Wide System of Parks, <i>the transcript of a film about the CCC, 1939</i>	135
The Fog in San Francisco, <i>a description by a San Francisco author, 1921</i>	137
The Beauties of the State of Washington, <i>a book for tourists, 1915</i>	138
D-Day Message, <i>from General Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1944</i>	139
Fireside Chat: On the Declaration of War with Japan, <i>by Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1941</i>	140
Code-Talkers, <i>a letter about Navajo recruits in World War II, 1942</i>	143
Press Release, <i>from Eleanor Roosevelt, 1945</i>	145
Great Our Joint Rejoicings Here, <i>a young woman visits Hawaii, 1865</i>	146
Time for Action, <i>a speech by Harry Truman, 1946</i>	150
Letter to Bess, <i>from her husband, Harry Truman, 1947</i>	152
Letter to Eleanor Roosevelt, <i>from Harry Truman, 1945</i>	153
Don'ts for Tourists, <i>from the Lincoln Highway Association Guidebook, 1916</i>	154
Casey at the Bat, <i>a classic American poem, 1888</i>	156
Take Me Out to the Ball Game, <i>one of America's favorite songs, 1908</i>	158
Spirit of Freedom, <i>a letter to Dwight D. Eisenhower from Jackie Robinson, 1958</i>	159
My Hope and My Deep Faith, <i>a letter from Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1954</i>	160
Pledge of Allegiance, <i>as enacted by Congress, 1954</i>	161
The Situation in Little Rock, <i>a speech by Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1957</i>	162
The Northern Lights, <i>descriptions by an Alaskan missionary, 1914</i>	165
The Exciting Adventure of Space, <i>a speech by John F. Kennedy, 1961</i>	167
Immense Flocks, <i>descriptions of the Great Salt Lake, 1855</i>	169
I Will Sing the Wondrous Story, <i>an American hymn by Francis H. Rowley, 1886</i>	171
Unchanging Principles, <i>the inaugural address of Jimmy Carter, 1977</i>	172
One Small Step, <i>a phone conversation with the first man on the moon, 1969</i>	175
The Story of the Navel Orange, 1902.....	176
Every Human Life is Precious, <i>a letter from George H. W. Bush, 1990</i>	178
A National Loss, <i>a speech by Ronald Reagan, 1986</i>	180
Bunny Brown and His Sister Sue Keeping Store, <i>from a children's story, 1922</i>	182
A Time for Healing, <i>a speech by William J. Clinton, 1995</i>	186
Home, <i>a poem by Edgar A. Guest, 1916</i>	188
Righteous Fundamentals, <i>an essay by a high school senior, 1933</i>	189
Freedom and Fear At War, <i>a speech by George W. Bush, 2001</i>	190
Ascending Long's Peak, <i>a woman's travels in the Rocky Mountains, 1879</i>	193
Songs of Septimus Winner, 1856 and 1868.....	196
Songs of the Carter Family, 1899 and 1907.....	198
The Glorious Fourth, <i>speeches by famous Americans, 1776-1981</i>	200

Sources.....	204
Image Credits.....	206
Selections as Assigned in Lessons of <i>America the Beautiful</i>	207
Selections in Alphabetical Order by Title.....	209
Selections in Alphabetical Order by Author.....	211
Selections in Chronological Order.....	213
Selections by Category.....	215
Index.....	217



Introduction

These letters, stories, speeches, journals, memoirs, articles, poems, songs, and documents are building blocks of the history of America. They are called original sources because they were written on the spot, as history happened. To learn history, we look both to historians who come after to describe and interpret events and to the recorded words of the people that made the history themselves—the people who were there.

We are indebted to the people who preserved these original sources: archivists of the United States government, newspapers that filed and preserved past editions, families that saved letters and journals, librarians who did not throw away all the books that looked old and tattered, and museum curators who skillfully preserved important documents. Thousands of original source materials have been lost to floods and fires, careless handling, and the trash can. We should be thankful to the people who realize that history is important: that a letter, article, or speech that seems commonplace and unimportant now will someday be history, something for people like us to read in order to understand the past.

These readings will remind you that American history is the story of real people. Like you, each boy and girl, man and woman who lived, worked, learned, loved, ate, slept, and played here in the United States is part of the story of our country. Most of the people who wrote the story of history never got their names in a book.

The ordinary people we call the Pilgrims looked from their boat toward the shore of Massachusetts, not knowing how their new life was going to be. Native American families on the Plains celebrated their favorite holiday traditions and told stories. Founding Fathers like George Washington were once young boys who had to copy their school lessons into a notebook. John Jay, after he was the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, was an old man who had a loving family that came to visit him for Christmas. Travelers during the 1800s were thrilled to see the same places we get excited about today, like Niagara Falls and Yellowstone. Real husbands, fathers, and brothers bravely stood their ground at the Alamo, not knowing how it was going to turn out. Women just like your mother waited day after day for a letter from their husbands fighting in the Civil War. People across the country eagerly devoured the newspaper article describing their bachelor President's White House wedding. American housewives carefully followed the government's instructions to use less fat, sugar, and meat in their cooking so that millions of starving people in Europe would have enough after World War I. Young men from every walk of life serving in World War II soberly read the letter that their beloved General Eisenhower wrote to them before they made a brave and heroic invasion on D-Day. Grieving Americans looked to their President for words of comfort after seven astronauts perished as their space shuttle was taking off. And you, part of a movement to bring education back home, learn from your parents and other American history-makers. We're all everyday Americans, making American history—a few big events and lots of everyday life. As you learn the great story, may you be inspired to make a positive impact on the history of America. I hope you will enjoy getting acquainted with great Americans, the famous and the ordinary, in the pages of *We the People*.

Bethany Poore

We the People

contains these types of original sources:



Books & Stories



Newspaper Articles



Documents



Poems



*Journals, Memoirs,
& Biographies*



Speeches



Letters



Songs



Hail to the Chief

Music by James Sanderson, 1812

Lyrics by Albert Gamse, c. early 1900s

"Hail to the Chief" is the official song played when the President of the United States arrives at a formal occasion. It was first used to honor a President in 1815, when it was played both to honor the late George Washington and to celebrate the end of the War of 1812. The first President to be honored with "Hail to the Chief" while in office was Andrew Jackson in 1829. The tune had a part in the inauguration ceremony of Martin Van Buren. Julia Tyler, wife of John Tyler, first requested that it be played to announce the arrival of the President. Sarah Childress Polk made that practice a ritual during her husband James K. Polk's presidency. He is pictured below. President Harry Truman, who was a musician and a student of music, studied the background of "Hail to the Chief." In 1945, while Truman was in office, the Department of Defense made "Hail to the Chief" the official musical tribute to the President. It is commonly played by a military band. It is most familiar as an instrumental tune written by James Sanderson, but Albert Gamse wrote the following lyrics.

Hail to the Chief we have chosen for the nation,
Hail to the Chief! We salute him, one and all.
Hail to the Chief, as we pledge cooperation
In proud fulfillment of a great, noble call.

Yours is the aim to make this grand country grander,
This you will do, that's our strong, firm belief.
Hail to the one we selected as commander,
Hail to the President! Hail to the Chief!





First Woman on the Oregon Trail

Narcissa Whitman, 1836

This is an excerpt from a journal-style letter that Narcissa Whitman wrote in 1836 while she traveled with her new husband and their mission party to Oregon.

April 1st. - Nothing of much importance occurred to-day. My eyes are satiated with the same beautiful scenery all along the coasts of this mighty river, so peculiar to this western country. One year ago today since my husband first arrived in St. Louis on his exploring route to the mountains. We are one week earlier passing up the river this spring than he was last year. While the boat stopped to take in wood we went on shore, found some rushes, picked a branch of cedar, went to a spring for clear water (the river water is very rily [muddy] at all times), and rambled considerably in pursuit of new objects. One of these circumstances I must mention, which was quite diverting to us. On the rocks near the river we found a great quantity of the prickly pear. Husband knew from experience the effects of handling them, and cautioned me against them, but I thought I could just take one and put it in my india-rubber apron pocket, and carry it to the boat. I did so, but after rambling a little I thought to take it out, and behold, my pocket was filled with its needles, just like a caterpillar's bristles. I became considerably annoyed with them; they covered my hands, and I have scarcely got rid of them yet. My husband would have laughed at me a little, were it not for his own misfortune. He thought to discover what kind of mucilage [plant juice] it was by tasting it - cut one in two, bit it, and covered his lips completely. We then had to sympathize with each other, and were glad to render mutual assistance in a case of extermination. . . .

Thursday, 7th. - Very pleasant, but cold. This morning the thermometer stood at 24 at nine o'clock. I have not seen any snow since we left the Allegheny mountains, before the 15th of March. I should like to know about the snow in New York. Is it all gone? How did it go, and the consequences? Mary, we have had a sick one with us all the way since we joined Dr. Satterlee. Mrs. Satterlee has had a very bad cough and cold, which has kept her feeble. She is now recovering, and is as well as can be expected. The rest of us have been very well, except feeling the effects of drinking the river water. I am in exception, however. My health was never better than since I have been on the river. . . . Mrs. Spalding does not look nor feel quite healthy enough for our enterprise. Riding affects her differently from what it does me. Everyone who sees me compliments me as being the best able to endure the journey over the mountains. Sister S[paulding] is very resolute—no shrinking with her. She possesses much fortitude. I like her very much. She wears well upon acquaintance. She is a very suitable person for Mr. Spalding—has the right temperament to match him. I think we shall get along very well together; we have so far. I have such a good place to shelter—under my husband's wings. He is so excellent. I love to confide in his judgment, and act under him, for it gives me a chance to improve. Jane, if you want to be happy get as good a husband as I have got, and be a missionary. Mary, I wish you were with us. You would be happy, as I am. The way looks pleasant, notwithstanding we are so near encountering the difficulties of an unheard-of journey for females. . . .





An Act to Establish the Smithsonian Institution

1846

When the United States government received Englishman James Smithson's mysterious gift in his will, Congress had to determine how to use the money to fulfill his wishes. Congress passed this bill in 1846 and it was signed into law by President James K. Polk.

