Reinventing America
Hear their stories in their own words!

CHAUTAUQUA FESTIVAL
JUNE 12-21

Experience it in:
• Greenville, SC
• Spartanburg, SC
• Asheville, NC
• Brevard, NC
• Athens, GA

Benjamin Franklin p. 6
Thomas Edison p. 8
Nikola Tesla p.10
Hedy Lamarr p.14
Rosa Parks p.16
Chautauqua Story p.17

Presented by:
Greenville Chautauqua Society, Greenville SC
Buncombe County Chautauqua Committee, Asheville, NC
Spartanburg County Public Libraries, Spartanburg SC
Transylvania County Library, Brevard NC
Athens Chautauqua, Athens, GA
Reinventing Greenville

by Judith Bainbridge, columnist for Greenville News

It took individual geniuses like Edison and Tesla to conceive inventions that changed the world. On a local level, it took an outsider – probably not a genius but a professional with new eyes on an old town – to reinvent Greenville.

It was 1905. The Municipal League, led by realtor Alester Furman and Monaghan Mill president Thomas Parker, hired Harlan Kelsey, a Boston landscape architect, to draw up a beautification plan for Greenville.

Kelsey had landscaped Monaghan Mill and the homes of Thomas Parker and his cousin, Lewis. Aponent of the “City Beautiful” movement, he had just completed a city plan for Columbia.

The Greenville he saw was an ugly, dirty, smelly, unhealthy mill town. In the publication he presented to the Municipal League in January 1907, “Beautifying and Improving Greenville, South Carolina,” he laid out ways to change it.

All of his suggestions weren’t followed. Some were too expensive, others were too long-term. A few were warnings of future problems. A financial panic gripped the country, making passage of bond issues for immediate public improvements impossible.

But the results were amazing. By 1910 City Council had appointed a Parks & Recreation Commission, strengthened the Board of Health, extended City Park and began discussions about buying the water system.

They had installed street signs, were replacing the Main Street bridge over the Reedy River, and had banned slaughterhouses. (There was a particularly loathsome one between Rowley and Vannoy Streets.)

By 1916, Municipal League members had funded City Hospital, replaced the leaking and ugly 1856 courthouse, and had opened a new cemetery.

Some of Kelsey’s recommendations took years to accomplish. Cleveland Park wasn’t deeded to the city until 1925. Paris Mountain didn’t become a public park until the 1930s, Academy Street wasn’t extended until the 1960s, and the banks of the Reedy River weren’t beautified until the 1980s.

Today, almost 120 years later, we are still working on one of his recommendations. Kelsey’s “Hudson Street Athletic Fields,” will be Unity Park. That’s long-term re-invention!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>FESTIVAL SCHEDULE JUNE 12-21</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GREENVILLE, SC</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FRI 6/12</strong> 7:30p</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tent at Greenville Tech</td>
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<td><strong>SAT 6/13</strong> 10:00a</td>
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<td>Greenville Downtown Airport</td>
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<td>Tent at Greenville Tech</td>
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<td>Harness Arts Center, CCES</td>
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<td>Tent at Greenville Tech</td>
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<td><strong>MON 6/15</strong> 11:30a</td>
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<td>Centre Stage</td>
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<td><strong>Reservations required</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Call 864-244-1499 or visit</td>
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<tr>
<td>HistoryComesAlive.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TUE 6/16</strong> 9:00a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upcountry History Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Kroc Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Falls Park, bring lawn seating</td>
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<td><strong>WED 6/17</strong> 9:00a</td>
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<td>Upcountry History Museum</td>
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<td><strong>11:30a</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Kroc Center</td>
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<td><strong>8:00p</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Trailblazer Park Travelers Rest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bring lawn seating</td>
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<td>Upcountry History Museum</td>
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<td>Phillis Wheatley Center</td>
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<td>Upcountry History Museum</td>
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<td>Younts Center, Fountain Inn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tent at Greenville Tech</td>
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<td>Tent at Greenville Tech</td>
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<td><strong>SPARTANBURG, SC</strong></td>
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<td>Headquarters Library</td>
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<td>151 South Church St, Spartanburg, SC 29306</td>
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<td><strong>ASHEVILLE, NC</strong></td>
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<td>AB Technical Community College,</td>
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<td>Ferguson Auditorium</td>
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<td>340 Victoria Rd, Asheville, NC 28801</td>
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<td><strong>BREVARD, NC</strong></td>
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<td>Transylvania County Library</td>
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<td>212 S Gaston St, Brevard, NC 28712</td>
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<td><strong>ATHENS, GA</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Morton Theatre</td>
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<td>195 W Washington St, Athens, GA 30601</td>
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<td><strong>SUN 6/14</strong> 3:30p</td>
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<td>7:00p</td>
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<td>*<strong>ASL interpreted shows</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>See page 21 for locations of Greenville shows or go to HistoryComesAlive.com</td>
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Funded in part by the Metropolitan Arts Council which receives support from the City of Greenville, BMW Manufacturing Company, Michelin North America, Inc., SEW Eurodrive and the South Carolina Arts Commission.
LARRY BOUNDS
(Ben Franklin) Greer, SC
Larry Bounds has been a Chautauqua performer since 2002. Over the years he has portrayed Einstein, Churchill, Disney, Houdini, Crockett, Von Braun, Cronkite, and Andrew Jackson to numerous Chautauqua audiences nationwide. For 35 years he taught public high school. He was awarded his school’s Teacher of the Year in 2003 and was recognized as one of the Upstate’s Most Influential Educators by Parent Magazine in 2018. He has performed as a professional magician since 1973, including 8 years with Ripley’s Believe It or Not!

HANK FINCKEN
(Thomas Edison) Indianapolis, IN
For more than twenty years, Hank Fincken has toured as a living history performer in Europe, South America and the United States. He has performed in theaters and at educational institutions, corporate events, libraries, and international conferences, parks, and cultural events as Johnny Appleseed, Thomas Edison, Christopher Columbus, Henry Ford, forty-niner J.G. Bruff, Francisco Pizarro, Prosecuting Attorney Richard Crowley (Susan B. Anthony’s 1873 trial), and W.C. Fields. hankfincken.com

IAN RUSKIN
(Nikola Tesla) Los Angeles, CA
On television Ian has often played the intelligent bad guy. When he was cast in a stage play as labor leader and social visionary Harry Bridges his life changed. Bridges was a man whose beliefs inspired Ian to write a one-man play: From Wharf Rats to Lords of the Docks about Bridges. His play To Begin the World Over Again: the Life of Thomas Paine continues his mission to present the stories of misunderstood heroes. His latest play is Magic and Lightning: into the Mind of Nikola Tesla. ianruskin.org theharrybridgesproject.org

JUDITH KALAORA
(Hedy Lamarr) Boston, MA
Judith Kalaora is a professional educator, actress, and living historian. She holds degrees in Theater and in Spanish Language and Culture. Judith founded History at Play™ in 2010 to provide educational entertainment, chronicling the lives of influential and often forgotten women. Judith researches, writes, produces and performs. Her characters include Christa McAuliffe, Dolley Madison, Lucy Stone, Rachel Revere, and Deborah Sampson. judithkalaora.com historyatplay.com

BECKY STONE
(Rosa Parks) Fairview, NC
Becky Stone is a former teacher of theater and chorus and theater appreciation in Fletcher, NC. While raising their four children, she and her husband started GreenPrints Magazine, a garden quarterly. Becky has been a regular storyteller-performer at the Biltmore Estate for many years. She has performed as a storyteller at schools, libraries, and festivals throughout Western North Carolina specializing in African-American, Appalachian, and world tales. Her characters include: Pauli Murray, Harriet Tubman and Maya Angelou.
The **Characters**

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN** (1706 - 1790)
This founding father was an inventor creating solutions to common problems, innovating new technology, new governments and even making life a little more musical. Besides his experiments in electricity and inventions of bifocals, swim fins, the Franklin stove and the glass armonica, perhaps Ben Franklin should be best known for helping create a government with the flexibility to reinvent itself.

