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# THE ALMANACK

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## FEATURES

*The Electoral College*

*Veteran's Day*

*This Month in History*

*110-Year-Old Vet Celebrates  
with Cigar & Whiskey*

A black and white portrait of Hedy Lamarr, looking upwards and to the left. She has voluminous, wavy hair and is wearing a dark, polka-dot dress with a large pearl necklace and a large pearl earring. Her right hand is raised near her face, wearing a ring.

*UNDERESTIMATED*  
*HEDY* How Hollywood Star Hedy Lamarr Changed  
Technology and Communication Forever



# THE ALMANACK

AN AMERICAN HISTORY GUILD PUBLICATION

Spring 2026 — Vol. 1

# WELCOME

*from the Publisher*

# HISTORY IS THE LIFE BLOOD OF OUR NATION.

THE AMERICAN HISTORY GUILD was founded over a decade ago to rekindle and stoke the sacred fire of liberty so that it may burn brightly in the hearts of those now living and yet unborn. We subscribe to the noble tenets embodied in the Declaration of Independence wherein it is written, that we are not possessed of whim, will, or want of man, but rather, we are “endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights.”

We were founded with the expressed goal of drawing upon our Republic’s illustrious past to enlighten and enliven an oftentimes forgetful people, who, lacking knowledge of the history of our great nation, will surely not be equipped to preserve it.



*“Trying to plan  
for the future  
without a sense  
of the past is like  
trying to plant  
cut flowers.”*

DANIEL BOORSTIN

The projects we have embarked upon are myriad and varied but have one desired end: to re-acquaint our citizens with the miracle that was our country’s founding; and in the process, restore the seeds of liberty and civic virtue in the hope that they will long endure.

This month we are pleased to launch the inaugural edition of THE ALMANACK. It is our fervent hope that we will do Poor Richard proud as we share the great American stories of yore.

In this issue, is the miraculous tale of Hedy Lamarr, Hollywood actress turned inventor and Richard Overton, World War II Veteran and avid cigar aficionado.

It is our hope that by reading their providential stories, you too will be inspired and encouraged by their lives and blessing of liberty.

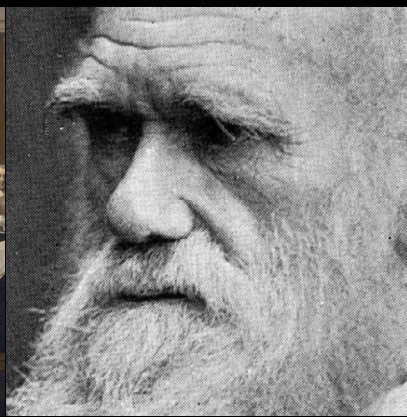
Happy Thanksgiving!

**John Adams**

*Founder of the American History Guild*

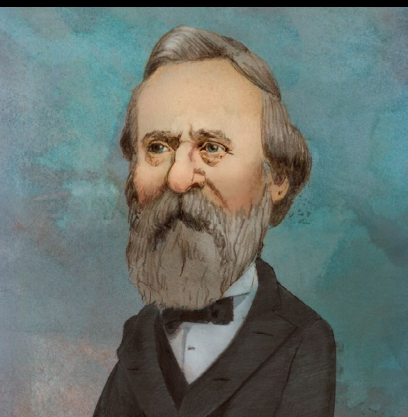
THE ALMANACK  
*Spring 2026*

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# EVENTS



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***Bill Potter***

Bill Potter is a historian, lecturer and author. He has lectured at The College of William and Mary, Mississippi State University, Liberty University Law School, Dalton State University, and Bryan College. His typical topics of interest lie in American and British history with specialization in most aspects of military, political and ecclesiastical history and biography.

***Katie Dillard***

An avid student and scholar, Katie is finishing her Bachelor’s degree in Secondary Education through Louisiana Baptist University. Teaching a high school U.S. History class at a local private school, she endeavors to impart knowledge and the love of learning to students in her immediate spheres of influence. On the side she finds time to volunteer at the local Museum as a docent historian.

***Olivia Hightower***

Olivia Hightower is the Director of Media for American History Guild. Prior to working for AHG, she earned a B.A. in English from Kennesaw State University and worked as a law clerk and preschool teacher. She enjoys writing, traveling, blogging, and rock climbing. She currently lives in Atlanta, Georgia.



# DROP DEAD GORGEOUS GENIUS

Meet Hedy Lamarr – inventor of the foundation for a technology that you and billions of others are likely using at this very moment. This raven-haired starlet shimmered in Hollywood’s Golden Age of the 30’s and 40’s, playing opposite leading men such as Clark Gable, Spencer Tracy, and Jimmy Stewart.

But her extraordinary beauty is only eclipsed by her astounding intellect. This life-changing technology, called frequency-hopping spread spectrum, is also the basis for many other modern advancements such as blue-tooth, cell phones, and WIFI. ***This is her story.***

# UNDERESTIMATED HEDY: *How Hollywood Star Hedy Lamarr Changed Technology & Communication Forever*

by OLIVIA HIGHTOWER

**B**ORN HEDWIG EVA MARIA KIESLER ON NOVEMBER 9, 1914 IN VIENNA, HEDY WAS THE ONLY CHILD OF A PROMINENT JEWISH FAMILY.

When she was 16 years old, she skipped out of school, without telling her parents, and slipped into a studio to apply to be a script girl. When producers asked her if she knew how to be a script girl, she replied, “No, but may I try?”

## **“No, but may I try?”**

soon became a phrase Hedy, consciously or unconsciously adopted as her life motto. Her willingness to push herself beyond the social norms of the day was an astounding attribute and would lead to her later success.

## **Controversial Film**

Just before her eighteenth birthday, Hedy landed a role in the controversial film, *Ekstase*, that both helped

and haunted her for the rest of her life. Never before had the female figure been exposed in film. Not only was *Ekstase* shocking due to a brief nude and passionate scene, but also for the fact that the film challenged the traditional patriarchal role in society. Instead of being seduced, Hedy’s character takes on traditional masculine gender roles by aggressively seducing the man, and then afterwards, deciding she doesn’t need him.

The blatant feminist influence was perhaps a bit too forward for its day. She soon found landing acting jobs difficult because she was known as the “*Ekstase* girl,” and thus not taken seriously.

## **The Mandl Marriage**

Against her parent’s wishes, Hedy married Fritz Mandl, a much older arms manufacturer and the third richest Austrian.

The young Lamarr believed she was in love with the strong, masculine



arms dealer. But her perception was soon altered after their marriage when he began abusing her.

