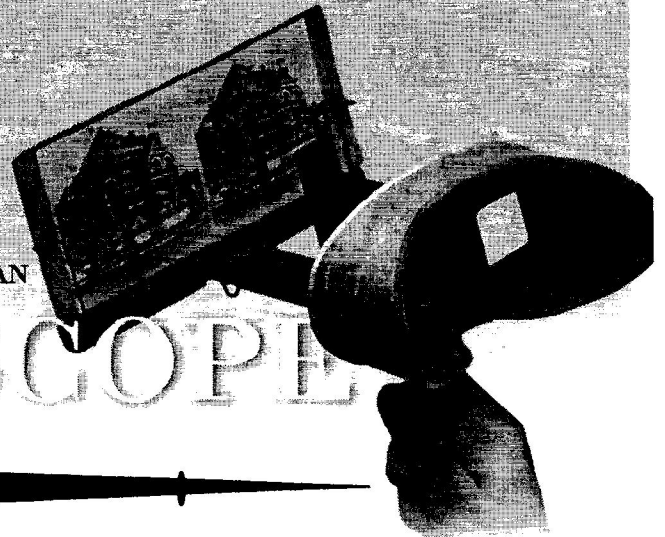


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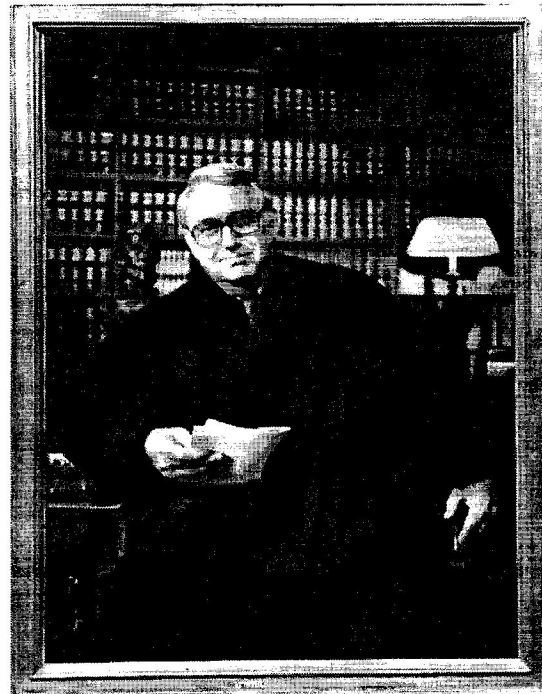
THE JOURNAL OF
THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES
DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

STEREOSCOPE



In Memoriam: Judge Albert J. Engel (March 21, 1924 – April 5, 2013)

This issue of *The Stereoscope* is devoted to the life and accomplishments of former state and federal judge, Albert J. Engel, who passed away this April. Judge Engel was born in Lake City, Missaukee County, Michigan on March 21, 1924, the son of Albert J. Engel and Bertha Engel. After his father was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1934, the family moved to Washington, D.C., where Judge Engel graduated from high school in 1941. Judge Engel attended The University of Maryland afterwards, but his sojourn there was interrupted by World War II. During the War, Judge Engel served in a bomb disposal unit in the European Theater. In 1950, Judge Engel graduated from The University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Laws degree and began practicing law in Muskegon. In 1966, he was elected as Circuit Judge of Muskegon County and, four years later, he was nominated by President Nixon to the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan and confirmed by the Senate. In 1973, Judge Engel was elevated to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and, in 1988, he assumed the position of Chief Judge there. Judge Engel closed his Sixth Circuit office in Grand Rapids at the end of 2002. The next year, the United States Courts Library in Grand Rapids was officially named the Albert J. Engel U.S. Courts Library.



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The following excerpts are taken from an interview of Judge Engel conducted by former Grand Rapids City Historian, Gordon L. Olson, on January 9, 2004, as part of the Historical Society's Oral History Project.

Gordon Olson: Let's begin with some basic background. I know that your family home is from Northern Michigan, you're a man of Northern Michigan and grew up there and in Washington D.C. Tell me a little about that. Tell me about your family and your early years.

Judge Engel: Well, my grandfather was Alsatian, which was at the time French, until the Germans took over. And he considered himself, the family considered themselves, French. Although their Alsatian name was Engel, it's very typical in that area like in Switzerland. And he and his brother were kicked out of Alsace-Lorraine, when Bismarck moved in during the Franco-Prussian War and they made their way, eventually, to Northern Michigan, my grandfather to a place outside of Traverse City, at Buckley, Michigan, and his brother came down to Muskegon. And there they homesteaded.