**THOMAS EDISON** (1847 -1931)
He was a tinkerer, workaholic, serial inventor and prolific genius with a gift for turning big dreams into everyday reality. Edison advocated direct current and held 1,093 patents including the improved light bulb. His invention factory was a whole new way to invent through teamwork. In advertising and politics, Edison continues to be a symbol of American ingenuity and individualism.

**NIKOLA TESLA** (1854 - 1943)
This lone genius inventor solved the direct current problems by inventing an alternating current motor. In contrast with Edison, his process involved visualizing a finished working model in his head before drafting plans. Called a madman by his enemies, a genius by others, and an enigma by nearly everyone, Nikola Tesla created everything from radar to the microwave oven and wireless transmission industry.

**HEDY LAMARR** (1914 - 2000)
A scintillating adolescent in the film *Ekstase*, Hedy Lamarr wrenched herself free from a dead marriage to a Nazi munitions mogul - fled the Nazis - and become a Hollywood movie siren. She discovered herself to be a young adult brash enough to believe her inventions would upend the world. For all the girls, women, and anyone ever told they cannot do math or understand science, Hedy Lamarr will inspire you to reimagine your universe.

**ROSA PARKS** (1913 - 2005)
Sometimes it is necessary to take a stand. Other times, it takes courage to keep your seat. Rosa Parks is best known for being arrested for not giving up her bus seat. But Parks was not an apolitical, middle-aged lady whose fatigue kept her seated. This bold act and her deep-rooted political life radically challenged America to rethink its concept of Civil Rights.
Benjamin Franklin
(1706-1790)

1718  Apprenticed as printer to brother James
1723  Ran away to Philadelphia
1732  Publishes Poor Richard’s Almanack
1737  Postmaster, Philadelphia
1747  Experiments with electricity
1753  Postmaster General, colonies
1754  Albany Plan
1757-1775  colonial representative in London
1776  Helps draft the Declaration of Independence
1777-1784  Ambassador to France
1787  Helps draft US Constitution

When Benjamin Franklin appeared before the British Parliament as a colonial representative in 1757, he dressed in the fine silks and powdered wig that were expected of the dignified Englishman that he was. Twenty-one years later, however, representing the new American republic desperately fighting a revolution for independence, he stepped among the silk clad, powdered, and bewigged French aristocracy in a plain, brown, homespun suit with no wig and wearing a rustic, beaver fur cap – his “Liberty Cap.” Franklin created a new image, singularly American. He represented a new national identity, more enterprising, less refined. He presented the idea of a new nationality that demanded a new nation. His unique style immediately captured the imagination of the French populace, rich and poor, and was the first step in winning over their support.

Ben Franklin became the first American. His life demonstrates the optimism, entrepreneurship, and imagination, that has enabled the America people to reinvent their society for the better throughout its history. Franklin, a distinguished, middle-aged, internationally known celebrity transformed himself from a proud Loyalist into a patriot and Founding Father. Through his personal transformations he also transformed this nation.

Franklin was born into the superstitious age of witch trials, but he became a beacon of reason and an icon of the Enlightenment. Using the power of the scientific method in his experiments in electricity, optics, and heat conduction, he improved the lives and safety of all Americans. Though raised with a strong Protestant ethic, his journalism popularized rational thought while evangelizing secular morality. Incredibly successful in amassing wealth through the free market capitalism of his time, he established the socialist institutions of public libraries, community fire departments, mutual aid societies, and public education. His political prowess shaped compromises that transformed a collection of Royal colonies into a democracy that would become the most powerful nation on earth.

Franklin was the fifteenth of 17 children born to a Boston soap and candle maker. Starting at the age of 8 he was formally educated to become a minister, for only two years. But this precocious boy, who read on his own from as far back as he could remember, was not cut out to be a minister nor to follow in his father’s footsteps as a candle dipper and soap boiler. At the age of 17 he fled Boston and settled in the city of Philadelphia (population 4000). No longer his brother’s apprentice, he worked as a tradesman, from printer’s assistant to independent printer. He worked long hours, produced work of high quality, and made sure people recognized his reputation for being industrious.

“He that falls in love with himself will have no rivals.”
- B. Franklin

His passion for self-improvement, for continual personal reinvention, led young Franklin to organize the “Junto,” a club for local tradesmen and working class citizens, (not aristocrats) who gathered once a week to discuss the issues of the day, analyze good and bad business. Appointed Postmaster, he organized such an efficient service that mail passed between New York and Philadelphia faster in his day than it does today. He transformed his local newspaper into a nationally syndicate journal made possible by his own improvements to the colonial postal system. As Philadelphia grew to a population of 20,000, Franklin guided the re-engineering of the city with paved roads, improved sanitation, and the first public fire department.

At age 40, with numerous investment properties and ownership of his colony’s most successful printing business – a chain of franchised printers – he retired to pursue his interests in science and invention. After seeing a
First American political cartoon, published by Franklin May 1754. It was a call for unity at the outset of the French and Indian War. It became a symbol of colonial unity from then on.

demonstration of electricity generated and stored, Franklin spent ten years researching the nature of electricity. He created much of the language we use today to describe it: “battery,” “electrical current,” “negative charge,” and “positive charge.” With his famous kite experiment he proved that lightning was just an electric spark. Later he proved this spark could be attracted and rendered harmless by his invention the lightning rod, thus saving countless structures and lives. His pioneering work with electricity earned him honorary Doctorate degrees from Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, and Yale. “Dr. Franklin” was born.

“Whoever would overthrow the liberty of a nation must begin by subduing the freeness of speech.”
- B. Franklin

His international reputation as one of the world’s great scientists led to his celebrity as a world famous diplomat. In the 1750s Franklin became an agent (lobbyist) in London representing the interests of several of the 13 colonies. In 1754 Franklin was the principle architect of the Albany Plan in 1754 – an early effort to give the British colonies more say in their own affairs through their colonial legislators. This push for increased self-determination was blocked by Parliament, fearing it gave too much power to the colonials.

