

Washington, Lincoln, and Firearms — An Editorial

February marks the birth anniversaries of two of America's greatest Presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

Both of these titanic leaders reached their zenith of greatness while guiding our country through wars which could have killed off the nation at birth or before maturity. Both knew firearms, for military and for sporting purposes.

George Washington spent nearly a quarter of his life under arms. When he died at 67, he had soldiered for 15½ years. When peace and leisure permitted, he hunted constantly. Hunting was perhaps the favorite and foremost recreation of the Father of His Country.

Abraham Lincoln's numerous biographies note that he "hunted", that he "shot wild turkey", and that he served in the militia in the Black Hawk War. His interest in firearms, especially in military weapons efficient enough to shorten the Civil War, led him personally to test-fire and approve the Spencer repeater, the first magazine cartridge arm extensively used by U. S. Forces.

Lincoln as commander-in-chief directed probably the biggest rifleman's war in the Western hemisphere, in which by far the highest percentage of casualties were caused by infantry bullets. Like Washington, he fully recognized the role of firearms. For one man, they created a new nation, for the other, they held it together.

So America was fortunate that both of these heroic wartime leaders of classic stature had a thorough grasp and understanding of firearms.

But the wars themselves, in 1775 and 1861, what did they start over?

In 1775, was it the Stamp Tax, the quartering of British regulars in the homes of American colonials, "taxation without representation", of what?

In 1861, was it the Fugitive Slave Act, "Bleeding Kansas", the tariff issue between industrial North and agricultural South, or what?

What actually turned each clash of words into a "shooting war"?

The answer in both instances is very nearly the same.

In 1775 the shooting began when the British, after methodically disarming every individual American who left Boston, marched a column of redcoats from Boston to Concord, Mass., to seize the arms of American militia stored there.

In 1861, the first shots were fired over whether a fort in the harbor of Charleston, S. C., should be evacuated and in effect disarmed.

Both wars, then, sprang in their full-blown form from efforts to disarm Americans who would not be disarmed.

Whenever anyone stops to ask himself what will make Americans fighting mad, he might do well to consider 1775 and 1861.

Perhaps, on the anniversaries of Washington and Lincoln, that is as timely a thought as any.

(Permission was granted us to reprint the above Editorial by The American Rifleman, Washington, D. C., Feb. 1967).

However, what really frightens us, is the apathy of the American Public and the way they are letting the Politicians gradually take our freedoms away from us and invest the power in a strong central government that "they" control.

This enables a handful of powerful men to gradually lead us along the "primrose path" to that rosily painted "Island in the Sky" — called Socialism.

And, when that point is reached, all of the sacrifices of our great Patriots will have been in vain — for this once great country of ours will more than likely be in the final throes of bankruptcy and despondency — with the Citizens back in Bondage!

THE ANDOVER NEWS

Published weekly by: The News Printing House, Andover, N. Y.
Jeanne Backus Allen and Ralph A. Allen, Owners, Andover, N. Y.
Entered as Second Class Mail Matter at the Post Office at Andover, N. Y., under the Act of Congress, March 3, 1879.
Subscription Price \$3.50 a year



50 YEARS AGO

Feb. 22, 1918

J. H. Backus, Publisher

The following Andover men received their call yesterday to report for service February 27th:— Raymond Snyder, Henry Studor, Ralph W. Perry, Harold Kemp and Carl Gustafsen.

Between 9 o'clock Tuesday night until the same hour Wednesday night, there was a change of temperature from 51 degrees above to 2 degrees below.

Mrs. John Wahl of Elm Valley was the guest of her sister, Miss Nellie Horan of South Hill Sunday and Monday.

John Dean of South Hill went to Allegany Wednesday for a few days visit with his daughter, Miss Mary.

Mrs. Hazel Yam of Hornell is spending a few days guest of Mrs. Earl Bassett.

F. W. Burrows of Greenwich, Conn., was a business visitor in Andover last week.

Mrs. T. K. Regan returned home Friday after a two weeks visit with her aunt, Mrs. E. A. Cassidy of New York City.