29th Congress, 1st Session

Begun and held at the City of Washington and the District of Columbia on Monday, the first day of December, eighteen hundred and forty-five.

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE "SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION"
FOR THE INCREASE AND DIFFUSION OF KNOWLEDGE AMONG MEN.

James Smithson, esquire, of London, in the Kingdom of Great Britain, having by his last will and testament given the whole of his property to the United States of America, to found at Washington, under the name of the "Smithsonian Institution," an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men; and the United States having, by an act of Congress, received said property and accepted said trust; Therefore, for the faithful execution of said trust, according to the will of the liberal and enlightened donor

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That, after the board of regents shall have met and become organized, it shall be their duty forthwith to proceed to select a suitable site for such building as may be necessary for the institution, which ground may be taken and appropriated out of that part of the public ground in the city of Washington lying between the Patent Office and Seventh Street

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That, so soon as the board of regents shall have selected the said site, they shall cause to be erected a suitable building, of plain and durable materials and structure, without unnecessary ornament, and of sufficient size, and with suitable rooms or halls, for the reception and arrangement, upon a liberal scale, of objects of natural history, including a geological and mineralogical cabinet; also a chemical laboratory, a library, a gallery of art, and the necessary lecture rooms

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That, in proportion as suitable arrangements can be made for their reception, all objects of art and of foreign and curious research, and all objects of natural history, plants, and geological and mineralogical specimens, belonging, or hereafter to belong, to the United States, which may be in the city of Washington, in whosoever custody the same may be, shall be delivered to such persons as may be authorized by the board of regents to receive them

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted,* That the author or proprietor of any book, map, chart, musical composition, print, cut, or engraving, for which a copy-right shall be secured under the existing acts of Congress, or those which shall hereafter be enacted respecting copy-rights, shall, within three months from the publication . . . deliver, or cause to be delivered, one copy of the same to the Librarian of the Smithsonian institution, and one copy to the Librarian of Congress Library, for the use of the said Libraries.



Over Niagara

October 25, 1901

This article appeared in the St. Paul, Minnesota, Globe newspaper the day after Annie Edson Taylor went over Niagara Falls in a barrel as a publicity stunt.

THE GLOBE

OCTOBER 25, 1901

OVER NIAGARA

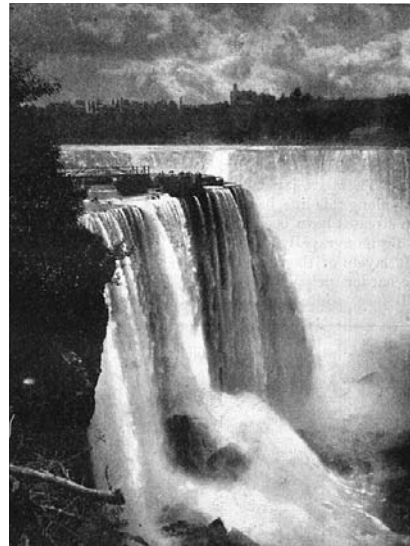
MRS. ANNIE EDSON TAYLOR MAKES THE TRIP IN A CLOSED BARREL
HAS NO SERIOUS INJURIES

Anvil in the Bottom of the Barrel Kept It in an Upright Position.

NOT A BONE WAS BROKEN

Niagara Falls, N.Y., Oct. 24—Mrs. Annie Edson Taylor, fifty years old, went over Niagara Falls on the Canadian side, this afternoon and survived, a feat never before accomplished. . . . She made the trip in a barrel. Not only did she survive, but she escaped without a broken bone, her only apparent injuries being a scalp wound one and one-half inches long, a slight concussion of the brain, some shock to her nervous system and bruises about the body. She was conscious when taken out of the barrel. The doctors in attendance upon her tonight said that though she was somewhat hysterical, her condition is not at all serious and that she probably will be out of bed within a few days.

Mrs. Taylor's trip covered a mile ride through the Canadian rapids before she reached the brink of the precipice. Her barrel, staunch as a barrel could be made, was twirled and buffeted through those delirious waters, but escaped serious contact with rocks. As it passed through the smoother, swifter waters that rushed over into the abyss it rode in an almost perpendicular position with its upper half out of the water. As it passed over the brink



it rode at an angle of about 45 degrees on the outer surface of the deluge and descended gracefully to the white foaming waters, 158 feet below.

True to her calculations, an anvil fastened to the bottom of the barrel kept it foot downward and so it landed. . . . The ride through the rapids occupied eighteen minutes. It was 4:23 o'clock when the barrel took its leap. It could not be seen as it struck the water below, because of the

spray, but in less than half a minute after it passed over the brink it was seen on the surface of the scum-covered water below the falls. It was carried swiftly down to the green water beyond the scum; then halfway to the *Maid of the Mist* landing it was caught in what is known as the *Maid of the Mist* eddy, and held there until it floated so close to the shore that it was reached by means of a pole and hook and drawn in upon the rocks at 4:40 o'clock, seventeen minutes after it shot the cataract. The woman was lifted from the barrel and half an hour later she lay on a cot at her boarding place, in Niagara Falls on the American side. She said she would never do it

again, but that she was not sorry she had done it, "if it would help her financially."

She said she had prayed all during the trip, except during "a few moments" of unconsciousness just after her descent.

The barrel in which Mrs. Taylor made the journey is 4½ feet high and about 3 feet in diameter. A leather harness and cushions inside protected her body. Air was secured through a rubber tube connected with a small opening near the top of the barrel. Mrs. Taylor is a school teacher and recently came here from Bay City, Michigan.



From Audubon's Journal

John James Audubon, 1843

In March of 1843, John James Audubon and his son Victor left on a journey to research for a project called Quadrupeds of North America. Even with the objective of observing animals, it is obvious from these journal entries that Audubon always had an eye out for birds!

April 26. A rainy day, and the heat we had experienced yesterday was now all gone. We saw a Wild Goose running on the shore, and it was killed by Bell [a traveling companion]; but our captain did not stop to pick it up, and I was sorry to see the poor bird dead, uselessly. We now had found out that our berths were too thickly inhabited for us to sleep in; so I rolled myself in my blanket, lay down on deck, and slept very sound.

27th. A fine clear day, cool this morning . . . saw a few Gray Squirrels, and an abundance of our common Partridges in flocks of fifteen to twenty, very gentle indeed. . . . At a woodyard above us we saw a White Pelican that had been captured there, and which, had it been clean, I should have bought. I saw that its legs and feet were red, and not yellow, as they are during autumn and winter. Marmots are quite abundant, and here they perforate their holes in the loose, sandy soil of the river banks, as well as the same soil wherever it is somewhat elevated . . . at sunrise, we were in sight of the seat of government, Jefferson. The State House stands prominent, with a view from it up and down the stream of about ten miles; but, with the exception of the State House and the Penitentiary, Jefferson is a poor place, the land round being sterile and broken. This is said to be 160 or 170 miles above St. Louis. We saw many Gray Squirrels this morning. Yesterday we passed under long lines of elevated shore, surmounted by stupendous rocks of limestone, with many curious holes in them, where we saw Vultures and Eagles enter towards dusk. Harris saw a Peregrine Falcon; the whole of these rocky shores are ornamented with a species of white cedar quite satisfactorily known to us. We took wood at several places; at one I was told that Wild Turkeys were abundant and Squirrels also, but as the squatter observed, "Game is very scarce, especially Bears." Wolves begin to be troublesome to the settlers who have sheep; they are obliged to drive the latter home, and herd



them each night. . . . We saw a pair of Peregrine Falcons, one of them with a bird in its talons; also a few White-fronted Geese, some Blue-winged Teal, and some Cormorants, but none with the head, neck, and breast pure white, as the one I saw two days ago. . . .

29th. We were off at five this rainy morning, and at 9 A.M. reached Booneville, distant from St. Louis about 204 miles. We bought at this place an axe, a saw, three files, and some wafers; also some chickens, at one dollar a dozen. We found here some of the Santa Fe traders with whom we had crossed the Alleghenies. They were awaiting the arrival of their goods, and then would immediately start. I saw a Rabbit sitting under the shelf of a rock, and also a Gray Squirrel. . . .



Ho! for California

Jesse Hutchinson, 1849

This song of the California Gold Rush of 1849 reveals the bright (and unrealistic) hopes of men setting out to strike it rich. The last verse is a reminder of the heated controversy over slavery at the time. "Ho! for California" is a song of the Hutchinson Family Singers, a musical group that became popular in America in the 1840s and performed more than twelve thousand concerts.

We've formed our band and are well manned,
To journey afar to the promised land,
Where the golden ore is rich in store,
On the banks of the Sacramento shore.

Chorus

Then, ho! Brothers ho! To California go.
There's plenty of gold in the world
we're told,
On the banks of the Sacramento.
Heigh O, and a way we go,
Digging up gold in Francisco.

O! don't you cry, nor heave a sigh,
For we'll all come back again, bye and bye,
Don't breathe a fear, nor shed a tear,
But patiently wait for about two year.

(Chorus)

As the gold is thar, most any whar,
And they dig it out with an iron bar,
And where 'tis thick, with a spade or pick,
They can take out lumps as heavy as brick.

(Chorus)

As we explore that distant shore,
We'll fill our pockets with the shining ore;
And how 'twill sound, as the word goes round,
Of our picking up gold by the dozen pound.

(Chorus)

We expect our share of the coarsest fare,
And sometimes to sleep in the open air,
Upon the cold ground we shall all sleep sound
Except when the wolves are howling round.

(Chorus)

And off we roam over the dark sea foam,
We'll never forget our friends at home
For memories kind will bring to mind
The thoughts of those we leave behind.

(Chorus)

O! the land we'll save, for the bold and brave—
Have determined there never shall
breathe a slave;
Let foes recoil, for the sons of toil
Shall make California GOD'S FREE SOIL.

Final Chorus

Then ho! Brothers ho! To California go,
No slave shall toil on God's Free Soil,
On the banks of the Sacramento,
Heigh O, and away we go,
Chanting our songs of Freedom, O.





My Hope and My Deep Faith

Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1954

President Dwight D. Eisenhower wrote this letter to an American woman named Marie Green.

