



MEMORIAL DAY SYMPOSIUM

Who is Your Favorite Character in American History, Washington Excluded?

THE QUESTION ANSWERED BY MANY MEN

Abraham Lincoln the Favorite by a Large Majority—Jefferson, Franklin, Grant and Lee Next in Order.

These war days are naturally recalling the heroic deeds of the past—and the heroes who wrought them. The question, Who is the foremost man in American history? is already answered. Washington, we know, is "first in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen." But the annals of our country are so crowded with shining names that it is hard to say which among them—always leaving out that pre-eminent one—leads in the affectionate admiration of the American people. With a view of throwing light on this interesting question, a large number of representative American citizens have been invited to reply to this inquiry: "Who is your favorite character in American history (excluding Washington), and, briefly, why do you make the selection?" Their answers, which follow, disclose a wide variety of preferences. It will be seen that the majority choice is Abraham Lincoln, with Ulysses S. Grant, Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson as the second choice of about an equal number of the persons responding. It is worth noting, too, that Robert E. Lee is the leading favorite with the representative southern men who have answered.

Representative of Statesmen. Senator Julius C. Burrows of Michigan: Take him all for all, I believe, Webster is the greatest man this country has ever produced. He was the greatest constitutional lawyer and expounder of his time, and our country has not known another such.

Senator Shelby M. Culom of Illinois: My choice falls upon Abraham Lincoln—statesman, jurist, emancipator. No man since Shakespeare could so rightly be called myriad-minded. It has been charged that the generation that has succeeded him has idealized his character. I do not agree with the statement. We who knew the man personally and intimately, and who have made his character and his public acts a profound study, increase in our admiration for the man. Patient, kindly disposed toward all creatures; humane in the best and truest sense, and a lover of his country. Brave, sagacious, and unalterable in his purposes when convinced that he was right; always doing the right thing at the right time. A man of the people and one whom the people trusted and whose trust he never betrayed, he safely guided this nation through the greatest crisis in its history and when his task was finished offered up his life on the altar of his country. Those who were his bitterest enemies now reverence his memory.

Senator Henry M. Teller of Colorado: Thomas Jefferson has always been my favorite national character. His creative powers were larger than those of any public man of his time. No public man since his day has exhibited his exalted constructive genius. Jefferson did more than any other man to found a government of the people, for the people and for the people. He stood for the equality of all men before the law. He was the champion of civil and religious freedom. He succeeded in incorporating the principles which he advocated with an inexorable logic into the fundamental laws of the land. The ideas of Jefferson have survived the test of time and will survive as long as men aspire to be free and govern themselves.

Senator William Lindsay of Kentucky: My favorite national character after Washington is Thomas Jefferson. As a constructive statesman he has no equal in our national history and no rival except in Alexander Hamilton. No man has left so deep an impression on our institutions and no man has so clearly thought out the problems of human government.

Senator John T. Morgan of Alabama: Of all our national characters none occupies so high a place in my esteem as Robert E. Lee—the Christian gentleman and knightly soldier. One cannot read the story of his life from early youth to ripe manhood and impresses old age without being deeply impressed with the loftiness of his character.

As son, husband and father he was as near perfect as man can hope to be. The guiding star of Lee's life was duty. Once satisfied what his duty was he pursued his way with unflinching steps. A soldier, and the descendant of a long line of soldiers and statesmen, he did not love carriage. He fought not for glory. Power and rank did not exalt him. Lee was as great in peace as in war. When he rendered his sword to Grant at Appomattox and accepted his parole, he showed his good faith by his acts. With a simple dignity and with the cheerfulness that illustrated the greatness of the man, he looked himself to the work of educating the youth of the land. If he grieved over the result of the war between the states, or was disconcerted with his lot, the world did not know it. He literally died in harness, and to the last followed those high conceptions of duty that had from early youth characterized his life.

Senator Thomas C. Platt of New York: Abraham Lincoln because he was the greatest republican statesman of America.

Senator Fairbanks of Indiana: Among our national characters I select the name of Abraham Lincoln. He illustrated the marvelous possibilities of American youth. He walked the path of duty and taught the people of virtue and the dignity of work. Always self-possessed, well poised, no exigency could move him to indiscretion. He was courteous; that is, he coveted the good opinion of his fellow-men and had a laudable desire to serve them. He would pluck a thistle and plant a flower where a flower would grow. He was an alien to the subtle arts of the demagogue. It was not within the scope of his purpose in life to create classes and inflame their prejudices that he might attain power. He stood for the masses, believing that the greatest good of all was the highest good of each. His creed was direct and simple: "We build upon fair play for every man, equality before the laws, and God for us all."