My grandfather was not a farmer. He was a very intellectual person, he spoke six languages. And he was musical; he played the organ at the Catholic Church there for forty years. He was quite a man.

But my grandfather did not succeed in farming. Farming really wasn't his thing. He came from a mercantile family in Strasbourg, but he did what he could do. He had a large family. My father was basically raised in Buckley and Hannah, Michigan.

But his mother died and his father remarried. My father was unhappy with his father's second wife. He didn't get along with his stepmother and he ran away from home and worked in the lumber mills of northwestern Michigan until he worked his way on down to Chicago, where he stayed with his sister and at the YMCA. And put himself through high school and the YMCA and also through Northwestern Law School. He graduated and came back up to the UP, practiced up in the Keweenaw Peninsula and then finally, starving and freezing to death, he came on down to Buckley and tried it there. While looking for a place to land and went to Lake City, which is the county seat of Missaukee County. It's just about forty-five, forty-eight miles southeast of Traverse City.

And there he met my mother. My mother was the next-to-oldest daughter of a local businessman. He was the president of the bank and he was a former sheriff, so my mother was born in jail, because they lived in the jailhouse over there and her mother cooked the meals for the prisoners and raised their family of eight. They eventually settled in a house right off Main Street, which I went by yesterday, and it's still occupied by my first cousin. So that goes back over a hundred years.



Judge Engel and Margaret, his sister

And my grandmother Bielby's family, my grandfather Bielby, R. M. Bielby, my mother's side of the family, was Canadian. He and a brother came over from the Toronto area and worked their way to West Michigan, my grandfather going by way of lumber again, as an engineer on the train. People who know the area will remember the old locomotive that used to be in Traverse City at Clinch Park. When I was a child, I found his own initials he had carved there years before on that locomotive.

My father worked his way down to Lake City, and established himself there. So when my father came to town, he met my mother and they married in 1920. I was born in 1924, in the house. We had one car and my dad was out of town on politics in Grand Rapids at the time. So, like my mother, I was born at home.

And from there, we lived really a wonderful life. I have written about it extensively. Lake City is a small town, charming, on a beautiful

lake, three miles across, amid great, beautiful scenery and farm country and little else. But a wonderful place for a Midwestern upbringing, and I had that. It was interrupted when my father was elected to Congress. That was quite unusual because it was the smallest county, the most remote county, in the 9th Congressional District, so he had to get votes from Traverse City and Muskegon, and all the way up and down the coast. He was very active, and that's a different story. He's had his own historians and he's made quite a mark in his own way. Of course, that affected my life a great deal.

When I became ten years old, he had been in the State Senate, and then he had left and gone on to Congress, and so we had to move to Washington. And that was an utterly, totally different lifestyle. I mean, that's a town of close to a million then, probably a great metropolitan area now. Of course, Lake City has grown substantially since the 1920s, I guess from about 600 to I think 900 now. So it's



Judge Engel and Margaret, his sister



Albert Jr. and Albert Sr.

really pretty big, but in relation to Washington D.C. it wasn't much, and we were big fish in a little pond up there. I got down to Washington and things were quite different.

My dad was absorbed in his work, so we found ourselves leading a very hectic life, trying to commute between Lake City and Washington, and I went to five schools in five semesters. It was just impossible.

There was an interlude in which we decided to move to Muskegon, because that's where the votes were and dad had a close shave in that first Roosevelt landslide. He almost was beaten. He was a Republican, but a rather LaFollette-type, liberal Republican, like they have up that way, as anybody would know.

O: Yes.

E: So he almost took a nosedive, but he survived. He never had trouble after that. But it was after that, though, that things looked better and then the war started to threaten, until finally we bought a home down there. So after we settled

down, about from the ninth grade on, I was able to stay in one school.

O: In Washington D.C.?

E: In Washington and I finished up there, at the Western High School in Georgetown. So now I am a member of the Alumni Association of the Duke Ellington School of Song and Dance. It combined with Western High School when they desegregated it and that old high school was renamed in honor of Duke Ellington, who was another Washingtonian. It combines all the arts, art studies for the District of Columbia. I get a kick out of that.

O: Quite a distinction for a young man from Northern Michigan.

E: Well, it was an interesting high school, because we had so many interesting people in it. Admiral King's son was there; he was in the band. So was Sterling [Black], Hugo Black's son, who played the clarinet and I played the piano and violin in the orchestra. A lot of famous people had their children in that school. For a high school in that day, it was really quite an interesting and challenging place. A lot of West Pointers had their children there.