June 14, 1954

Dear Mrs. Green,

I have heard of the tragic misfortunes that you have suffered during and since World War II. To lose a son is heart-breaking; to lose a son on a battlefield has a special tragedy of its own because of the inescapable conviction that man, long ago, should have found a way to eliminate such conflicts. You have my deepest and most sincere sympathy. I wonder if I may be bold enough to tell you a little bit about one of my most profound beliefs.

I abhor war as much as I know you do. But we in America cherish the freedom we have had throughout the 178 years of our existence as a nation; we cherish it above all else and we have never hesitated when necessary to fight to preserve it. In recent years there have risen fanatical individuals, possessed of greed and lust for power, who have managed for a time to threaten our security, our safety and our freedom. To stop these aggressors, America has had to make tremendous sacrifices, both as a nation and as individuals. We have succeeded in thwarting those who have attempted to destroy us; we always will.

Now, science has provided us with weapons of unprecedented power. But I know that if we are wise enough and strong enough and courageous enough, we can eventually—and in our lifetime—turn that force toward constructive efforts for the betterment of mankind everywhere, and not permit it to be used—at least exclusively—for mankind's destruction.

I feel impelled to express my belief that the sacrifices you and thousands of other mothers have made are bringing us—in a slow and painful process to be sure—but steadily bringing us to the place where man's freedom and personal dignity will forever be secure. That is my hope and my deep faith, and I pray that it is in some measure shared by you.



Sincerely,
Dwight D. Eisenhower



Pledge of Allegiance

1954

The first version of the pledge of allegiance, written by Francis Bellamy, was published in 1892 in a children's magazine called The Youth's Companion. It was used as part of the 400th anniversary celebration of the arrival of Columbus. Though use of the pledge had long been common, the United States Congress did not officially recognize it until 1942, when it became part of the U.S. Flag Code. President Eisenhower approved a joint resolution of Congress to add the words "under God" to the pledge in 1954. On that occasion, he said, "In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource in peace and war."

83RD UNITED STATES CONGRESS
2ND SESSION

Joint Resolution

To amend the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That section 7 of the joint resolution entitled "Joint resolution to codify and emphasize existing rules and customs pertaining to the display and use of the flag of the United States of America", approved June 22, 1942, as amended (36 U. S. C., sec. 172), is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 7. The following is designated as the pledge of allegiance to the flag, 'I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.' Such pledge should be rendered by standing with the right hand over the heart. However, civilians will always show full respect to the flag when the pledge is given by merely standing at attention, men removing the headdress. Persons in uniform shall render the military salute."

Approved June 14, 1954.





The Situation in Little Rock

Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1957

President Eisenhower addressed the American people by radio and television on September 24, 1957, to explain the situation in Little Rock, Arkansas, surrounding the integration of Little Rock Central High School. He had earlier that day issued the order to send Federal troops to Little Rock to uphold the law.

Good Evening, My Fellow Citizens: For a few minutes this evening I want to speak to you about the serious situation that has arisen in Little Rock. To make this talk I have come to the President's office in the White House. I could have spoken from Rhode Island, where I have been staying recently, but I felt that, in speaking from the house of Lincoln, of Jackson and of Wilson, my words would better convey both the sadness I feel in the action I was compelled today to take and the firmness with which I intend to pursue this course until the orders of the Federal Court at Little Rock can be executed without unlawful interference.

In that city, under the leadership of demagogic extremists, disorderly mobs have deliberately prevented the carrying out of proper orders from a Federal Court. Local authorities have not eliminated that violent opposition and, under the law, I yesterday issued a Proclamation calling upon the mob to disperse.

This morning the mob again gathered in front of the Central High School of Little Rock, obviously for the purpose of again preventing the carrying out of the Court's order relating to the admission of Negro children to that school.

Whenever normal agencies prove inadequate to the task and it becomes necessary for the Executive Branch of the Federal Government to use its powers and authority to uphold Federal Courts, the President's responsibility is inescapable.

In accordance with that responsibility, I have today issued an Executive Order directing the use of troops under Federal authority to aid in the execution of Federal law at Little Rock, Arkansas. This became necessary when my Proclamation of yesterday was not observed, and the obstruction of justice still continues.

It is important that the reasons for my action be understood by all our citizens.

As you know, the Supreme Court of the United States has decided that separate public educational facilities for the races are inherently unequal and therefore compulsory school segregation laws are unconstitutional.

Our personal opinions about the decision have no bearing on the matter of enforcement; the responsibility and authority of the Supreme Court to interpret the Constitution are very clear. Local Federal Courts were instructed by the Supreme Court to issue such orders and decrees as might be necessary to achieve admission to public schools without regard to race—and with all deliberate speed.

During the past several years, many communities in our Southern states have instituted public school plans for gradual progress in the enrollment and attendance of school children of all races in order to bring themselves into compliance with the law of the land.



They thus demonstrated to the world that we are a nation in which laws, not men, are supreme. I regret to say that this truth—the cornerstone of our liberties—was not observed in this instance.

It was my hope that this localized situation would be brought under control by city and State authorities. If the use of local police powers had been sufficient, our traditional method of leaving the problems in those hands would have been pursued. But when large gatherings of obstructionists made it impossible for the decrees of the Court to be carried out, both the law and the national interest demanded that the President take action.

Here is the sequence of events in the development of the Little Rock school case.

In May of 1955, the Little Rock School Board approved a moderate plan for the gradual desegregation of the public schools in that city. It provided that a start toward integration would be made at the present term in the high school, and that the plan would be in full operation by 1963. Here I might say that in a number of communities in Arkansas integration in the schools has already started and without violence of any kind. Now this Little Rock plan was challenged in the courts by some who believed that the period of time as proposed in the plan was too long.

The United States Court at Little Rock, which has supervisory responsibility under the law for the plan of desegregation in the public schools, dismissed the challenge, thus approving a gradual rather than an abrupt change from the existing system. The court found that the school board had acted in good faith in planning for a public school system free from racial discrimination.

Since that time, the court has on three separate occasions issued orders directing that the plan be carried out. All persons were instructed to refrain from interfering with the efforts of the school board to comply with the law.

Proper and sensible observance of the law then demanded the respectful obedience which the nation has a right to expect from all its people. This, unfortunately, has not been the case at Little Rock. Certain misguided persons, many of them imported into Little Rock by agitators, have insisted upon defying the law and have sought to bring it into disrepute. The orders of the court have thus been frustrated.

The very basis of our individual rights and freedoms rests upon the certainty that the President and the Executive Branch of Government will support and insure the carrying out of the decisions of the Federal Courts, even, when necessary with all the means at the President's command.

Unless the President did so, anarchy would result.

There would be no security for any except that which each one of us could provide for himself.

The interest of the nation in the proper fulfillment of the law's requirements cannot yield to opposition and demonstrations by some few persons.

Mob rule cannot be allowed to override the decisions of our courts.

Now, let me make it very clear that Federal troops are not being used to relieve local and state authorities of their primary duty to preserve the peace and order of the community. Nor are the troops there for the purpose of taking over the responsibility of the School Board and the other responsible local officials in running Central High School. The running of our school system and the maintenance of peace and order in each of our States are strictly local affairs and the Federal Government does not interfere except in a very few special cases and when requested by one of the several States. In the present case the troops are there, pursuant to law, solely for the purpose of preventing interference with the orders of the Court.

The proper use of the powers of the Executive Branch to enforce the orders of a Federal Court is limited to extraordinary and compelling circumstances. Manifestly, such an extreme situation has been created in Little Rock. This challenge must be met and with such measures as will preserve to the people as a whole their lawfully-protected rights in a climate permitting their free and fair exercise.

The overwhelming majority of our people in every section of the country are united in their respect for observance of the law—even in those cases where they may disagree with that law.

They deplore the call of extremists to violence.

The decision of the Supreme Court concerning school integration, of course, affects the South more seriously than it does other sections of the country. In that region I have many warm friends, some of them in the city of Little Rock. I have deemed it a great personal privilege to spend in our Southland tours of duty while in the military service and enjoyable recreational periods since that time.

So from intimate personal knowledge, I know that the overwhelming majority of the people in the South—including those of Arkansas and of Little Rock—are of good will, united in their efforts to preserve and respect the law even when they disagree with it.

They do not sympathize with mob rule. They, like the rest of our nation, have proved in two great wars their readiness to sacrifice for America.

A foundation of our American way of life is our national respect for law.

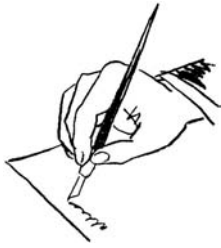
In the South, as elsewhere, citizens are keenly aware of the tremendous disservice that has been done to the people of Arkansas in the eyes of the nation, and that has been done to the nation in the eyes of the world.

At a time when we face grave situations abroad because of the hatred that Communism bears toward a system of government based on human rights, it would be difficult to exaggerate the harm that is being done to the prestige and influence, and indeed to the safety, of our nation and the world.

Our enemies are gloating over this incident and using it everywhere to misrepresent our whole nation. We are portrayed as a violator of those standards of conduct which the peoples of the world united to proclaim in the Charter of the United Nations. There they affirmed “faith in fundamental human rights” and “in the dignity and worth of the human person” and they did so “without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.”

And so, with deep confidence, I call upon the citizens of the State of Arkansas to assist in bringing to an immediate end all interference with the law and its processes. If resistance to the Federal Court orders ceases at once, the further presence of Federal troops will be unnecessary and the City of Little Rock will return to its normal habits of peace and order and a blot upon the fair name and high honor of our nation in the world will be removed.

Thus will be restored the image of America and of all its parts as one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Good night, and thank you very much.



The Northern Lights

Hudson Stuck, 1914

Hudson Stuck was archdeacon of the Episcopal Church in Alaska. He traveled many thousands of miles by dogsled to visit mission stations and seek unreached native communities. In 1914 he published Ten Thousand Miles with a Dog Sled, in which he described the landscape and climate of Alaska, native peoples and mission work among them, and his many Alaskan adventures. Following are his descriptions of two of the many times he observed the natural phenomenon known as the northern lights or aurora borealis.