Representative Charles H. Grosvenor of Ohio: I am asked to mention the name of the person dead or living, who is my favorite national character, other than Washington. Were I not impelled by a sort of sentiment or idea that it is unwise to write of men who are living in strong terms of praise, my paper would not be what it is. Mr. Lincoln, to my mind, fills the highest niche in the temple of great and favorable characters among the American people. If I could bring my mind to believe that the Almighty especially raises men for special purposes, and disregards their early opportunities and developments in making choice, I should believe that the Almighty especially raised up and ordained Abraham Lincoln for the purpose of his later life and activity as that Moses was the chosen of God to lead the children of Israel. And I do not want it to be understood that I do not believe in this theory. I do not know the theory to be true and I never can know it, but I cannot account for Abraham Lincoln upon any hypothesis other than the direct imposition of God Almighty. The leading characteristics or features of the character of Abraham Lincoln were independence of thought, honesty of purpose and unflinching integrity of perseverance. His virtue consisted of faithfulness to friends; devotion to party affiliation, because he believed in it and believed that it was the sure road to patriotic wisdom, in estimating men, and a broad, comprehensive and unerring judgment of human character and fitness. I do not believe that I am far wrong in saying that of the dead men of American birth Abraham Lincoln stands today admitted by mankind to have been the greatest man of his generation. If not of his country's production, and if you will permit me, Mr. Editor, I will say that in all which makes a great character, you need not have put the limitation that you did, and if you had not, I rather believe that my paper would still be what it is.

Representative Joseph Q. Cannon of Illinois: Were I to name my favorite national character it would be Benjamin Franklin. He was a man of the people, a self-made man, and amongst great numbers of alleged self-made men the just was not spoiled. He was a typical American, the greatest production on this continent of good manhood crossed with great ability and culture. To have produced "Poor Richard" was sufficient to have made a reputation for half a dozen of great men. He was a great statesman, a great diplomat, a great philosopher, a great inventor, a great scientist, a great Yankee.

Military and Naval Preferences. General Daniel E. Sickles: General Andy Jackson is my preference, because he knew what was right and did it like a soldier. If opposition barred Jackson's path, either Jackson or the opposing force had to go down. As a general rule it was the opposing force that suffered.

General Wesley Merritt, U. S. A., commanding the Division of the East: General Ulysses S. Grant; because, in my opinion, he was the greatest war leader that America has yet produced.

Lieutenant Commander Marx, U. S. N., late judge advocate of the Maine court of inquiry at Havana: Stephen Decatur, because, as Lord Nelson said, "he committed the most daring and successful act of this or any other age."

Rear Admiral James E. Jewett: Admiral Farragut; first, last and all the time. Why? Because he was our country's greatest naval commander—a fact fully demonstrated in the many engagements in which he took part. Farragut was the Nelson of the United States.

General John B. Gordon, ex-governor of Georgia: I choose General Robert E. Lee, my late illustrious commander-in-chief. This I do, without any sectional bitterness, simply because I regard Lee as the greatest of all American generals—a greater general, in the higher sense of the word, than Washington. In succession he beat McClellan, Pope, Hooker and Burnside, and with equal resources at his command, he would have beaten Grant.

General Joseph Wheeler of Alabama: General Robert E. Lee was the most perfect character the world has ever produced. He was a man always actuated by the highest principles and utterly without personal ambition. When the war closed a New York insurance syndicate offered to employ him as state agent at a salary of \$50,000 a year. General Lee said that he knew nothing about insurance and could not perform the duties they would expect of him. The New York company, in answer, sent a representative to the south to tell General Lee that it did not expect him to perform any duties, that they wanted his name as their representative, and, if necessary, it would give him even a larger salary than the one first offered. The reply of General Lee was: "If I have influence with some people it is not for sale."

I knew General Lee at West Point, although he left three years before I did to join the army. Even at that time he was the handsomest specimen of manhood I have ever seen. Later in life he traveled greatly in foreign countries and everywhere he was the greatest admiration. The grandeur of his personal character was demonstrated when, at the close of the war, he devoted his life to the education of youth.

General Oliver O. Howard: My favorite American hero, take him all in all, is Abraham Lincoln. To me in no sense is he in advance of George Washington, who had until Lincoln been my beau ideal of manhood. The great, loving kindness of Abraham Lincoln always draws my heart toward him; for me he will ever be the one to whom I place General U. S. Grant, whose achievements were extraordinary, whose courage was unflinching, whose modesty and kindness were not excelled by any of his contemporaries. These two heroic men become every day dearer to the American people.