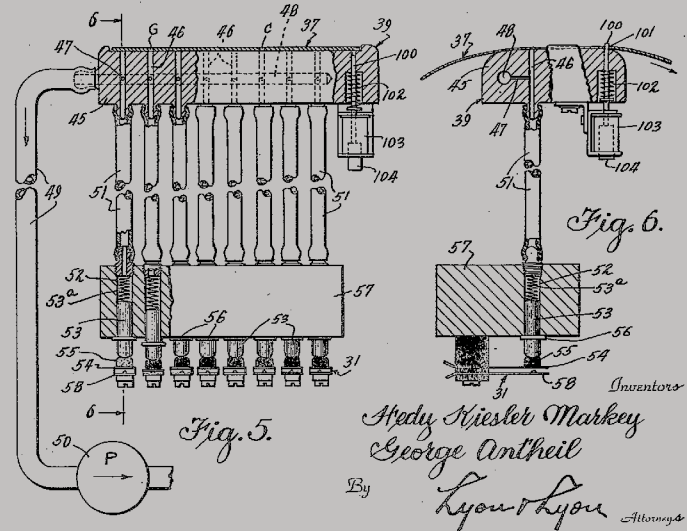
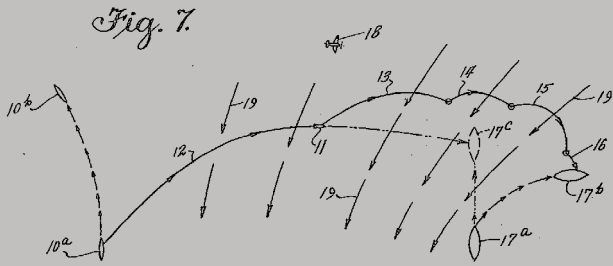
Hedy later recalled her unhappy marriage to Mandl, by remarking that she “almost at once I found I was no longer Hedy Kiesler, an individual, but I was only the wife of Fritz Mandl.” (Rhodes 27).

Aug. 11, 1942.

H. K. MARKEY ET AL  
SECRET COMMUNICATION SYSTEM  
Filed June 10, 1941

2,292,387

2 Sheets-Sheet 2



Inventors  
Hedy Kiesler Markey  
George Anthel  
By Lyon & Lyon Attorneys

Further issues in their marriage came up when her new husband kept company with controversial powerful leaders such as many of Hitler's political war henchmen, whom often dined with the Mandl's in one of their many mansions. As the men would discuss technical and mechanical advances in technology, she would listen intently and soak up the complicated details. Later, this background

in technical knowledge would serve a purpose as she designed technology to combat enemy torpedoes. Underestimated once again, no one supposed that a woman of such beauty would also have a brilliant mind.

Manipulative and abusive, Fritz kept Hedy locked in their mansion, forbidding her from ever acting again. "I was like a doll. I was like a thing, some

### Hedy Escapes

The abuse and entrapment finally became too unbearable one night, according to Hedy, after a brutal bitter fight she collected all her jewels and items of value, and cloaked with a maid's uniform, she narrowly escaped to London incognito.

While in London, she met the head

*I was like a doll. I was like a thing, some object of art which had to be guarded—and imprisoned—having no life of its own.*



object of art which had to be guarded and imprisoned having no mind, no life of its own."

Ever the jealous man, Fritz was also obsessed with tracking down every copy of Ekstase so that no one would be able to look at his wife in such a compromising position. He constantly berated her for appearing in such a scandalous film, which he said, made him look like a fool.

of MGM studios, Louis Mayer, at a party. Shrewd and conceiving a plan to become a famous actress in Hollywood, Hedy engaged in small talk with Mayer, without once mentioning her desire to be an actress. When she found out Mayer was sailing back to America on the French ship *Normandie*, Hedy quickly booked a ticket, feigning a chance encounter with the powerful man, filled him with her charm.



*Many attribute the popular turban head covering to Hedy.*



*Hedy was frequently cast in exotic, minimal speaking roles, which bored her. She liked a good challenge, but she was never given the opportunity.*



*Never content with the Hollywood lifestyle, Hedy took up inventing as a way to occupy her time.*

She left nothing to coincidence. Throughout the entire journey, Hedy flirted shamelessly with all the young men aboard hoping Mayer would notice that the gorgeous Austrian was the center of attention. Over the course of the Atlantic Crossing, Hedy managed to negotiate a seven-year contract with MGM studios for \$500 a week (\$8,000 today). The only stipulation in the contract was that she change her name. Hedy Kiesler sounded too Germanic- especially at a time when the unsettling threat of war with Germany was upon the United States. Louis Mayer's wife suggested they borrow the last name of former old Hollywood starlet- Barbara La Marr. Thus, Hedwig Kiesler the Austrian became Hedy Lamarr the actress.

Hedy didn't belong in Hollywood. Unlike other Hollywood actresses of the day, Hedy did not enjoy large parties and excessive drinking, instead preferring the quiet company of close friends and intellectual discussions for bettering the world. She often grew bored of the Hollywood lifestyle and took up inventing as a way to stay occupied.

Armed with a drafting table, lamp, and various tools, Hedy was determined to be more than just glamorous. Among some of her proposed inventions were improvements to traffic lights, and a tablet dissolved in water to create a soda-drink. However, as she later reflected, those inventions didn't amount to much. But

one invention, one that we use today on a daily basis, changed the world because of one historical event. During the German Blitz, London children were evacuated to safer cities and countries. One such ship left the Liverpool docks carrying over 300 children bound for Canada. On the way to safety, the ship was torpedoed by German U-boats and sunk in the Atlantic Ocean. By God's grace, the lifeboats were deployed in time, saving all of the children on board. However, the second ship bound for Canada was not as fortunate. About 70 miles off the coast of Ireland, the German U-boats torpedoed the ship carrying nearly 90 refugee children. Tragically, all perished aboard. Outraged and greatly disturbed that her fellow German-speaking countrymen would enact such a crime against humanity, Hedy was determined to combat evil by using her talent of inventing.

Hedy had an idea that would change the course of communication: an arcane scientific concept known as frequency-hopping spread spectrum. This fundamental technology, and as it turns out, indispensable, would later be used to bring about everyday modern marvels such as GPS, WIFI, and myriad other wireless technologies used ubiquitously by us today.

### ***The Discovery***

With the help of Hollywood composer George Antheil, Lamarr developed a system to rapidly switch frequency

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

channels, a development which laid the groundwork for the complicated communications employed the world over. According to Hedy’s son Anthony Loder, the discovery of this life-changing frequency-hopping theory was inspired by the simple act of playing the piano in tandem. He writes, “Antheil and my mother were sitting at the piano one day and he was hitting some keys and she was following him, and she said, ‘hey look, we’re talking to each other and we’re changing all the time.’” This

chance event let loose in the caverns of a fertile mind, revealed to Hedy her true calling.