This was on the 6th of October, 1904, at Fairbanks, a little removed from the town itself. When first the heavens were noticed there was one clear bow of milky light stretching from the northern to the southern horizon, reflected in the broken surface of the river, and glistening on the ice cakes that swirled down with the swift current. Then the southern end of the bow began to twist on itself until it had produced a queer elongated corkscrew appearance half-way up to the zenith, while the northern end



spread out and bellied from east to west. Then the whole display moved rapidly across the sky until it lay low and faint on the western horizon, and it seemed to be all over. But before one could turn to go indoors a new point of light appeared suddenly high up in the sky and burst like a pyrotechnic bomb into a thousand pear-shaped globules with a molten centre flung far out to north and south. Then began one of the most beautiful celestial exhibitions that the writer has ever seen. These globules stretched into ribbon streamers, dividing and subdividing until the whole sky was filled with them, and these ribbon streamers of greenish opalescent light curved constantly inward and outward upon themselves, with a quick jerking movement like the cracking of a whip, and every time the ribbons curved, their lower edges frayed out, and the fringe was prismatic. The pinks and mauves flashed as the ribbon curved and frayed—and were gone. There was no other color in the whole heavens save the milky greenish-white light, but every time the streamers thrashed back and forth their under edges fringed into the glowing tints of mother-of-pearl. Presently, the whole display faded out until it was gone. But, as we turned again to seek the warmth of the house, all at once tiny fingers of light appeared all over the upper sky, like the flashing of spicules of alum under a microscope when a solution has dried to the point of crystallisation, and stretched up and down, lengthening and lengthening to the horizon, and gathering themselves together at the zenith into a crown. Three times this was repeated; each time the light faded gradually but completely from the sky and flashed out again instantaneously. . . .

The next to be described . . . was the most striking and beautiful manifestation of the Northern Lights the writer has ever seen. It was that rare and lovely thing—a colored aurora—all of one rich deep tint.

It was on the 11th of March, 1907, on the Chandalar River, a day's march above the gap by which that stream enters the Yukon Flats and five days north of Fort Yukon. A new "strike" had been made on the Chandalar, and a new town, "Caro," established;—abandoned since. All day long we had been troubled and hindered by overflow water on the ice, saturating the snow, an unpleasant feature for which this stream is noted; and when night fell and we thought we ought to be approaching the town, it seemed yet unaccountably far off. At last, in the darkness, we came to a creek that we decided must surely be Flat Creek, near the mouth of which the new settlement stood; and at the same time we came to overflow water so deep that it covered both ice and snow and looked dangerous. So the dogs were halted while the Indian boy went ahead cautiously to see if the town were not just around the bend, and the writer sat down, tired, on the sled. While sitting there, all at once, from the top of the mountainous bluff that marked the mouth of the creek, a clear red light sprang up and spread out across the sky, dyeing the snow and gleaming in the water, lighting up all the river valley from mountain to mountain with a most beautiful carmine [red] of the utmost intensity and depth. In wave after wave it came, growing brighter and brighter, as though some gigantic hand on that mountain top were flinging out the liquid radiance into the night. There was no suggestion of any other color, it was all pure carmine, and it seemed to accumulate in mid-air until all the landscape was bathed in its effulgence. And then it gradually died away. The native boy was gone just half an hour. It began about five minutes after he left and ended about five minutes before he returned, so that its whole duration was twenty minutes. There had been no aurora at all before; there was nothing after, for his quest had been fruitless, and, since we would not venture that water in the dark, we made our camp on the bank and were thus two hours or more yet in the open. The boy had stopped to look at it himself, "long time," as he said, and declared it was the only red aurora he had ever seen in his twenty-odd years' life. It was a very rare and beautiful sight, and it was hard to resist that impression of a gigantic hand flinging liquid red fire from the mountain top into the sky. Its source seemed no higher than the mountain top—seemed to be the mountain top itself—and its extent seemed confined within the river valley.



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images in Table of Contents and page
headers, 8, 13, 15-18, 20, 21, 23, 25, 28-34, 36,
37, 39-43, 45, 46, 49, 51-56, 58, 60, 61, 63-66,
69, 73, 74, 77, 79, 83, 85, 87-89, 115, 116, 119-
124, 126, 127, 154, 156, 157, 177 (bottom), 189,
197, 199
Inlaterdays (Flickr, CC-BY-2.0) Front Cover
(envelope at upper right)
**Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs
Division** Front Cover (letters at top left and
right, Star-Spangled Banner manuscript,
hotel advertisement, W.P.A. music poster), 2,

3, 5, 7, 11, 12, 19, 22, 26, 27, 44, 47, 68, 70-72,
81, 90, 91, 94, 96-100, 102-108, 110, 114, 128,
131, 133, 150 (Hoover), 158, 160, 161, 174, 176,
177 (top), 191, 200 (second from right), 201
(first, third, and fifth from top), 202 (World
War I soldier)

Livingonimpulse (Flickr, CC-BY-2.0) 6
Lizbeth King (Flickr, CC-BY-2.0) Front Cover
(Bright Angel Lodge receipt)
Matt Boman (Flickr, CC-BY-2.0) 137
Mary Evelyn McCurdy Front Cover (typed
speech, typed letter at lower right), Back
Cover (editor photo)
**National Aeronautics and Space
Administration** 180
National Archives and Records Administration
75, 76, 92, 113, 135, 136, 139, 140-142, 144, 145,
150 (Truman), 152, 153, 162, 167, 170, 172,
175, 179, 200 (first, second, and fourth from
left), 201 (second and fourth from top), 202
(rider), 203
Nick Russill (Flickr, CC-BY-2.0) 165
**Otis Historical Archives National Museum of
Health and Medicine** Front Cover
(newspaper)
Richard Bromley (Flickr, CC-BY-2.0) 171

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Selections as Assigned in Lessons of *America the Beautiful*

- Lesson 1: America the Beautiful, 1
Lesson 2: Indian Child Life, Part 1, 2
Lesson 3: Indian Child Life, Part 2, 3
Lesson 4: Indian Child Life, Part 3, 4
Lesson 5: Indian Child Life, Part 4, 5
Lesson 6: Journal of Christopher Columbus, 6
Lesson 8: The Mountain Chant: A Navajo Ceremony and The Coyote and the Turtle, 7-8
Lesson 9: Mesa Verde Wonderland Is Easy To Reach, 9-10
Lesson 10: Florida Tourism Advertisement, 11
Lesson 11: The Founding of Jamestown, 12
Lesson 13: Great Lakes Poems, 13
Lesson 14: Of Plimoth Plantation, 14-15
Lesson 17: Flushing Remonstrance, 16
Lesson 18: Salvation from Sin by Christ Alone, 17
Lesson 19: New England Primer Rhyming Alphabet, 18
Lesson 21: The Pharisee and the Publican, 19
Lesson 22: The Village Blacksmith, 20
Lesson 23: The Evening of the 5th of March, 21
Lesson 24: Autobiography and Poor Richard's Almanack, 22-23
Lesson 25: Advertisements in the *Virginia Gazette*, 24
Lesson 26: The Declaration of Independence, 25
Lesson 27: Letter from Valley Forge, 26
Lesson 29: The Liberty Song, 27
Lesson 30: Chester, 28
Lesson 31: Preamble to the Constitution and Letter to Abigail Adams, 29-30
Lesson 32: George Washington and the Cherry Tree and Rules of Civility & Decent Behavior in Company & Conversation, 31-32
Lesson 33: O Sing a Song of Bethlehem, 33
Lesson 35: The Adventures of Colonel Daniel Boone, 34
Lesson 36: Letter to Thomas Jefferson Smith, 35-36
Lesson 37: Journals of Lewis and Clark, 37-38
Lesson 38: Myths and Legends of the Sioux, 39-40
Lesson 40: Domestic Economy, 41
Lesson 41: The Star-Spangled Banner, 42
Lesson 43: Low Bridge, Everybody Down, 43
Lesson 44: Come, Holy Spirit, Dove Divine, 44
Lesson 45: The Legend of Paul Bunyan, 45
Lesson 48: Letter from the Alamo, 46
Lesson 49: Letter to Papa, 47
Lesson 50: A Soldier Remembers the Trail of Tears, 48
Lesson 51: To the People of the United States, 49
Lesson 52: Life on the Mississippi, 50-51
Lesson 54: Steamboat Songs, 52-53
Lesson 55: What Hath God Wrought! 54
Lesson 56: Hail to the Chief, 55
Lesson 57: First Woman on the Oregon Trail, 56
Lesson 58: An Act to Establish the Smithsonian Institution, 57
Lesson 59: Over Niagara, 58-59
Lesson 60: From Audubon's Journal, 60
Lesson 61: Ho! for California and Letter from a Forty-Niner, 61-63
Lesson 63: Let the Lower Lights Be Burning, 64
Lesson 64: Poems of Longfellow, 65-66
Lesson 66: Letters from Abraham Lincoln, 67
Lesson 67: The Gettysburg Address, 68
Lesson 68: Recollections of General Robert E. Lee, 69
Lesson 69: Childhood Reminiscences, 70-72
Lesson 70: Camp Songs of the Civil War, 73-74
Lesson 72: The Discovery of Yellowstone Park, 75
Lesson 73: Dedication Prayer, 76
Lesson 74: Hymns of Fanny J. Crosby, 77-78
Lesson 75: Cowboy Songs, 79-80
Lesson 76: How Arthur Was Inaugurated, 81
Lesson 77: Colonel Anderson and Books, 82-83
Lesson 78: Summer on the Homestead, 84-85
Lesson 79: Thanksgiving Time, 86-87
Lesson 81: Sears and Roebuck Catalog, 1897 and Wedding in the White House, 88-91
Lesson 82: Galen Clark of Yosemite, 92-93
Lesson 83: One of My Closest Friends, 94-95
Lesson 84: Burned Out of House and Home, 96
Lesson 85: The Glories of the Fair, 97-98
Lesson 86: Old Glory, 99
Lesson 88: Gains at Ellis Island, 100-101
Lesson 89: Experiences of a Bandmaster, 102-104
Lesson 91: Letters to His Children and Miss Delia Torrey Consents to Come, 105-109
Lesson 93: The Subject of Flying, 110
Lesson 95: Alaska Days with John Muir, 111-112
Lesson 96: Poetry of the Great War and Save and Serve, 113-116
Lesson 97: Sergeant York and His People, 117-119
Lesson 98: The Cat Took the Kosher Meat, 120-121
Lesson 100: Canyons of the Colorado, 122-123
Lesson 101: Harding Appoints Taft, 124-125
Lesson 102: Made in America, 126-127
Lesson 103: The Only Automobile in Detroit, 128