From Representative Citizens. Hon. Henry Watterson, editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal: You ask a question impossible, as I conceive, of a direct answer. The hero-worshiper may concentrate his admiration perhaps upon a single object; but as well might you require me to pick out of the world of art a single picture, statue or musical composition; out of the world of letters a single romance or poem; out of the culinary world a single dish or viand. In each of these worlds the range of choice is too extensive for arbitrary specification, and the rule applies equally to the world of heroes.

There are so many of them! They have so many sides to them! In the war of the revolution there were—after Washington—James Putnam and Nathaniel Green, Henry Knox and Alexander Hamilton, Ethan Allen and John Stark, Mad Anthony Wayne and Light Horse Harry Lee, and Morgan and Marion and Sumter, and I know not how many more. In the war of 1812—after Jackson—there were William Henry Harrison and Dick Johnson and Scott and Gates, and the naval heroes Hull and Perry and Decatur and Bainsbridge and Preble. In the Texas war—after Houston—there were Travis and Crockett and Milam and Bowie. In the Mexican war—after Taylor and Scott—there were a score or more worthy the hero's crown; and, when we look at the civil war—after Lincoln and Grant, Stonewall Jackson and Lee—the number becomes legion. As isolated heroic pictures, Paul Jones make a fine and almost perfect figure upon the sea, and Daniel Boone upon the land. Was not old Ben's position a hero's? Was not Thomas Jefferson? Then there were the two Morrisies, Robert and Gouverneur, and the two Adamses, John and Sam, none the less heroes because they did not fight in battle, and likewise George Mason and John Hancock and William Warren and Charles Carroll. And what about Farragut and Worden? It is quite out of the question to particularize. I dare say this hasty enumeration omits many names which ought to appear upon any authorized roll of American heroes. The hero without fear and without reproach, the ideal hero, exists only for the idolatrous, and then only in the land of dreams, or else he comes down to us from a time whereof the memory of man knoweth nothing except upon tradition. The greatest "hero" I ever knew was a woman, and next to her a child.

Thomas A. Edison: Abraham Lincoln—the clearest-cut American yet born.

Hon. John Wannamaker: Benjamin Harrison, my favorite American hero—for his all-around equality to Gladstone.

Dwight L. Moody: Lincoln.

John Brisbane, Walker, editor of the Cosmopolitan: Abraham Lincoln, because he suffered and did more for the country than any other man since Washington. Also because he was the author of that admirable saying: "God must love the common people, because He made so many of them."

Rev. Charles H. Parkhurst, D. D., of New York: Horace Greeley, for his pure patriotism and vigorous endeavors in the direction of social reform. He ever refused to soil his hands with mere political intrigue and regarded the success of his ambitions as of less importance than the success of his efforts to do right in the face of God and man.

Thomas Jefferson, because he gave us the principles of true American democracy.

William K. Vanderbilt (through Hon. Chauncey M. Depew): Abraham Lincoln; because I believe that had he exchanged epochs with Washington, he would today be honored with the latter's title of "Father of His Country." Lincoln was the greatest American of his generation.

Ex-Mayor Abram S. Hewitt of New York: General Grant; because, like Napoleon, he was the man of his day and generation, elevated from obscurity to command. General Grant was a thorough man in the best and finest sense of the word. I do not care what his politics were. In the admiration one feels for a great patriot of the past, politics should have little place. General Grant was the man who led the forces of the union to victory. As such he is my favorite character in American history, after George Washington.

Dr. George F. Shrady, the distinguished physician, editor of the Medical Review: Nathan Hale; because he gave up his life bravely and cheerfully for his country, merely regretting that he did not have another life to sacrifice in the same way. That was pure patriotism, indeed. Hale was a young man, with all the joys of a long life before him; but he put them aside and went with undaunted soul to his death for his country's sake.

General Edward Everett Hale: I do not speak of favorites as of people I love or dislike. But, except Washington, it is clear to me that the person who has served the United States in the formation of the nation most faithfully was Benjamin Franklin. As to the people whom we really love, I have no doubt that the man who has done the most for the world is Abraham Lincoln. He was the greatest of all men, and I am disposed to think that this statement was true.

Henry Clous, the well known Wall street banker: William Henry Seward; because he was, in my opinion, the best equipped and most clear-sighted statesman America has seen.