Congressman Albert J. Engel

I was in the Cadet Corps, so I had three years of military training. That's where I got my training before I went in the service. So I graduated from there. The last two years, I had a good time. It was only then I started to enjoy Washington, but until then I couldn't wait to get back to Michigan and I vowed I never wanted to live in that place.

Oh yes, and Prentiss Brown from the UP, his children were there, we knew them very well. I dated his daughter and she was also in the orchestra and I knew the sons in law school. So it was a big city but it was a small town atmosphere there. They were Democrats, but they were wonderful people. And they hated Washington as much as we did. We had that in common. But I couldn't wait to get back to Lake City. In the meantime, of course, I had grown. And my father went on to quite some fame as a Congressman; he was voted the best informed man in Congress.

O: Your father's first name was?

E: Albert.

O: Albert.

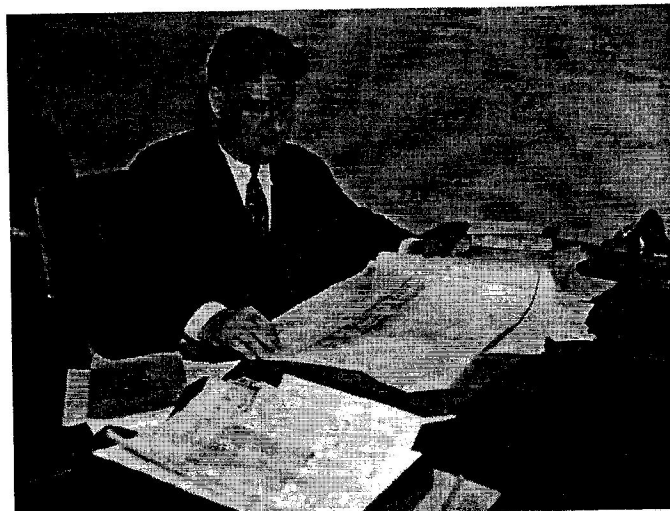
E: He was Albert J. Engel. I really technically am Albert J. Engel, Jr., and my son is Albert J. Engel III. I dropped the "Jr.," because it was never on my birth certificate and I really wanted to adopt a separate identity. . . .

O: Your father was a successful and well known Congressman.

E: Oh yes.

O: Highly regarded Congressman.

E: Yes. Yes, he was. He was on the Appropriations Committee. He had been chairman of the Finance Committee of the Michigan State Senate, and when he went to Washington he had that skill, and they put him on the Appropriations Committee and then they put him on the Subcommittee for the Appropriations of funds for the military.



*Congressman Albert J. Engel, Judge Engel's father,
at his Washington D.C. desk (1938)*

Of course, the war came on, so that put him in a predominant spot and he became the ranking Republican on that subcommittee and ultimately was third in line for the Appropriations Committee. And as such, he made quite a name for himself. He was the original watchdog of the treasury, more than Truman. And he even uncovered the "secret" funds for the Manhattan Project. He had done a lot of interesting things and he himself was a World War I veteran—remarkable, colorful, very compassionate, but down-to-earth guy.

* * *

[After graduating from high school, Judge Engel attended the University of Maryland and was there when Pearl Harbor was attacked.]

O: You graduated from high school, 1941.

E: Yes.

O: And began your college career at that point?

E: Yes, I did.

O: Partly because your father was not anxious for you to join the military.

E: Well, yes, what had happened was, I was at



Congressman Engel and his son in Germany after World War II

University of Maryland in 1941 when Pearl Harbor came. I was doing my homework at home at our house on Lowell Street in Wesley Heights, in Washington, when the news of Pearl Harbor came on the radio. And of course, that was big news. And we got all excited. Of course, the phone started ringing. Dad was in touch with the Congress.

O: Sure.

E: And we heard that there was going to be a special session of Congress the next morning, that President Roosevelt would address the nation on that and that we would be asking for a declaration of war. So we had a family confab, each member of Congress got one seat in the gallery. They had a family gallery there, but of course, for those occasions, you usually have the Senate and House there together, plus the cabinet and Supreme Court and everything. So they had a joint session of the Congress, and the President addressed them on the “day that would live in infamy.” And I sat in the gallery, the old family gallery where I used to sit all the time anyway, to watch all the proceedings and right to my right was the cameras that took those famous shots of

Roosevelt giving that speech. So I was there for that.

* * *

[After Pearl Harbor, Judge Engel transferred to The University of Michigan but, in January 1943, he enlisted in the United States Army and was initially assigned to the infantry.]