Lesson 104: Steadfast as These Ancient Hills, 129-130
Lesson 105: Marveling at the Mysteries, 131-132
Lesson 106: Fireside Chat: On Drought Conditions, 133-134
Lesson 107: A Nation-Wide System of Parks, 135-136
Lesson 108: The Fog in San Francisco, 137
Lesson 110: The Beauties of the State of Washington, 138
Lesson 111: D-Day Message, 139
Lesson 112: Fireside Chat: On the Declaration of War with Japan and Code-Talkers, 140-144
Lesson 113: Press Release, 145
Lesson 114: Great Our Joint Rejoicings Here, 146-149
Lesson 116: Time for Action, Letter to Bess, and Letter to Eleanor Roosevelt, 150-153
Lesson 117: Don'ts for Tourists, 154-155
Lesson 119: Casey at the Bat and Take Me Out to the Ball Game, 156-158
Lesson 120: Spirit of Freedom, 159
Lesson 121: My Hope and My Deep Faith, 160
Lesson 122: Pledge of Allegiance, 161
Lesson 123: The Situation in Little Rock, 162-164
Lesson 125: The Northern Lights, 165-166
Lesson 126: The Exciting Adventure of Space, 167-168
Lesson 129: Immense Flocks, 169-170
Lesson 130: I Will Sing the Wondrous Story, 171
Lesson 131: Unchanging Principles, 172-174
Lesson 133: One Small Step, 175
Lesson 134: The Story of the Navel Orange, 176-177
Lesson 136: Every Human Life is Precious, 178-179
Lesson 137: A National Loss, 180-181
Lesson 140: Bunny Brown and His Sister Sue Keeping Store, 182-185
Lesson 141: A Time for Healing, 186-187
Lesson 144: Home, 188
Lesson 145: Righteous Fundamentals, 189
Lesson 146: Freedom and Fear At War, 190-192
Lesson 147: Ascending Long's Peak, 193-195
Lesson 148: Songs of Septimus Winner, 196-197
Lesson 149: Songs of the Carter Family, 198-199
Lesson 150: The Glorious Fourth, 200-202

Selections in Alphabetical Order by Title

- Act to Establish the Smithsonian Institution, An, 57
 Adventures of Colonel Daniel Boone, The, 34
 Advertisements in the *Virginia Gazette*, 24
 Alaska Days with John Muir, 111
 America the Beautiful, 1
 Ascending Long's Peak, 193
 Autobiography and Poor Richard's Almanack, 22
 Beauties of the State of Washington, The, 138
 Bunny Brown and His Sister Sue Keeping Store, 182
 Burned Out of House and Home, 96
 Camp Songs of the Civil War, 73
 Canyons of the Colorado, 122
 Casey at the Bat, 156
 Cat Took the Kosher Meat, The, 120
 Chester, 28
 Childhood Reminiscences, 70
 Code-Talkers, 143
 Colonel Anderson and Books, 82
 Come, Holy Spirit, Dove Divine, 44
 Cowboy Songs, 79
 Coyote and the Turtle, The, 8
 D-Day Message, 139
 Declaration of Independence, The, 25
 Dedication Prayer, 76
 Discovery of Yellowstone Park, The, 75
 Domestic Economy, 41
 Don'ts for Tourists, 154
 Evening of the 5th of March, The, 21
 Every Human Life is Precious, 178
 Exciting Adventure of Space, The, 167
 Experiences of a Bandmaster, 102
 Fireside Chat: On Drought Conditions, 133
 Fireside Chat: On the Declaration of War with Japan, 140
 First Woman on the Oregon Trail, 56
 Florida Tourism Advertisement, 11
 Flushing Remonstrance, 16
 Fog in San Francisco, The, 137
 Founding of Jamestown, The, 12
 Freedom and Fear At War, 190
 From Audubon's Journal, 60
 Gains at Ellis Island, 100
 Galen Clark of Yosemite, 92
 George Washington and the Cherry Tree, 31
 Gettysburg Address, The, 68
 Glories of the Fair, The, 97
 Glorious Fourth, The, 200
 Great Lakes Poems, 13
 Great Our Joint Rejoicings Here, 146
 Hail to the Chief, 55
 Harding Appoints Taft, 124
 Ho! for California, 61
 Home, 188
 How Arthur Was Inaugurated, 81
 Hymns of Fanny J. Crosby, 77
 I Will Sing the Wondrous Story, 171
 Immense Flocks, 169
 Indian Child Life, Part 1, 2
 Indian Child Life, Part 2, 3
 Indian Child Life, Part 3, 4
 Indian Child Life, Part 4, 5
 Journal of Christopher Columbus, 6
 Journals of Lewis and Clark, 37
 Legend of Paul Bunyan, The, 45
 Let the Lower Lights Be Burning, 64
 Letter from a Forty-Niner, 62
 Letter from the Alamo, 46
 Letter from Valley Forge, 26
 Letter to Abigail Adams, 30
 Letter to Bess, 152
 Letter to Eleanor Roosevelt, 153
 Letter to Papa, 47
 Letter to Thomas Jefferson Smith, 35
 Letters from Abraham Lincoln, 67
 Letters to His Children 105
 Liberty Song, The, 27
 Life on the Mississippi, 50
 Low Bridge, Everybody Down, 43
 Made in America, 126
 Marveling at the Mysteries, 131
 Mesa Verde Wonderland Is Easy To Reach, 9
 Miss Delia Torrey Consents to Come, 108
 Mountain Chant: A Navajo Ceremony, The, 7
 My Hope and My Deep Faith, 160
 Myths and Legends of the Sioux, 39
 Nation-Wide System of Parks, A, 135
 National Loss, A, 180
 New England Primer Rhyming Alphabet, 18
 Northern Lights, The, 165
 O Sing a Song of Bethlehem, 33
 Of Plimoth Plantation, 14
 Old Glory, 99
 One of My Closest Friends, 94
 One Small Step, 175
 Only Automobile in Detroit, The, 128
 Over Niagara, 58

Pharisee and the Publican, The, 19
Pledge of Allegiance, 161
Poems of Longfellow, 65
Poetry of the Great War, 113
Preamble to the Constitution, 29
Press Release, 145
Recollections of General Robert E. Lee, 69
Righteous Fundamentals, 189
Rules of Civility & Decent Behavior in Company &
 Conversation, 32
Salvation from Sin by Christ Alone, 17
Save and Serve, 115
Sears and Roebuck Catalog, 1897, 88
Sergeant York and His People, 117
Situation in Little Rock, The, 162
Soldier Remembers the Trail of Tears, A, 48
Songs of Septimus Winner, 196
Songs of the Carter Family, 198
Spirit of Freedom, 159
Star-Spangled Banner, The, 42
Steadfast as These Ancient Hills, 129
Steamboat Songs, 52
Story of the Navel Orange, The, 176
Subject of Flying, The, 110
Summer on the Homestead, 84
Take Me Out to the Ball Game, 158
Thanksgiving Time, 86
Time for Action, 150
Time for Healing, A, 186
To the People of the United States, 49
Unchanging Principles, 172
Village Blacksmith, The, 20
Wedding in the White House, 90
What Hath God Wrought! 54

Selections in Alphabetical Order by Author

- Adams, John, "The Evening of the 5th of March," 21
 Adams, John, "Letter to Abigail Adams," 30
 Adams, John, "The Glorious Fourth," 200
 Alexander, Captain G. W., "Camp Songs of the Civil War," 73
 Allen, Thomas S., "Low Bridge, Everybody Down," 43
 Anderson, Mary E., "Great Our Joint Rejoicings Here," 146
 Armstrong, Neil, "One Small Step," 175
 Audubon, John James, "From Audubon's Journal," 60
 Bailey, Almira, "The Fog in San Francisco," 137
 Banyer, Maria Jay, "Letter to Papa," 47
 Bates, Katharine Lee, "America the Beautiful," 1
 Benson, Louis F., "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem," 33
 Billings, William, "Chester," 28
 Bird, Isabella L., "Ascending Long's Peak," 193
 Blenkhorn, Ada, "Songs of the Carter Family," 198
 Bliss, Philip P., "Let the Lower Lights Be Burning," 64
 Bradford, William, "Of Plimoth Plantation," 14
 Bryan, William Jennings, "Marveling at the Mysteries," 131
 Burnett, John G., "A Soldier Remembers the Trail of Tears," 48
 Bush, George H. W., "Every Human Life is Precious," 178
 Bush, George W., "Freedom and Fear At War," 190
 Carnegie, Andrew, "Colonel Anderson and Books," 82
 Carter, Jimmy, "Unchanging Principles," 172
 Cather, Willa, "Mesa Verde Wonderland Is Easy To Reach," 9
 Christman, Enos, "Letter from a Forty-Niner," 62
 Clark, William, "Journals of Lewis and Clark," 37
 Clinton, William J., "A Time for Healing," 186
 Columbus, Christopher, "Journal of Christopher Columbus," 6
 Coolidge, Calvin, "Steadfast as These Ancient Hills," 129
 Copeland, Carl, "Cowboy Songs," 79
 Cowan, Sam K., "Sergeant York and His People," 117
 Crosby, Fanny J., "Hymns of Fanny J. Crosby," 77
 Dickinson, John, "The Liberty Song," 27
 Douglass, Frederick, "The Glorious Fourth," 200
 Eastman, Charles A., "Indian Child Life," 2-5
 Eisenhower, Dwight D., "D-Day Message," 139
 Eisenhower, Dwight D., "My Hope and My Deep Faith," 160
 Eisenhower, Dwight D., "The Situation in Little Rock," 162
 Filson, John, "The Adventures of Colonel Daniel Boone," 34
 Ford, Henry, "One of My Closest Friends," 94
 Ford, Henry, "The Only Automobile in Detroit," 128
 Franklin, Benjamin, "Autobiography and Poor Richard's Almanack," 22
 Gamse, Albert, "Hail to the Chief," 55
 Giles, Harry F., "The Beauties of the State of Washington," 138
 Gilmore, Patrick S., "Camp Songs of the Civil War," 73
 Goudiss, Alberta M., "Save and Serve," 115
 Goudiss, C. Houston, "Save and Serve," 115
 Green, Nathanael, "Letter from Valley Forge," 26
 Guest, Edgar A., "Home," 188
 Guest, Edgar A., "Poetry of the Great War," 113
 Habershon, Ada R., "Songs of the Carter Family," 198
 Hart, Edward, "Flushing Remonstrance," 16
 Higley, Brewster, "Cowboy Songs," 79
 Hope, Laura Lee, "Bunny Brown and His Sister Sue Keeping Store," 182
 Hunton, David Fletcher, "Old Glory," 99
 Hutchinson, Jesse, "Ho! for California," 61
 Jefferson, Thomas, "The Declaration of Independence," 25
 Jefferson, Thomas, "Letter to Thomas Jefferson Smith," 35
 Judson, Adoniram, "Come, Holy Spirit, Dove Divine," 44
 Justin, "Burned Out of House and Home," 96
 Kennedy, John F., "The Exciting Adventure of Space," 167
 Kennedy, John F., "The Glorious Fourth," 200
 Key, Francis Scott, "The Star-Spangled Banner," 42
 Langford, Nathaniel Pitt, "The Discovery of Yellowstone Park," 75
 Lee, Robert E., Jr., "Recollections of General Robert E. Lee," 69
 Lewis, Meriwether, "Journals of Lewis and Clark," 37
 Lincoln, Abraham, "The Gettysburg Address," 68