Hon. William C. Whitney: Thomas Jefferson; because he wrote the Declaration of Independence, and stood by its principles.

Rev. Minot J. Savage, D. D.: I regard Abraham Lincoln as the greatest American, perhaps excepting George Washington—though I am not quite sure of that. I admire him for his brain, for his heart, for his moral character, for whatever goes to the making of a man. I believe that the further we get away from him, the taller and grander he will seem to us to be.

Rev. Lyman Abbott, D. D., of Plymouth church, Brooklyn: Abraham Lincoln; because, after Washington, he was the surest and bravest of the ship of state has known, and because he conferred the priceless boon of freedom upon the slaves. Lincoln's saying, "If slavery be not wrong, nothing is wrong," deserves to be carved forever upon the frieze of the national capital. Not a year goes by in which the fame of the gaunt, great-souled backwoodsman, does not wax greater. When the nations of the earth wish to point to an admirable American, they choose Lincoln, even in preference to Washington.

Chauncey M. Depew: Abraham Lincoln is my favorite character, because I look upon him as the finest exemplar of genuine Americanism that this country has seen so far. For his stalwart patriotism, his perfect honesty, his keen humor, and his ability in public affairs, "Old Abe" deserves, in my mind, first place.



Carpets We are having a special sale of carpets—some values that are unapproachable. In this sale will be found the newest and most desirable patterns in beautiful Axminster Carpets—no other such value in floor covering ever shown before—an elegant variety to select from. These Axminsters are with or without borders as may be desired. This special sale is the result of our taking advantage of a large stock closing of the great Smith Carpet Mills at Yonkers, N. Y. All that we have gained by this purchase goes direct to our customers for we are not speculators—but keep passing on to our customers all the benefits we ever get—that's one reason why we do the carpet business of Omaha. Another is that our customers can depend upon our advertisements being facts and the goods satisfactory.

These Axminsters we are offering are beautiful goods and according to fineness are priced at 90c, 1.00 and 1.15. There are plenty of patterns in the 90c lot and there isn't a carpet offer that is worth less than \$1.25—some as high as \$1.75.

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SPAIN'S MISFIT SOLDIERS. How They Look at Rest, on the March and in Battle. A PICTURE THE REVERSE OF INSPIRING. An Understated Man, Meanly Clothed and Fed, but Who Fights Stubbornly and Makes a Fine Guerrilla.

The Spanish soldier, as described by those who have seen him in his den, is a small, thin, almost boy-like being and presents a picture the reverse of inspiring. As he slouches along on the march, unkempt, unshorn and tatterdemaldion, the sight of him in the ranks would break the heart of an English or German martinet—than whom there is no greater attacker for form and appearance on the face of this earth, or at least the writer has never seen a greater. But to come back to our Spaniard—huge hempen sandals encase his often sockless feet, his trousers are frayed and threadbare, his ill-fitting tunic hangs limp and loose for want of buttons here and there and appears on the back of his head. Huge woolen gloves, of a bright green hue, and sadly in need of darning, endeavor to conceal the scanty length of the tunic sleeves, but two or three inches of a brown, sinewy arm insist on peeping forth at the least exertion. His rifle is carried anyhow—sometimes at the trail, sometimes at the slope, and often slung behind his back, but always in a different position to that of his neighbor in the ranks. The order is invariably a struggle and the formation is more easily guessed at than identified by one accustomed to the sharp, quick movements and straight, serried ranks of more disciplined troops.

Yet withal the Spanish soldier is a good fighter when brought to bay, as many a bloody field has attested. In guerrilla warfare his fame is pre-eminent, and amidst the greatest privations he bears his hard lot cheerfully and uncomplainingly. Notwithstanding his shuffling gait, he seems never to tire on the march, and his brief life is in many respects a worthy and dangerous foe. On the field of Igualda, one of the fiercest fights of the late Carlist war, a loyal regiment that had no choice between annihilation and surrender, unhesitatingly chose the former and allowed itself to be mercilessly butchered, though not without rendering a good account of the enemy, whose

victory was purchased at an enormous sacrifice. In the matter of food the Peninsular soldier is equally satisfied and no great charge on the commissariat. Two meals a day suffice him, and those are scanty enough. In some "smart" corps coffee and soup are allowed early in the morning, but the average soldier feeds only at 9 a. m. and again at 5 p. m. One and a half pounds of bread, and black at that, is the entire ration, allowed per day by the government. Any additional luxuries (save the mark) must be purchased out of his own pocket at the regimental canteen, which is kept by a civilian, though the prices are kept within reasonable bounds by a regimental committee. The private eats little or no meat, especially when on active service, and to this is attributed the wonderful recuperative power of Spanish soldiers, their wounds healing extremely fast, and rapidly. On the march our Don is satisfied with a chunk of dry black bread, a little oil and a clove or two of garlic, the whole washed down by a modest allowance of water. Truly a fighting ration that the American soldier would find it hard to stomach! No wonder the typical Spaniard is lean and evil smelling and unattractive looking!