E: And eventually, I went to bomb disposal school.

O: Your choice to go to bomb disposal school?

E: Yes, they asked at OCS, they asked for volunteers, so I volunteered for it. I thought, well, it sounds good to me, nobody knows anything about it anyway, and I can get out of town. And I can get out of the country. So I volunteered for that and they accepted me, and I took the training there and I did some training with the Navy bomb disposal in Washington. And then from there, I trained my own outfit and took them overseas. I was a Second Lieutenant and we took a fourteen-day journey up and down the North Atlantic, ducking around submarines and going all the way from Iceland down to the Azores, until we finally landed in Wales, and I took my outfit over to Headcorn, England. I was assigned to the Ninth Air Force and then from there, we were assigned out. We were attached to the Ninth Air Force, but assigned to the various Air Force bases.

O: In England.

E: In England. I was assigned to the 19th Tactical Air Command. That was to become the command which gave close tactical support to General Patton’s 3rd Army. So we started off in Kent County, England, at the fighter bases there. And then because of my age—and I don’t think because of my father but because of my age and because of headquarters politics—I was still young, and we had a fellow in headquarters who wanted to get his captaincy, because the job had called for captain’s commission and they had somebody they had to give a commission—so they gave him my squad and sent me to the

headquarters in Aldermaster. That really upset me.

O: Tell me a little bit about what you, as a bomb demolition squad, did, what was your task?

E: Well, now they call it explosive ordnance disposal, they used to call it bomb disposal. Explosive ordnance is probably a technical way of describing the type of stuff that you do, because there are more than bombs involved. But basically, it deals with explosives. There are two facets to it. When ammunition is dropped and doesn't go off, that was the historical concept—especially in London, during the blitz, during the early war, and even after we were over there, the bombs would not go off either by design or accident—so the guys had to come in and defuse them and remove them. That was our primary function. Our training was in the identification of the different types of bombs of all varieties, American as well as British and German, whatever might be around, where it was discovered.

And then we also were responsible for getting rid of ammunition. And that ultimately took the great bulk of the time. With the Air Force their function, their concern, was for the security and protection of the various bases that were used for these planes.

[In 1946, after the end of World War II, Judge Engel was mustered out of the Army and finished his university studies.]

And then that fall, I went into the Michigan Law School. And I went from there through law school to completion in three years. Stayed at the Lawyers Club. Really enjoyed it. My junior year, I had an unfortunate romantic involvement, which did nothing good for my grades, but I came through that all right. I passed in good shape, about the middle of my class, maybe a little bit above. And I was senior judge in the Moot



Hon. Albert J. Engel

Court there. Which was fun, and it made me a little source of income. I got \$10 a case and gave me a little experience in appellate judging, when the underclassmen would argue cases before me and I had my own Case Club and so that gave me some seasoning.

And I joined a legal fraternity, Phi Delta Phi, there. But I was not active in it. I didn't miss any football games, however.

And then I graduated in June of 1950.

[After graduating from The University of Michigan, Judge Engel worked for a short time in Washington, D.C. and then moved to Muskegon to practice law.]

E: But I decided that if I didn't get home then, I was going to get infected, you know. So I came home.

And I met this gal, who just, was born in Muskegon, was a registered nurse, had worked her way through nursing school, and had gone out to seek her fortune in Santa Monica, and she was home to visit her mother. And she was going

to go to New York. And I met her in February or March, and we were married the following October 18th.

The first child came in about two years later, Joe. And then followed within the next five years with three more. And then just year before last, we celebrated our fiftieth anniversary. So that was a real happy, stabilizing and thrilling event in my life.

O: And your wife's name is?

E: Eloise. Her maiden name was Bull.

* * *

[In 1970, Judge Engel was appointed as a judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan.]

O: Okay. Let's pick it up our conversation as you take your seat on the Federal District Court for Western Michigan. What was your first reaction? Tell me about how that experience began.

E: I was thrilled when I found out what was going on. I didn't hesitate, once I found out what it was. I liked Grand Rapids. We had been coming down to Grand Rapids from Lake City all our life. My first time in Grand Rapids was when my mother drove me down at two years old to hear a concert by Ignacy Paderewski, the pianist, and I was crying and I had to be removed from the old armory.

You know, Grand Rapids was the big city, from up North, and of course, and when I practiced in Muskegon I was over here in court. And we shopped over here, so I liked the town and I thought I could live in Muskegon and commute. By that time, we had bought a nice home, built a nice home in the sand dunes south, toward Grand Haven. And those people who do not know Muskegon underestimate its attraction. It's a down looking place, but there's a lot of wonderful people and some very fine living and, frankly, in those days, the lawyers in Muskegon

were doing better than the lawyers from Grand Rapids, as an average. It's not normally known.