A speech he made before Parliament was one of the primary reasons that the hated Stamp Act was repealed in 1765. Yet all this time Franklin was a staunch Loyalist working to keep the colonies unified happily with the rest of the British Empire. Despite Franklin’s efforts he could not get repeals of the Townsend Acts that taxed such things as glass, lead, and tea. Franklin responded to the infamous Boston Massacre, placing the blame on the colonial governor. That led to him being censured by Parliament. Franklin the Loyalist hoping to preserve the Empire became Franklin the Patriot who recognized the necessity of American independence.

Returning to the colonies in 1775, he helped draft The Declaration of Independence. As a member of the Second Continental Congress Franklin created America’s first independent government using his Albany Plan as the basis of the Articles of Confederation. He then sailed to France and cajoled the French aristocracy into supporting American independence. His arrival in Paris has been compared to the Beatles arrival in America. He was a superstar who then returned to America as its senior founder and went on to help draft the US Constitution, including his ideas for representation in the House and Senate. In this final act of his storied career Franklin reshaped the structure of the American government. Franklin foresaw the success our nation has enjoyed for more than 200 years, a nation capable of infinite self-reinvention.

GOOD READS

The First American
by H.W. Brands (2000)
This national bestseller draws upon previously unpublished letters and other sources for a well-told biography.

Benjamin Franklin’s Autobiography
by J.A. Lemay & P.M. Zal, eds. (1986)
This is the best starting place for any Franklin study, and the Norton edition has excellent explanatory notes.

Book of Agnes - The Life and Opinions of Jane Franklin by Jill Lenore (2013)
The surprising story of Franklin’s youngest sister with whom Franklin corresponded his whole life.

A Great Improvisation - Franklin, France, and the Birth of America
by Stacy Schiff (2005)
The most thorough look at Franklin in Paris.

Benjamin Franklin
by Carl Van Doren (1938)
A joy to read and a winner of the Pulitzer Prize.

DID YOU KNOW?

Franklin reinvented eyeglasses by creating the first bifocals. He reinvented the stove by studying heat conduction and engineering the high efficiency Franklin stove. He even reinvented the English alphabet by adding six new letters to make phonetic spelling easier. (This idea did not catch on, but the idea did influence Noah Webster to make language changes that give us the American versus English spellings that we have today.)
Thomas Alva Edison (1847-1931)

1861 learns telegraphy as a railroad “newsbunch”
1869 first patent: vote recorder
1871 marries Mary Stillwell
1876 moves laboratory from Newark to Menlo Park, NJ
1877 invents the phonograph
1879 invents the incandescent lamp with the direct current system
1882 first central electric-power plant in US
1884 demonstrates the safer three-wire electric system
1887 moves lab to West Orange, NJ
1889 applies to patent office for kinetoscope patent
1894 unveils the kinetoscope
1903 The Great Train Robbery
1909 produces a workable alkaline storage battery
1912 becomes friends with Ford
1929 celebrates invention of the light system, a week before the Stock Market Crash

Thomas Alva Edison helped America become a world power, not with weapons but with insights into how things work and how things can be made to work better. He became the poster child of what America is supposed to be: a land of infinite opportunity for the individual willing to expend a little elbow grease. His inventions include the fluoroscope, the alkaline storage battery, the phonograph, the motion picture camera, the megaphone, the microphone, the cement house, the improved telephone, and the electric light system.

More than one historian said he invented the twentieth century. I would challenge that conclusion slightly. He showed the country how to keep reinventing itself. He invented new products that were dependable, could be mass-produced, and improved. He did it for fame, for the scientific challenge, for money, but also to improve the lives of everyday Americans.

An optimist his whole adult life, he praised himself most when he paraphrased Lincoln: “Everything comes to he who hustles while he waits.”

Edison delivered. By 1900, his light system, phonograph business, and new movie industry had changed the lives of everyone in America. But even more importantly, Edison embodied an attitude that Americans believed best described themselves. There was nothing The Wizard of Menlo Park could not do (and, therefore, nothing that we could not do) once he/ we set our minds to it. Sometimes he succeeded immediately (according to his story of the phonograph) and sometimes it took a decade (50,000 experiments to develop the alkaline storage battery), but eventually he got it right. Almost everyone admires his quotation: “Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration.” America’s self-image and self-confidence grew as Edison’s reputation grew.

Of course, the reality was more complex. In the 1890s, Edison dropped out of the electric business and lost another fortune experimenting with low-grade iron ore deposits in the east. His efforts to make a quality hearing aid failed and his experiments with x-rays proved that new technology can have pitfalls. Still, the spirit of the times was optimistic. In 1900, you could enter a building and see outdoor events or contemporary news (called “actualities”) projected on a screen. At the same time, the cheaper improved phonographs made it possible for middle class families to enjoy a concert in their own homes. Who could not see the future as bright and rosy?

Edison often took someone else’s invention and made it better. The telegraph is the perfect example. Morse’s invention revolutionized human communication, but it had its limits. Edison made it practical, both quicker and more energy efficient.

“To invent, you need a good imagination and a pile of junk.”
-T. Edison

These improvements made his reputation in the business world, but that was not enough. Edison quickly learned that his best advertising gimmick was himself, and he loved the attention. One reporter said, “Edison is the Aladdin’s lamp of the newspaper man.” He has been criticized for his flair for self-promotion. Actually, he was the first to realize that publicity influences market share and image determines perceptions of quality. In the public’s mind, “Edison” quickly came to mean “the latest and best.”

What makes Edison the first great twentieth century inventor was his willingness to delegate responsibility. Research and Development is more sophisticated today than it was when Edison started, but that was because the techniques themselves had yet to be invented.

Edison determined which problems had to be addressed and then assigned teams of inventors with appropriate
mechanical and engineer skills. With the light system, there were many teams. One worked on the filament, another the vacuum in the lamp, and a third on the generator. Edison demanded that his men keep accurate notes to avoid redundancy, to determine possible new directions, and to win patent battles. He saw himself as overseer, guide, and inspirational leader. His best work was teamwork. Edison did not invent the wheel, but his facilities and collaborators could reinvent it so it would last longer, fit better, and do its work more efficiently. He had become an industry.

If Edison was sometimes lucky, he also deserves credit for making his luck work for him. The phonograph was designed to fulfill a business need. Experiments in 1877 with the automatic telegraph and nearly useless Bell telephone led to a machine that Edison believed had a market in the business community: storing letters, speeches, and historical documents. The public preferred it play tunes. By the 1890s, the market for recorded music seemed to have no limit.

Scholars today debate who deserves credit for the invention of the motion picture camera (kinetoscope). In his 1888 caveat to the patent office, Edison said he would “devise an instrument that should do for the eye what the phonograph does for the ear.” Preference often depends on national pride, selective memory, and trust or distrust of History. The truth is: several inventors were working on the project at the same time. While one was more advanced in one area, another excelled in a different area; all contributed and all learned (or stole) from the others.