A. R. SCALLAN, Late Lieutenant Royal Artillery, MANILA'S COCKPIT.

Fighting Roosters the Great Sport of the Philippines.

Manila's principal occupation is general devilishness, says Collier's Weekly. The chief diversion is the cock fight. The pit is as big as a circus. Everything being relative its size may best be judged by approximation. The Havana Vaña de Gallos holds 1,500 people. That of Manila holds 4,000. The contests succeed each other at the rate of 100 per fiesta. Some last a whole second, some ten minutes. The rules are not intricate, but the birds are very smart. The smallest are the gamest. Occasionally they display a thrust, a feint and a lunge, which are quite salle d'armes. The matches are various. There is that which is known as Al cotejo, and which is in accordance with the length of the spur. There is le Peso, by weight. There is also Tapado, without preliminaries, and De cuchilla, with artificial spurs. As a spectacle the action is not elevating. As a medium for the exchange of coin it is less monotonous than fan-tan and quicker than monte. "We should neither blame nor approve," someone somewhere sagely stated, "we should observe." Merely, then, by way of observation, it may be noted that, considered as an amicable institution, the Manila cock pit is one for which this country could not go further with any chance of faring worse.

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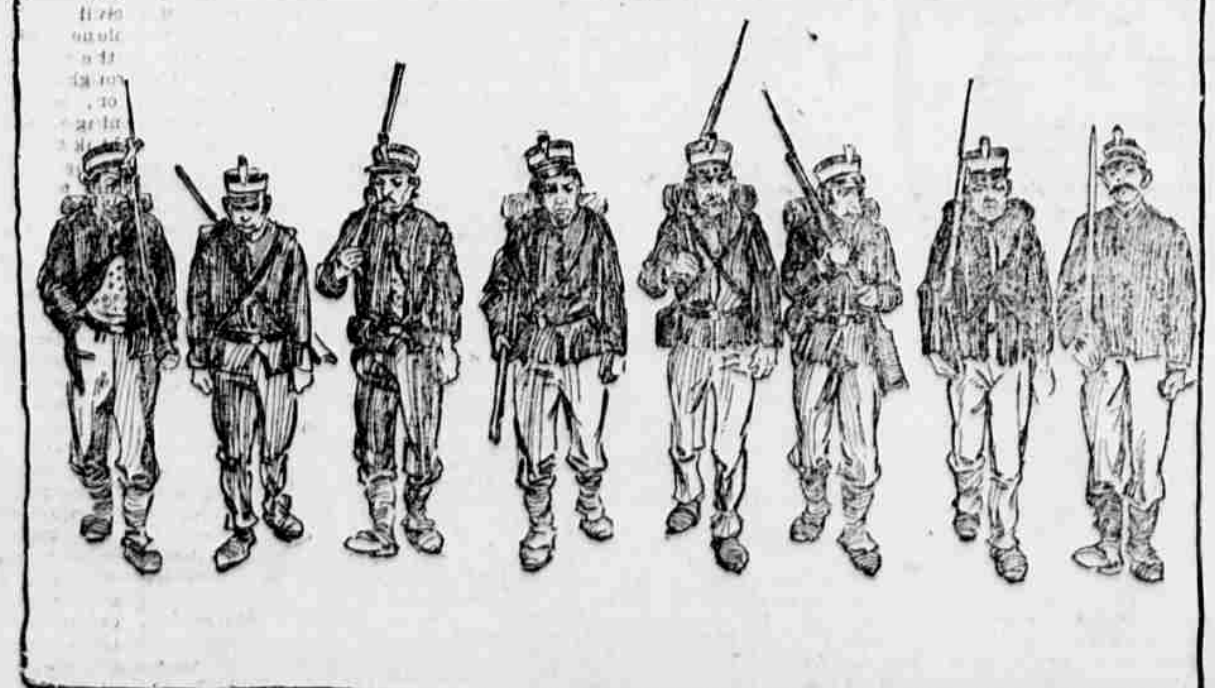
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