O: Yes.

E: But the statistics showed that. So I was happy there.

I made a broader reputation for myself right off the bat, I made remarks at the Pantland Hotel. For one thing, I had Chief Justice Detmers be the speaker at the banquet, the luncheon which followed. They had had these induction ceremonies in the courthouse here, and Noel Fox was on the District Court, Wally Kent was moving to the Sixth Circuit and he was there, and I had invited Chief Justice Detmers of the Michigan Supreme Court to be the speaker. He and I had become good friends through my work with the court. And that was true even of the Democrats on the court. I got along very well with Gene Black and a number of the justices, Mike O'Hara and ultimately Soapy Williams. So it had been a good experience. But I gave my remarks.

At that time, my acceptance speech was picked up by the papers. I ended it with a statement of what my hopes were as district judge, and that short, one-page thing has been translated into other languages. It hangs on the walls of many federal and state judges around the country. It was in the Congressional Record, in the Bar Association *ABA Journal*, it was quoted fully locally. A version of it—translation of it—appeared in a Chinese book just last year. It tells kind of what I hoped a judge should be.¹ And so that gave me a rather broader reputation, even the justices of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts had a colloquy about it in a Boston newspaper, so it really set the tone for what I hoped. Even this last week, it was read back to me in connection with the dedication of the library here. So that got me off to a good start.

¹ This address follows in this issue.

* * *

[Judge Engel reflects on his professional life.]

O: As you think back on your years on the bench and you look at the American system of jurisprudence and particularly the federal system, what do you think are its strengths and what, if any, do you see as weaknesses of the system?

E: I think Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., just about said it all, when he said, "The history. The life of the law lies not in logic, but in experience."

And if you go back to the creation of the federal system, you familiarize yourself with all the history that was connected with that and with the growth of the government since and with our, sort of schizophrenic system of government, you realize that the relationships between states and federals have always been extremely important. And they're no less important today. . . .

There is a very fine rule in the need for national laws and I fully subscribe to that. But there has to be a lot of room both in the variations of people and in attitudes and cultures it was in, in the control which allows people not only to perceive of the justice they get as that which is administered by their neighbors, but also reflects their cultural differences. It can't be the same and really it shouldn't be, that's what we kept, we are so much alive, much more alive, by the synergy that's generated, than we are by trying to make law for all people. And that is the problem, the major problem we have in federal government, is that everybody believes because it has the money it can make all the decisions. It just doesn't work that way and it does not work as well.

So I think the long run, the Congress, when you look at the history of the country and how we responded and where we've come to where we were, it's a pretty remarkable achievement. . . .

And the federal court system, which adjudicates these questions within the framework of that system is going to reflect the politics, the current politics. It always has. It has since the very first day that George Washington took office, it also was alive when Thomas Jefferson and John Adams would refuse to speak to each other, although they later became bosom friends. It happened with the Midnight Judges Act. It's happened for two hundred years since then, that we've had these same fights. And I suppose as long as we do have these fights, we know that people care enough to be alive. . . .

As far as the bar is concerned, I can't speak highly enough of the bar that I have experienced with whom I have dealt. There are a lot of dodos, I admit. But by and large, they reflect the country and they're a cut above.

And the Grand Rapids Bar, was a delight to be with. In Western Michigan, historically, the quality of law practice in Western Michigan has been a cut above that in the large cities. . . .

I have enjoyed the lawyers here immensely. I had trouble getting them to settle cases; they like to try them, they enjoy it. But I think they have a good bar. . . .

I think an incoming judge has to be very careful. We say remember that you're appointed, not anointed. . . . There comes a time when you first take office when euphoria of the office makes you think you're God Almighty, and you're not. You're bound by trial and error to be reduced to human proportions again. They can't lose that. When they lose that sense of their humanity, they lose their perspective, which makes them good in their job. I've seen that happen to a lot of judges.

You need more practically minded scholars. I don't knock scholarship at all, but they also have to have a solid founding in history and in the contemporary makeup of the country.

Judge Engel's Speech upon His Approach to the Federal Bench

The following is an excerpt from Judge Engel's speech upon his appointment to the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan. This litany has been published many times and in many different languages.

"I hope I can run an efficient, orderly court — a court which not only dispenses impartial justice, but which by its very functioning impresses the participants with its fairness and objectivity."