- Lincoln, Abraham, "Letters from Abraham Lincoln," 67
- Lockett, Hattie Greene, "The Coyote and the Turtle," 8
- Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth, "Poems of Longfellow," 65
- Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth, "The Village Blacksmith," 20
- Matthews, Dr. Washington, "The Mountain Chant: A Navajo Ceremony," 7
- McLaughlin, Marie L., "Myths and Legends of the Sioux," 39
- Miller, James A., "The Glories of the Fair," 97
- Morse, Samuel F. B., "What Hath God Wrought!" 54
- Muir, John, "Galen Clark of Yosemite," 92
- Nixon, Richard, "One Small Step," 175
- Norworth, Jack, "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," 158
- Notgrass, Wesley, "Righteous Fundamentals," 189
- Ostermann, H. C., "Don'ts for Tourists," 154
- Penn, William, "Salvation from Sin by Christ Alone," 17
- Pindar, A., "Camp Songs of the Civil War," 73
- Poore, Bethany, "The Legend of Paul Bunyan," 45
- Powell, John Wesley, "Canyons of the Colorado," 122
- Reagan, Ronald, "The Glorious Fourth," 200
- Reagan, Ronald, "A National Loss," 180
- Reed, Father, "Camp Songs of the Civil War," 73
- Riis, Jacob A., "The Cat Took the Kosher Meat," 120
- Robinson, Jackie, "Spirit of Freedom," 159
- Rogers, Denise, "Great Lakes Poems," 13
- Roosevelt, Eleanor, "Press Release," 145
- Roosevelt, Franklin D., "Fireside Chat: On Drought Conditions," 133
- Roosevelt, Franklin D., "Fireside Chat: On the Declaration of War with Japan," 140
- Roosevelt, Theodore, "Letters to His Children," 105
- Rowley, Francis H., "I Will Sing the Wondrous Story," 171
- Sacknumptewa, Guanyanum, "The Coyote and the Turtle," 8
- Sanderson, James, "Hail to the Chief," 55
- Sexton, Ella M., "The Story of the Navel Orange," 176
- Smith, John, "The Founding of Jamestown," 12
- Sousa, John Philip, "Experiences of a Bandmaster," 102
- Stansbury, Howard, "Immense Flocks," 169
- Stewart, Elinore Rupert, "Summer on the Homestead," 84
- Stuck, Hudson, "The Northern Lights," 165
- Taylor, Susie King, "Childhood Reminiscences," 70
- Thayer, Ernest Lawrence, "Casey at the Bat," 156
- Todd, Dr. John, "Dedication Prayer," 76
- Travis, William Barrett, "Letter from the Alamo," 46
- Truman, Harry, "Letter to Bess," 152
- Truman, Harry, "Letter to Eleanor Roosevelt," 153
- Truman, Harry, "Time for Action," 150
- Twain, Mark, "Life on the Mississippi," 50
- Tyler, John, "To the People of the United States," 49
- Vogel, Clayton B., "Code-Talkers," 143
- Washington, George, "Rules of Civility & Decent Behavior in Company & Conversation," 32
- Watts, Isaac, "The Pharisee and the Publican," 19
- Webster, Daniel, "The Glorious Fourth," 200
- Webster, Noah, "Domestic Economy," 41
- Weems, Mason Locke, "George Washington and the Cherry Tree," 31
- Whitman, Narcissa, "First Woman on the Oregon Trail," 56
- Wilder, Laura Ingalls, "Thanksgiving Time," 86
- Williams, Jack C., "Cowboy Songs," 79
- Wilson, Woodrow, "The Glorious Fourth," 200
- Winner, Septimus, "Songs of Septimus Winner," 196
- Wright, Orville, "The Subject of Flying," 110
- Wright, Wilbur, "The Subject of Flying," 110
- Young, Samuel Hall, "Alaska Days with John Muir," 111
- Unknown Authorship*
- Act to Establish the Smithsonian Institution, An, 57
- Advertisements in the *Virginia Gazette*, 24
- Florida Tourism Advertisement, 11
- Gains at Ellis Island, 100
- Harding Appoints Taft, 124
- How Arthur Was Inaugurated, 81
- Made in America, 126
- Miss Delia Torrey Consents to Come, 108
- Nation-Wide System of Parks, A, 135
- New England Primer Rhyming Alphabet, 18
- Over Niagara, 58
- Pledge of Allegiance, 161
- Preamble to the Constitution, 29
- Sears and Roebuck Catalog, 1897, 88
- Steamboat Songs, 52
- Wedding in the White House, 90

Selections in Chronological Order

Note: The year given for most selections refers to the publishing date of selection. In most cases, this reflects the historical context of the selection. However, several memoirs and biographies included were published some time after the period they discuss.

- 1492, Journal of Christopher Columbus, 6
 1620, Of Plimoth Plantation, 14
 1624, The Founding of Jamestown, 12
 1657, Flushing Remonstrance, 16
 1687, New England Primer Rhyming Alphabet, 18
 1694, Salvation from Sin by Christ Alone, 17
 1700, The Pharisee and the Publican, 19
 1747, Rules of Civility & Decent Behavior in Company & Conversation, 32
 1768, The Liberty Song, 27
 1770, Chester, 28
 1772, Advertisements in the *Virginia Gazette*, 24
 1776, The Declaration of Independence, 25
 1776, The Glorious Fourth, 200
 1778, Letter from Valley Forge, 26
 1784, The Adventures of Colonel Daniel Boone, 34
 1787, Preamble to the Constitution, 29
 1788, Autobiography and Poor Richard's Almanack, 22
 1789, Letter to Abigail Adams, 30
 1800s, Steamboat Songs, 52
 1803, Domestic Economy, 41
 1804-1806, Journals of Lewis and Clark, 37
 1805, The Evening of the 5th of March, 21
 1806, George Washington and the Cherry Tree, 31
 1812, Hail to the Chief, 55
 1814, The Star-Spangled Banner, 42
 1821, Letter to Papa, 47
 1825, Letter to Thomas Jefferson Smith, 35
 1832, Come, Holy Spirit, Dove Divine, 44
 1836, First Woman on the Oregon Trail, 56
 1836, Letter from the Alamo, 46
 1839, The Village Blacksmith, 20
 1841, To the People of the United States, 49
 1842, Poems of Longfellow, 65
 1843, From Audubon's Journal, 60
 1844, What Hath God Wrought! 54
 1846, An Act to Establish the Smithsonian Institution, 57
 1849, Ho! for California, 61
 1850, Letter from a Forty-Niner, 62
 1850, Poems of Longfellow, 65-66
 1851, The Glorious Fourth, 200
 1852, The Glorious Fourth, 200
 1855, Immense Flocks, 169
 1856, Songs of Septimus Winner, 196
 1858, Poems of Longfellow, 65
 1860, Letters from Abraham Lincoln, 67
 1860s, Camp Songs of the Civil War, 73
 1863, Camp Songs of the Civil War, 73
 1863, Letters from Abraham Lincoln, 67
 1863, The Gettysburg Address, 68
 1864, Poems of Longfellow, 65
 1865, Great Our Joint Rejoicings Here, 146
 1868, Songs of Septimus Winner, 196
 1869, Dedication Prayer, 76
 1869, Hymns of Fanny J. Crosby, 77
 1871, Burned Out of House and Home, 96
 1871, Let the Lower Lights Be Burning, 64
 1873, Hymns of Fanny J. Crosby, 77
 1875, Hymns of Fanny J. Crosby, 77
 1876, Cowboy Songs, 79
 1879, Ascending Long's Peak, 193
 1881, How Arthur Was Inaugurated, 81
 1883, Life on the Mississippi, 50-51
 1884, The Mountain Chant: A Navajo Ceremony, 7
 1886, I Will Sing the Wondrous Story, 171
 1886, Wedding in the White House, 90
 1888, Casey at the Bat, 156
 1890, A Soldier Remembers the Trail of Tears, 48
 1893, America the Beautiful, 1
 1893, The Glories of the Fair, 97
 1895, Canyons of the Colorado, 122
 1897, Sears and Roebuck Catalog, 1897, 88
 1898, Letters to His Children, 105
 1898, Old Glory, 99
 1899, O Sing a Song of Bethlehem, 33
 1899, Songs of the Carter Family, 198
 1900, Experiences of a Bandmaster, 102
 1901, Letters to His Children, 105
 1901, Over Niagara, 58
 1902, Childhood Reminiscences, 70
 1902, The Story of the Navel Orange, 176
 1903, Letters to His Children, 105
 1903, Made in America, 126
 1903, The Cat Took the Kosher Meat, 120
 1904, Gains at Ellis Island, 100
 1904, Recollections of General Robert E. Lee, 69
 1905, Low Bridge, Everybody Down, 43