President Hoover said Edison’s greatest invention was the invention factory. I believe that his greatest discovery was that the invention process is never over. If you do not constantly improve your product and decrease the selling price, your competition will. History does not remember who made the great improvements, but the businessman knows those improvements are what make sales possible. Edison recognized this need and constantly worked to improve his products. For example, he claimed to invent the phonograph one day in 1877, but he spent a lifetime perfecting it. In 1902, he perfected the Gold Molded cylinder record that meant each copy was as good as the original. In 1912, he created the Blue Amberol records, which captured the truest acoustic sound ever.

Edison saw himself as part of a continuum. He said, “Every invention has a pedigree. That pedigree improves with each generation.” And with a dash of humility, he added, “I begin where the last man left off.”

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**GOOD READS**

*Edison* by Edmund Morris (2019)
New book by winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award.

*Before the Nickelodeon* by Charles Musser (1991)
Musser analyzes every film from the Edison studios, with special emphasis on the director Edwin Porter.

This shows why I think collectors are often underrated historians.

*Edison and the Business of Innovation* by Andre Millard (1990)
This book captures the second half of Edison’s career, when the shop culture becomes the research and development lab. Edison was as much a businessman as an inventor and did some of his best work after Menlo Park.

*Edison: A Biography* by Matthew Josephson (1959)
This is the first serious scholarly attempt to measure Edison’s influence on our lives today. After 60 years, the book still holds up, giving lots of insights into the man and his life of invention.

*Edison: A Life of Invention* by Paul Israel (1998)
If you want to know how the inventions worked, get this book. Nobody has studied the invention notebooks with such care.

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**TESLA AND THE EDISON COMPANY**

Today it seems obvious that Tesla had the better idea, but it wasn’t in 1884. Edison had faith in himself and in his DC system, though it had limitations. Tesla thought he had the solution and came to this country to work for the Edison Machine Works. After months of working day and night, he quit. Edison was looking for changes, but rejected Tesla’s ideas, which were revolutionary, expensive, and unproven at the time. Edison’s invention factory worked in small steps, each thoroughly tested. Whether or not Edison (or a manager) had offered then withdrawn a $50,000 bonus – the clash and separation was inevitable.
Nikola Tesla has been called many things – Wizard, Showman, Prophet, Charlatan, Magician and Father of the 20th Century. Perhaps even of the 21st.

He created three-dimensional machines in his mind that would change the course of the world, had an eidetic memory, spoke nine languages and often worked for days on end with little sleep. He loved pigeons, but detested germs. He had dinner every night at Delmonico’s or the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, at exactly 8:10 pm, always served by the headwaiter and always with 18 napkins (the power of three – “If you only knew the magnificence of the 3, 6 and 9, then you would have the key to the universe”) on the table to polish the cutlery. He had to calculate the volume of each dish of food before he ate it. He usually dined alone. He also lived alone, in hotels, until he was repeatedly expelled for not paying his bills... and then on to the next one.

He worked on technologies that would have given the world free power, but his labs were burnt down, sold for $180 worth of lumber or dynamited. He was a strange and obsessive man thought to be far down the Autism spectrum, with some of the most radical ideas the world has ever known. He died largely ignored and forgotten, but today is recognized by physicists, electrical engineers, inventors, steam punks and academicians as one of history’s greatest geniuses.

Tesla was born in the village of Smiljan in what is now Croatia to a Serbian family. Both countries now claim him as theirs. He arrived in New York in 1884 with four pennies in his pocket, and within four years was lecturing to the prestigious American Institute of Electrical Engineers. In labs financed by Peck and Brown he worked on arc lamps, neon and fluorescent lighting, x-rays, and transmitting energy through the air. He also built his alternating current induction motor, considered one of the most important inventions in history. It powers almost everything that moves today.

In 1893, George Westinghouse outbid Edison to light up the Chicago World Fair. He asked Tesla to install 160,000 phosphorescent lights powered by his A/C electricity. In 1897, his A/C generators harnessed the power of Niagara Falls, something that he had foreseen as an 8-year-old boy, and he astounded people by sending the power all the way to Buffalo, New York. Soon it would arrive in New York City, then on to the entire world. The “War of the Currents” with Edison had been won.

Next, he presented remote control to the world at Madison Square Gardens with a 4-foot boat, looking like an overweight submarine, that answered the audience’s questions by turning left or right in a large pool. It was, of course, Tesla turning a switch behind a podium, perhaps the inspiration for The Wizard of Oz. It was certainly Tesla the showman playing with the audience, many of whom thought it was witchcraft or a tiny monkey inside the boat. Tesla had introduced the world to robotics; it just didn’t know it yet!

With all this, he still spent much of his time alone. He was considered one of the most dashing and desirable bachelors in town yet he deliberately denied himself any serious relationships with women so he could totally devote himself to science. There certainly is no evidence of any physical relationships with women. His strange obsessions and habits, added to his...
We wind a simple ring of iron with coils; we establish the connections to the generator, and with wonder and delight we note the effects of strange forces which we bring into play, which allow us to transform, to transmit and direct energy at will.

- Nikola Tesla on the Tesla coil

Serbian upbringing and “otherness,” kept him on the outer edge of New York’s Electrical circles. His genius demanded that people pay attention to him, but he rarely stepped outside his comfort zone.

In 1899 he set up a lab in Colorado Springs. Inspired by the infinite space of the Rocky Mountains, he envisioned infinite possibilities for wireless transmission of electricity and electric power. He searched to identify the resonance of the earth to use it as a giant conductor of power. He electrified the ground and sparks leapt from people’s water taps. He sent 135-foot lightning bolts 12 miles away and blew a nearby town’s generator, plunging it into darkness. Then, because he couldn’t pay his electric bill, the lab was torn down and sold as $180 worth of scrap lumber. Undeterred, Tesla turned to fulfilling his greatest dream.

In 1901, with financing from Westinghouse and a mortgage held by the Waldorf Astoria, he built Wardenclyffe Tower, a giant coil 187 feet tall, located on Long Island, NY. This, he believed, could send messages to Europe through the air. It could finally harness the electrical power in the ground and the ionosphere and send it anywhere on earth without cost. No more need for oil or coal or gas, but rather the power of the sun, the wind, and the tides. The tower was struck by lightning 8,400,000 times a day. He envisioned the electrical charge of this planet could be gathered and shared with all mankind.

For five years he worked on the project, digging five stories down into the earth below his coil for purposes still mysterious. Powered by generators from Westinghouse, he imagined a city of scientists and workers. But Westinghouse had given his generators to Tesla for a communication system that would allow the world to receive up to the moment stock prices and other “important” information — not free power with nowhere to put the meters! As a result, Westinghouse took back his generators, and the Waldorf Astoria (to whom Tesla owed so much money) eventually tore the tower down.

Tesla lived for 40 more years, developing ideas that, to most people, became more outlandish and impractical. However, for those five years from 1901 to 1906, he seemed so close to one of the most extraordinary feats ever attempted. Could it have succeeded?

**GOOD READS**


*Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age* by W. Bernard Carlson (2013) Very informative on the science behind his work but not easy to read.