Being ever-present eye candy in her ex-husband’s dinner parties gave Lamarr access to invaluable information that she would now use in implementing her idea. The famed inventor, Nikola Tesla, had developed radio-controlled torpedoes, but they had a fatal flaw; they were easily jammed, if not controlled by the enemy. Hedy’s idea was to change the frequency at intervals known only to the sender, thereby preventing the “hacking” of the torpedo. If a radio waves and receiver are synchronized to switch signals together, hopping together like the complimentary notes on a piano, then the radio signal passing between them could not be jammed by the enemy.

**The Patent**

In the patent application dated August 11th 1942, the details of the invention are described as follows: “In a radio communication system comprising a radio transmitter tunable to any one of a plurality of frequencies and radio receiver tunable to anyone of said plurality of frequencies, the method of secret communication between said stations which, comprises simultaneously changing the tuning of the transmitter and receiver according to an arbitrary, nonrecurring pattern.”

For those of us not as brilliant as Hedy Lamarr, here’s a simple explanation: Imagine a two-lane highway with multiple cars driving along one way together in sync. The exit lanes give the cars the ability to get on and

Aug. 11, 1942.

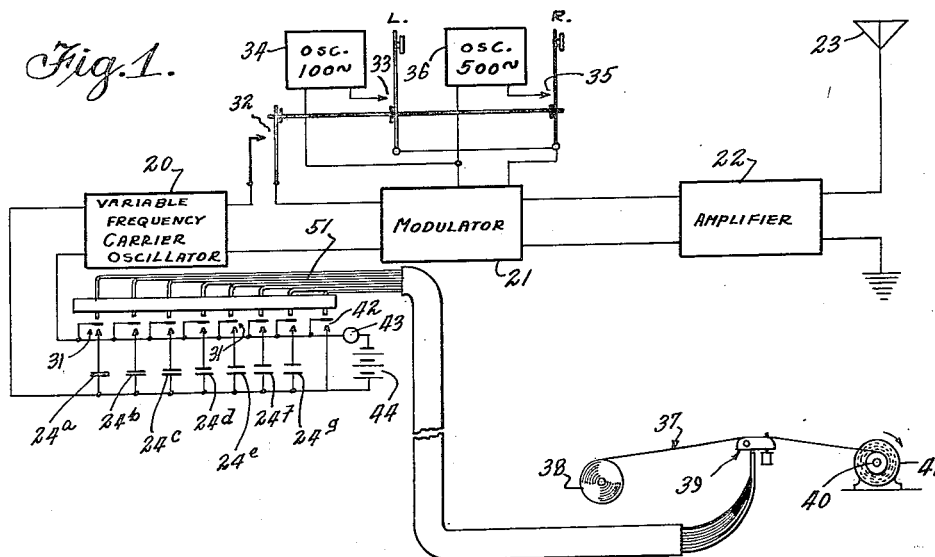
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SECRET COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Filed June 10, 1941

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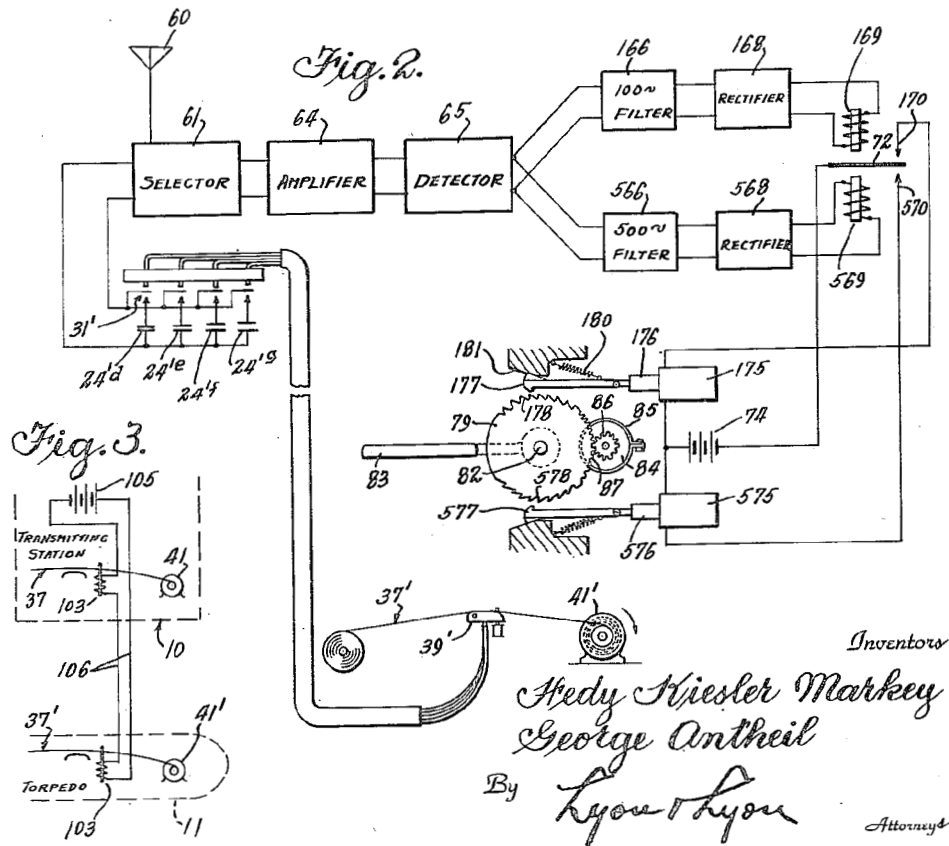
off the highway and on to another highway. Because they are moving in one direction, there is minimal interference, more reliability and more traffic generated. Hedy's idea created an "expressway" with multiple exit and on ramps for radio frequencies to travel with more reliability and uninhibited by enemy frequencies. This created a more durable, pure signal that was more difficult to intercept. To further this expressway analogy, before Hedy's idea, the radio frequencies controlling torpedoes were easily manipulated and could often lose signal- akin to being lost in the woods or on a small dirt road. Hedy's idea created a faster, more reliable network of signals.

Unfortunately, the Navy did not grasp the gravity of Hedy's ingenious plan and filed the patent away for more than a decade, only to resurrect it in the 1960s to make use of it during the Cuban missile crisis. Had they not underestimated the brilliant Hollywood star, how many more allied lives would have been saved? It's impossible to know. In 1997, the world would finally give Hedy the recognition she was due when she was post-humorously inducted in the Inventor's Hall of Fame.

### Later Life

After the war, Lamarr continued to make movies, but steadily declined in

popularity as more youthful actresses replaced her. In an effort to combat age and restore her youthful beauty, Hedy succumbed to the lure of plastic surgery, which tragically botched and altered her appearance so much that she was almost unrecognizable and thus remained very secluded towards the end of her life. On January 19, 2000, Lamarr died of heart failure at the age of 85 in Casselberry, Florida. Her son, Anthony, scattered her ashes to the wind, deep in the Vienna woods, a true Austrian laid to rest, a fitting metaphor for someone who's life, even now, rides of a wave of hidden immortality.