- 1905, The Discovery of Yellowstone Park, 75
 1907, Songs of the Carter Family, 198
 1908, Take Me Out to the Ball Game, 158
 1909, Summer on the Homestead, 84
 1911, Made in America, 126
 1911, Miss Delia Torrey Consents to Come, 108
 1912, Galen Clark of Yosemite, 92
 1912, Made in America, 126
 1913, Indian Child Life, 2-5
 1913, The Glorious Fourth, 200
 1914, The Northern Lights, 165
 1915, Alaska Days with John Muir, 111
 1915, The Beauties of the State of Washington, 138
 1916, Cowboy Songs, 79
 1916, Don'ts for Tourists, 154
 1916, Home, 188
 1916, Mesa Verde Wonderland Is Easy To Reach, 9
 1916, Myths and Legends of the Sioux, 39
 1916, Thanksgiving Time, 86
 1918, Made in America, 126
 1918, Poetry of the Great War, 113
 1918, Save and Serve, 115
 1920, Colonel Anderson and Books, 82
 1920, Florida Tourism Advertisement, 11
 1921, Harding Appoints Taft, 124
 1921, Made in America, 126
 1921, The Fog in San Francisco, 137
 1922, Bunny Brown and His Sister Sue Keeping Store, 182
 1922, Marveling at the Mysteries, 131
 1922, One of My Closest Friends, 94
 1922, Sergeant York and His People, 117
 1922, The Only Automobile in Detroit, 128
 1922, The Subject of Flying, 110
 1927, Steadfast as These Ancient Hills, 129
 1932, The Coyote and the Turtle, 8
 1933, Righteous Fundamentals, 189
 1936, Fireside Chat: On Drought Conditions, 133
 1939, A Nation-Wide System of Parks, 135
 1941, Fireside Chat: On the Declaration of War with Japan, 140
 1942, Code-Talkers, 143
 1944, D-Day Message, 139
 1945, Letter to Eleanor Roosevelt, 153
 1945, Press Release, 145
 1946, The Glorious Fourth, 200
 1946, Time for Action, 150
 1947, Letter to Bess, 152
 1954, My Hope and My Deep Faith, 160
 1954, Pledge of Allegiance, 161
 1957, The Situation in Little Rock, 162
 1958, Spirit of Freedom, 159
 1961, The Exciting Adventure of Space, 167
 1969, One Small Step, 175
 1977, Unchanging Principles, 172
 1981, The Glorious Fourth, 200
 1986, A National Loss, 180
 1990, Every Human Life is Precious, 178
 1995, A Time for Healing, 186
 2001, Freedom and Fear At War, 190
 2003, Great Lakes Poems, 13
 2010, The Legend of Paul Bunyan, 45

Selections by Category

Books and Stories

Beauties of the State of Washington, The, 138
Bunny Brown and His Sister Sue Keeping Store, 182
Cat Took the Kosher Meat, The, 120
Coyote and the Turtle, The, 8
Domestic Economy, 41
Don'ts for Tourists, 154
Fog in San Francisco, The, 137
George Washington and the Cherry Tree, 31
Legend of Paul Bunyan, The, 45
Myths and Legends of the Sioux, 39
New England Primer Rhyming Alphabet, 18
Save and Serve, 115
Sears and Roebuck Catalog, 1897, 88
Story of the Navel Orange, The, 176

Documents

Act to Establish the Smithsonian Institution, An, 57
Declaration of Independence, The, 25
Flushing Remonstrance, 16
Nation-Wide System of Parks, A, 135
Pledge of Allegiance, 161
Preamble to the Constitution, 29
To the People of the United States, 49

Journals, Memoirs, and Biographies

Adventures of Colonel Daniel Boone, The, 34
Alaska Days with John Muir, 111
Ascending Long's Peak, 193
Autobiography and Poor Richard's Almanack, 22
Canyons of the Colorado, 122
Childhood Reminiscences, 70
Colonel Anderson and Books, 82
Discovery of Yellowstone Park, The, 75
Evening of the 5th of March, The, 21
Experiences of a Bandmaster, 102
Founding of Jamestown, The, 12
From Audubon's Journal, 60
Galen Clark of Yosemite, 92
Great Our Joint Rejoicings Here, 146
Immense Flocks, 169
Indian Child Life, 2-5
Journal of Christopher Columbus, 6
Journals of Lewis and Clark, 37
Life on the Mississippi, 50
Mountain Chant: A Navajo Ceremony, The, 7

Northern Lights, The, 165
Of Plimoth Plantation, 14
One of My Closest Friends, 94
Only Automobile in Detroit, The, 128
Recollections of General Robert E. Lee, 69
Righteous Fundamentals, 189
Rules of Civility & Decent Behavior in Company &
Conversation, 32
Sergeant York and His People, 117
Subject of Flying, The, 110

Letters

Burned Out of House and Home, 96
Code-Talkers, 143
D-Day Message, 139
Every Human Life is Precious, 178
First Woman on the Oregon Trail, 56
Letter from a Forty-Niner, 62
Letter from the Alamo, 46
Letter from Valley Forge, 26
Letter to Abigail Adams, 30
Letter to Bess, 152
Letter to Eleanor Roosevelt, 153
Letter to Papa, 47
Letter to Thomas Jefferson Smith, 35
Letters from Abraham Lincoln, 67
Letters to His Children, 105
My Hope and My Deep Faith, 160
Press Release, 145
Soldier Remembers the Trail of Tears, A, 48
Spirit of Freedom, 159
Summer on the Homestead, 84
What Hath God Wrought! 54

Newspaper Articles

Advertisements in the *Virginia Gazette*, 24
Florida Tourism Advertisement, 11
Gains at Ellis Island, 100
Glories of the Fair, The, 97
Harding Appoints Taft, 124
How Arthur Was Inaugurated, 81
Made in America, 126
Mesa Verde Wonderland Is Easy To Reach, 9
Miss Delia Torrey Consents to Come, 108
Over Niagara, 58
Thanksgiving Time, 86
Wedding in the White House, 90

Poetry

Casey at the Bat, 156
Great Lakes Poems, 13
Home, 188
Old Glory, 99
Poems of Longfellow, 65
Poetry of the Great War, 113
Village Blacksmith, The, 20

Songs

America the Beautiful, 1
Camp Songs of the Civil War, 73
Chester, 28
Come, Holy Spirit, Dove Divine, 44
Cowboy Songs, 79
Hail to the Chief, 55
Ho! for California, 61
Hymns of Fanny J. Crosby, 77
I Will Sing the Wondrous Story, 171
Let the Lower Lights Be Burning, 64
Liberty Song, The, 27
Low Bridge, Everybody Down, 43
O Sing a Song of Bethlehem, 33
Pharisee and the Publican, The, 19
Songs of Septimus Winner, 196
Songs of the Carter Family, 198
Star-Spangled Banner, The, 42
Steamboat Songs, 52
Take Me Out to the Ball Game, 158

Speeches

Dedication Prayer, 76
Exciting Adventure of Space, The, 167
Fireside Chat: On Drought Conditions, 133
Fireside Chat: On the Declaration of War with Japan,
140
Freedom and Fear At War, 190
Gettysburg Address, The, 68
Glorious Fourth, The, 200
Marveling at the Mysteries, 131
National Loss, A, 180
One Small Step, 175
Salvation from Sin by Christ Alone, 17
Situation in Little Rock, The, 162
Steadfast as These Ancient Hills, 129
Time for Action, 150
Time for Healing, A, 186
Unchanging Principles, 172

Index

- Adams, Abigail, 21, 30
Adams, John, 21, 25, 30, 200-202
Agriculture, 24, 41, 84-85, 117-119, 133-134, 176-177
Alamo, 46
Alaska, 111-112, 165-166
Allen, Thomas S., 43
American Bible Society, 47
Anderson, Mary E., 146-149
Appalachian Mountains, 117-119, 198-199
Arizona, 122-123
Arkansas, 162-164
Armstrong, Neil, 175
Arthur, Chester A., 81, 102-104
Audubon, John James, 60
- Bahamas, 6
Bailey, Almira, 137
Banyer, Maria Jay, 47
Baseball, 88-89, 156-157, 158, 159
Bates, Katharine Lee, 1
Bedell, Grace, 67
Bellamy, Francis, 161
Benson, Louis F., 33
Billings, William, 28
Bird, Isabella L., 193-195
Black Hills, 129-130
Blenkhorn, Ada R., 198-199
Bliss, Philip P., 64
Boone, Daniel, 34
Boston, 21, 27, 28
Boston Massacre, 21
Bradford, William, 14-15
Brazil, 176-177
Bryan, William Jennings, 131-132
Burma, 44
Burnett, John G., 48
Bush, George H.W., 178-179
Bush, George W., 178-179, 190-192
- California, 45, 61, 62-63, 92-93, 137, 143-144, 176-177
Carnegie, Andrew, 82-83
Carter Family, 198-199
Carter, Jimmy, 172-174
Cather, Willa, 9-10
Cherokee, 44, 48
Chicago, 96, 97-98
Chicago Fire (1871), 96
Christman, Enos, 62-63
Cincinnati, 108-109
Civil rights, 159, 162-164
Civil War, 65-66, 67, 68, 69, 70-72, 73-74
Civilian Conservation Corps, 135-136
Clark, Galen, 92-93
Clark, William, 37-38
Cleveland, Francis Folsom, 90-91
Cleveland, Grover, 90-91
Clinton, William, 186-187
Colgate, 126-127
Colorado, 1, 9-10, 135-136, 193-195
Colorado River, 8, 122-123
Columbus, Christopher, 6
Connecticut, 26
Coolidge, Calvin, 129-130
Copeland, Carl, 79-80
Cowan, Sam K., 117-119
Crosby, Fanny J., 77-78
Cuba, 99, 105-107
- D-Day, 139
Denmark, 97-98, 120-121
Denver, 9-10, 84-85
Detroit, 94-95, 113-114, 128
Dickinson, John, 27
Douglass, Frederick, 200-202
- Eastman, Charles A., 2, 3, 4, 5
Edison, Thomas, 94-95
Egypt, 97-98, 190-192
Eisenhower, Dwight D., 139, 159, 160, 161, 162-164
Ellis Island, 100-101
England, 12, 14-15, 17, 19, 21, 22-23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 57, 90-91, 190-192
Erie Canal, 43
- Faubus, Orval, 159, 162-164
Filson, John, 34
Fisher, Carl, 154-155
Flagler, Henry, 11
Florida, 11, 105-107
Folk tales, 8, 31, 39-40, 45
Ford, Henry, 94-95, 128
France, 32, 97-98, 117-119, 140-142
Franklin, Benjamin, 19, 22-23, 25
Fussell's Ice Cream, 126-127
- Gamse, Albert, 55
Garfield, James A., 81
Georgia, 70-72, 73-74, 135-136, 172-174