*The Fantastic Inventions of Nikola Tesla* by David Hatcher Childress (2014) The most accessible of the “technical” books with lots of illustrations and photos, but a little “out there.”

*The Electric War: Edison, Tesla, Westinghouse, and the Race to Light the World* by Mike Winchell (2019) Rousing account of one of the world’s defining scientific competitions.

*Empires of Light* by Jill Jones (2003) History is not always good guys rising to the top. Westinghouse, Tesla, and Edison battle for leadership in the light/power hungry world.

**WHAT TESLA SAID ABOUT EDISON:**

“If he had a needle to find in a haystack, he would not stop to reason where it was most likely to be, but would proceed at once with the feverish diligence of a bee, to examine straw after straw until he found the object of his search...Just a little theory and calculation would have saved him ninety percent of his labor. But he had a veritable contempt for book learning and mathematical knowledge, trusting himself entirely.”
Hedy Lamarr

Upon hearing the name Hedy Lamarr, whom do you see? A smoldering, bejeweled temptress, perched on velour cushions, in the 1949 Hollywood classic Samson and Delilah? Or, a demure and professionally clad inventor, embarking on scientific ideas that were generations ahead of her time? Hedy Lamarr was not only a starlet in Hollywood’s Golden Age; she was also devoted to helping the Allies beat the Nazi forces in WWII. Whether selling war bonds for $50,000 a kiss, or inventing a secret communication system, with the help of American composer George Antheil, Hedy Lamarr knew she was more than just a glamorous girl and was dedicated to reinvigorating American military technology to defeat the Nazis.

Hedy Lamarr, was a Hollywood film star headlining movies with film stars like Clark Gable and Judy Garland during the Golden Age of Hollywood.

Born Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler on November 9, 1914, she was the only child of a well-bred Viennese family who resided in an upscale neighborhood known as The Cottages. Certain she wanted to become a motion picture star, Lamarr dropped out of school at the age of 16 and began performing in both theatre and film. She got her big break in 1933, when a Czechoslovakian art film called Ecstasy (Ekstase) featured Hedy in the title role, as a young girl running away from a loveless marriage. The film featured Lamarr in scenes that were scandalous at the time. Had it been made in the 1960s, it would have been considered feminist, but in the 1930s it was an outrage. The film featured Lamarr completely nude. Needless to say, “scandalous” only scratched the surface of the feedback received and Lamarr would be running away from this film for the rest of her life. In spite of launching her to European stardom, the film had tarnished her reputation and set a standard for her as a beautiful woman, a femme fatale, and a dangerous foreigner, but she was never understood for who she really was, which was a precocious and often eccentric genius.

At the age of 19, she married the third richest man in Austria, an arms and munitions dealer named Fritz Mandl; President of Hirtenberger-Patronen Frabrik, which supplied weapons to Hitler and Mussolini. She hosted Mussolini, the Nazis, and members of the Austrian Home Guard at their palatial townhouse Schloss Schwarzenau.

By 1937, Hedy had divorced Fritz Mandl and escaped Austria fearing the outbreak of World War II. She negotiated a contract with MGM mogul Louis B. Mayer while onboard the French ship Normandie and arrived in America as “Hedy Lamarr” Algiers. Hedy’s first American motion picture debuted in 1938, after Louis B. Mayer agreed to loan her out to the United Artists Agency. Hedy’s fate as a Hollywood Starlet was now secure.

“Any girl can look glamorous. All you have to do is stand still and look stupid.”

- H. Lamarr

Hedy liked to question how things work and often spent evenings at her drafting table designing inventions. During World War II, when she learned that radio-controlled torpedoes could easily be jammed and set off course, she wanted to create a frequency-hopping signal that could not be tracked or jammed. Her friend George Antheil had composed a ballet for 16 synchronized player pianos. Together they realized they could create a device that used the concept of player pianos to randomly change the signal between the control center and the torpedo. On August 11, 1942, the National Inventors Council, a clearinghouse for military inventions awarded Hedy Lamarr and George Antheil Patent # 2,292,387 for their Secret Communication System. The Navy wasn’t inter-

Films have a certain... time period. Technology is forever.  - H. Lamarr

Hedy Lamarr

(1914-2000)

1930 drops out of school to begin film career

1932 Ekstase (Ecstasy)

1933 marries Fritz Mandl.

1937 divorces Fritz Mandl, escapes Austria, and arrives in America as Hedy Lamarr

1938 Algiers, first American movie

1941 with George Antheil, creates a “Secret Communication System”

1942 awarded patent for their Secret Communication System

1959 patent expires

1962 Secret Communication System is outfitted onto United States Naval Vessels for use in Cuban Missile Crisis

1992 awarded a Pioneer Award from the Electronic Frontier Foundation

My face has been my misfortune. It is a mask that I cannot remove.
ested. It wasn’t until 1962, three years after the expiration of their patent, that their Secret Communication System was put into active service on every U.S. Naval Warship blockading Cuba, during the Cuban Missile Crisis. The technology wasn’t declassified until 1981.

Lamarr was a woman who saw boundless opportunity and limitless goals. She was always hungry; hungry for life, hungry for love, hungry for respect and hungry to understand her own identity. The reason why so few people, both American and Austrian, know Lamarr is because she had a difficult time knowing herself. Amongst her closest friends, there are reports that are so conflicting, one might question if they were actually friends with the same person. To one friend, Hedy claimed that she loved to cook. To another, she claimed, she could not bear to be in the kitchen.

Lamarr, known by Americans as “The Most Beautiful Woman in the World” never had the depth of her genius understood. The system she submitted to the United States Navy was ahead of its time. They rejected it and filed it away. Yet, as soon as technology was digitized, her concept would be harnessed in ways never thought possible.

Not only was it utilized for Lamarr’s goal to help create a more effective torpedo system, it was also used for wireless communications as we know them today, via Spread Spectrum Technology. It is for this invention that Lamarr’s birthday, November 9, is considered Inventors’ Day in Europe, yet she is still relatively unknown in her native country of Austria.

Imagine being torn between two worlds: You are first a European, then an American. You are born a Jew, then converted Catholic. You are a Hollywood Star and you are a technological maestro. You are beautiful and brilliant.

"GOOD READS"

Hedy’s Folly: The Life and Breakthrough Inventions of Hedy Lamarr, the Most Beautiful Woman in the World by Richard Rhodes (2011)
My favorite.

The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict (2019)
A well-written historical novel that shines a literary spotlight on a captivating story.

Beautiful, the Life of Hedy Lamarr by Stephen Michael Shearer (2010)

Hedy Lamarr, the Most Beautiful Woman in Film by Ruth Barton (2010)
Ten years after Hedy’s death her patent for frequency hopping was re-discovered and these two biographies appeared.

Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story (2017)
A movie documentary directed by Alexandra Dean.