# The Electoral College

by JOHN ADAMS

Every four years in this great country of ours, we are reminded yet again of the prescient wisdom of our founding fathers. Our Electoral College, the arcane system whereby we elect the President of the United States, is one such example.

There are those who believe that we should abolish it in favor of a simply majority rules vote. This group was especially vocal during the controversy which sprung from the 2000 Bush/ Gore election in which Al Gore won the popular vote nationally (by 500,000) but lost the electoral college by one vote!

Each time, one party suffers through such an ignominious defeat (it has happened just 4 times in our history, the last before 2000 was in 1888) there are feverish calls to discard the system in favor of majority rule (pure democracy)

The founders were terrified of democracy. So much so that nowhere in any founding document is even the word democracy uttered. Not in the Declaration of Independence, nor in the Constitution, nor even in any of the 50 states founding documents.

The founder's were learned men and knew well the history of the world. They studied the fall of the great societies of Greece and of Rome and knew that the tyranny of the majority had destroyed both. As Sam Adams put it so well, democracy is short-lived and will always "murder itself."

The Electoral College, built with the safeguards of a true republic, may ruffle a few feathers every hundred years, but that is a small price to pay to avoid the fate of Greece or Rome.

# ★ THIS MONTH ★ IN HISTORY



LINCOLN ELECTED!

1860  
Abraham Lincoln elected as President of the United States. November 6



THE WORLD WAR ENDS  
ARMISTICE IS SIGNED; THE GERMAN SURRENDER COMPLETE

1918  
November 11

An agreement to end WWI was signed and went into effect at 11 a.m. – the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. We now remember and honor all war veterans on this day.



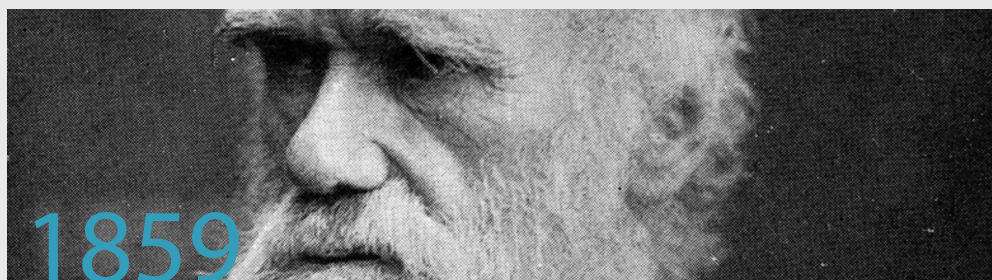
1864  
Sherman burns Atlanta. November 15



1800  
November 17 The U.S. Congress met for the first time in the new capital at Washington, D.C.



President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas **November 22**



**November 24** Charles Darwin's book *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* was first published.



The first American holiday, formally declared by President George Washington to be Thanksgiving Day, a day of prayer and public thanksgiving in gratitude for the successful establishment of the new American republic. **November 26**



**November 30** The Treaty of Paris is signed between Great Britain and the United States, ending the Revolutionary War.

# VETERAN'S DAY

by KATIE DILLARD



One hundred years ago, the bloody four-year campaign of World War I ended with the consummation of seventeen million dead and twenty million wounded. The United States suffered the staggering loss of 320,000 casualties in one year. This First World War shifted the politics and economics of whole continents and would change forever the future generations of veteran families. Subsequently, the following World War would claim the lives of more than seventy million worldwide, an astounding legacy of the “war to end all war.” On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of the anniversary we remember those who sacrificed all for their country. Although Veterans Day is a holiday mostly remembered on the calendar as a day off work, there are those few who remember the horrors of war, and have seen with their eyes the

panic and pain of death. Let us take a moment to contemplate the gravity of their situation and the worthiness of their cause.

It was a cold and misty morning in November, 1918, in Versailles, France that a few of the Allied leaders joined themselves in a most solemn occasion to produce a truce to stop the long and devastating war. Although Germany was not invited to the party they were the principal subject of discussion. President Woodrow Wilson brought with him his “fourteen points” and his blue print for the soon to be called League of Nations, the purpose of which was to establish rules and guidelines for the nations of the world. With the “Treaty of Versailles,” on November 11, 1918 the war ended with an armistice, which would prove to be all too temporary. The human cost of the war brought

a vast outcry of misery and grief and even calls for revenge from both belligerents. Even the earth seemed to grieve over the tremendous loss of life as whole fields and burial grounds were covered in graves and memorials and festooned with bright red poppies. That flower is still used as a badge of remembrance and sorrow. A year after the treaty was signed and hostilities ceased between the allies and Germany, they proclaimed November 11 a day set apart to honor the dead of World War I. This day was not called Veterans Day, or Memorial Day, not even Remembrance Day, instead it was heralded as Armistice Day—the “suspension of hostilities.” After their defeat and subsequent humiliation, it was only going to be a matter of a few short years before Germany turned, this time for thorough European conquest. In the late 1930s and early 1940s Germany was

# THE ELEVENTH HOUR OF THE ELEVENTH DAY OF THE ELEVENTH MONTH

ready and in shape, but the United States was not. In fact, America was lagging behind in the race, satisfied with the isolation of the roaring twenties, and the debilitating grip of the Great Depression. Far from willing, America was forced into another World War by Imperial Japan and Germany. Many of the veterans of this war are still alive to tell about it today.

Subsequent wars have plagued the world since 1945, and many of the veterans from these wars are still living, which is why we commemorate Veterans Day in the United States rather than just Armistice Day. Thanks to President Eisenhower's proclamation we now honor all American veterans on November 11<sup>th</sup>. It was with full knowledge of the effects of war that he proclaimed: "In order to expand the significance of that commemoration and in order that a grateful Nation might pay appropriate homage to the veterans of all its wars who have contributed so much to the preservation of this Nation, the Congress... changed the name of the holiday to Veterans Day." Because we love our holidays, and any chance to get off work, there was an attempt at changing Veterans Day from the eleventh day of November to a more compatible time of year for

those who desire to travel. In 1971 President Ford realized the ill-advised nature of such a change and, by law, maintained Veterans Day in its rightful place on the calendar. Some countries still reserve two moments of silence at "the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month:" the first minute for the dead, and the second for those experiencing the loss of the dead. Due to prosperity and blessings of intermittent peace, this symbol of respect for veterans has been somewhat lessened over the years. What can we do to honor the veterans?

Wear a poppy flower, tell them "thank you for your service," and

give them a warm hand shake. The brokenness of 1918 was only patched by a temporary armistice, the hurt of 1945 was soothed by a proclamation of peace. The most that we can do for our veterans, who are still among us, is sincerely give our thanks. There is no suitable solace for those who have seen death.

This Veterans Day enjoy the time off work, but pause and isolate a few moments to remember those who held nothing back for family and country. They reserved nothing for themselves, so let us not reserve our thanks.