Miss Aldridge has returned to her home at Dansville after passing several weeks here with her brother, Merton Aldridge.

Harold Brainard of Hornell was called to Andover Monday on account of the illness of his grandmother, Mrs. Susan VanSickle.

Mrs. Wells Ellis of Arkport has been visiting at the homes of her nieces Mrs. Earl Bassett and Mrs. E. A. Richardson.

Michael Gavin and Mrs. James Guinn have returned from Sugar Grove, Ohio, where they attended the funeral of their brother-in-law, Eugene O'Leary.

Private Richard Williams was calling on Andover friends and relatives this week. Dick is stationed at Camp Wadsworth, at Spartanburg.

Leo Snyder of Ithaca spent the week-end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Snyder and also appeared before the draft board for his physical examination at Belmont, Thursday.

40 YEARS AGO

Feb. 24, 1923

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Nye of Andover are the parents of a daughter, born Monday, February 20th.

Mr. and Mrs. Claire C. Backus are the parents of a son, James Harvey, born Wednesday, February 22nd.

Friends and neighbors of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Amesbury met at their home on the Emmett Robinson farm on Davis Hill for a welcoming party. A bountiful supper was served and dancing enjoyed.

Mr. and Mrs. Amesbury came from Richburg and are very welcome neighbors.

The pupils of Miss Clarke on Davis Hill, gave her a surprise birthday party February 22nd.

Miss Fanny Perry and Charles Darwin Lehman, both of Andover, were united in marriage Friday, February 17 by Rev. J. H. Seely.

Friends and neighbors of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. O'Connell helped them celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary Saturday evening with a social gathering at their home on Main St.

Mrs. Emma Judd died at the home of Mrs. Bailey of New York City Friday, February 17. Funeral services were held in Andover on Wednesday with burial in Valley Brook Cemetery.

Mrs. E. H. Brandes of Beach Hill passed the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Diffin.

Mrs. E. R. Crandall left Monday for Canton, Ohio, where she will spend two weeks with her sister, Mrs. F. M. Vogan.

Mrs. Lucy Wells of Nile was a week-end guest at the home of her sister, Mrs. Henry Livermore and family.

Mrs. David Slocum was a guest last week at the home of her daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Horton of Buffalo.

Mrs. Leon Cook of Raleigh, N. C., was called to Andover this week by the illness of her mother, Mrs. R. Howland of Barney St.

ALBANY

open line

by Alex Rankin

Those in the State Republican Party charged with electing a majority of their kind to the Assembly in Albany are having second thoughts about their campaign plans.

Right now Democrats in the lower house of the Legislature control things by six seats — and they are six very large seats because the leader of the Democrats, Speaker Anthony J. Travia, runs things with an iron hand. Defections on important votes are like cars on a cigar store Indian.

In late December the Republican strategy was to set Travia up like a straw man and start punching.

But now there is no straw man. The Republican strategy was at its strongest after the voters overwhelmingly defeated the document produced by the state Constitutional Convention — where Travia also ruled with an iron hand as president.

This fall Republican candidates in upstate New York were set to proclaim, charge, cry, announce and otherwise assuage voters with the idea that if they elected their opponent, a Democrat, they would be turning themselves over to New York City interests.

Travia comes from a Brooklyn club house. The politics of the club house is his tradition and way of life.

The Republicans have spotted 11 seats now held by Democrats on which they felt this would work — six from the Buffalo area, the others from Rochester, Onondaga County, Niagara County, the lower Hudson Valley and Long Island.

They are Mrs. Dorothy Rose of Angola, near Buffalo; Gregory Pope of Lockport; Charles Stockmeister of Greece, near Rochester; Mortimer F. Gallivan of Syracuse; Thomas McInerney of Yonkers; Gordon Cameron, Cornwall-on-Hudson; and Victor C. Waryas, Poughkeepsie.

Also Stanley Harwood, Levittown; John Thorpe Jr., Rockville Centre; Arthur Kremer, Long Beach; and Eli Wager, Woodmere.