"INSPIRED BY A PLAYER PIANO"

George Antheil and Hedy Lamarr possessed classically trained musical backgrounds, and their creative minds were a perfect match. Antheil had managed to synchronize six player pianos for a performance of his Ballet Mécâncie. Inspired by the player piano roll - perforated paper that controls the 88 piano keys - Lamarr and Antheil developed a device to synchronize the radio signal - sent from transmitter to guided receiver within a torpedo - so it could “hop” amongst 88 wireless frequencies. The rapid fluctuation of signals change would prevent enemies from jamming the signal.
It was all about the promise of America. The years of struggle were about demanding that our country live up to the ideals it proclaimed. Rosa Parks had great faith in God and in her country. She was determined to push and push until this country changed.

Rosa had not travelled outside of Alabama. She had no idea of how life may have been different in other parts of the country. Why would she not assume that life across our nation was virtually the same as life in Alabama? What she did know was that in spite of a constant barrage of letter writing, our Federal government had not passed an anti-lynching bill. (That did not happen until 2018.) She knew personally of cases of lynching (mob violence), rape, and murder that were not reported in the newspapers, let alone in police or court records. She did know that the Freedom Train had the stipulation that all citizens should have access to see our nation’s founding documents or else the Train would not comply with the request to stop in their town. She did know that school segregation had come to an end with Brown v Board of Education Topeka KS even though Montgomery did not comply. She did know that she had the right to vote even though only 31 black voters were registered in Montgomery. It took her three tries over three years to register and finally vote in 1946 at the age of 33. Something was wrong. There was a huge discrepancy between who we professed to be and who we actually were. How to change it? Rosa was going to try.

How do you convince the people in power that those who were born here and live here are citizens that deserve all citizenship rights? These are rights, not privileges, and they are given, not earned. They are fundamental. In 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt proclaimed in his State of the Union address, that there are four freedoms that are essential for humankind – freedom of speech and of worship and freedom from want and from fear. Black Americans were not enjoying any of those freedoms.

Rosa was lucky. She had been raised in a family that did not accept crippling limitations. They modeled for her a determination to live fully and proudly. The man she married, 10 years older than her, encouraged her to get her high school diploma. He supported her work with the NAACP. He reluctantly agreed to her serving as the case to challenge the bus segregation laws of Montgomery, and finally agreed to moving to Detroit when she no longer felt safe in Montgomery. Their marriage seemed to be a true partnership of love and respect.

Rosa had the heart of a warrior, but she needed more than heart to push for change. She had never talked about race outside of her family. Her husband was the first outsider with whom she had discussed those issues. She needed to learn that race issues needed to be publicly discussed if they were to find effective ways to work toward change. She did that during her 12 years as secretary of the Montgomery Chapter of the NAACP with E.D. Nixon as its president.

“Love, not fear, must be our guide.”

- R. Parks

Nixon was a Pullman porter. He talked like a workingman and understood the working person’s existence and took action on their behalf. He moved the NAACP from being a club of professionals who did not want to make too many waves to a group that championed everyone’s causes. He more than doubled the membership. As his secretary, Rosa became his right-hand assistant. She read, she wrote, she sought affidavits, she went to meetings, and she spoke at conventions. She learned how to confront with persistence.

Nixon had heard from A. Philip Randolph, the founder of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, “Nothing counts but pressure, pressure, more pressure and more pressure through broad, organized, aggressive mass action.” That became their mantra. Rosa helped Nixon run
voter registration campaigns. She regularly led her Youth Council to the library to demand admittance, only to be refused time and time again. Rosa pressured the Montgomery Commissioners to allow everyone to see the Freedom Train so that her Youth Council could view the original documents of the promise of America – the Declaration and the Constitution. She joined Nixon in taking students to the white elementary school after school desegregation was supposed to end. She traveled to small towns in Alabama interviewing victims of racist violence – listening, encouraging – with the hope of taking legal action.

“By the time I was 6, I was old enough to realize that we were not actually free.”

- R. Parks

She had begun to overcome her inherent fear and distrust of white people through work experiences at the Maxwell Air Force base and through white allies such as Clifford and Virginia Durr. It was Virginia Durr who facilitated Park’s attending a week-long workshop on grass roots organizing at the Highlander Folk School in Tennessee. By 1955, Rosa was a respected and familiar leader in the black community. In spite of her growing strength and expertise in political activism, Parks had no idea that her simple stance in 1955 would precipitate the boycott. Her decision opened the door for those in the black community who were primed for action. Even the leaders of the boycott were not sure where it would lead. Their stated goal at the beginning of negotiations was a modification of existing segregation laws, not the end of segregation on the buses. It was the NAACP’s intention to take Rosa’s case to the Supreme Court, but her case never made it out of the Alabama appellate system. Another case had to be filed that eventually led to the Supreme Court decision in their favor.

The white people of Montgomery were confident that “their Negroes” were happy and not able to conduct a successful boycott. The Montgomery Bus Boycott was the first and last time such a large group of African Americans had united and persisted in organized protest over such a long period. There was a dramatic increase in the number of grass roots protests and boycotts in the South after the Montgomery boycott ended. The boycott may not have led to any concrete change, but it had led to a change in self-perception, empowering people to come to their own defense and to change America.

Rosa had a vision of what America could be. An entire population began to share that vision, and most importantly, they had found a way to move toward that vision.
Reinventing America

America has always been – and remains – a work in progress. Americans can be proud that we have never been afraid to continue to reinvent ourselves.

None of the following sought to reinvent America. But when it happened America was able to embrace change. Sometimes kicking and screaming (as civil rights) – sometimes in hindsight (as Hedy Lamarr and Tesla). Whether small steps, or big ones – change moves us forward.

From plans to defend the British colonies against the French and Indians to their Declaration of Independence and Articles of Confederation and finally the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin was in the room where it happened. His wisdom helped create a brand new government.

More than any other invention, Thomas Edison’s incandescent light bulb marked the arrival of Modern America, and his invention factory led to today’s Research and Development. He not only hatched a new culture of innovation, he reinvented the whole way we go about it.

The Founders placed American democracy in the hands of free, white, landed males. It took a bloody Civil War to abolish slavery. But Jim Crow laws, lynching and voter suppression returned America to division along color lines. In 1954 Brown vs Board of Education ruled racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional. A year later, Rosa Parks sparked a movement that challenged America to rethink its concept of Civil Rights.

Hedy Lamarr was determined to help the Allied Forces defeat the Nazis. She and George Antheil developed a torpedo guidance system with their frequency-hopping spread spectrum technology – and made your cell phone, GPS, and Wi-Fi possible.

Nikola Tesla had an uncanny insight into the future. His invention of the Alternating Current motor brought revolutionary changes in electrical power generation and transmission that remain the global standard today.
The Chautauqua Story

Original Chautauqua Assembly

In 1874 Methodist minister John Vincent and businessman Lewis Miller started the original Chautauqua Assembly, a summer adult education program on Lake Chautauqua, New York. The outdoor setting was delightful for a family vacation of recreation, religion, arts and education. It is now The Chautauqua Institute, a cultural resort you can visit today.