# WHAT IS ITALIANATE?

by D. TRACY WARD

## *Exploring the use of Italianate Architecture and how it influenced the styles in the United States.*

As the name implies, the stylistic roots are grounded in the ancient history of Italy, a geographical region central to Mediterranean and Biblical account. During the 1500's Italy's architecture exhibited an emphasis on the reemergence (aka Renaissance) of classical antiquity from its own epicenter - the influential city of Rome. Orderly and simple forms were used with intentional symmetry (as well as asymmetry), proportion, and geometry to create arrangements of columns, pilasters, domes, niches, cupolas, and other elements we recognize today as "Classical". All those architectural elements one envisions

when describing Rome, Italy or the hillside images of Tuscany (think of those notable artists & architects Brunelleschi, Michelangelo, Palladio, or Alberti) became the building blocks and vocabulary for the 400-year era known as the Italian Renaissance.

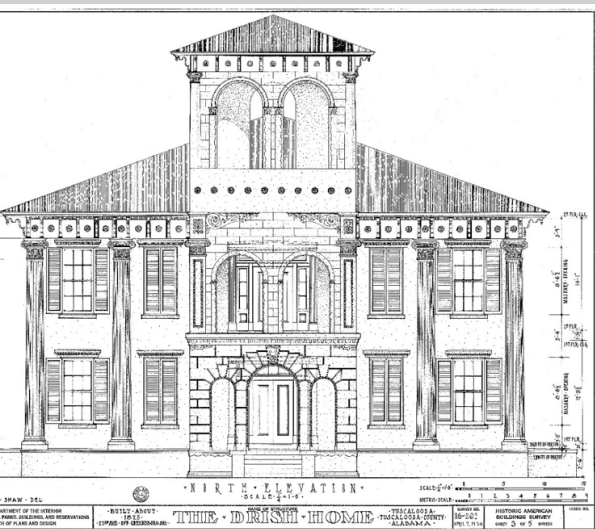
Those recognizable aspects of the style spread slowly throughout Europe, reaching Britain in the early 1800's...eventually showing up in America in the mid-1800's with a more generalized name - "Italianate". In fact, today we academically fix the Italianate style of the Romantic (sometimes called



## The Revivalist Guild

BRINGING THE PAST BACK TO LIFE





Victorian) period in the United States to roughly the 50-year era 1840-1890. As is typical with historical styles, its so-called defining characteristics are determined much later, and there are usually specific individuals to be identified as its primary early advocates. In this case we can attribute to the publications of Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-1852), as well as the artist/architect Alexander Jackson Davis (1803-1892). Davis initially made his living as an architectural illustrator. His picturesque and romantic tendencies led friends, including the famous painter John Trumbull, to suggest he should pursue designing buildings. As he did so, Davis naturally leaned toward those same stylistic propensities of Gothic (and all its varieties), Greek Revival, and Tuscan Villa (aka Italianate). While the previously common and popular American buildings remained simple and boxlike, Davis's creative designs incorporated projections in all directions. His towers and verandas allowed the floor plan to flow directly out into the landscape. It was perhaps a natural progres-

sion for an artist who was experienced in the visual aesthetics of blending or harmonizing nature with the built environment.

The Romantic Period styles of roughly 1820-1885 (Greek Revival, French 2nd Empire, Italianate, Gothic Revival, etc.) in America included an effort to find that elusive National Style in all its local varieties and adaptations. Today the Italianate style, when proportioned and detailed correctly, remains appropriate for both residential and commercial buildings. For office and mercantile uses, the style's idealistically inspired architectural elements invoke an inviting and welcoming environment for customers and employees. The relaxed formality lends itself to handsome elevations and streetscapes in a crowded urban setting. Alternatively, an Italianate style residence will utilize earth toned color schemes and blend with a lush landscape scenery for its guest approach - making it a perfect escape from the crowds.



# AGE IS JUST A NUMBER

by OLIVIA HIGHTOWER

*110-Year-Old World War II Veteran Celebrates His Birthday with Cigars and Whiskey*

Meet Richard Overton.

In his lifetime, this supercentarian has witnessed advances in technology and science, that occupied the realm of science fiction. He bore to witness the invention of the airplane, the modern car, air conditioning, the rocket-ship, washing-machines, computers, cell phones, the internet, and countless other modern marvels.

He was alive during the sinking of the Titanic, the first World War, and the Wright brother's miraculous flight at Kitty Hawk.

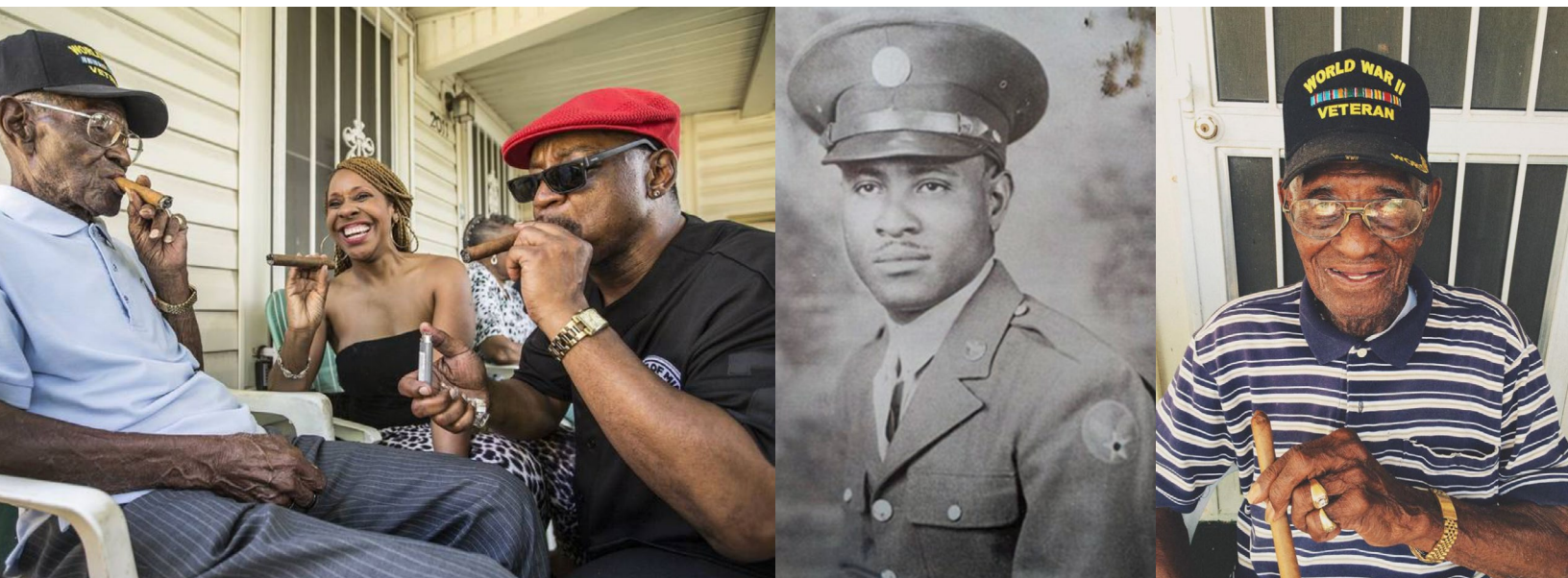
He suffered through the Great Depression, witnessed the first flickering light of the television, the Civil Rights movement and the desegregation of the South. He watched in awe as man first tread on the moon. He lived through the horror of JFK's assassination, and the joy of the fall of the Berlin Wall. And he lived to see the first black President, an event he never dreamed possible.