"I hope I shall always be convinced that the most important case is the one immediately before me and that, therefore, it is deserving of my undivided and alert attention."

"I hōpe I am never too tired, too lazy, not too confident of my own knowledge of the law to bother looking it up."

"I hope I can curb my brilliant wit and sarcasm in court, remembering that a judge's words have great potential, both for healing and hurting."

"I hope that I shall never forget my first day in court when I have before me a new lawyer going through the agony of his."

"I know it is to much to hope that my decisions are never reversed, so when they are, I hope I can remember that after all, those fellows up there have to earn a living too, and they might just be a little wiser than I."

"I hope that, in sentencing a man convicted of crime, I shall always be mindful of the public interest, but never lose respect for the awesome power over human life which is the responsibility of the judge."

"I hope I shall have the strength to make the hard decisions and the composure to stick to them."

"I hope that I shall never be so certain of my own rectitude and impartiality that I cease to search within myself for possible bias or prejudice."

"I pray that when my judicial days are over, whether tomorrow morning or 30 years from now, it can be said of my service that it was sound and true, that it was a credit to the judicial system of the United States, and that in some small but measurable way I was able to contribute to the continuing betterment of human life and justice."

Independence Day 2013 Address to New Citizens

By Hon. Hugh W. Brenneman, Jr.

The following is the text of the speech given to new United States citizens at Ab Hab Awen Park in Grand Rapids, which is adjacent to the Gerald R. Ford Museum. At this ceremony, 80 persons from 31 different countries received this new status. Also speaking at this ceremony was (i) Mick Dedvulkaj, District Director of United States Citizens & Immigration Services, (ii) State Representative Winnie Brinks, and (iii) Dave Shaffer, Grand Rapids City Commissioner. The Star-Spangled Banner was performed by Angela Nelson, and the color guard was provided by the Grand Rapids Police Department. Clerk of Court Tracey Cordes opened and closed court.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness...”

So begins the preamble of our Declaration of Independence, adopted this day, July 4th, in the year 1776. Across the span of two centuries, this declaration to the world has been a beacon for people who have chosen to make America their home.

Perhaps it was a beacon for some of you.

This beacon of hope was made manifest in copper and steel with the construction of the most famous statue in America, dedicated in 1886. It was the Declaration of Independence that inspired the creation of the Statue of Liberty, and that icon of freedom has welcomed immigrants arriving in New York Harbor for decades, with the words of the poet¹ inscribed at its base: “Give me your tired, your poor/your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.”

But this July 4th Declaration has always been a guiding star in the story of America.

It was, of course, the Declaration of Independence to which Lincoln was referring 150 years ago when he addressed those assembled on the fields of Gettysburg, and told them that “Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal,...”

Perhaps it was the “new birth of freedom” that Lincoln spoke of that day that lured some of you to our shores.

United States citizenship represents the labors and dreams of men and women for centuries. Our charters

of human liberty - our Declaration of Independence, our Constitution and our Bill of Rights - all obtained at a high price - provide numerous freedoms, if we but avail ourselves of them: a voice in our government, freedom in our worship, and freedom to conduct our daily affairs — all freedoms of human aspiration.

Throughout our history, men and women of all colors and creeds, of all races and religions, have come to this country, often to escape hardship, tyranny and discrimination, but certainly to seek these freedoms. As President Obama said in his first inaugural address, “They packed up their few worldly possessions and traveled across oceans in search of a new life.” He noted that “it has been the risk-takers, the doers, the makers of things - some celebrated, but more often men and women obscure in their labor - who have carried us up the long rugged path toward prosperity and freedom.”

And it is particularly fitting that you have chosen to take your oath of citizenship on the Fourth of July, for July 4th is a date that appears as a golden thread woven throughout the rich tapestry of American history, sometimes highlighting moments of closure, but often signaling new beginnings.

It was on the 4th of July in 1776, of course, that the Declaration of our Independence was adopted, marking the birth of our great republic. But July 4th was also the day that three of our first five presidents died. Isn't that a remarkable fact? It was on July 4, 1826, that John Adams and Thomas Jefferson passed away at their respective homes in Massachusetts and Virginia within hours of each other. These two men had served on the five-man committee of the Continental Congress that had drafted

the very Declaration itself, and both died 50 years to the day following its adoption.

The fifth President of the United States, James Monroe, died this date, July 4th, in 1831. He was the last President to have fought in the American Revolution.² Closure. But that day also marked a new beginning. On the same July 4th that Monroe passed away, the song "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," was performed for the first time. That song served as our national anthem for the next 100 years.³

July 4th in 1863 also marked the beginning of the end of the American Civil War.