But now things have changed. It is all but certain that Travia won't be around in 1969. President Johnson some time after this June will have appointed him to a federal judgeship.

30 YEARS AGO

Feb. 25, 1938

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Funeral services for Mrs. Etta Garvin, who died Monday, Feb. 21, were held Friday with Rev. Charles Keller officiating.

Arthur J. Silsby of Andover and Miss Vivian Black of Canaseraga were united in marriage Saturday, February 19.

Mr. and Mrs. Shirley Evans of Slate Creek, are spending a few days guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Mullen.

Mrs. Pat Hyland spent Friday and Saturday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Flynn of West Greenwood.

Miss Ruth Robinson of South Orange, N. J., arrived Saturday for a visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Robinson.

Francis Casey, who has been passing a three weeks vacation with his mother and sister, Mrs. Ellen Casey and Mrs. Mary Briscoe and other relatives, left Monday for Gainsboro, Ill., where he is employed by the Gulf Gas Co.

Master Edward O'Conner of Hornell passed the week-end at the home of his uncle, Mr. and Mrs. John Burns.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lever of Buffalo visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Lever from Monday until Wednesday.

Miss Elaine Fove spent from Friday until Tuesday with her sister, Mr. Clifford Wilkins of Hornell.

Dr. Robert Common is attending the Dental Convention in Buffalo from Wednesday until Saturday of this week.

Which means he won't be around to whip.

Travia wanted out this summer, but was held out of it because his leaving would have touched off a nasty fight for his speakership. The same ugly fight that got him the chairmanship of the Assembly in Albany last year. He had to look and stand with the Democrats.

Republicans have stopped talking about Travia. They are talking about the candidates for the Assembly.

Democrats controlled both the State and the Assembly last year they lost both houses. The next year, after reappointment, they won back the Senate, but not the Assembly.

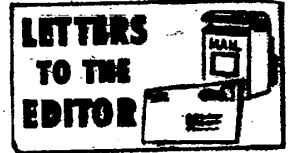
Perry B. Duryea of Montauk, L. I., Assembly minority leader, leader of the Republican campaign to win back the Assembly and the man who would take over as speaker of the Assembly if they did take control, now talks about "coattail" politics.

Coattail politics puts Democrats in control. They rode in on LBJ's big victory.

Duryea now wants to reverse it.

Duryea thinks Gov. Rockefeller is the only one with a big enough coat.

"If Rockefeller headed the national Republican ticket, we'd be assured of recapturing control, but with Nixon, or Romney or someone else running for President, it would be more difficult," said Duryea recently.



Feb. 19, 1968

Dear Editor:

This is a letter which might be of interest to the "Fairer" sex — to which we are often referred!

How many of you "Gals" that own automobiles really know your car? Could you readily tell the size and brand name of your tires and wheels, whether they are tube or tubeless type, plain or white side-wall, and are the serial numbers of them recorded? Do you know what tires and how many are in your car trunk — along with those that you are now driving on? In fact, more than likely, the two tires on the rear are winter ones.

Just a word to the wise for any of you who have an automobile that is coming up for inspection — I would like to suggest that you stay with it, check on these things — keeping a record of such, or you might not end up with what you started out with. All the more caution should be taken if it is a "pick-up and delivery" service.

In years gone by, our Grandpappies told many tales of swapping horses — but now with the horse and buggy era passed, and now in an automotive age — some of us could relate a pretty good tale about tire swapping.

Would any of you readers like to swap a useless 7.35 x 15 white side-wall U.S. Royal (plus tube) — so deteriorated it is difficult to read the brand name — for a nearly new tubeless 8.15 x 15 missing spare tire which, to the best of my knowledge, was never driven on — to go along with my other four 8.15 x 15 tires?

Signed,
Jolted and Disgusted
(Name withheld on request)

(P. S. — Oh by the way "Gals", be sure to keep your receipt and if you are told your original copy was destroyed, insist on having a duplicate made.)