Serving in the Pacific Theater from 1942-1945, Overton was a sergeant in the all-black 1887<sup>th</sup> Engineer Aviation Battalion.

While serving, he was stationed at Pearl Harbor and Iwo Jima, commenting quietly on his experience by saying, "I only got out of there by the grace of God."

To Richard Overton, age is just a number. Despite his well-advanced years, he continues to mow his lawn, drive to church, and socialize with friends. "I don't think about (dying)," he says, "You can't do anything about that. It's going to come, whether you want it or not. I just think about living."

*“I don’t think about dying. It’s going to come, whether you want it or not. I just think about living.”*



What’s the secret to his longevity? Smoking 12 cigars a day, a shot of whiskey in his morning coffee, and a scoop of butter pecan ice cream at night. “Whiskey’s a good medicine. It keeps your muscles tender,” he says with a wry smile.

Greeting every stranger with

a wide, toothy grin, Overton’s cheerful and sunny disposition may be the real reason for his longevity. Friends and neighbors say he is a positive, happy-go-lucky person. He also credits exercise and his relationship with God as reasons for his extended life. “He brought me here and he’s taking

care of me, and nothing I can do about it...I can talk about what he’s doing for me,” he says. Whatever the reason for his longevity may be, Richard Overton has faithfully and joyfully served God and country well—all the days of his long and storied life.



**LIBERTY**  
★ CIGAR COMPANY ★

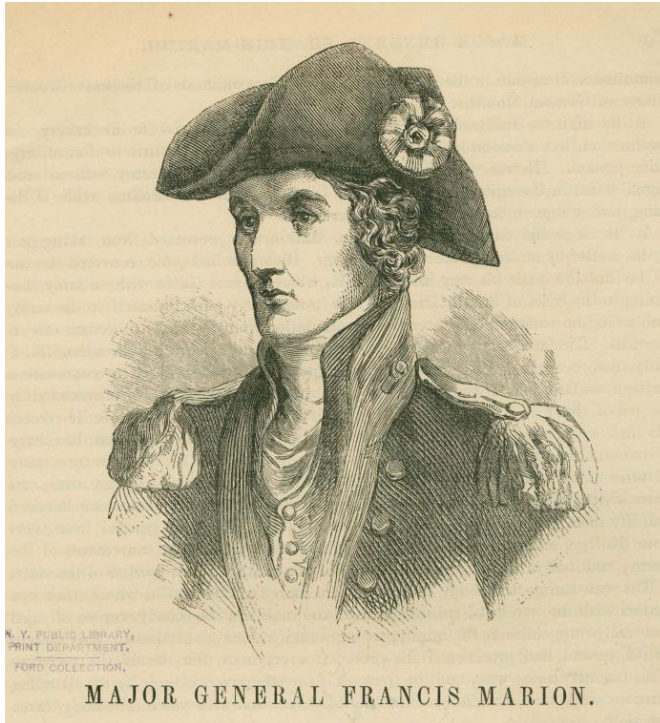
**The FRANCIS MARION Cigar**  
HARDY. INTREPID. CLEVER.

Visit [www.LibertyCigars.com](http://www.LibertyCigars.com) to see the whole collection.



# Francis Marion

by **BILL POTTER**

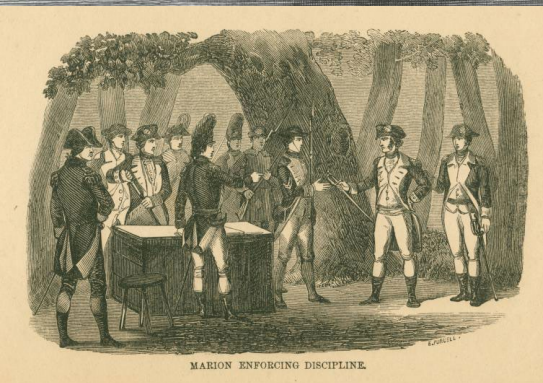


As a guerrilla fighter, he had no peer in the War for Independence. As an officer in the Patriot forces of South Carolina, he provided leadership that engendered fierce personal loyalty. As a foe of the invaders, the desire for his capture or death sometimes determined the strategies of armies large and small. Though the area of his independent military operations did not exceed the Peedee, Santee, and Black River regions, his raids affected the whole theatre of the war in the Carolinas. His enemies called him “The Swamp Fox.”

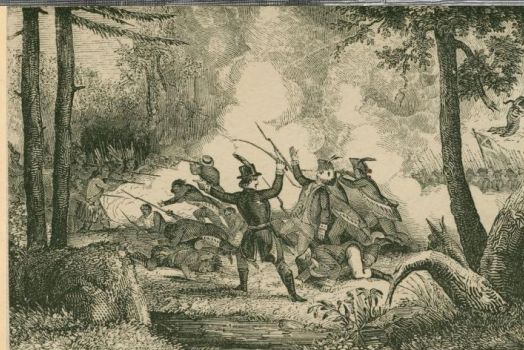
Of sturdy French Huguenot ancestry, Francis Marion was a typical middling gentry, locally respected, an unmarried man of modest means, age 42 in 1775. He had left his plantation during the French and Indian War and served on the South Carolina frontier against the Cherokee. He learned the art of war in a time of massacre and savage reprisal among the

contenders in the forests and valleys of the mountains, experiences that would mold his hit and run tactics in the Revolutionary War. His would not be a romantic set-piece kind of warfare. Marion joined the South Carolina Provincial Congress and shortly thereafter recruited the men who made up his company of the Second South Carolina Regiment. As a captain, Marion led his men in the repulse of the invasion force at the Battle of Sullivan’s Island, braving the naval bombardment, inspiring the men with his fearlessness. Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, Marion served around the Charleston area, building a reputation for sobriety, decency and stern but humane discipline. After the American defeat at Savannah, and the retreat of the army, Francis Marion was left in command of the American forces, the only ones still active in South Carolina. During the investment of Charleston by the British expeditionary force under Cornwallis in 1780, Marion broke his ankle jumping from a second story window. He had been locked in a room with partying officers who were in their cups. He chose not to join in and could only escape through the window. The fall and injury turned to his favor when he was sent home to recover; while there, the city fell to the besieging Redcoats. The whole American army was captured but Marion.