When Lincoln stood up to speak at Gettysburg, it was on November 19, 1863, and he was, of course, perfectly cognizant of the significance of the preceding July 4th. For the terrible battle at Gettysburg had marked the high point of Gen. Robert E. Lee's invasion of the North, in an attempt to compel the Union to sue for peace and recognize the Confederacy. Gettysburg had been fought on July 1st, 2nd and 3rd. On July 3rd, the South had been terribly repulsed in a charge on the Union lines. On July 4th, both sides watched each other across a field, and waited. Finally, on the evening of July 4th, Lee withdrew to the South. With his withdrawal, the Confederacy's attempt to invade the North ended forever.

And on that same July 4th, following a long siege, Gen. Ulysses S. Grant captured Vicksburg, Tennessee, and with it complete control of the Mississippi River. Grant had cut the Confederacy in half.

Two more years of bloody fighting remained, but the Confederacy was doomed because of the events occurring on July 4, 1863 - 150 years ago today. Our country had been terribly tested, but would remain united.

The golden thread that is July 4th has signaled other new beginnings: the Louisiana Purchase, which doubled the size of our country, was announced on July 4, 1803.

On July 4, 1817, construction began on the Erie Canal. This was the nation's first major transportation system. It greatly facilitated trade between the Great Lakes and the eastern seaboard, cutting transport costs by 90%, and opening up the heartland.

On July 4, 1872, President Calvin Coolidge was born.

And today, on this July 4th, another significant beginning, as you each add all your names to our rolls

of United States citizens and begin your new citizenship.

We have enjoyed democracy and the rule of law in this country for well over two centuries because people like you have chosen to help make the machinery of our democracy work. When Thomas Jefferson tells us in the Declaration that "Governments are instituted among men" to secure our rights to "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness," he is correct. And here we have good laws and good institutions — but they do not operate by themselves. I urge you: Become a part of our organizations. Learn our common language so that you can effectively participate in our political process. Learn our history, our culture and our customs which have made the country what it is - the country you chose to come to.

Remember, that with your oath today, you share the birthday of your adopted country. Know, too, that when you look up at the Statue of Liberty, this date of July 4th - this great day in your own lives - is inscribed there forever on the tablet she holds in her left arm.

With your oath, you have promised to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. In return, America has bestowed upon you the mantle of citizenship. The Constitution guarantees you equal rights under the law, the freedom to exercise your religion and to worship God in the way that you see fit, and to think and act freely.

As with those citizens who have gone before, you too will now fashion and strengthen our American faith. It is for each new citizen, and each new generation, to pass their love for our democracy on to our posterity.

So I welcome you to citizenship in this great land. As of today, July 4, 2013, you share with the rest of our citizens the rights and privileges, obligations and duties provided by our laws.

God Bless America and each one of you.

Endnotes

- 1 Emma Lazarus.
- 2 However, Andrew Jackson was a 13-year-old courier for a militia unit in the Revolution.
- 3 This song, along with several others, unofficially served as our national anthem until the "Star Bangled Banner" was officially adopted in 1931.

The Historical Society for the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan Membership Application

2013 Annual Dues

Student (\$15) \$15 x ___ = \$ _____
 Individual (\$25) \$25 x ___ = \$ _____
 Contributing (\$100) \$100 x ___ = \$ _____

2013 Founding Membership Categories

Pillar (\$300) \$300 x ___ = \$ _____
 Sustaining (\$500) \$500 x ___ = \$ _____
 Patron (\$1,000) \$1,000 x ___ = \$ _____
 Grand Patron (\$2,500) \$2,500 x ___ = \$ _____
 Benefactor (\$5,000) \$5,000 x ___ = \$ _____

Subtotal = \$ _____

FBA Member Discount (15%) - \$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

The annual membership year runs from November 1 through October 31.

Membership contributions are cumulative. *E.g.*, a member who makes contributions eventually totaling \$2,500 becomes a Life Member.

Student Member's Name: _____

Individual Member's Name: _____

Contributing Member's Name: _____

Founding Member's Name: _____

Contact person if different from Contributing or Founding Member

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax Number: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Please make checks payable to: *The Historical Society for the USDC, WD of MI*

Mail the application, check and completed questionnaire (next page) to:

The Historical Society for the USDC, WD of MI

110 Michigan Street, NW, Room 399, Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2313

Contributions are tax deductible within the limits of the law.

Please indicate if this is a gift membership or if it is a special contribution.