“Tornadoes wrecked tents, cows bellowed and trains hooted in the midst of the show, but the show went on… until it died under the hit and run wheels of a Model A Ford on its way to the movies on a new paved road. Radio swept it aside and the Wall Street crash and subsequent depression gave it the coup de grace.”

- from Culture Under Canvas: Story of Tent Chautauqua by H.P. Harrison

Today there are 10 Tent Chautauquas, including Greenville, South Carolina.

Independent Chautauquas

Hundreds of towns created their own Independent Chautauquas, based on the Lake Chautauqua model. Eighteen survived or have been resurrected. They are organized as the Chautauqua Trail. chautauquatrail.com

Origin of the name Chautauqua (pronounced Shuh – TALK – wa)

Chautauqua is a Native American word for a lake in New York where, from 1874 to the present day, the Chautauqua Institute has presented arts and education programs. It has been translated as “bag tied in the middle, two moccasins tied together, or jumping fish.” It reflects the shape of the lake.

Chautauqua has come to mean a place where people can gather together to learn, exchange ideas, create community and have fun.

Circuit (Tent) Chautauquas

Teddy Roosevelt called them the most American thing in America.

Each summer from 1904-1932, Chautauqua went on the road, wherever the railroads went. Tent shows toured across America with music, entertainment, and always “a great speaker of the day.” A week’s festival had a different show each night. At their peak in the 1920’s, Tent Chautauquas appeared in over 10,000 communities. In the 1930’s, the Tent Chautauquas disappeared – replaced by radio and movies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1874</td>
<td>Chautauqua NY Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>1904</td>
<td>First Circuit (Tent) Chautauqua</td>
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<tr>
<td>1915-1928</td>
<td>Redpath Chautauqua in Greenville</td>
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<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>End of Circuit Chautauquas</td>
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The Chautauqua Revival

In 1965 Congress established the National Endowment for the Humanities to promote humanities education. Soon, state councils were set up to bring programs to the general public. The stage was now set for a revival of Tent Chautauquas, by far the most popular form of adult education in the country in its day. North Dakota was the first state to get on the stage. In 1978, its Humanities Council sponsored a series of summertime lectures it called Chautauqua, taking advantage of the historic name.

They were held outdoors under a tent, because in North Dakota the summer is so short, that nobody goes indoors for anything. The second season the performers were asked to appear in costume and to speak in character – and the audience size increased dramatically.

In 1981, Everett Albers led the formation of the Great Plains Chautauqua Society – a modern day Tent Chautauqua circuit which traveled to five states and hundreds of towns. It lasted for over 20 years. When it broke up some of the states continued their own circuits. Since then, other states have created their own Chautauquas.

George Frein, Greenville’s Founding Artistic Director, began with Great Plains in 1986, portraying Mark Twain. When asked how he picked his character, he said, “We all chose lots and I won!”

Chautauqua Returns To Greenville

In 1998 George Frein was newly retired from the University of North Dakota. When his wife, Shelly, got a job as professor at Furman University, he said he would go anywhere that she could support him. When they landed in Greenville, he read in A.V. Huff’s Greenville: The History of the City and County about the Redpath Chautauqua that from 1915-1928 set up their distinctive brown tents what is now MacPherson Park. As a nationally acclaimed Chautauqua performer, George knew he had to bring Chautauqua back to Greenville. Though the 1999 audiences were small in number, George convinced nearly all who were there to form a committee so the show could continue the next year – and the next – to the present day!

Redpath Circuit brings Chautauqua to Greenville

There were many circuits that brought Chautauqua across the country wherever the railroad went. The Redpath Circuit was based in Chicago and toured the Midwest and Southeast.

From 1915-1928, Redpath Chautauqua regularly came to Greenville SC, and set up its khaki tents in City Park (now McPherson Park). Sponsored by the YMCA, it was the cultural event of the season.

The festival week featured a different show each night. After the first night’s show, that act moved on to the next town on the circuit, and the second night act arrived by train. Each town had to guarantee a certain number of ticket sales a year in advance, in order to hold a place on the circuit.

1915-1928 Redpath Chautauqua in Greenville
1978 Tent Chautauqua Revival
1999 First Greenville Chautauqua Festival
2003 Greenville Chautauqua Society formed

MacPherson Park today.
The Rest of the Story

For 21 years Greenville Chautauqua has produced a unique version of the Tent Chautauqua with an annual Festival starring nationally acclaimed historical interpreters as those “great speakers of the day.” Only nine other cities have similar Chautauqua events. And none are quite like Greenville. We are a place where people can gather together face-to-face to learn, exchange ideas, create community and have fun. We are – Chautauqua.

Over the years, as audiences have grown, Greenville Chautauqua has not been afraid to extend its offerings to meet new challenges and opportunities.

In 2006, Greenville Chautauqua was the first to hold a Winter Chautauqua to introduce more people to the coming June Festival. It is always held the first weekend in February and features one performer.

Soon audiences were bulging the tent, and we realized there was a whole underserved population who couldn’t get to the evening shows under the tent. We first moved the daytime workshops that drew 25-50 people to larger indoor venues where the performers give a costumed show. Then we expanded the Festival Week to 10 days/two weekends. Audience could see all the characters on either weekend or during the week.

In 2014, we realized that Chautauqua is a perfect theater experience for Sign Interpretation – one performer, speaking with one voice. When we offered it at one show, members of the deaf community were able to participate for the first time. Not only were they inspired by the speaker, but they were able to ask questions. And the whole audience was engaged. We have offered sign interpretation for each character ever since.

In 2016, a flight instructor for the local airport gave a pre-festival talk on Amelia Earhart. One thought led to another, and that June Amelia Earhart flew into the Greenville Downtown Airport on a vintage plane. She spoke from a hangar to the huge crowd that was gathered and motivated them to come see her and the rest of the characters at the Festival. We had such a good time, the next year Winston Churchill flew in – then Walter Cronkite. This year, Hedy Lamarr will arrive on a vintage plane.

Caroline and Dolly McIntyre were at the first Chautauqua in Greenville, SC. Sarah Fletcher, Judy Bainbridge, A.V. Huff, Duff Bruce, Lucy and Tom Tiller, Katie Roark, Harriet McIntosh, Sally and Pete Potosky, Seth Harrison, Carolyn Cody-Fuller, and Debra Spear were there too.

Were you there in 1999? Please let us know!

We are grateful to all who have made Greenville Chautauqua possible: to the many generous sponsors and donors who enable us to keep our events free, and to the hard-working volunteers. And thanks to you, the audience, for your enthusiastic participation. It wouldn’t be Chautauqua without you!

