

Looking back on the good old days

Last week we talked about the many flaws in recorded history. The operative word in that sentence being "recorded." The parts that we recognize as flaws were not always actual mistakes; they were events as told through opinionated eyes.



You can't beat a system you can't understand

By Sam Bari

Often, the people recording historical events had agendas. By writing about events from their perspective, and publishing information the way they wanted it to be remembered in perpetuity in history books, readers, who were usually students, accepted the skewed views as fact.

For instance, let's take a look at the way the Civil War was remembered in many history books. The War Between the States, the Civil War (not much about it was civil), the war between the North and South, or whatever you want to call it, raged for five years from 1861 to 1865.

Approximately 3,000,000 people fought, and 620,000 soldiers, as well as an undetermined number of civilians, paid the ultimate price for their involvement. It was the deadliest war in American history. Those facts are true.

Fundamentally, the war was fought between the slave owners in the Confederate States of the agricultural south who wanted to secede from the Union and be independent, and the idealists of the industrial north, who controlled the government and wanted to abolish slavery and keep the country together.

The northern states, or the Union, quoted Thomas Jefferson, who wrote in the Declaration of Independence, "All men are created equal." Consequently, according to the U. S. Constitution, slavery is illegal in this country. That was the interpretation of the constitution by the Union government. And, according to the northern historians, that is why the Civil War was fought - over that point.

That part is only partially true unless you accept the accountings in the history books that were

written by historians who were all northerners.

Remember, the South lost, so their accounting of anything was not given a great deal of credibility when documenting wartime events after the war was over.

Also, keep in mind that Thomas Jefferson coined the "all men were created equal" phrase in the Declaration of Independence as a rebuttal to the accepted political theory of the day, "The Divine Right of Kings." That part was rarely mentioned, especially by the north.

"The Divine Right of Kings" was a political and religious doctrine of royal absolutism. It asserted that a monarch was subject to no earthly authority, deriving his right to rule directly from the will of God. The king was thus not subject to the will of his people, the aristocracy, or any other estate of the realm, including the church.

Using the Thomas Jefferson quote as a political platform saying that all men are created equal, including slaves, was actually quite opposite its original intent. "The Divine right of Kings" did not dispute the equality of commoners; it was designed to uphold the privileged status of royalty. Consequently, Jefferson was equating royalty to the common man, not the other way around.

In other words, the "all men are created equal" quote was not a political positioning statement for the U. S. of A. It was a denouncement of British doctrine. The disagreement over this issue reduced the reasons for going to war to an argument over semantics. Hmmm . . . sound familiar?

Suddenly, the noble intent of fighting for the dignity of mankind

took a plunge to mob mentality that resulted in a five-year brawl between two parties who basically said, "If you don't agree with me, I'm gonna kick your butt." American ideology and wartime policy was again put to work in its best light.

To make the war seem more civilized, both sides added a few debatable issues to the mix, like state autonomy, foreign economic policy, and disputes about tariffs. This way the war would not be perceived as being fought solely as a disagreement concerning a moral issue.

Both sides avoided addressing legislating morality and separation of church and state as if they were incurable plagues that should not under any circumstances even be discussed.

The point is, and you knew we'd get there if we waited long enough, "the good ol' days" were not any better then, than they are now. It was not a more innocent time when ideals were high and people were morally responsible. It was a time of no accountability and survival of the most well-funded, well armed, and strongly supported. It was a period of mob rule when inaccurate accounting of events as they happened was the norm, not the exception.

As the country spent its first century defining itself, American citizens had no idea that their manipulation of historical facts was creating a system we can't understand.

We proudly feature local artists and gifts that are Made in America

Jamestown Designs

Free Gift Wrapping
Free Lay-A-Way
Free Parking in the Rear

Handcrafted sterling silver jewelry with pearls, beads and semi-precious stone



Add Sparkle to the Season
Choose a Glitter Shell Ornament
Free with a \$50 purchase

Open Daily
Monday - Saturday

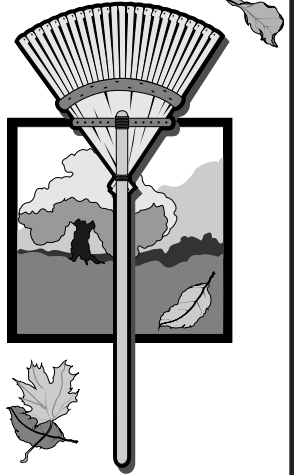
Unique Jewelry • Fabulous Artwork
Hand-blown Glass • Ceramic Pottery
Custom Framing

17 Narragansett Ave • www.jamestowndesigns.com • 401.423.0344

The leaves are falling.

We've got what you need to help with your autumn yard cleanup

Rakes • Leaf Bags
Gloves • Leaf Blowers
Tarps . . . and More!



True Value.
START RIGHT. START HERE.™

5 Narragansett Avenue • 423-2722

Control the Cost of Living and Live Carefree!

At Blenheim-Newport we make life easier by providing just the right amount of assistance with daily living so that you can remain as independent as possible. Instead of worrying about bills, you can enjoy carefree days filled with the opportunity to learn something new, to socialize with friends, and to keep active and involved.

Our monthly rental fee includes:

- Three delicious meals
- Laundry and housekeeping service
- Local transportation
- Utilities and daily trash removal

Lock in our 2008 rates today!

Offer applies to leases signed by 12/31/08 only.

Call us today to schedule your complimentary lunch or dinner tour!

Blenheim-Newport

A Benchmark Senior Living Community
303 Valley Road • Middletown, RI 02842
401-849-0031
www.benchmarkquality.com



The Rhode Island Hand Center Surgery and Care of the Hand and Upper Extremity

Leonard F. Hubbard, MD

Board Certified by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

Fellow of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand

New Patients Seen Immediately

Accepting Most Insurance Including United Health

1150 Reservoir Ave., Cranston, RI 02920 401-942-0280

www.rihandcenter.com