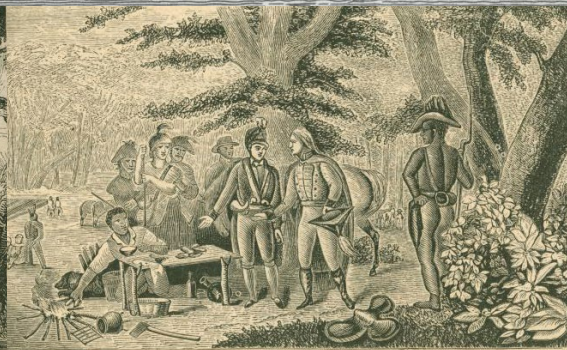
From Charleston, Cornwallis embarked on a campaign to force the entire state into submission. He defeated every major force sent against him and increased the bitterness of the internal civil war by unleashing the Tories against their patriot neighbors. Francis Marion recruited his own band of warriors



MARION ENFORCING DISCIPLINE.



Marion leading the Forlorn Hope, at the Battle of Etchou.



Marion inviting a British Officer to Dinner.

and began what became a legendary series of raids and assaults on the occupiers. With lightning hit and run raids, his “partisan rangers” wreaked havoc on British and Tory supplies, patrols and garrisons. Frustrated by his inability to stop Marion (and his up-state counterpart Andrew Pickens) Lord Cornwallis finally unleashed the brutal troopers of Banastre Tarleton to finish off the pesky Colonel Marion. The wily South Carolinian established headquarters on an almost inaccessible island in the swamps of the Peedee. As the British troopers ravaged the civilians in the countryside, some of Marion’s men left to defend their homes. Nonetheless, with undiminished ardor, the patriot guerrilla captain continued to strike back and play a cat and mouse game with the local loyalist militias and British troopers, none of whom could track his men in the swampland to which they retreated. General Washington sent

General “Light Horse Harry” Lee to join with Marion and Nathaniel Greene to mop up the backcountry and drive the British interlopers back to Charleston. Emboldened by success, the Swamp Fox attacked Georgetown, Motte’s Plantation and Fort Watson. When South Carolina finally secured their independence, Francis Marion had been elevated to the rank of general. General Marion held no personal grudges after the war, even to former neighbors who had joined the British. He was the second most popular hero of the war, behind only the great Washington himself! Hundreds of boys were named after him in following years. Although Francis Marion, like George Washington, left no progeny, he bequeathed to America a legacy of heroism and devotion to liberty that was known to every generation of American children until recent times. May it be so again!

# Presidents Revealed

by JOHN ADAMS

## *Can you guess who this president is?*

As the election returns poured in, it was thought that the presidential question had been settled when it was revealed that uncertainty and irregularities had cropped up in Florida.

The newspapers hurriedly splashed ink on their front pages crying of “the iniquity in Florida.” The Democrat presidential candidate had won the popular vote and was leading in the Electoral College but the “sunshine state,” which was now in dispute, had cast an uncertain cloud over the results. Without Florida’s electoral votes, neither candidate could win the presidency.

Charges of voter intimidation hung like a pall on the nation. The voting in other states was also extremely close, and, like Florida, thoughts of voting irregularities persisted.

The Republican candidate had been governor of one of the larg-

est states in the nation and had recently defeated a very popular Democrat for that office. His running mate had been a seasoned political insider and had experience in previous administrations.

The Democrat candidate had decades of experience in government as well, and was thought to be a shoe-in for the presidency.

He had not been tied to the scandals, which had plagued the previous administration. The recent impeachment trial had left a stain on the Republicans, many believing that they had abused their power.

The Republican had campaigned on immigration and education reform as well as putting forth a plan to change the way in which government workers were employed.

His opponents had called into question his military record as

being less than honorable. They went to great lengths to call him out in the media.

Both candidates tried to convince the voters of their fiscal experience. The economy had been in flux for sometime and the public needed to be assured that the new President could handle the economic downturn. A bubble in the markets had recently burst, the result of too much speculation in the market.

News reports prematurely reported that the Democrat had won Florida. The statement was retracted after more election returns were counted. Then the Republican seemed victorious and the Democrat privately conceded before retracting his concession.

“THE BATTLE WON” read one newspaper, thinking the Republican victorious.

Others weren’t so sure. “THE

RESULT: WHAT IS IT? - another headline pondered. Soon it became clear that the nation was embroiled in a Constitutional crisis.

It was the first time in Presidential election history that a candidate had won the popular vote by a margin of several hundred thousand and yet lost the electoral vote.

The difference in the popular and electoral votes was reason enough for conflict. But the larger and more troubling issue was the numerous irregularities in county ballots, making it difficult to ascertain whom someone actually voted for.

There was alleged voter intimidation and flawed election pro-

cedures. One of the major points of contention centered upon the design of ballots. Critics charged that the configuration caused an unfair skew toward the Republican candidate. Adding still more to the controversy, were the charges offered by some Democrats that a sort of quid pro quo was in place to persuade the high-level political office holders in Florida to decide for the Republicans.

The two presidential candidates began a protracted legal battle in the aftermath of the election. Each sent lawyers and other representatives to Florida to try to supervise the re-counting of the votes.

The ultimate decision was taken out of the hands of the voters and

entrusted to a legal body consisting of members of the United States Supreme Court.

After weeks of deliberation and endless legal maneuvering, the august panel ultimately decided the election in favor of the Republican - by a margin of just one vote. After the historic ruling in favor of the Republican candidate many were jubilant, many were not. One stinging headline read "THE FRAUD CONSUMMATED"