Germany, 97-98, 110, 117-119, 139
 Gettysburg, 68
 Giles, Henry F., 138
 Gilmore, Patrick S., 73-74
 Gold Rush (California), 61, 62-63
 Golden Gate Bridge, 137
 Goudiss, Alberta M., 115-116
 Goudiss, C. Houston, 115-116
 Graham, Billy, 171, 186-187
 Grand Canyon, 122-123
 Grant, Ulysses S., 67
 Great Awakening, 19
 Great Depression, 133-134, 135-136, 198-199
 Great Lakes, 13
 Great Salt Lake, 169-170
 Green, Nathanael, 26
 Guest, Edgar A., 113-114, 188

 Habershon, Ada R., 198-199
 Habitat for Humanity International, 188
 Harding, Warren G., 124-125
 Harrison, William Henry, 49
 Hart, Edward, 16
 Hawaii, 140-142, 146-149
 Heinz, 126-127
 Hershey Chocolate Company, 126-127
 Higley, Brewster, 79-80
 Hitler, Adolf, 140-142
 Homestead Act, 84-85
 Hoover, Herbert, 150-151
 Hope, Laura Lee, 182-185
 Hopi, 8
 Hopper, DeWolf, 156-157
 Hunton, David Fletcher, 99
 Hutchinson Family Singers, 61
 Hutchinson, Jesse, 61

 Immigrants, 100-101, 120-121
 Iraq, 178-179

 Jackson, Andrew, 55
 Jamestown, Virginia, 12
 Japan, 140-142
 Jay, John, 30, 47
 Jefferson, Thomas, 25, 35-36, 129-130
 Johnston, Philip, 143-144
 Judson, Adoniram, 44

 Kennedy, John F., 167-168, 200-202
 Kentucky, 34
 Key, Francis Scott, 42

 Kuwait, 178-179

 Langford, Nathaniel Pitt, 75
 Lee, Robert E., 69
 Lee, Robert E., Jr., 69
 Lewis, Meriwether, 37-38
 Lilienthal, Otto, 110
 Lincoln, Abraham, 67, 68, 129-130
 Lincoln Highway, 154-155
 Little Rock, 162-164
 Little Rock Nine, 162-164
 Lockett, Hattie Green, 8
 Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth, 20, 65-66

 Maine, 45
 Maryland, 42
 Massachusetts, 14-15, 21, 27, 28, 44, 76, 108-109
 Matthews, Dr. Washington, 7
 Maytag, 126-127
 McLaughlin, Marie L., 39-40
 Mesa Verde National Park, 9-10
 Mexican War, 46
 Mexico, 46
 Michigan, 13, 94-95, 99, 102-104, 113-114, 128
 Miller, James A., 97-98
 Minnesota, 45
 Missionaries, 44, 56, 111-112, 146-149, 165-166
 Mississippi River, 50-51, 52-53
 Missouri, 37-38, 50-51, 56, 60, 86-87, 102-104, 152
 Missouri River, 37-38, 45
 Morse, Samuel F. B., 54
 Mount Rushmore, 129-130
 Muir, John, 92-93, 111-112

 Native Americans, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9-10, 12, 14-15,
 34, 37-38, 39-40, 44, 48, 111-112, 122-123, 143-144
 Navajo, 7, 143-144
 New York (city), 30, 47, 81, 100-101, 117-119, 120-121,
 156-157, 190-192
 New York (state), 16, 26, 30, 43, 47, 58-59, 67, 73-74,
 77-78, 81, 100-101, 105-107, 117-119, 120-121, 156-
 157, 190-192
 Niagara Falls, 58-59
 Nixon, Richard, 175
 North Carolina, 102-104, 171
 North Dakota, 45
 Norworth, Jack, 158
 Notgrass, Wesley, 189

 Ohio, 97-98, 108-109, 110
 Oklahoma, 186-187

Oklahoma City, 186-187
 Olympic Peninsula, 138
 Oregon, 56
 Oregon Trail, 56
 Ostermann, H. C., 154-155

Palmolive, 126-127
 Pearl Harbor, 140-142, 190-192
 Penn, William, 17
 Pennsylvania, 22-23, 25, 26, 29, 33, 62-63, 68, 82-83,
 124-125, 126-127, 190-192, 196-197
 Philadelphia, 22-23, 25, 29, 33, 124-125, 196-197
 Philippines, 140-142
 Pikes Peak, 1
 Pilgrims, 14-15
 Pindar, A., 73-74
 Pledge of Allegiance, 161
 Plymouth Plantation, 14-15
 Polk, James K., 54, 55, 97-98
 Polk, Sarah Childress, 55
 Poor Richard's Almanack, 22-23
 Poore, Bethany, 45
 Powell, John Wesley, 122-123
 Presidential speeches, 68, 129-130, 133-134, 140-142,
 150-151, 162-164, 167-168, 172-174, 175, 180-181,
 186-187, 190-192, 200-202
 Puritans, 18

Quaker Oats, 126-127
 Quakers, 16, 17

Railroads, 9-10, 11, 76, 102-104, 108-109
 Reagan, Ronald, 180-181, 200-202
 Reed, Father, 73
 Revolutionary War, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28
 Riis, Jacob A., 120-121
 Robinson, Jackie, 159
 Rocky Mountains, 1, 193-195
 Rogers, Denise, 13
 Roosevelt, Eleanor, 145, 153
 Roosevelt, Franklin D., 133-134, 135-136, 140-142,
 145, 153
 Roosevelt, Theodore, 105-107, 120-121, 129-130
 Ross, John, 48
 Rowley, Francis H., 171
 Russia, 152, 167-168

Sacknumptewa, Guanyanum, 8
 San Antonio, 46
 San Francisco, 61, 62-63, 137, 156-157
 Sanderson, James, 55

Santa Anna, 46
 Scotland, 82-83, 84-85
 Sears and Roebuck, 88-89
 Sequoyah, 44
 Sexton, Ella M., 176-177
 Shea, George Beverly, 171
 Sioux, 2, 3, 4, 5, 39-40
 Slavery, 24, 61, 70-72
 Smith, John, 12
 Smithsonian Institution, 7, 42, 57
 Smoky Mountains, 48
 Sousa, John Philip, 90-91, 102-104
 South Carolina, 135-136
 South Dakota, 45, 86-87, 129-130
 South Korea, 190-192
 Space, 167-168, 175
 Spain, 6, 99
 Spanish-American War, 99, 105-107
 St. Augustine, Florida, 11
 St. Louis, 37-38, 50-51, 56, 60, 102-104
 Stansbury, Howard, 169-170
 Steamboats, 50-51, 52-53
 Stewart, Elinore Rupert, 84-85
 Stratemeyer, Edward, 182-185
 Stuck, Hudson, 165-166
 Stuyvesant, Peter, 16

Taft, Helen Herron, 108-109
 Taft, William Howard, 108-109, 124-125
 Taylor, Annie Edson, 58-59
 Taylor, Susie King, 70-72
 Telegraph, 54, 88-89
 Tennessee, 48, 117-119, 198-199
 Terrorism, 186-187, 190-192
 Texas, 46, 79-80
 Thayer, Ernest Lawrence, 156-157
 Tlinget (Thlinget), 111-112
 Todd, Dr. John, 76
 Trail of Tears, 48
 Transcontinental railroad, 76
 Travis, William Barrett, 46
 Truman, Bess, 152
 Truman, Harry, 55, 145, 150-151, 152, 153
 Truman, Margaret, 152
 Twain, Mark, 50-51
 Tyler, John, 49, 55
 Tyler, Julia, 55

United Nations, 153, 162-164, 178-179
 Utah, 76, 169-170

Van Buren, Martin, 55
Victoria, Queen of England, 90-91
Virginia, 12, 24, 69, 131-132
Vogel, Clayton B., 143-144

War of 1812, 42, 55
Washington (state), 117-119, 138
Washington, D.C., 49, 54, 57, 81, 90-91, 102-104, 108-109, 117-119, 124-125, 145, 172-174, 175, 176-177, 190-192
Washington, George, 26, 31, 32, 55, 129-130
Watts, Isaac, 19
Webster, Daniel, 97-98, 200-202
Webster, Noah, 41
Weems, Mason Locke, 31
West Indies, 12
Wetherill, Richard, 9-10
Whitman, Marcus, 56

Whitman, Narcissa, 56
Wilder, Laura Ingalls, 86-87
Williams, Jack C., 79-80
Williamsburg, Virginia, 24
Wilson, Woodrow, 200-202
Winner, Septimus, 196-197
World's Columbian Exposition (Chicago), 97-98, 102-104
World War I, 113-114, 115-116, 117-119, 150-151
World War II, 139, 140-142, 143-144, 150-151, 160
Wright, Orville, 110
Wright, Wilbur, 110
Wyoming, 84-85

Yellowstone National Park, 75
York, Alvin C., 117-119
Yosemite National Park, 92-93
Young, Samuel Hall, 111-112