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<tr>
<td>First Winter Chautauqua&lt;br&gt;Pauli Murray</td>
<td>First shows at&lt;br&gt;Greenville Tech</td>
<td>First show&lt;br&gt;Fountain Inn</td>
<td>First shows&lt;br&gt;ASL signed</td>
<td>First show&lt;br&gt;Travelers Rest</td>
<td>First Airport Event&lt;br&gt;Eearhart</td>
<td>New URL&lt;br&gt;History Comes Alive</td>
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Reinventing the Traveling Tent Chautauqua

Some Tent Chautauquas are located in one city only: Greeley, Colorado; Smackover, Arkansas; Bonne Terre, Missouri. Other states modeled their Chautauquas after the Great Plains Chautauqua Circuit, where the performers are based in one city for five days, then they move on to the next city. In Ohio, Maryland, and Oklahoma, 3, 4, or 5 cities are chosen each year to receive a 5-day Chautauqua Festival. Support is shared between the individual cities and the State Humanities Councils. The performers are based in one city for five days, then they move on to the next city.

After the initial Greenville Tent Chautauqua in 1999, we established a new model for a traveling circuit. In 2000, in addition to the shows in Greenville, SC, we brought the characters to Asheville, NC, during the same Festival Week. In 2007 we added Spartanburg, SC.

In 2019, we added another city. An audience member from Brevard, NC, had traveled for years to Chautauqua shows in Asheville and loved the experience. “Why,” she asked, “couldn’t we take shows Brevard?” And so we did.

This year, History Comes Alive will travel to a new state, Georgia, for shows in Athens.

Instead of moving the whole show from city to city, the performers are based in Greenville. Each performer travels separately to other cities and returns to Greenville. The cities are located close enough to each other, so if you miss a show in one place you can catch it in another.

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<tr>
<td>Greenville Chautauqua</td>
<td>Asheville Chautauqua</td>
<td>Spartanburg Chautauqua</td>
<td>Brevard Chautauqua</td>
<td>Athens Chautauqua</td>
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Where can you see Greenville Chautauqua’s History Comes Alive Festival?

Brevard, NC
Transylvania County Chautauqua
Transylvania County Library
212 S. Gaston St.

Asheville, NC
Buncombe County Chautauqua
A-B TECH Community College
Ferguson Auditorium
340 Victoria Rd.

Athens, GA
Athens Chautauqua
Morton Theatre
195 Washington St.

Spartanburg, SC
Spartanburg Chautauqua
Headquarters Library
151 S. Church St.

Greenville, SC
see Greenville County map below

DOWNTOWN GREENVILLE
1. Upcountry History Museum
   540 Buncombe St.
2. Falls Park on the Reedy
   601 S. Main St.
3. Centre Stage
   501 River St.
4. Kroc Center
   424 Westfield St.
5. Trailblazer Park Amphitheater
   235 Trailblazer Dr. Travelers Rest
   OFF PLEASTANBURY DRIVE
6. Phillips Wheatley Center
   40 John McCarroll Way
7. Greenville Downtown Airport
   21 Airport Rd. Ext
8. Tent at Greenville Tech
   800 E. Faris Rd.
9. Hartness Arts Center Christ Church School
   245 Cavalier Dr.
10. Younts Center for the Arts
    315 N. Main St., Fountain Inn

Buncombe County Chautauqua sponsored by OLLI UNC Asheville - Asheville Storytelling Circle - Friends of Buncombe Libraries (East, Enka, Fairview, Leicester, North, Swannanoa, Weaverville, West Branch Libraries) - Togar Rugs - Wilma Dykeman Legacy - WNC Historical Society

Spartanburg, SC libraries: Boiling Springs, Chesnee, Cowpens, Headquarters, Inman, Landrum, Buncombe Chautauqua in Ferguson Auditorium, Middle Tyger, Pacolet, Westside, Woodruff

Transylvania County Chautauqua sponsored by Friends of the Transylvania County Library

Athens Chautauqua sponsored by Athens Downtown Development Authority, Swagger-Marlowe Family Fund, Athens Area Arts Council, Friends of Athens Chautauqua
1999 American Humorists
Will Rogers, James Thurber, Langston Hughes, Mark Twain, Dorothy Parker

2000 Southern Writers
Zora Neale Hurston, Katherine Anne Porter, Mark Twain, William Faulkner, Thomas Wolfe

2001 American Renaissance
Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville, Louisa May Alcott, Walt Whitman, Henry David Thoreau, Frederick Douglass

2002 Conceived in Liberty
Thomas Jefferson, Elizabeth Freeman, Alexander Hamilton, Henry Laurens, John & Abigail Adams

2003 American Autobiography
Benjamin Franklin, Henry Adams, Eleanor Roosevelt, Mark Twain, Paul Murray, Andrew Carnegie

2004 American Visions
Martin Luther King, Jr, Eugene Debs, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Thomas Paine, John Winthrop. Winter: Paul Murray

2005 The Civil War
Ambrose Bierce, Mary Chesnut, Sam Watkins, John C. Calhoun, Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln. Winter: Bierce & Watkins

2006 Great American Journeys
Mary Ingles, William Clark, Sequoyah, Herman Melville, Harriet Tubman. Winter: Mary Ingles

2007 The American Stage
Houdini, Paul Robeson, Lillian Hellman, Will Rogers, Mark Twain. Winter: P.T. Barnum

2008 America: The Land

2009 America in Crisis

2010 American Imagination
Ben Franklin, Thomas Edison, Emily Dickinson, Dr. Seuss, Langston Hughes. Winter: Thomas Jefferson

2011 Ideas that Changed America

2012 They Came to America
Winston Churchill, Golda Meir, Denmark Vesey, Carl Jung, Lafayette. Winter: Lafayette

2013 American Legends
Davy Crockett, Susan B. Anthony, Herman Melville, Malcolm X. Winter: Benedict Arnold

2014 Rising to the Occasion
Clara Barton, Patrick Henry, Robert Smalls, Harry Truman. Winter: Marie Curie

2015 America at the Movie
Walt Disney, Gordon Parks, Mary Pickford, Orson Welles. Winter: Bette Davis

2016 American Adventures
Amelia Earhart, Matthew Henson, Mark Twain, Wernher Von Braun. Winter: Meriwether Lewis

2017 The Power of Words
Abraham Lincoln, Walter Cronkite, Maya Angelou, Cesar Chavez, Rachel Carson Winter: Eleanor Roosevelt

2018 Courage
Harriet Tubman, Winston Churchill, Francis Marion, Alice Paul, Clara Barton Winter: George Washington

2019 It's Revolutionary!
Save the Date for Chautauqua

2020

Greenville
June 12-21

Asheville
June 15-18

Spartanburg
June 15-19

Brevard
June 13, 16, 18, 20

Athens
June 14

StaY & Play!

At the Chautauqua History Comes Alive Festival

Did you know?
When you stay in Greenville SC for our festival, you’ve come to an award winning travel destination - and the only thing better is getting a discount to do it! Whether you’re making travel plans for yourself or you live here and want to book rooms for your out-of-town guests, check out our Stay ‘n’ Play offers. If you live nearby, why not treat yourself to a Stay-cation? Then have fun exploring all that Greenville has to offer - it’s a no-brainer!

Here’s how it works: Go to our website for booking codes, locations, and local phone numbers for these hotels and restaurants - or, when you make your reservation, simply tell them you’re coming in for our History Comes Alive Festival.