Amount _____

(Name of donor, intended honoree, memorial, etc.)



MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE

(submit with check and application form)

Dear New Member:

Please let us know of your interests and skills and whether you would be willing to share those with the Historical Society. Help us by completing this short questionnaire.

Name: _____

Firm name, Employer name, or Organization represented: _____

Special interests or experience in the field of history, local history or legal history: _____

Suggestions for programs, projects, or activities for the Historical Society: _____

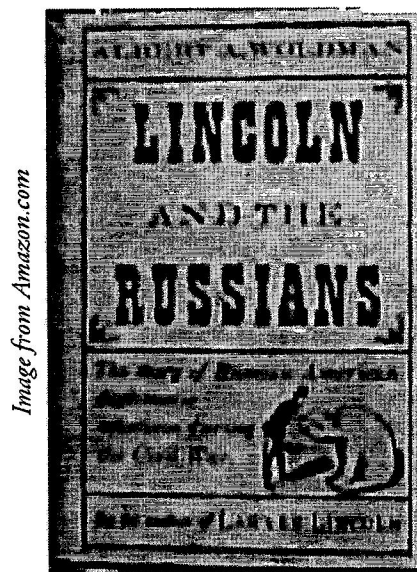
Please check all the following that interest you:

- Writing articles for the Historical Society newsletter
- Layout and/or production of a newsletter
- Annual Meeting (planning and production)
- Oral History Project
- Research in specific legal history areas
- Fund development
- Membership Drive
- Archival Collection and Preservation
- Legal Issues relating to archival and oral history collections (copyright, ownership, etc.)
- Exhibit Preparation
- Small Group Presentations to Adults
- Small Group Presentations in Schools
- Other (Please describe) _____

Book Review: “Lincoln and the Russians”

Although Abraham Lincoln’s foreign policy towards Latin America has been the topic of a number of scholarly articles and books appearing throughout the years, the foreign relations between the Union and Tsarist Russia during the American Civil War have been generally overlooked, at least in this country. However, Russia’s friendship towards the Union after the secession of the Southern states was critical to the Union war effort and was greatly appreciated by Lincoln, William Seward and Unionists high and low. Although Lincoln in 1855 characterized Russia as a place “where despotism can be taken pure, and without the base alloy of hypocrisy [sic],” Lincoln praised Russia and Tsar Alexander II during the Civil War, when the Tsar lent strong and visible diplomatic support to the American President and sponsored an official visit of the Imperial Russian Fleet to New York and San Francisco in 1863 in the midst of veiled threats by England and France to intervene in our sectional struggle. Lincoln and the Alexander II even shared some noteworthy similarities. Both were fighting secessionists in their own countries (Russia was suppressing an organized, armed revolt of Poles seeking independence) and both had freed persons in bondage—Alexander II emancipated the serfs in 1861.

This fascinating but often neglected history of American-Russian diplomacy was the subject of a book published 61 years ago, but the author’s treatment of this topic still holds true and entices the reader. Its title is *Lincoln and the Russians: The Story of Russian-American Diplomatic Relations During the Civil War*, written by Lincoln scholar, Albert A. Woldman, and published in 1952 by the World Publishing Company of Cleveland, Ohio. This history is a fascinating read featuring diverse and finely-etched personalities, e.g., Lincoln, Seward, Cassius M. Clay of Kentucky, a rough frontiersman and politician who was dispatched by Lincoln to act as the American Ambassador in St. Petersburg, and Edouard de Stockel, the urbane and perceptive Russian Charge d’Affaires in Washington, D.C. throughout the Civil War.



For articles on this same topic available on the internet, please refer to the following:

- Webster G. Tarpley, *US Civil War: The US-Russian Alliance That Saved the Union*, <http://www.voltairenet.org/article169488.html>
- Konstantin George, *The US-Russian Entente That Saved the Union*, http://american_almanac.tripod.com/russcwar.htm
- Tom Delahaye, *The Bilateral Effect of the Visit of the Russian Fleet in 1863*, <http://www.loyno.edu/~history/journal/1983-4/delehaye.htm>
- Robert R. Franklin, *Tsar Alexander II and President Abraham Lincoln: Unlikely Bedfellows?*, Volume 10, University of Hawaii at Hilo, p.74 (2012)
- Sophia Kishkovsky, *Russia Links Lincoln With the Freedom of the Serfs*, http://nytimes.com/2011/02/24/world/Europe/24iht-lincoln.html?_r=0+Pagewanted=print

—Patrick E. Mears, Editor

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