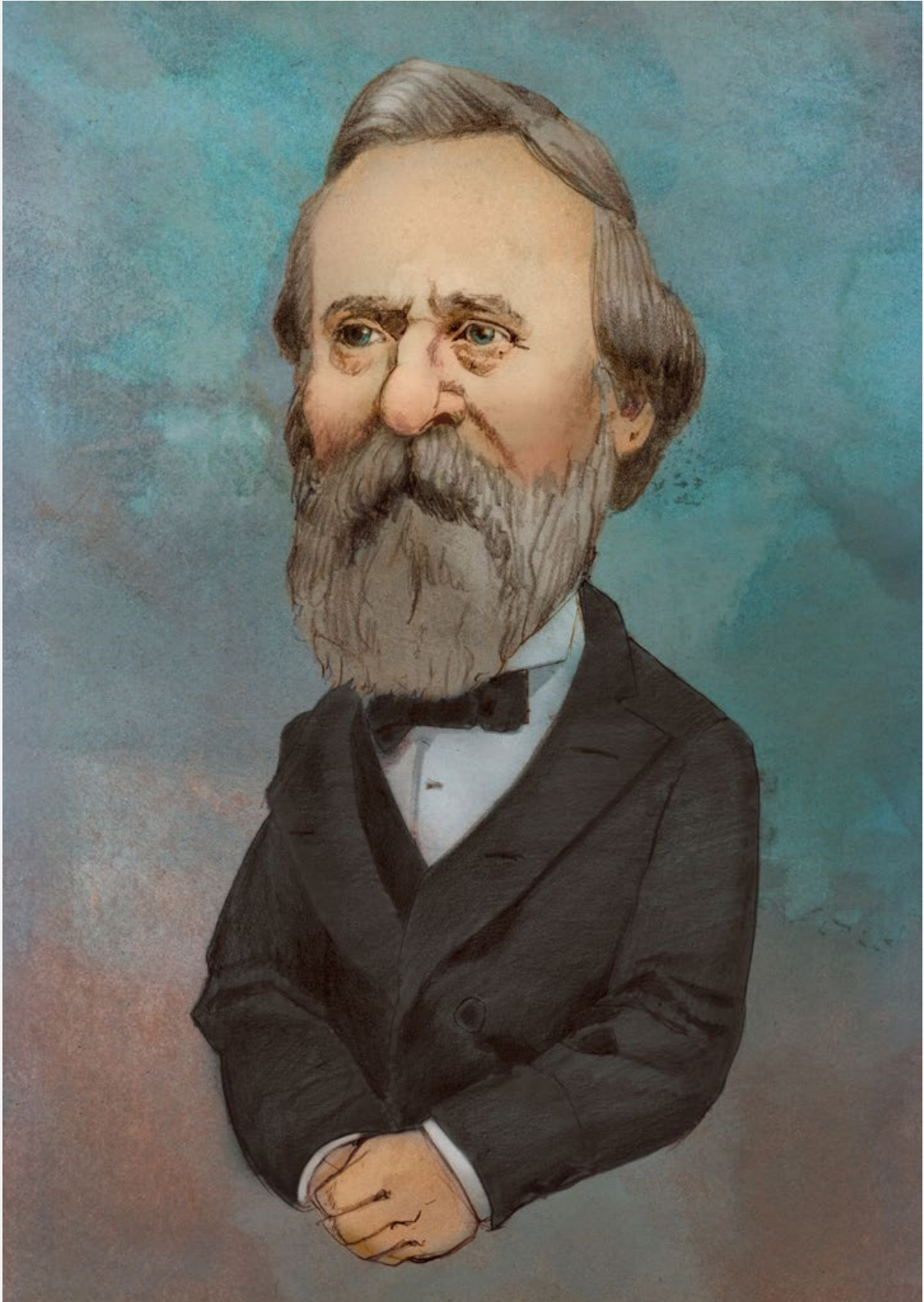
The Democrat candidate conceded the office and disappeared from the public view for a time. The new President may have wished he'd lost the election as his mettle would soon be tested in the aftermath of one of the most trying events in the nations history.

THE PRESIDENT IS...

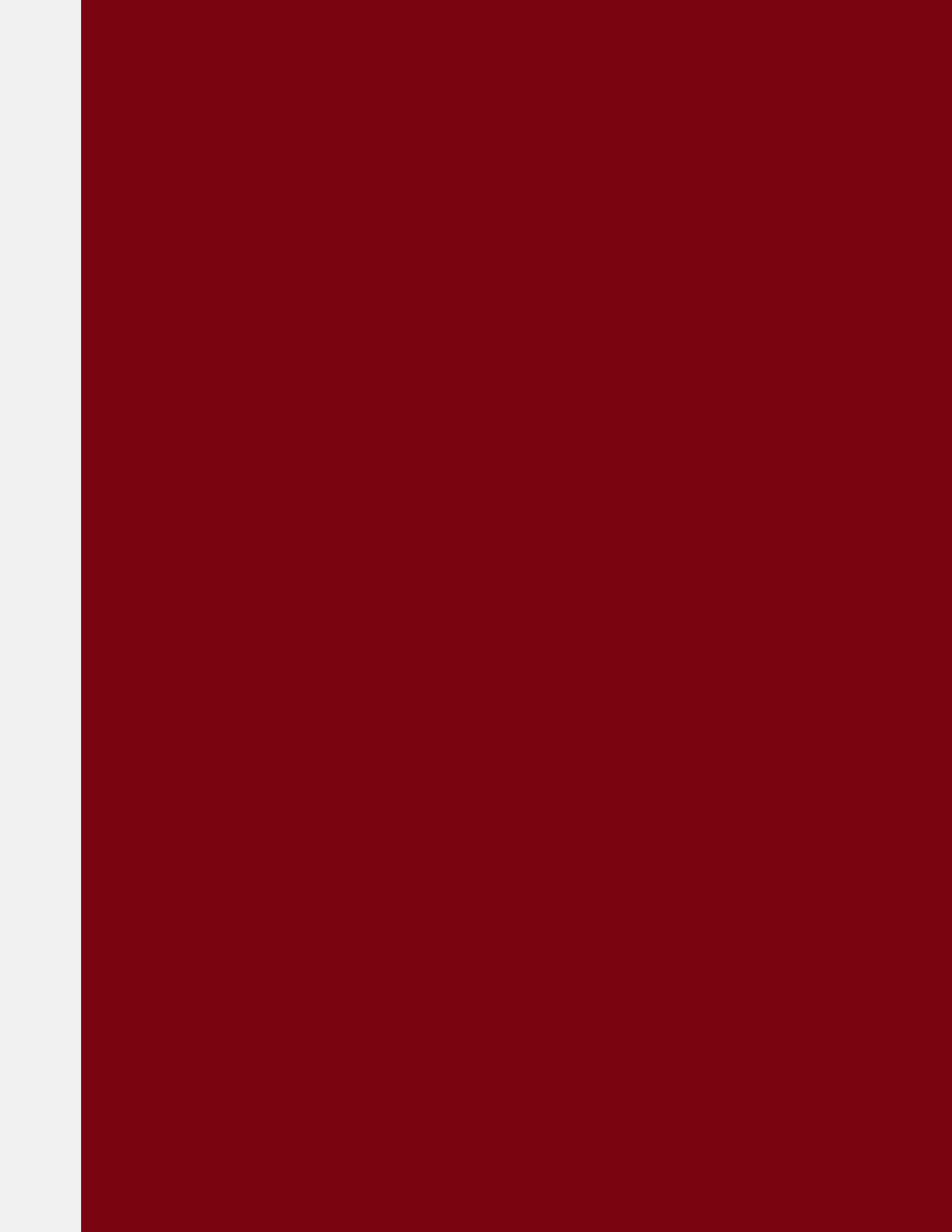


**MOBILE ACADEMY**

KNOWLEDGE AT HAND



Rutherford B. Hayes



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